



HONDURAS

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 16.1M**

Appeal number **MAAHN003**

In support of the Honduran Red Cross



52

National Society branches



393

National Society staff



12,246

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



40,000

Ongoing
emergency
operations



85,865

Migration and
displacement

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- population movement

Longer term needs

- disaster risk management
- climate change adaptation
- violence prevention and protection
- epidemic preparedness and response

Capacity development

- digital transformation
- partnerships and resource mobilization
- quality and upgraded management systems

Key country data

Population **10.1M**

INFORM Severity rating **High**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **44**

Human Development Index rank **137**

Population below poverty level **48%**

Hazards



Population movement



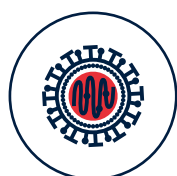
Hurricanes and cyclones



Floods



Drought



Disease outbreaks



Poverty

Funding requirements

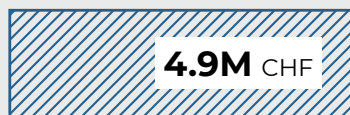
Total 16.1M CHF

Through the IFRC



→ **3.3M CHF**

Through Participating National Societies



4.9M CHF

Host National Society



7.8M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

1.8M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

45,000 CHF

Climate and environment

86,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

26,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

1M CHF

Migration and displacement

55,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

362,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Ongoing emergencies

MDR43008

Mexico and Central America
Migration Crisis
population movement

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

British Red Cross*

Canadian Red Cross Society

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Netherlands Red Cross*

Norwegian Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*

Swiss Red Cross*



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Honduran Red Cross is recognized by the state as a voluntary, autonomous relief society, and was established in 1937. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1945. The National Society works with vulnerable people in its role as an auxiliary to the public authorities, supporting state humanitarian actions to improve the situations of people affected by disasters, emergencies and crises. Currently the Honduran Red Cross has presence in 16 of the country's 18 departments, through 52 branches and more than 12,200 volunteers, 53 per cent of which are women. The National Society is a key actor in crisis and disaster response, with the capacity to analyse and address the needs of people and communities affected by multiple hazards, and acting as an agent for mobilizing urgent action and addressing climate and environmental crises.

The Honduran Red Cross's [National Development Plan 2021–2025](#) aims to strengthen communities resilience to crises, disasters and emergencies; improve access to comprehensive, quality health care services; ensure that the most vulnerable communities receive protection services and ensure that people are empowered through the National Society's development processes.

According to the Honduras National Risk Management Law, the Honduran Red Cross role is to support the national disaster risk management system through technical assistance and coordination with public and private institutions, to ensure effective mitigation, early action, response and recovery. The National Society, together with the IFRC, has advocated for the approval of the International Disaster Relief Law (IDRL) in Honduras, the first of its kind to be adopted on the continent, in order to streamline an effective response to disasters and crises.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

The Republic of Honduras is located in Central America and has an area of 112,492 km². Its geographical limits are the Caribbean Sea or the Antilles to the north, the Republic of El Salvador and the Gulf of Fonseca to the south, which it shares with Nicaragua and El Salvador, Nicaragua to the east, El Salvador to the southwest; and Guatemala to the west.

With a population of over 10 million, Honduras is home to nine indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples identified as Lenca, Maya-Chorti, Garifuna, Tawahkas, Tolupanes, Pech, Misquitos, Nahuatl, and the English-speaking blacks or Creoles, all located in different regions of the territory with their own customs, languages and culture. These groups constitute 8.8 per cent of the country's total population.

Since 1980 Honduras has been in a process of democratic development, after a long period of political instability caused by authoritarian civilian and military governments. With the establishment of the new Constitution in 1982, rulers have been elected every four years by popular vote.

Honduras is a low-middle income nation, however poverty is widespread and more severe in rural areas. Remittances from abroad constitute one third of household income. Honduras has a medium Human Development Index (0.634), which places it 137th in the world for health, knowledge and standard of living, and in the Americas region, only above Haiti. Before the COVID-19 pandemic the country was improving in several human development tracer indicators, such as life expectancy, years of schooling, and per capita income, accompanied by a modest reduction in income inequality and a decrease in maternal, infant and under-five mortality, according to the World Bank. However, the combined effects of the pandemic and the Eta and Iota weather events undermined the cumulative improvements in all three Human Development Index dimensions. In 2020, life expectancy regressed to the level observed in 2012, average schooling reversed by at least one year (implying the loss of the typical progress the country achieved every 10 years), and per capita income fell by almost 10 per cent, according to World Bank data.

The impact of COVID-19 on women and children in Honduras was severe. Without schools being open, many children faced serious risk of food insecurity, as in many cases the school snack was the only meal that they received daily. Quarantine made intimate partner violence and violence against children more common and more severe, affecting the physical and mental health of women and children. Because of existing vulnerabilities to poverty, during the COVID-19 pandemic, women and children, especially girls, were disproportionately affected.

Honduras faces a multi-crisis context. Limited economic growth has had little impact on reducing inequalities

and poverty. The country is still responding to multiple humanitarian challenges caused by natural hazards (hurricanes Eta and Iota), epidemics (Dengue, Zika, Chikungunya) and social, political and violent crises. Structural inequalities faced by women, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups persist. Rates of emigration and violence continue to be much higher than the Latin American and world average, despite having declined in the last five years, while the number of refugees, migrants and returnees in transit by land in a northerly direction through Central America has increased significantly.

