



ECUADOR

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 9.5M**

Appeal number **MAAEC003**

In support of the Ecuadorian Red Cross



107

National Society branches



208

National Society staff



8,856

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



10,000

Ongoing emergency operations



201,000

Climate and environment



82,675

Disasters and crises



176,230

Health and wellbeing



118,900

Migration and displacement



10,200

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

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

Capacity development

- Digital transformation
- Internal systems efficiency
- Financial sustainability and resource mobilization

Key country data

Population **17.9M**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **103**

Human Development Index rank **95**

Population below poverty level **33%**

Hazards



Floods



Earthquakes



Volcanic eruptions



Landslides



Migration



Disease outbreaks

Funding requirements

Total 9.5M CHF

Through the IFRC

3.7M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

1.9M CHF

Host National Society

3.9M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

135,000 CHF
Climate and environment

1.1M CHF
Disasters and crises

920,000 CHF
Health and wellbeing

1.2M CHF
Migration and displacement

400,000 CHF
Values, power and inclusion

Participating National Societies

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Magen David Adom

Spanish Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Ecuadorian Red Cross was founded, incorporated and ratified by Congress in 1910, and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1923. It is governed by the law that established it, by international agreements and treaties approved by Ecuador and by its own statutes. As a humanitarian organization, it works to alleviate and prevent human suffering and to promote resilient communities. It is guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, and is oriented by the concepts of sustainable development, wellbeing, dignity and diversity.

In 2022 alone, the Ecuadorian Red Cross responded to multiple emergencies, such as for floods, earthquakes, and civil unrest, in some cases with support from the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) support. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ecuadorian Red Cross has developed interventions in all 24 provinces of the country. These include health services, psychosocial support programmes, prehospital care, blood donation, and support for the national vaccination campaign.

The National Society's four programmatic areas are disaster risk management, health and community development, promotion of the fundamental principles and values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and programmes for young people. The Ecuadorian Red Cross headquarters is located in the capital, Quito, with coverage throughout the country, and is supported by its 24 local, provincial branches. The National Society also has local "cantonal" boards and community volunteers in working through parish and neighbourhood brigades. It also operates associated components, such as a blood bank and the Cruz Vital laboratory services.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross [Strategic Plan 2021–2025](#) defines two strategic objectives:

- Promoting the development of resilient communities to alleviate and prevent human suffering
- Promoting the development of the National Society through strategic transformations to improve its performance.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Ecuador is located in the northwest of South America, and borders Colombia in the north, Peru to the south and east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The Andes Mountain range crosses the country from north to south. The country has a population of almost 18 million inhabitants. Although the country has made significant socio-economic progress, there are still gaps in basic services, including poor access to health, education, housing and economic capacity.

The country was negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and its related economic impact, which has impacted unemployment and poverty levels. The [national poverty rate](#) in Ecuador is estimated at 25% of the population, while the extreme poverty rate stands at 10.7%, with the highest incidence in rural areas. The [multidimensional poverty index](#) for Ecuador in 2022 was 0.19.

Communities in Ecuador are vulnerable to social upheaval, exacerbated by difficult economic conditions.

The country has made significant progress in its social protection systems and development programmes, however the humanitarian needs are increasing amongst vulnerable populations, and access to basic supplies and services has become more difficult. Xenophobia and discrimination towards migrant populations has also increased, and there are still significant gaps and challenges with regards to inequality and inclusion. Ecuador is currently hosting significant numbers of Venezuelan migrants and it is home to the fourth largest population of migrants from that country. As of May 2022, about half a million Venezuelans were settled in Ecuador.

Ecuador is also affected by natural hazards, weather events and climate change. Its location makes it vulnerable to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and its ungoverned land use and extraction of natural resources have recently caused a series of disasters, including floods, landslides and forest fires. In addition,

there is an increase in risks within the urban context due to high rates of urbanization, including unplanned and unsafe settlements in flood-prone, coastal and mountainous areas.

The effects of climate change on the country include the intensification of extreme weather events, such as those caused by the El Niño phenomenon, as well as rising sea levels, the increased transmission of dengue and other tropical diseases, and the impact on agricultural production, amongst others.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

According to the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, the main climate change impacts in Ecuador are the intensification of extreme weather events, such as those caused by the La Niña and El Niño phenomena, rising sea levels, glacier retreat, increased transmission water-borne and other diseases, amongst others. In recent years, there has been evidence of more than 40% loss of glacier cover on the Antisana, Carihuayrazo, Cotopaxi and Chimborazo volcanoes. In Ecuador, the extensive coastline also leaves communities vulnerable to rising sea levels.

