



# BOLIVIA

## 2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 2M**

Appeal number **MAABO002**

### In support of the Bolivian Red Cross



**30**

National Society branches



**30**

National Society staff



**900**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



**100,000**

Climate and environment



**18,000**

Disasters and crises



**21,000**

Health and wellbeing



**5,000**

Migration and displacement



**50,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network multiyear focus

#### Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and response
- Protection and assistance to migrants
  - Climate change adaptation
- Community and emergency health and WASH

#### Capacity development

- Financial sustainability and resource mobilization
  - Branch Development
- Development of policies and revision of statutes
  - Internal systems efficiency
  - Volunteering and youth

### Key country data

**Population** **11.8M**

**Long-term Climate Risk Index** **25**

**Human Development Index rank** **118**

**Population below poverty level** **39%**



## Hazards



Floods and landslides



Fires



Migration



Disease outbreaks



Violence



Volcano eruptions

## Funding requirements

**Total 2M** CHF

Through the IFRC



→ **0.4M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies



→ **0.3M** CHF

Host National Society



**1.3M** CHF

### IFRC Breakdown

#### Longer term needs

**20,000** CHF  
Climate and environment

**150,000** CHF  
Disasters and crises

**50,000** CHF  
Health and wellbeing

**30,000** CHF  
Migration and displacement

**0** CHF  
Values, power and inclusion

**150,000** CHF  
Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

Belgian Red Cross

British Red Cross\*

Italian Red Cross

The Netherlands Red Cross\*

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross\*

Swiss Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent Society

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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The Bolivian Red Cross was founded in 1917 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1923. In 2016, its statutes were approved by ministerial resolution. The National Society operates national units that oversee the work in relief and disaster response, health, volunteering, youth, communication, development and research, and administration and finance. It also runs four technical institutes to deliver nursing training.

The National Society coordinates with governmental institutions and cooperates with non-governmental organisations and other actors to provide humanitarian assistance to local communities. This includes conducting disaster response operations, organising cash transfers, and delivering hygiene kits and other items to vulnerable groups of population. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Society in cooperation with other institutions, has carried out national awareness campaigns about the virus and the benefits of vaccination, and has provided psychosocial support through a telecare service and face-to-face meetings.

The Bolivian Red Cross [Strategic Plan 2021–2025](#) features five strategic objectives:

- Contribute to the improved quality of life and health for vulnerable people, both physical and mental health
- Contribute to the well-being of people affected by adverse situations caused by emergencies, disasters, social conflicts and the violation of international humanitarian law
- Support local communities to promote sustainable development, including strengthening resilience and adaptation to climate change in an inclusive way
- Empower volunteers and volunteer leaders with the knowledge and skills to support positive transformation in Bolivian society
- Promote humanitarian social inclusion and a culture of peace and non-violence across all Bolivian Red Cross's humanitarian actions

The National Society recently completed a revision of its organizational structure and is working on a revision of its statutes, its policy development, financial sustainability, and the development and standardization of internal management processes and administrative procedures. This will include the development of a volunteering strategy and the strengthening of the volunteer development framework.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

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### Joint situational analysis

Bolivia is currently experiencing economic growth driven in part by mining, construction, transport and storage, and hydrocarbon activities. The country's economy grew by 8.7% up to June 2021 according to the Global Index of Economic Activity (IGAE). This figure is a dramatic change from the -12.9% contraction registered in June 2020.

Despite substantial economic growth, the country continues to experience humanitarian needs. Sporadic and localized civil unrest related to political and economic issues in the country continues to affect vulnerable communities and protection, access to food and non-food assistance remain important for both local populations and migrants. The country is also vulnerable to disasters and the impact of climate change, which also affects vulnerable communities. While access to safe and clean water has generally improved in Bolivia

in recent years, further work in this area is also still of utmost importance.