Ongoing emergency response

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

- Appeal number: [MDR43008](#) Mexico and Central America migration crisis
- Appeal launch date: 15 July 2022
- Appeal end date: 31 July 2023
- People affected: 500,000 people
- People to be assisted: 210,000 people

The increase in people on the move across Central America since early 2022 has been significant. Reports by the Honduran Red Cross show that at least 300 Hondurans migrate daily, not including the flow of people belonging to migrant caravans heading towards the U.S. border. In 2022, at least two caravans convened and travelled in January and April. The National Institute of Migration reports that 54,275 people entered Honduras irregularly in June 2022, primarily through the Honduras–Nicaragua border. Cubans continue to represent the largest number of irregular migrants entering the country, in 2022 accounting for 60 per cent of all entries, with an increase in Venezuelan migrants, accounting for 20 per cent of all entries. There is a significant population of returnees, reaching over 56,000 in the first half of 2022.

Migrants, refugees and returnees mostly move through irregular channels. Along the routes, many of them face administrative barriers, suffer accidents and injuries, face extortion and sexual violence, and are separated from their families. Tragically, others die from disease or harsh environmental conditions and weather. The situation is especially serious for the most vulnerable groups

such as children, young people and women, indigenous communities, people living with disabilities, the LGBTI+ community and the elderly population.

As expressed by migrants themselves in the information collected by the National Society, the main reasons for migrating include improving their incomes, escaping violence, reuniting with family members, and recovering from the impact of recurring disasters and extreme weather events. The devastating socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing political crises are also factors and will continue to increase population movements and exacerbate existing vulnerabilities.

People on the move require significant assistance, in particular those with health problems. This high demand for assistance can be hampered by the exhaustion of personnel or the limited availability of food, water, facilities and first aid supplies. The impact of migration on children is of increasing concern as they face the threat of drowning, physical violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, exploitation and health risks, including mental health. Sixteen of every 100 migrants crossing the Darién Gap in 2022 are minors.

The Honduran Red Cross is able to identify the needs of people on the move due to its network of humanitarian service points and community engagement and accountability approach, combined with several years of working on migration flows. These needs range from protection and health care to accessing specific information that allows them to make informed decisions along the route and at their destination. The most vulnerable migrants need access to medical care, mental health support, basic humanitarian assistance, connectivity and legal information.

Short description of emergency operational strategy

In July 2022, the IFRC launched a CHF18 million Emergency Appeal aiming to increase the reach of the National Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama, and scale up assistance and protection for 210,000 people along migratory routes throughout Central America, through more effective preparedness and response, and strengthened capacities and risk reduction. Out of the 210,000 people expected to be reached, 175,000 were migrants in transit, 25,000 returnees and 10,000 people in host and origin communities.

The Emergency Appeal focuses on:

- Integrated assistance: shelter, livelihoods and multi-purpose cash
- Health and care: including water, sanitation and hygiene, mental health and psychosocial support, primary and pre-hospital health care, and community health
- Protection and prevention: protection, gender and inclusion; community engagement and accountability; migration; environmental sustainability; risk reduction; and climate adaptation and recovery

Humanitarian service points are the cornerstone of this operation, to provide comprehensive and integrated assistance and protection services to migrants based on need. Humanitarian service points sit along migratory routes to provide a neutral, welcoming and safe environment for migrants to access essential services that might otherwise be inaccessible. Services include psychological first aid, drinking water and hygiene supplies,

and primary health care, first aid, food and non-food distribution, support to restore family links, accurate information on service points along the route and, in some cases, legal advice. Thus far, with the support of donors, the National Societies of Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama are operating 20 humanitarian service points. With this Emergency Appeal, regional response capacity is increasing, with 30 more humanitarian service points in different locations, to achieve a total of 50.

The Honduran Red Cross recognizes and values all members of communities that access humanitarian service points by incorporating community engagement and accountability, and protection, gender and inclusion approaches into operations. This creates opportunities to adapt services to accommodate diverse and evolving migration needs, and support efforts to improve the quality of services based on feedback from service users.

The Mexico and Central American Migration Crisis Emergency Appeal was launched to urgently address the growing humanitarian needs of migrants, returnees and host communities in the region. This Emergency Appeal complements the Americas pillar of the IFRC [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), a multi-year programme that addresses the ongoing assistance and protection needs of people on the move, irrespective of their status. Once the Emergency Appeal is completed, the operation and response activities of the National Societies of Central America and Mexico will continue in accordance with their three-year programmes and strategic plans. These plans include responding to the migration situation through a medium- and long-term approach, and facing a prolonged crisis.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Honduras is a sub-tropical country with a warm, humid climate on the coasts, and a more temperate mountainous zone. The rainy season is from June to October and the dry season from November to May. Honduras is extremely mountainous and rugged, with steep slopes and shallow, recent soils. The Central American mountain range that crosses the country from northwest to southeast divides it into two large regions, the eastern and western, with altitudes exceeding 2,000 meters above sea level. Between the branches of the mountain range are fertile valleys and savannahs where a large part of the population lives.

Climate change and extreme weather-related events in Central America have become a significant threat to health conditions, food security, access to safe water and environmental security of people, especially for the most vulnerable and remote communities with low response, coping and recovery capacities. These events are increasingly recurrent, some of them becoming chronic, and have transboundary effects such as the drought of the Central American Dry Corridor. Intensifying hurricane seasons place the region among the most challenged by extreme hydro-meteorological events. Hurricanes Eta and Iota affected 3.3 million people in Honduras, with nearly 450,000 people

displaced from their homes and an estimated 70 per cent of Honduras' crops and grains affected.