Climate change continues to have a negative impact on communities in Ecuador, affecting economies, ecosystems, human livelihoods and well-being. Vulnerable groups, such as those living in poverty, women, children and the elderly, are particularly at risk.

Ecuador's social, economic and environmental circumstances constitute a serious challenge to the country's progress and are further impacted by current and expected climate change. In Ecuador, agricultural industry is highly vulnerable to temperature increases and extreme weather events. Changing precipitation patterns are affecting soil and water availability, and higher temperatures are becoming unfavourable for certain crops. People residing in rural areas are also those with the highest inequality indexes and some vulnerable populations are needing to move to higher altitudes to survive.

The incidence of floods and landslides is projected to increase, resulting in more frequent soil erosion that will lead to reduced yields, damaged crops and livestock and, eventually, increased food insecurity. Also, intense droughts are already affecting approximately 70% of agricultural areas and more than 53% of livestock areas, while extreme rains are increasing floodable areas by more than 16% – areas where nearly 50% of the country's population is located.

Communities in the country are also experiencing an increase in mosquito-borne diseases as temperatures and weather patterns change. Shifting weather patterns are also allowing invasive species to thrive in the Galapagos and other sensitive ecosystems, and species extinction is a real concern. Overall, the health, food security and livelihoods of vulnerable people are under threat.

In this context, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador developed the [National Climate Change Strategy \(2021-2025\)](#) to guide the actions and measures that the country needs to prepare for extreme climate events, from the strategic lines of mitigation and adaptation. Likewise, Ecuador's [National Climate Change Adaptation Plan \(2023-2027\)](#) is a key instrument to reduce climate risk, increase resilience and adaptive capacity.

Main actions and areas of support

The National Society is part of the IFRC's [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.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to ensure that communities, staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to evolving climate and environmental risks. Its main activities include:

- Contributing to governance to support the sustainability of conservation areas in the Santa Elena province
- Raising awareness of and implementing the risk reduction and climate change adaptation national strategy
- Promoting the participation of small farmers and local actors in climate-smart agricultural approaches

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), and with implementation support from the Spanish Red Cross, as lead EU National Society, and from the German Red Cross and Italian Red Cross, the Ecuadorian Red Cross will implement climate-smart actions in agricultural and other production processes in at least five communities affected by climate change.

Disasters and crises

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

Due to its geographic location and the impact of human activity, Ecuador is increasingly vulnerable to natural hazards and extreme weather events. Ranked 56 out of 181 countries by the INFORM RISK, Ecuador is considered highly vulnerable to disasters. The country spans three geographically diverse climate zones: the Andean mountains, the Amazon rainforest and the arid coastal areas. Each zone presents its unique hazards. Ecuador is also exposed to hurricanes and tropical storms, with people in coastal areas also in danger of tsunamis.

The country has active volcanoes and communities are also at risk of earthquakes. Volcanoes in the Andes erupt periodically, producing toxic ash that compromises human health, kills livestock and destroys crops. Ecuador has 84 identified volcanic centres, of which 27 are potentially active, with six volcanoes ranked a high or very high threat by the National Geophysical Institute. The indirect impact of falling volcanic ash affects millions of people in Ecuador, putting them at risk of harm from air pollution and the potential contamination of water reservoirs. In September 2020, the eruptive activity of

the Sangay Volcano in central Ecuador increased significantly, affecting more than 20,000 people in Chimborazo, Bolívar, Guayas, Los Ríos and part of Santa Elena.

Ecuador is also in an area of intense seismic activity. In 2016, the country was hit by an earthquake that affected the coastal areas in Manabí and Esmeraldas, killing 670 people and leaving more than 30,000 homeless. Another earthquake hit Esmeraldas on 26 March 2022, affecting almost 8,000 people. The National Society responded to this emergency with the support of an IFRC DREF allocation.