Bolivia is not only a country of passage for migrants but is also becoming a destination country. It was estimated that at least 15,700 Venezuelan migrants and refugees were living in Bolivia by July 2022. This figure includes a significant number of people in irregular situations, whose migratory status makes them more prone to violence, exploitation, and other forms of abuse. Overall, migrants face a greater risk of having their rights violated and experience a lack of access to health, food, water and sanitation, education, and employment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the vulnerability of the wider Bolivian population and of the Venezuelan migrants and refugees and has increased the magnitude and range of their needs. In addition to the health risks

generated by the pandemic, it has further limited access to employment and income-generating opportunities. Likewise, access to basic supplies and services has

become more difficult and xenophobia and discrimination towards the migrant population has been growing.

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## Strategic priorities

### Climate and environment

Bolivia is particularly vulnerable to climate change due to its widespread poverty, the variety of its ecosystems, weather extremes, melting glaciers and high deforestation rates. An Oxfam report outlines five main impacts of climate change: deteriorating food security; reduced water availability due to glacial retreat; more frequent and more intense disasters caused by natural hazards; an increase in mosquito-borne diseases; and more regular forest fires. The negative impact of these trends on the country's ecosystems and on the economy, including on the livelihoods and well-being of the population is already being felt, particularly among vulnerable groups such as those living in poverty, women, children, and older people.

### Main actions and areas of support

The Bolivian Red Cross is part of the IFRC [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led, climate-smart, disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts, to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year, programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

While the Bolivian Red Cross has already conducted activities related to climate crises, more efforts are needed to strengthen the National Society's knowledge base on climate impacts and actions, to implement concrete programming in this area, and to document and disseminate the learning and best practices on the ground. In 2023, the Bolivian Red Cross will improve its internal levels of knowledge, awareness and understanding of climate change, through the development of climate-based storytelling, training, and working with government on climate change related actions.

The Bolivian Red Cross has identified several priority activities that it will implement with the support of the Swiss Red Cross and IFRC:

- Develop capacity to the support and community dissemination of knowledge and actions that make adaptation to climate change possible, through the volunteers in the National Society's branches
- Support the National Society's assessments and response plans for droughts, floods, and frost and snow, with special emphasis on training of volunteers in climate change awareness
- Strengthen coordination with the IFRC [Climate Centre](#) to access technical guidance and support the development of [forecast-based financing](#) projects
- Support nationwide polyethylene terephthalate-polyester recycling campaigns through the mobilization and involvement of youth volunteers

### Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page [Bolivia](#).

Due to its geographic location and to human activity, Bolivia is vulnerable to natural hazards and extreme weather events. The country has active volcanoes and communities are also at risk of earthquakes.

Bolivia also registers a considerable number of disasters that are caused by hydrometeorological events, leading to flooding and landslides. These disasters are intensified by climate change and also contribute to health challenges, particularly endemic disease outbreaks.

Although the Government has shown progress in adopting strategies and public policies in line with international good practice in risk management and disaster-related laws, there are still weaknesses in the disaster response coverage in many sectors and a need to be more inclusive of the different levels of Government and humanitarian actors present in Bolivia.

## Main actions and areas of support

The Bolivian Red Cross closely coordinates emergency preparedness and response with government entities to meet humanitarian needs. Beyond humanitarian response, the National Society's actions promote resilience and sustainable development and supports the restoration of family links.

In 2023, the National Society will develop and implement a national strategic plan for safer access and operational security, with the aim of reducing and mitigating the risks that the National Society may face in sensitive and insecure situations and to help gain the trust and acceptance of communities. It will also embark on the IFRC's [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) process to pursue structured capacity strengthening in response preparedness. The process relies on a continuous and flexible approach that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps in their preparedness and response mechanisms and take the necessary action to improve it.

With the support of the Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross, the Bolivian Red Cross will also strengthen its disaster risk reduction work. The Spanish Red Cross will support community preparedness projects, while the Swiss Red Cross will focus on strengthening the National Society's emergency response system.

With IFRC support, the Bolivian Red Cross will develop risk communication campaigns to reduce communities' vulnerability and exposure to hazards. The IFRC will also support the National Society to assess risk and reduce vulnerability in identified communities; conduct a participatory assessment of current capacities of the Bolivian Red Cross; strengthen and review supply chain and logistics capacities; develop an integrated approach to establish or adjust procurement and financial processes; and decentralize procurement for emergency response goods, using a sub-regional database of suppliers.