The year 2020 was one of the warmest in the last 40 years, and intense rainfall brought landslides, floods and flash floods to rural and urban areas. The intensification of these extreme climate events is having a severe impact on the region, including water shortages, agricultural losses, displacement and compromised health and safety. Climate change is affecting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable, reducing crop yields and food production. Food insecurity is growing, exacerbating the effects of economic fluctuations, COVID-19 restrictions, violence and political instability.

Main actions and areas of support

The Honduran 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.

The National Society leads locally-owned actions to support communities and authorities in efforts to adapt to climate change and build resilience to extreme weather events.

The IFRC network will support the National Society to:

- Develop environmental policies and climate change adaptation strategies, based on evidence, and through mapping and risk scenarios
- Conduct climate-related capacity building to enable better planning and forecast-based financing
- Define operational guidelines and internal procedures to reduce the environmental impact of IFRC operations, and improve dissemination within the organization to staff and volunteers, with emphasis on Red Cross Youth
- Develop information and dissemination actions on climate change and its impacts, oriented within the organization involving staff and volunteers, with emphasis on Red Cross youth

- Develop communication, education and information strategies on climate change and its impacts, targeting community behavioural transformation and aimed at informing local policy-making
- Promote community-led climate-smart solutions and plans that address challenges, improve behaviours and promote mitigation and adaptation strategies for climate change
- Access technical support for climate-smart livelihoods, especially those based on food production and agriculture

Disasters and crises

People in Honduras are highly exposed to multiple hazards, such as hurricanes, floods, droughts, volcanos and earthquakes, that combine to produce high levels of vulnerability. The greatest loss of life is caused by floods and tropical storms, which also cause more than 80 per cent of losses in housing. Forty-five per cent of municipalities are very vulnerable to the impact of natural hazards, including multi-hazard scenarios. Vulnerability has worsened after hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020, as they had a severe impact on livelihoods, causing heavy losses production, infrastructure, water and sanitation, communications and land and air transportation. It is estimated that more than 2.7 million people and 27,000 homes were directly affected by these events, with agricultural losses of up to 51,000 hectares of basic grains.

Man-made hazards include widespread violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups, social unrest, and political and economic crises. These are further aggravated by the high impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health conditions in the country. This has led to a worsening of living and welfare conditions and a deepening of the migration and displacement crisis in the region, as well as protection problems.

Capacities for improving preparedness, response, recovery, coping and resilience are not sufficiently developed at community, local and national levels. The most vulnerable communities face fragility of land use plans, lack of disaster risk analyses, insufficient public investments in risk reduction and limited preparedness and response mechanisms. With hurricanes and other extreme weather events becoming ever more powerful and frequent, and continued situations of violence, increasing numbers of people are displaced every year in Honduras. Regional coordination mechanisms have also not reached an adequate level of operational capacity to address these high levels of vulnerability.

Main actions and areas of support

The Honduran Red Cross is responding to multiple emergencies every year. The IFRC network will work to build the National Society's capacities to adapt to increasingly complex humanitarian environments, and to develop preparedness and readiness to respond to shocks by strengthening community resilience. This includes early warning, early action, and anticipation to mitigate risks from multiple hazards that affect the livelihoods, homes and living conditions of vulnerable communities and the most disadvantaged people.

The IFRC network will promote ethical and people-led approaches such as cash and livelihood transfer programmes, and support the shift to response models that promote localized and regional action. The Honduran Red Cross is committed to growing its capacities in cash and voucher assistance services, especially with migrants. It has implemented different interventions over the past few years with the support of the Spanish Red Cross and German Red Cross, highlighting the importance of cash and voucher assistance as fundamental to building overall capacity to deliver more effective and efficient humanitarian assistance, focused on choice and dignity of vulnerable people.

The IFRC network will support the Honduran Red Cross to:

- Share knowledge and develop assessment and needs analysis tools, including digitalization efforts, to produce evidence-based preparedness and response planning
- Use preparedness for effective response to better prepare for the increasing frequency of disasters and crises
- Access technical support in cash and voucher assistance preparedness, and promote the integration of organizational tools, systems, procedures and learning opportunities
- Provide training and learning opportunities to set up community engagement and accountability strategies mainstreamed in all actions
- Improve anticipatory and early action planning and implementation, in order to react in a timely manner to the possible impact of catastrophic events
- Strengthen local preparedness and response capacities, and promote proper coordination with local civil protection structures and with national systems

- Integrate an early recovery and community resilience approach from the start of emergency response actions, which will in turn promote linkage with longer-term actions
- Develop content and media coverage that will catalyse social conversations about the IFRC's role in responding to, and enabling recovery from, hurricanes in Central America
- Collaborate with state agencies in order to coordinate their responses to disasters and crises
- Implement strategies to advocate for international disaster response laws

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), with implementation support from EU National Societies and the IFRC, the National Society is revising and updating anticipatory and contingency plans. Disaster risk management activities will primarily take place in the departments of El Paraiso and Cortes. With the support of the German Red Cross, the Honduran Red Cross will work with humanitarian response actors in El Paraiso to implement an Early Warning System (EWS) to respond to floods, EWS in at least five communities with greater exposure to drought, and provide training for community members. Simulations will be performed that will include cash and voucher assistance and distribution of hygiene kits. A strategy for WASH in emergencies will be developed, and water rescue units will be formed and equipped. In collaboration with the IFRC, Italian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross, environmental sustainability and climate-smart programming will be included.