Intense rainfall associated with El Niño also causes flooding and landslides, resulting in the loss of human life, damage to homes and infrastructure, disruption to livelihoods and economic activities, and a rise in water-borne diseases. In the first quarter of 2023, Ecuador was impacted by several dangerous events that were triggered simultaneously including flooding, macro landslides, seismic movement, and volcanic activity (Cotopaxi, Reventador and Sangay). These events exposed the population to human and material losses, with people killed and injured and in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. For example, a [landslide](#) was reported in the Province of Chimborazo, which caused loss of life and infrastructure, and left an area of 24.3 hectares and more than 1,650 people directly affected in the impact zone. At the same time, heavy rainfall caused seven rivers in the Province of Esmeraldas to overflow their banks, leaving 3,500 people affected by [flooding](#).

Anthropic risks, often related to overexploitation of natural resources and irregular zoning for land use, have also led to a series of disasters in the country, including floods, landslides, and forest fires. Highly populated urban areas, poor land-use, environmental degradation and weak building codes that do not sufficiently address potential risks, all contribute to the country's vulnerability. More than 60 per cent of the population live in areas that are exposed to multiple hazards.

The National Secretariat for Risk Management is the public body responsible for guaranteeing the protection of people and communities from the negative effects of natural and anthropic disasters. Through the Public Policy on Disaster Risk Management, the National Decentralized Risk Management System has been established, which is composed of the risk management units of all public and private institutions. The Ecuadorian Red Cross is key part of this system.



Main actions and areas of support

Every year the National Society prepares for and responds to emergencies around the country, in coordination with the National Risk Management Service and local governments. The National Society activates its strategic stocks of humanitarian assistance and deploys first response teams to carry out search and rescue, provide first aid, conduct needs assessments and distribute relief, amongst other activities. The National Society has a qualified preparedness and response team, with equipment and trained focal points in almost every province. To respond effectively, the Ecuadorian Red Cross will continue to invest in the general and specialized response capacities of its technical teams nationwide. It is also working to create a network of “zone contingency plans” to provide effective, adequate and efficient care in the event of a disaster or crisis.

The National Society will also strengthen its strategic warehouse network system to support the wider, national risk and disaster management system, also acting as a regional warehouse for neighbouring National Societies in Colombia and Peru.

The National Society in Ecuador will work to meet the basic needs of communities and protect their livelihoods, through a cash transfer programme and will improve the livelihoods of small business owners through training and formalized participation in new marketing spaces. The National Society has introduced new cash transfer and information management technologies and methodologies. The Ecuadorian Red Cross is also currently in the process of adopting the IFRC’s

Preparedness for Effective Response methodology. It is currently in the initial development and assessment phase, which it will continue to implement in 2023 with the support from IFRC.

To increase community resilience, the Ecuadorian Red Cross will implement a risk-based approach, enabling communities, volunteers and disaster risk management institutions to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from the impact of evolving hazards, risks and shocks. Additionally, the approach will contribute to the increase of leadership in disaster law, by building strategic capacity as part of the decentralized national risk management system. The National Society will also support the strengthening of volcanic monitoring and information systems in Ecuador. The Ecuadorian Red Cross is one of the National Societies that pioneered early or anticipatory action, through Early Action Protocols (EAPs) and is one of the only National Societies with an EAP for volcanic ash fall. It also operates an EAP for intense rains caused by El Niño. The Ecuadorian Red Cross will update contingency and emergency plans to include an anticipatory action component.

Within the framework of the ECHO PPP and with support from the Spanish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, German Red Cross and the IFRC, the Ecuadorian Red Cross will aim to provide an effective and tailored local response to communities in need, while increasing the reach, quality and impact of the services provided. This includes risk reduction and disaster preparedness actions, cash transfer programmes, and the development and revision of EAPs for anticipatory action.

Health and wellbeing

Access to health care is challenging in Ecuador, particularly for vulnerable populations. Health conditions in the country are very limited in rural areas, where there is an important need to strengthen primary and specialized health care. According to data from the [Inter-American Development Bank](#), Ecuador is among the countries with the greatest development challenges in the field of health, ranking 54th out of 71. Ecuador's health system is composed of both public and private sectors, and has seen the public sector affected by low budgets, shortages and instability of personnel and a lack of specialized infrastructure. Ecuador's health institutions are experiencing critical shortages of trained personnel, medicines, leading to ongoing misinformation and mistrust in the health care system. For this reason, Ecuador has made significant investments in recent years to strengthen its health sector and address the structural gaps that prevent it from meeting the population's demand.