## Health and wellbeing

In Bolivia, 30% of the population does not have any access to health care. Only 30% are able to access public hospitals and clinics while a further 30% of the population has health insurance and 10% can afford to rely solely on the private health sector. Despite recent technological and socio-economic advances in Bolivia, the World Health Organization (WHO) says that the country still faces health care challenges in terms

of patient care, exclusion of the most vulnerable social classes and increases in morbidity and mortality rates.

The health crisis caused by COVID-19 plunged the country's economy into a recession that led to a rebound in poverty. The Government implemented different initiatives, such as cash transfers and credit deferrals, to help the most vulnerable populations. However, the health crisis aggravated structural weaknesses, such as the reduced capacity of the health system, the limited impact of the social protection programming, high hidden unemployment, and high macro-economic imbalances.

## Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC network is supporting the Bolivian Red Cross to increase its health capacities to complement government actions, covering mental health, psychosocial support and water, sanitation and hygiene. The National Society has restarted its first aid services and training in some areas of the country. Its nursing school and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians training centre have also reopened.

The Turkish Red Crescent Society will support the Bolivian Red Cross by providing ophthalmologist consultations and health projects for children, while the Belgian Red Cross will support the National Society to operate blood banks.

The IFRC will support the Bolivian Red Cross to update its health strategies and plans, including for community health, mental health, and water, sanitation and hygiene. The IFRC will also support the National Society to identify vulnerable territories within each local and regional context and develop relevant health preparedness and response plans; to implement community engagement and accountability strategies with the Ministry of Health, particularly in support of vaccination campaigns; and to deliver community mental health workshops and online and face-to-face assistance for frontline workers, affected communities and volunteers.

## Migration and displacement

As both a transit and host country, Bolivia continues to experience significant migration flows. Transcontinental population movement and cross-border migration has increased in 2021 across the Andean countries, and the number of migrants in Bolivia has nearly doubled in the first half of 2021. In 2022, the humanitarian needs of Venezuelan and Haitian migrants on the Bolivian-Chilean border region have grown. Despite COVID-19 mobility restrictions and border closures

established by governments in the Andean region, Venezuelan and Haitian migrants have been using informal crossing points to infiltrate Chile, which is impacting Bolivian border areas.

### Main actions and areas of support

The Bolivian Red Cross is part of the IFRC three-year [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually, through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The Bolivian Red Cross will support people on the move under its migration and identity framework, enabling access to primary health care and providing restoring family links services, protection services, safe drinking water and warm clothes for migrants. These actions are coordinated with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the IFRC.

The IFRC will support the Bolivian Red Cross in the creation and planning of migration actions and programmes as part of both its longer-term work and emergency response operations, providing humanitarian services for migrants en route and humanitarian and longer-term integrations services for those who settle in communities in the country. Additionally, the IFRC will coordinate contributions from the IFRC network to build the National Society's capacities and facilitate exchanges with other Andean National Societies to support cross-border migrants. The IFRC will also continue to assist the National Society in coordinating joint actions and support from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) on migration issues.

### Values, power and inclusion

In Bolivia, the secondary economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have spurred new levels of social unrest and violence. Reduced incomes and weakened support systems since the onset of the pandemic have increased the number of people who find themselves in vulnerable conditions. In Bolivia, this is particularly true of marginalized groups with less capacity to respond to the crisis, including indigenous populations with limited

access to health services, families living in poverty, children and adolescents whose rights to education were interrupted, and migrants among others.

COVID-19 restrictions also placed a disproportionate burden of domestic work and care on women. The quarantine measures put many women at risk of increased domestic violence.