Supported by the IFRC, the Honduran Red Cross will standardize and scale up its cash and voucher assistance interventions, validating trigger alerts in disaster response management and migration contexts, and developing a pre-positioning programme for vulnerable families. A pilot programme has been planned, focusing on protection assistance for those who already received cash and voucher assistance, or for people referred by others institutions and require additional support. Data protection will be a priority in the cash and voucher assistance implementation strategy.

Health and wellbeing

Health services in Honduras are insufficient to meet the needs of the population, with shortages in personnel, crumbling infrastructure and shortages of essential medicines and supplies. In Honduras, there are 16

health professionals for every 10,000 inhabitants, well below the 25/10,000 ratio established by international standards. One of the greatest challenges is reaching those with limited access due to geography or economics. In general, these are the same populations with the highest prevalence of communicable and chronic degenerative diseases, and characterized by conditions of poverty and extreme poverty. Most vulnerable populations include women of childbearing age, pregnant women, children under five years of age, the disabled, the chronically ill, the elderly without pensions, and recently, returned migrants and migrants in transit. The Mosquitia area, along the easternmost part of the country, which comprises roughly one fifth of the country's territory, is especially affected by these disparities.

Public spending on health represents only 2.95 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product, while the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends 6 per cent. Only 14 per cent of the population has health insurance, primarily through the Honduran Social Security Institute. The rest of the population uses the services of the Ministry of Health, and a minority uses private clinics. Therefore, the majority of the population must pay out-of-pocket for health services, including fees, laboratory tests and medications.

In the first half of 2022, Honduras registered a 74 per cent increase in the incidence of Dengue compared to 2021. Damage caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota could be seen by accumulated waste in affected communities, contaminated drinking water, and ruptured septic tanks. These increase the spread of vectors that cause Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had diverse and compounded negative impacts on people in Honduras. The country reported one of the highest numbers of infections and deaths in the region, which further brought to light the weaknesses and deficiencies in the health system. The crisis contributed to a deterioration in people's health conditions, including those not related to COVID-19, as public systems were overwhelmed by the pandemic. Multiple factors, such as schools being closed for over a year, family incomes being severely impacted, and spikes in gender-based violence caused mental health to decline for many. The additional crises experienced in the country, including violence, displacement, migrant caravans, Dengue and hurricanes have also caused declines in mental health.

Principal national policies and programmes include the National Health Model, National Gender Policy, National

Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy, National Strategy for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy, National Mental Health Plan, and standards for maternal and child care.

Main actions and areas of support

Since 1978, the Honduran Red Cross National Blood Programme has been the standard for blood quality in the country, and the only facility in Central America certified with the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies, having been reaccredited for the ninth time in 2021. The National Blood Programme has state-of-the-art equipment with the capacity to detect HIV, Hepatitis B and C, Syphilis, Human T-lymphotropic virus I and II and Chagas, as well as the ability to produce blood products. The programme has a quality management system that guarantees and internally supervises compliance with national and international requirements for blood safety, which is externally audited by an international firm every two years. The programme benefits approximately 160,000 patients annually who need blood products and currently processes and supplies 60 per cent of the demand for blood products nationwide. The Honduran Red Cross promotes voluntary, altruistic and non-remunerated blood donation via communication and awareness campaigns, donor recognition, public advocacy with key actors and mobile and fixed blood donation centres.

In recent years, the Honduran Red Cross has led disease prevention projects in hard-to-reach rural areas, and programmes to improve safety for health service providers in contexts of social violence. In coordination with local, regional and national Ministry of Health authorities, the National Society supports health authorities by strengthening community structures for improving health and providing WASH services, as well as pre-hospital care and blood bank services. In response to the COVID-19 emergency, the Honduran Red Cross supported pre-hospital services by installing specially equipped ambulances for the transfer of patients with suspected or confirmed cases. Additionally, the National Society assumed responsibility for 10 public health facilities dedicated to caring for patients affected by the virus. The Honduran Red Cross is dedicated to improving access to community health services for vulnerable populations, as demonstrated in their National Development Plan 2021-2025.

The Honduran Red Cross has diversified its mental health and psychosocial support services, which have been adapted to the continually changing country contexts. Face-to-face activities are complemented by

telehealth services, increasing the reach to people with limited access to in-person services.

The IFRC network will support the Honduran Red Cross to:

- Develop its capacities, in terms of knowledge and health information management for evidence-based strategies, staff and volunteer training, and organizational development
- Develop its position on relevant health policy-making spaces, and its role as an auxiliary to the Ministry of Health
- Improve the social, institutional and financial viability and sustainability of its health programmes and departments, including blood donor recruitment plans, and improve dissemination of service information
- Strengthen community-based health programmes to improve access to affordable, quality, needs-appropriate and comprehensive health services, including improved referral pathways
- Strengthen community-based health programmes to promote disease prevention and care, through information, education and risk communication strategies and through the provision of care services including water, sanitation and hygiene, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food and nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support services, and protection, gender and inclusion
- Develop emergency health preparedness, response and recovery actions to ensure timely access to health care services during emergencies
- Increase its capacities to prepare and respond to epidemics, including the setting up of community-based epidemiological surveillance systems, in coordination with health systems, and the development of standard operating procedures
- Support the development and standardization of its mental health and psychosocial support services

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#), the Honduran Red Cross will improve and scale up community-led health initiatives that respond to epidemics and pandemics. Based on the results of a recent health context analysis, the National Society will carry out hygiene promotion campaigns that include distributing hygiene kits to help reduce the spread of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, especially in communities affected by hurricanes. Nutritional screening will be added to community-based surveillance,

and tools for communities to prepare for, monitor and respond to health risks will be aligned with those offered by government agencies and other partners. The National Society's health response technical units will be strengthened as first responders during emergencies, especially in branches located closest to health hazards, such as in El Paraiso and Cortes. The Honduran Red Cross will revise and update protocols, policies and instruments linked to health, as well as introduce an Infection Prevention and Control standard protocol, which can be used as a reference for the national health system.