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected communities and exposed weaknesses in national health care systems in the country. Ecuador's health system suffered from the pandemic and, as a result, other health issues among the population were neglected and underfunded. In 2020, the city of Guayaquil had one of the worst infections and mortality rates in the world. The pandemic also had a significant impact on the mental health of people in the country. UNICEF reported that mental illness accounted for almost a quarter of the total disease burden in Ecuador, with self-harm the second-highest cause of death among children aged from 10 to 19. There is a major need for increases in primary care coverage and for expanded community support services across communities nationwide (through the provision of community intervention professionals, such as psychologists and social workers). Migrants are also highly vulnerable to gaps in the health system and in need greater access to effective health care.

Climate change is also affecting the health and well-being of people in Ecuador. Climate change will increase the incidence of non-communicable diseases, such as acute respiratory infections, and of communicable diseases, such as malaria, dengue fever, leishmaniasis and leptospirosis. Water-borne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoeal diseases are also expected to increase. Extreme climatic events also indirectly affect the health and well-being of communities, through their impact on agriculture and food markets, incomes and consumption.

Ecuador has the second-highest chronic child malnutrition rate in Latin America: according to UNICEF, 23 per cent of children under five years of age and 27 per cent of children under two years of age suffer from chronic child malnutrition. Additionally, the increase in air pollution and heat stress, the risk of injury from extreme events and the deterioration of certain socioeconomic levels will also affect the health of vulnerable groups, including pregnant mothers, infants and children, older people, street workers and homeless people, those with chronic illnesses and other marginalized groups. As a result, climate-related morbidity and mortality are projected to increase.

Main actions and areas of support

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has valuable experience in health interventions and community-based health. The Ecuadorian Red Cross provides 75 per cent of the blood components for transfusion therapies in the country. The National Blood Bank of the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the Zonal Fractionation Centres of Loja and El Oro are ISO 9001:2015 [Quality management systems certified](#).

The National Society took on a lead role in supporting the COVID-19 response and works in many different areas of health care. Over the coming years, the Ecuadorian Red Cross will focus strongly on its comprehensive health programme. Currently, mental health is a central pillar of the health department's work, as are nutrition related activities and the water, sanitation and hygiene sectors are all in the process of being strengthened. The National Society will also continue to strengthen its auxiliary role to ensure the access for vulnerable people to sustainable and quality health services, water, sanitation and hygiene and to position the Ecuadorian Red Cross on relevant country-level, public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms.

The National Society's work will support activities to improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations, reducing chronic child malnutrition and promoting nutritional activities and support in the Posorja and El Morro parishes. The National Society will also work to address the rights of older adults to access comprehensive health care services.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross will support the public authorities and the Ministry of Public Health to deliver health policies through its participation in the National Health Council. It will strengthen its ambulance and pre-hospital medical care system and protect the health and well-being of communities by providing access to sustainable, affordable and quality health services. The National Society will also strengthen its blood centre mobile units.

Through the ECHO PPP, the Ecuadorian Red Cross is also providing 200 hand hygiene systems and 50 water treatment systems in educational establishments, promoting the use of clean drinking water and water supply for everyday activities. The Spanish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross and the IFRC will provide the Ecuadorian Red Cross with technical support to achieve these outcomes. The Spanish Red Cross will also provide resources for the delivery of comprehensive services for older adults, as well as technical support for personnel training under the PPP.

Magen David Adom in Israel will provide technical support to the National Society in pre-hospital care for multiple-victim incidents, supporting the preparation of corresponding protocols, equipment standards, inter-agency guidance and guidelines for simulation exercises.

Migration and displacement

Ecuador is home to the fourth largest population of Venezuelan migrants in the world, with nearly half a million Venezuelan nationals present in country. The border is quite porous, and it is estimated that close to 1,500 Venezuelans enter Ecuador each month through irregular crossing points, in search of better living conditions. Risks are especially high for women and families with small children, and people are exposed to dangerous terrain, severe weather conditions, and other hazards, such as sexual abuse, trafficking and other human rights violations. Most of these migrants lack proper documentation, which affects their access to basic services and to the formal labour market, exposing them to protection risks and limiting their socio-economic integration prospects ([R4V RMRP](#)). According to the [UN](#), many travel through the country in transit to other South American nations. The country is also witnessing population movement from countries, such as Haiti.