### Main actions and areas of support

The Bolivian Red Cross will work with communities to promote engagement with and education, for vulnerable adults, youths and adolescents, helping to identify and disseminate key messages around violence and inclusion. The National Society will propose appropriate strategies and recreational activities for those with the highest degree of vulnerability to violence, with the goal of spreading a message of non-violence. The National Society will also prioritize the rights, social protection and equality of women, girls, boys and adolescents, strengthening its own capacities to promote lives without fear of violence. The Italian Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross will support the Bolivian Red Cross to provide volunteer training to support this work.

The IFRC will encourage the National Society to expand its humanitarian education activities through training opportunities covering humanitarian values and the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and through supporting peer-to-peer collaboration between National Societies. The Bolivian Red Cross will maintain an inclusive approach in all its actions, in accordance with the IFRC's [protection, gender and inclusion policy](#). The IFRC will support the Bolivian Red Cross to ensure that programmes and operations promote dignity, access, participation and safety, in line with the agreed minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergency operations, programmes and training.

The IFRC will support the National Society to institutionalize the IFRC's [community engagement and accountability minimum commitments](#) within its programmes, enabling effective community engagement that is based on robust participation and feedback processes. The level of support from the IFRC will depend on the National Society's baseline capacities to ensure progressive improvement in the implementation of its community engagement and accountability minimum standards.

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## Enabling local actors

The Bolivian Red Cross is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening in line with the priorities shown in its Strategic Plan for 2021-2025. It carried out the self-assessment part of the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification process in 2013 and is planning to renew this in 2023, with support from IFRC and Swiss Red Cross. The self-assessment part of the process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of the National Society in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. It is expected that the renewed self-assessment will result in an improvement plan and will help align partner support through a working group on National Society development.

The IFRC network is committed to supporting the National Society in its development, guided by the National Society's own individual priorities.

### Engaged

As an humanitarian organization, the Bolivian Red Cross has access to and influence over the Government, various state institutions, civil society actors and the private sector in country. The Bolivian Red Cross is aiming to strengthen its response, service capacity and profile as a solid humanitarian actor, emphasizing and advocating for its role as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field.

The IFRC will support the National Society in its work to continuously build its capacities in disaster communications, media management and digital content production, in particular:

- providing governance and management structures with coaching to help them work more effectively in accessing partners for the Bolivian Red Cross, with benchmarks that enable the National Society to monitor its progress towards becoming a stronger and more informed interlocutor with its partners
- supporting the Bolivian Red Cross to lead country-level Movement coordination in support of its strategic plan
- working with the Bolivian Red Cross and IFRC reference centres to identify other humanitarian actors that could contribute towards the implementation of the National Society's 2023 Plan of Action and promoting peer-to-peer support with those actors

- continuing building the skills and capacities required to address current and emerging humanitarian challenges at local level, including through support for local leadership and communication

The Swiss Red Cross will support National Society development and improved digital communications in Bolivia Red Cross and the Belgian Red Cross will support the Bolivian Red Cross to develop and implement a first aid app.

### Accountable

In the area of accountability, the Bolivian Red Cross, with IFRC support, will focus on:

- improving understanding of accountability as a standard and key element in the National Society's long-term relationship with donors, communities, and other partners
- increasing exchanges with organizations outside the Movement, to acquire new knowledge and develop greater efficiency and transparency in services, programmes and communications
- providing technical guidance and support for the development and revision of narrative and financial reports, periodic activity reports and audited financial statements etc.
- adopting IFRC policies on fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse, in coordination with Movement partners
- reinforcing financial sustainability and management procedures
- fundraising for emergencies, using the IFRC toolkit
- providing customized proposals, launching Emergency Appeals, leading partner calls, developing marketing documents, seeking and securing funding opportunities, managing negotiation processes, and managing grants

## Trusted

The Bolivian Red Cross will work with the IFRC throughout the process of revising its statutes and will coordinate with the ICRC to complete all essential tasks that strengthen its governance.

The IFRC will also support the Bolivian Red Cross to define and implement institutional standards that guarantee the provision of quality, effective, relevant and sustainable programmes at national and local level. It will continue to support actions that assist the National Society in the organization of its financial capacities across resource mobilization, financial risk

management, decision-making, assessment, accountability, auditing and leadership. This includes planned participation of the National Society's leadership and governance in a regional Movement induction course in Panama in March 2023 and in a similar course in La Paz in June 2023.