Migration and displacement

The migratory context in Honduras is complex. There are many drivers for migration and displacement: insecurity and violence, persistent poverty, lack of educational and economic opportunities, and poor housing and health conditions. These are exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020. It is a country of origin and return for the national migrant population, as well as a transit country for many extra-regional and extra-continental migrants, especially from the Caribbean, South America and Africa (see more information in the Ongoing Emergency Response section).

Although the entry of irregular migrants is regulated by the National Migration Institute, the roughly 950-kilometre border between Honduras and Nicaragua is frequently crossed by migrants at unauthorized points, especially in the departments of El Paraiso and Choluteca, with the number increasing. This has produced a migratory challenge which is a priority for government authorities and organizations that make up the Humanitarian Country Team. A significant number of migrants in transit remain in the border areas between Honduras and Nicaragua due to administrative provisions limiting irregular entry, lack of money to cover the costs of entering regularly, or other circumstances linked to health or finances. Currently, the National Congress approved the Migratory Amnesty Law, which exempts migrants from paying a fine for entering the country in an irregular condition. Those who do not have the resources to continue their journey opt to enter the informal economy or begging, increasing the risk of suffering violence or discrimination.

Widespread violence is the main cause of internal displacement in Honduras, driven by organized gangs (maras) involved in territorial disputes and drug trafficking. Data from the National Commissioner for Human Rights of Honduras indicate that in 2020 the

departments most affected were Francisco Morazan and Cortes, especially San Pedro Sula, where citizens face direct threats, extortion and intra-family, sexual and domestic violence. There is increased vulnerability to internal displacement for migrant women and their families, due to lack of knowledge about their rights and economic exclusion which result in increased situations of poverty.

While violence may be a cause of migration and internal displacement, it is also a threat along migratory routes, affecting the physical, emotional and family integrity of irregular migrants. Human smuggling and trafficking occur, along with gender-based violence which disproportionately affects the most vulnerable populations such as women, children, LGBTQI+, indigenous persons and the elderly.

The main national policies and programmes include:

- The Protection of Honduran Migrants and their Families Law (Legislative Decree 106-2013) is implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and coordinated by the Protection of Honduran Migrants Directorate
- The Migration and Alien Law (Legislative Decree No. 208-2003) regulates the State Migration Policy, the entry or exit of nationals and foreigners, the presence of foreigners in Honduran territory and the issuance of migration documents
- A draft bill for the Prevention, Attention and Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons is currently before the legislature
- The Anti-Trafficking Law (Legislative Decree No. 59-2012), a special public order law of indefinite duration, defines the legal and institutional framework to prevent and combat human trafficking and provide care and services for trafficked persons
- The National Migration Policy includes immigrants, emigrants, in-transit and returning persons; a broad process to formulate the policy began in 2019, involving all sectors, agencies, institutions and civil society organizations, but to date, the process has not been completed

In 2019, the Inter-institutional Commission for the Protection of Populations Displaced by Violence, organized through the national Human Rights Secretariat, formulated a draft Law for the Prevention, Attention and Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons and presented it to the National Congress. The law is currently before the National Congress.

Main actions and areas of support

Since 2011, the Honduran Red Cross has conducted research and developed migration-related programming in various parts of the country, to include protection of and assistance to departing or returning Honduran migrants, migrants in transit, internally displaced persons and people with refugee status. Volunteers and staff are trained in migration-related issues, and there are defined methods for identifying and referring those in need of protection. The National Society has a policy on people on the move, and is creating a specific migration strategy with corresponding action plan.

The Honduran Red Cross Migration Board was created as a coordination and cooperation mechanism to advise on programmes and response activities, and to advocate for support for people on the move. The National Society is an active participant in national and international platforms working with migrants and displaced persons. It regularly coordinates with the Ministry of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Health and the National Migration Institute, and is recognized as an important part of the national dialogue.

The Honduran 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. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people annually across the world who are either on the move or living in host communities. It will do so 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 IFRC network will support the Honduran Red Cross to:

- Roll out its migration strategy, fostering regional coordination to address the cross-border migration phenomena in Central America
- Build its capacities by developing tools and training, and providing technical support, including the development and proper maintenance of national and regional information management systems for migratory flows
- Establish and expand the range of services available at humanitarian services points in key locations along migratory routes, to support migrants' access to comprehensive needs-appropriate assistance

- Ensure that assistance and protection services are provided and promoted through engagement with local and national authorities, host communities and affected people, as well as with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), other organizations and donors
- Use of discrimination-free culturally appropriate information that builds on the National Society's assistance and protection services, promotes voluntary access to comprehensive services, and ensures migrants receive proper information on their legal rights
- Access global, regional and local analysis on current and emerging trends, anticipating population movement when possible, in order to support the National Society's information-based programming
- Conduct humanitarian diplomacy with national and international actors regarding migration and host community interventions, based on evidence

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#), the Honduran Red Cross, in collaboration with the Spanish Red Cross, will be piloting a database model to identify local triggers that could be predictors of migration or displacement. Humanitarian assistance to people on the move will continue as core work of the National Society, increasing the services provided by the Honduran Red Cross at Humanitarian Service Points, and the National Society's capacity to refer to partner institutions. An Early Warning System focused on migrant returnees will be tested via simulations, and protocols and tools for providing humanitarian assistance will be fine-tuned and scaled-up. Through adapting tools and exchanging experiences, the Honduran Red Cross, with the support of the Spanish Red Cross will work to support host communities, improving response and planning processes and strengthening capacities for data collection and use. Activities will mostly be centred in the departments of El Paraiso and Cortes, though other regions may be considered based on migration patterns.