It is estimated that 70 per cent of these migrants live in three main provinces: Pichincha, Guayas and Manabí. Around 65 per cent of them do not have any regular status and approximately 80 per cent of families report having children and adolescents. These people have prioritized needs for food, shelter, employment and medical services ([R4V Joint needs assessment](#)). In Ecuador, the government's legal framework guarantees universal access to basic services, such as health and education, including for refugees and migrants with irregular status. However, the limits on public capacities often create barriers for these migrants and refugees in accessing basic services. The country's slow economic recovery and insecurity affect host communities, refugees and

migrants, particularly those already in vulnerable situations, with almost nine out of ten Venezuelans report resorting to negative coping strategies ([R4V RMRP](#)). This, in turn, contributes to increased xenophobia and discrimination, and heightens protection risks.

Due to the economic crisis it is estimated that more Ecuadorian citizens are likely to leave Ecuador in 2023. According to statistics from the Government of Panama, Ecuador shifted from being the thirteenth nationality in irregular transit through Darien in 2021 (with 387 people in transit between January and December) to being the second nationality in transit in 2022 (with 29,356 people in transit between January and December - an increase of close to 7,000 per cent).

The impact of climate change will further affect population movement, with slow onset disasters, such as drought, likely to increase rates of migration. The projected increase in average temperatures and changing climate patterns will place rural communities under pressure, reducing their livelihoods and increasing rural to urban migration as a result. The presence of irregular armed groups and criminal gangs in the country and the deterioration of the security situation has also resulted in an increasingly complex operational environment ([R4V RMRP](#)).

Main actions and areas of support

The National Society is part of the IFRC's 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 Ecuadorian Red Cross will ensure that migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes, as well as access to durable solutions when appropriate. The National Society will provide information and guidance to migrant populations to raise their awareness of risks and to support mutual integration between host communities and migrants. This work will strengthen health service provision and health surveillance in the country and increase the capacity of displaced people to integrate with their host communities.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross will also focus on building the capacities of its personnel to provide appropriate humanitarian response to migrants. The National Society will improve its restoring family links services and implement training in all provinces. It will also deliver humanitarian aid kits, preventative and curative medical care and psychosocial support services to migrant populations. The Spanish Red Cross, the ICRC and the IFRC will all provide technical support to the Ecuadorian Red Cross in this area, with the Spanish Red Cross also providing training and equipment through the ECHO PPP.

Values, power and inclusion

People in Ecuador face significant levels of violence, ranging from social unrest caused by economic disparity to conflict with armed groups. During the middle of 2022, the population in Ecuador joined social protest actions, through a national strike, to demand access to better inter-cultural education opportunities, health services and medicines, and income generation or livelihood opportunities. The social mobilization took place in 22 provinces of the country, with the largest concentration of protesters seen in Quito, the country's capital.

High levels of violence and insecurity linked to organized crime, as well as the poverty and social inequality gaps, were also factors that increased the risks for women, girls and adolescents in both migrant / refugee groups and host communities. In addition, services provided by organizations and the public sector for women survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) were affected by the same situations of violence. It is estimated that 6.5 out of every 10 women in Ecuador have experienced some type of violence in their lifetime and 1 out of every 4 has suffered sexual violence, making this an area of in need of support. Humanitarian crises also have a differentiated impact on different groups, with girls, women, people of gender diversity and diverse sexual orientation, as well as people with disabilities and migrants and refugees all facing increased risks ([GTRM Subgroup on Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking in Persons](#)).

In Ecuador, the secondary economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have also spurred 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 positions. COVID-19 restrictions placed a disproportionate burden of domestic work and care on women. The quarantine measures also put many women at risk of exacerbated domestic violence. In Ecuador, humanitarian and civil society organizations reported an increase in domestic violence, with 65

per cent of women over the age of 15 having faced gender-based violence at some point in their lives, as outlined above. All types of violence continue to affect most Ecuadorian women, regardless of their ethnicity, level of education, age or status.

There are also real challenges of gender inequality, with 76% of unpaid work carried out in the home and generated by women and illiteracy levels substantially higher among indigenous women. Regarding unemployment levels, there is a gap of 1.4 percent between men and women and women's participation in as elected representatives continues to be considerably below that of men. These indicators are even more prevalent in rural areas ([Executive summary gender equality country profile, Ecuador \(2022\)](#)).

Main actions and areas of support

The Ecuadorian Red Cross will raise awareness of humanitarian values and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and will promote the IFRC's protection, gender and inclusion approach among its personnel. The IFRC will encourage the National Society to expand its humanitarian education, through training opportunities covering the humanitarian values and fundamental principles, and will also support peer-to-peer collaboration between National Societies.