The Bolivian Red Cross will strengthen its volunteering and youth development with the support of IFRC technical assistance, regular coordination meetings, capacity building funding and online support. It will also develop a protocol on reputational crisis communications.

## THE IFRC NETWORK

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### The IFRC

**The IFRC** supports the Bolivian Red Cross through its Andean Country Cluster Delegation, based in Lima (Peru) since 2016. The IFRC supports the National Society in its strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including in strengthening its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Bolivian Red Cross through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#) in response to civil unrest, forest fires, floods, and disease outbreaks. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its [global Emergency Appeal](#), has supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response.

### IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to analyze the humanitarian context, assess humanitarian situations and needs, agree common priorities, co-develop common strategies to address issues, such as obtaining humanitarian access and acceptance, mobilize funding and other resources, clarify consistent public messaging, and monitor progress. This means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clear humanitarian and development actions and assistance, and support efforts to reinforce the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

Several participating National Societies have longer-term partnerships with the Bolivian Red Cross.

The **Belgian Red Cross** is primarily involved in health programming in Bolivia, including supporting the National Society to operate blood banks and implement a first aid app and platform and provide online first aid courses. The Belgian Red Cross will also support the National Society to strengthen resource mobilization.

The **Italian Red Cross** provides support to the National Society across disaster risk reduction and health programming, including the implementation of protection, gender and inclusion approaches and the promotion of a culture of peace and leadership among young people. The Italian Red Cross also supports volunteer training processes.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supports the National Society in Bolivia to deliver disaster risk reduction and health activities, including community preparedness projects to strengthen community resilience. The Spanish Red Cross will also support the Bolivian Red Cross to implement protection, gender and inclusion approaches and promote a culture of peace and leadership among young people. Furthermore, the Spanish Red Cross will help the National Society to deliver volunteer training and emergency and crisis response projects.

## Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Belgian Red Cross	CHF 0.02M			●				●	
Iranian Red Crescent	CHF 0.01M			●					
Italian Red Cross	CHF 0.06M	●	●	●		●			
Spanish Red Cross	CHF 0.05M		●	●		●			
Swiss Red Cross	CHF 0.12M		●			●		●	
Turkish Red Crescent	CHF 0.02M			●					

**Total**

**0.28M**

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the National Society to strengthen its disaster risk reduction and emergency response systems, as well as its National Society development, resource mobilization and fundraising, the latter through [Iraiser](#). The Swiss Red Cross will also support the development of a code of ethics and digital communication.

The **Turkish Red Crescent Society** supports the National Society's health programming in Bolivia by delivering ophthalmologist consultations and projects for children.

## Movement coordination

Coordination between the Bolivian Red Cross, the IFRC and the ICRC is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#). This coordination is essential to ensure that actions are complementary and based on transparency and accountability.

In 2021, the Bolivian Red Cross, the IFRC and the ICRC signed a tripartite agreement to better collaborate, coordinate and enable strategic, operational and technical dialogue between Movement components. For 2023, the Bolivian Red Cross plans to formally activate a

National Society development working group, with IFRC, ICRC and Swiss Red Cross participation.

The ICRC provides support to the Bolivian Red Cross through its regional delegation in Lima, Peru. The ICRC works with the National Society to strengthen safer access and support capacity strengthening; provide technical and financial support for the restoring family links programme; promote the Fundamental Principles and respect for the Emblem; disseminate International Humanitarian Law; and support crisis communication. It also provides advice and support in sensitive and insecure contexts.

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## Coordination with other actors

The Bolivian Red Cross has established institutional coordination with national and departmental level emergency operations centres. It also collaborates with other actors, such as the humanitarian country team,

UNHCR, World Vision and the Coca-Cola Foundation. The National Society is also part of the health and logistics coordination working groups.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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### Bolivian Red Cross

**W** [cruzrojaboliviana.org](http://cruzrojaboliviana.org)

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