At the regional level, the IFRC will support training on humanitarian diplomacy in migration, implementation of a regional dashboard monitoring migrants flow, and a study on humanitarian service points.

Values, power and inclusion

Although there has been a reduction in crimes affecting life and property, Honduras continues to be considered one of the region's most violent countries, and some dynamics of organized crime and gangs that generate violence persist. According to the Violence Observatory

of the National Autonomous University of Honduras, homicide rates increased 22.1 per cent from 2021 to 2022. The infiltration of organized crime and gangs into politics and public institutions, including the public safety sector, has played a determining role in the deterioration of citizen security. Human Rights Council data indicates that those most at risk of violence are between the ages of 14 and 40, with additional vulnerabilities for women, children, the LGBTQI+ community, people on the move and people living with disabilities.

Vulnerable groups suffer not only differential impacts of compounded crises, but face additional barriers to access adequate assistance and protection mechanisms. Regulatory frameworks are lacking to protect these populations or respond to their needs. Gender inequalities may be more pronounced in rural or indigenous communities, resulting in limited access to basic services, resources, economic opportunities and livelihoods, as well as increased vulnerability to violence, especially sexual and gender-based. There continues to be a gender gap in organizational and political participation.

In Honduras, 3.3 million people (56 per cent of the working age population) were unemployed and/or underemployed in the country. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) data, 44 per cent of children between the ages of three and 17 are out of school, nearly half of those being children from rural areas. The main causes of attrition at the secondary level are lack of the economic resources needed to continue, the need to work to support family, and perception that completion of secondary school does not lead to better employment. Over 50 per cent of secondary school students are at risk of dropping out. Nationally, less than 50 per cent of students meet educational benchmarks for mathematics, and less than 40 per cent for reading.

Main actions and areas of support

The Honduran Red Cross values the rights and integrity of every human being, and believes that everyone has the potential to pursue individual, family and societal development through supportive environments and access to opportunities. Therefore, the National Society will work with individuals and communities, embodying the principals of protection, gender and diversity, inclusion, leadership, citizenship and culture of peace. The Honduran Red Cross strives to:

- contribute to strengthening the capacity for coexistence, development and resilience in people, their communities and local organizations; to develop relationships and opportunities in their environment through processes of awareness, training, management, empowerment and advocacy which facilitate the exercise of rights, participation and respect for their dignity and integrity
- ensure participation of people and their communities in processes to raise awareness and practice values as a means to strengthen the local social fabric and generate a culture of well-being, and contribute to the construction of protection mechanisms that facilitate an integrated and articulated response with civil society organizations and institutions
- strengthen the capacities of the most vulnerable population in the areas of rights, leadership, inclusion and culture of peace, with emphasis on participation and individual and collective dignity
- develop training on rights and advocacy mechanisms that lead to their full enjoyment, especially for traditionally excluded and invisible populations and other more vulnerable populations

The Honduran Red Cross developed a National Violence Prevention, Mitigation and Response Policy, and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy, with accompanying Guidance Notes. Since 2001, the Honduran Red Cross has conducted research and developed programming related to social development, based on the needs identified in communities in Tegucigalpa (the capital city) that have been affected by organized crime and other situations of violence. Programming targets children and youth, their families and surrounding community, including community-based organizations and other institutions. The National Society recognizes that projects with a development approach are complex and long-standing as they work towards behavioural change. Their work includes teaching about human rights, creating harmonious communities, and life planning for individual and collective wellbeing.

The Honduran Red Cross includes people affected by humanitarian crises and their communities in decisions to be certain that the humanitarian response is relevant, timely, effective and efficient. The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light how critical community trust is for effective prevention and response, and the importance of localization and community-led decision-making. The Honduran Red Cross applies lessons learned in

communities to design, drive and evaluate programmes, however there is room for improvement in integrating this feedback into the National Society's formal systems.

The IFRC network will support the Honduran Red Cross to:

- Develop information, education and communication strategies to raise awareness on rights, protection, gender and inclusion values
- Fight against social barriers to equal access to information, assistance and protection services
- Increase institutional capacities for social inclusion and gender, supporting the development of protection, gender and inclusion policies and operational protocols, monitoring and reporting tools, and training for staff and volunteers
- Improve decision-making processes aimed at promoting inclusion, diversity and equal participation both within the National Society, among their volunteers and in the communities in which they serve
- Develop operational and referral protocols addressing the specific inclusion, protection and assistance needs of women, children, the LGBTI+ community and people living with disabilities
- Develop community engagement and accountability policies and plans that use performance indicators to monitor community satisfaction within protection, gender and inclusion activities and programmes

Under the Pilot Programmatic Partnership, building on actions carried out in communities during the inception phase, in partnership with the Spanish Red Cross, the Honduran Red Cross plans to update and adapt existing community engagement and accountability procedures to be more strategic, developing policies, plans and standardized guidelines. The IFRC will support trainings for National Society personnel and volunteers, development of systems and tools, and definition of communication channels within communities. This will allow the Honduran Red Cross to further integrate mechanisms to foster safe, accessible and equitable participation of communities, scale up feedback mechanisms and make community engagement approaches part of standard operating procedures across all targeted sites. The IFRC will support the production of case studies and of a regional dashboard that includes the National Society's projects and data.