The Ecuadorian 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 Ecuadorian Red Cross to ensure that all programmes and operations promote dignity, access, participation and saf, in line with the agreed minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergency operations, programmes and training.

The National Society has made inter-institutional coordination efforts to promote the community engagement and accountability approach to government bodies, and has focal points in all its provincial boards. It is also implementing digital tools to improve its communication systems with beneficiaries. The IFRC will support the National Society to institutionalize the IFRC [community engagement and accountability minimum commitments](#) within its programmes, enabling effective community engagement 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 the minimum standards.

Enabling local actors

The National Society is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening, in line with the priorities identified in its strategic plan. It carried out the self-assessment part of the IFRC [Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification](#) process in 2017 and by February 2023, conducted a new OCAC preliminary exercise with the IFRC to update its capacity mapping and enhance its National Society processes. The self-assessment part of the process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of a National Society as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Ecuadorian Red Cross is also committed to the IFRC's [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) process and is currently at the assessment phase. The approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps in their preparedness and response mechanisms and take the necessary action to improve them. The IFRC network is committed to supporting the National Society in its development, guided by its individual priorities.

Engaged

The National Society will prioritize humanitarian personnel to engage with public actors. The IFRC will deliver a humanitarian diplomacy workshop and provide communications support, including to develop the National Society's capacities in storytelling, disaster communications, media management and digital content production.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross will use innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate and adapt to complex challenges and opportunities. A community engagement and accountability project, funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, helped build trust in humanitarian settings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The IFRC will also provide technical support in this area.

The IFRC will support the Ecuadorian Red Cross in its digital transformation, including the digitalization of training modules and implementation of a new adverse event system, disaster recovery plan and document management system, that enables users to coordinate and track specific activities and the creation, receipt, location, access and preservation of relevant documents.

Accountable

The IFRC will provide technical support to the Ecuadorian Red Cross to promote the agile and efficient management of the National Society. This will include decentralization processes, such as those supported by the [National Society Investment Alliance](#) funds. The IFRC will work with the National Society to develop and update a protocol on reputational crisis communications.

Trusted

In line with digital transformation, the Ecuadorian Red Cross is working on implementing phase 3 of the e-learning platform, which includes 18 new courses to be implemented in June 2023. The National Society is also operating an Ecuadorian Red Cross Training Centre. It will receive support from the German Red Cross through the regional institutional strengthening project, involving the National Societies of Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, which will support 15 courses and four training-of-trainers workshops as part of the training centre's programme curricula.

Workshops will be held to develop National Society volunteer social skills and strengthen participant leadership and decision-making. Recently, the Technological Institute of the Ecuadorian Red Cross has signed inter-institutional [cooperation agreements](#) to strengthen academic efforts with the National Service of Risk Management and emergencies, generating ties with indigenous councils in different parts of the country.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has supported the National Society through its Andean Country Cluster Delegation based in Lima, Peru, since 2016. The IFRC has also maintained a permanent office in Ecuador since 2016, following the response to the Manabí earthquake. The IFRC supports the National Society in its strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, and in strengthening its auxiliary roles. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Society through a number of DREF [operations](#) in response to floods and landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and ash, population movement, and civil and penitentiary unrest. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC has supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response through its [global Emergency Appeal](#).

IFRC membership coordination

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

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the IFRC, supported by the Spanish Red Cross (as lead EU National Society), the Italian Red Cross and the German Red Cross. The partners are providing support to implement activities across disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, humanitarian assistance and protection of people on the move, and cash and voucher assistance. Risk communication, and community engagement and accountability, will be addressed as cross-cutting themes within the main pillars of the intervention.

The partnership meets the humanitarian needs that arise from extended crises and provides longer-term predictable funding, to facilitate actions and processes and provide greater impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the biggest donor for international aid in the world.










A number of participating National Societies have longer-term partnerships with the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

The **German Red Cross** has a close and longstanding relationship with the Ecuadorian Red Cross, which was established in 1989–1990, when the German Red Cross supported the National Society to set up its blood bank. In 1994, the German Red Cross partnered with the American Red Cross to support the development of disaster management structures within the National Society. In 2013–14, the same National Societies came together to work on a disaster risk reduction project in the Esmeraldas province. In 2019, the German Red Cross included the Ecuadorian Red Cross in the second phase of a regional forecast-based financing and anticipation project, elaborating and implementing an early action plan to protect people from volcanic eruption and ash fallout and, later, to reduce the impact of the El Niño floods. In cooperation with the IFRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the German Red Cross is hosting the Anticipation Hub, a platform to facilitate knowledge exchange, learning, guidance and advocacy around anticipatory action.

Since the end of 2017, the German Red Cross and Ecuadorian Red Cross have been implementing a BMZ-funded, long-term regional institutional development project, which is also running in Peru and Colombia. This project consists of two phases (2017 to 2020 and 2021 to 2023), with a potential third phase from 2024 to 2026 being considered, that would see a permanent German Red Cross delegation in Ecuador. The German Red Cross has also supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross to implement a COVID-19 project funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The **Italian Red Cross** has been present in the region for more than 20 years, supporting National Societies to deliver activities across disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, National Society development and migration. The Italian Red Cross has a history

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
German Red Cross	CHF 0.33M								
Italian Red Cross	CHF 0.03M								
Magen David Adom	CHF 0.27M								
Spanish Red Cross	CHF 1.30M								
Swiss Red Cross									

Total

1.93M

of collaboration with the Ecuadorian Red Cross that has reinforced the role of the latter and generated positive impacts in the communities involved. The collaboration is ongoing, with initiatives to strengthen the impact of the Ecuadorian Red Cross across migration, health and innovation.

The Italian Red Cross is also supporting the National Society to strengthen and implement disaster risk management at institutional and community level and improve its best practices developed during their collaboration and with other National Societies in the region. Currently, the Italian Red Cross has two focal points to manage preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at regional level.

Magen David Adom is Israel's National Rescue Organization and the Israeli National Association within the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Magen David Adom supports the Ecuadorian Red Cross in strengthening its capacities for delivering pre-hospital care for multiple-victim incidents.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross since 1980 and has had a presence in the country through an established delegation in Quito since 2000. The Spanish Red Cross supports the National Society in Ecuador to deliver humanitarian, emergency and development interventions. Since 2016, the two National Societies have worked together on more than 40 projects across humanitarian assistance and emergency response, as well as in development.

During this time, the Ecuadorian Red Cross has increased its expertise and capacity to respond to

different humanitarian needs, including in: disaster risk reduction management and early response to emergencies, population movement, physical and mental health, cash transfer, economic recovery and livelihoods, water and sanitation, and protection.

The Spanish Red Cross supported the National Society to implement its COVID-19 response, in support of the public health system, as well as to deliver protection and prevention actions against the spread of the virus. The Spanish Red Cross also provided support with funding under DG ECHO, to enable the Ecuadorian Red Cross to provide humanitarian assistance to people on the move, with a focus on primary health care and protection services. This includes running mobile health care units equipped with primary health care facilities, medicines and medical supplies, as well as medical and nursing services. The Spanish Red Cross also supports the National Society in Ecuador to implement livelihoods and economic recovery interventions for displaced and local people, with the aim of facilitating their integration into host communities and improving their quality of life.

Finally, the Spanish Red Cross has supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross's institutional strengthening work through the provision of technical assistance. The Ecuadorian Red Cross has received resources generated from successful activities carried out in Spain, targeted at supporting the care and well-being of volunteers, psychological first aid, mental health and psychosocial support, dealing with isolation in temporary shelters and infrastructures, all of which have been successfully implemented in Ecuador.

Movement coordination

Coordination between the National Society in Ecuador, 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 Ecuador, the ICRC provides support to the National Society through its regional delegation in Lima, Peru.

The ICRC works with the National Society to strengthen safer access and support modernization, 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.

Coordination with other actors

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is a permanent actor in the national and provincial emergency operations centres and participates in technical working groups at national and sub-national level. The National Society is a close partner of the government's Secretary of Risk Management, Ministry of Public Health, and other public bodies, and participates in the Humanitarian Country

Team alongside representatives from the UN system, NGOs and other humanitarian actors.

As part of the response to the COVID-19 outbreak and to wider disasters and crisis, the Ecuadorian Red Cross has established strategic partnerships with private sector actors interested in supporting humanitarian response.

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.

Contact Information

Ruben Romero

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation
for Andean Countries, based in Lima
T ++51 963 764 977
ruben.romero@ifrc.org

Monica Portilla

Head of Strategic Engagement
& Partnerships
IFRC Regional Office for Americas,
Panama
T +502 58657629
monica.portilla@ifrc.org

Ecuadorian Red Cross

W cruzroja.org.ec