Enabling local actors

The National Society is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the IFRC's Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2013 and 2019. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Honduran Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

The IFRC network is committed to support the National Society in its development, according to its priorities.

Engaged

- Establish strategic and strong alliances between the components of the Movement and external national, regional and global actors to share knowledge, learn from each other and align actions for joint problem solving, achieving a collective impact
- Leverage the auxiliary role to drive policy change at local, national and international levels to ensure the fulfillment of key international commitments and their positive effects on communities
- Promote innovative uses of technology to maximize humanitarian work and new technologies to progressively reduce the digital divide

The Honduran Red Cross is placing priority on digital transformation, in light of the accelerated advancement of technology and the growing demand from volunteers, partners and beneficiaries. The National Society endeavors to reduce the digital gap by implementing innovative technologies at all levels in order to improve the collection and analysis of data, resulting in better internal decision-making with strategic partners, improved quality of services, more accountability to stakeholders and faithful implementation of national and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement data protection policies.

Accountable

- Consolidate financial accounting systems through strengthening the IT department, as the National Society transitions to digital processes
- Strengthen the self-sustainability of the National Society through the development and implementation of a resource mobilization strategy adapted to diversify business lines and online donations
- Diversify and strengthen income generation initiatives at the local, regional and national levels
- Implementation of a Human Talent Management Policy and Strategy, career succession process, capacity building activities and a virtual training platform
- Review, update and advertise the personnel complaint system; establish an ethics committee to respond to and follow up on personnel complaints, grievances and suggestions

Trusted

- Develop volunteering and youth actions as key catalysts for behaviour change and localization, ensuring access to populations in need and nurturing trust in all contexts
- Prioritize security for volunteers, staff and beneficiaries; fixed assets and organizational reputation, through the implementation of security policies, strategies, regulations and plans, accompanied with adequate training
- Form national and international alliances to generate National Society resources

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC is represented by its Country Cluster Delegation for Central America in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and operates with an extended team of specialists in different areas in all Central American countries. This enables close support, coordination and constant communication with the National Societies of Central America and the participating National Societies that support them. The IFRC support centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

IFRC's annual programme is aligned with Strategy 2030 and includes support to Honduran Red Cross in National Society development, as well as in the sectors of disaster risk management and preparedness, health, WASH, people on the move, cash transfers, and community engagement and accountability.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Society through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal [operations](#) in relation to tropical storms and hurricanes, floods, droughts, fires, disease outbreaks, civil unrest and population movement. 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 assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Honduran Red Cross is part of the IFRC network New Way of Working initiative, which is piloted in 14 countries. It aims at establishing a new model of membership coordination, working over multiple years to instill thorough change management in the ways the

IFRC network works together, and placing the National Society of the country at the centre. This includes prioritizing effective coordination for much greater gains; optimizing the power of working as one IFRC network by sharing resources, learnings and common standards and to ultimately achieve greater impact. Particular attention is given to collective planning to ensure that participating National Societies present in country contribute to one multi-year country plan, which will ensure that the resources and expertise of the network in country are used in a complementary and efficient way.

The National Society is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between DG ECHO and the IFRC, with implementation support from the **Spanish Red Cross** as lead EU National Society, and from the **German Red Cross** and **Italian Red Cross** for [activities](#) in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, humanitarian assistance and protection for people on the move, cash and voucher assistance, and risk communication, community engagement and accountability. The partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with the potential for greater, longer-term 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 world's largest international donor for humanitarian assistance.

The following participating National Societies provide bilateral support to the Honduran Red Cross: Canadian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross.

The **Canadian Red Cross** has been working with the Honduran Red Cross for 16 years, supporting a variety of initiatives, from community health, to disaster preparedness and response, to violence prevention and community resilience.

The Canadian Red Cross first community health initiative, Community Health Networks, 2006-2012, focused on maternal and child health. Volunteers were trained in health promotion, pregnancy clubs and health committees were formed, maternal and child health monitoring systems were established and health clinics constructed or renovated to provide maternal and child health services and to respond to food insecurity. From 2020 to 2022 efforts were coordinated to prevent and respond

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Engaged
American Red Cross	CHF 0.15M	
Canadian Red Cross	CHF 0.22M	
German Red Cross	CHF 1.34M	
Italian Red Cross	CHF 0.33M	
Spanish Red Cross	CHF 1.39M	
Swiss Red Cross	CHF 1.49M	
		Total
		4.92M

to the COVID-19 health crises through two projects, strengthening community capacity to prevent COVID-19 and reduce stigma, and strengthening emergency health services to respond to the pandemic with a specialization in emergency health services for mobile populations. In parallel, the Strengthening Health in Emergencies project (2021-2022) built National Society capacities to manage the health response after Hurricanes Eta and Iota, transitioning ownership of the Emergency Response Unit from the Canadian Red Cross to the Honduran Red Cross at the beginning of 2022. Gender components are integrated throughout health programming.

The Canadian Red Cross began its support of disaster preparedness and response programming with the First Response Initiative (2010-2014). The Initiative aimed at strengthening the National Society's emergency operations, to include building the capacity of the Honduran Red Cross Emergency Operations Centre, establishing a technical training centre and a web-based volunteer management database, and developing key policies, plans and procedures. From 2014 to 2019, the Canadian Red Cross partnered with the National Society to implement the Capacity Building for Emergency Response in the Americas Initiative, which aimed to localize preparedness and response operations while integrating gender, diversity and inclusion, along with other activities. The Initiative resulted in a significant increase in the Honduran Red Cross' disaster response capacity and ability to work effectively with the national disaster

coordination mechanism, the Permanent Contingency Commission of Honduras.

Work in violence prevention and community resilience began in 2013, with the development of the Honduran Red Cross Violence Prevention and Community Resilience Policy, and building technical capacity to implement violence prevention programmes in schools, prisons and communities. Protection, gender and social inclusion have grown to be fundamental cross-cutting themes throughout all programmes, projects and initiatives.

The **German Red Cross** works with the Honduran Red Cross at the national level, primarily in the adaptation and implementation of early action mechanisms for disasters. They have also accompanied humanitarian response operations (Eta and Iota in 2020) and assistance in epidemics and pandemics (Dengue and COVID-19). They support the strengthening of Honduran Red Cross capacities for the management of cash and voucher assistance and the design of a mechanism for early response to forced mobility events. The German Red Cross has a permanent office in Honduras with specialized staff that accompany the National Society in capacity building and advise on initiatives of shared interest.

The **Italian Red Cross** has more than 20 years of a cooperation relationship with the Honduran Red Cross. Its main support is value-added expertise in disaster preparedness, risk management and adaptation to climate

change, which contributes to improving the National Society's capacity to respond to crises and disasters, as well as to ensure the environmental sustainability of activities. The Italian Red Cross assists in developing technical trainings in risk management at the community and institutional level, such as the use of drones for damage assessment, and preparing volunteers to be instructors in risk management, as well as using new technologies for mapping exercises. They work with the Honduran Red Cross to prepare communities for effective mitigation and response to disasters and crises, by integrating risk analysis into a needs-based approach. The Italian Red Cross is currently developing an initiative to strengthen the Honduran Red Cross capacities at the national level in response and aquatic rescue.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** started its multinational work with the Honduran Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross in 2010 in the departments of Comayagua, Yoro and Valle, with projects focused on disaster risk reduction management and health initiatives, financed by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and internal funds. In 2012, the Norwegian Red Cross signed an agreement to work bilaterally with the Honduran Red Cross to address broader projects on disaster risk management, health and violence prevention (mitigation of the humanitarian consequences of violence). From 2014 to 2017, the fourth phase of multilateral funding was implemented together with the ICRC, Italian Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross, to carry out projects in health and the mitigation of the humanitarian consequences of violence, targeting areas in Tegucigalpa affected by violence.

From 2015 to 2017, three bilateral projects were developed: 1) risk reduction in urban environments, 2) mitigation of the humanitarian consequences of violence and 3) health care in danger, all funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A 2017-2020 agreement leveraged NORAD funds to support a maternal and child health project, as well as programmes for people at high risk, such as persons deprived of liberty, in the municipality of Santa Elena in the departments of La Paz and Comayagua. From 2018 to 2020, new projects focused on protection of health services, access to education and follow-up to previous NORAD-funded activities.

The Norwegian Red Cross current and future work in Honduras is detailed in the Norwegian Red Cross International Strategy 2021-2023, focussing mainly on health and access to health in municipalities affected by social violence in the departments of Francisco Morazán, Cortés, Atlántida and Yoro. In 2021, the Access to Health project began and the Health Care in Danger

project continued. Community-based epidemiological surveillance was incorporated as part of the community health approach, and a possible health intervention in detention centres is being explored.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has had a permanent delegation in the country since 1998 in response to Hurricane Mitch. The Spanish Red Cross focuses on technical support to Honduran Red Cross for increasing the reach, quality and impact of its activities as a local responder in its auxiliary role. The goal is to be more efficient in early response, and to increase capacities in disaster response management and emergency response, as was seen with Hurricanes Eta and Iota. With the support of the Spanish Red Cross, the Honduran Red Cross provides cash and voucher assistance to displaced people and vulnerable migrants, as well as psychosocial support, WASH activities and livelihoods interventions.

The Spanish Red Cross works under a gender-based approach and integrates environmental sustainability into its strategies. They are supporting the decentralized model of the Honduran Red Cross, strengthening first responders within the four regions of the National Society, which allowed for a quick and efficient response during Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

Globally, the Spanish Red Cross hosts the IFRC Livelihoods Resource Centre. The Centre's mission is to increase the awareness of effective livelihoods programming strategies for IFRC members, and help build individual and community capacities to restore and strengthen economically secure living conditions. Support is offered through trainings and capacity development.

The **Swiss Red Cross** has been present in Honduras since 1999, offering humanitarian aid and reconstruction in response to Hurricane Mitch. In 2004, they transitioned to long-term development, and health and disaster risk management programmes. This support exemplifies the Swiss Red Cross "humanitarian continuum" model, which links relief to rehabilitation and development. Since the beginning, projects implemented by the Honduran Red Cross with the technical and financial support of the Swiss Red Cross have always been in Region One, mainly in the Departments of Olancho, Choluteca and Valle. Since 2014, regionalization processes have been implemented, to include a community-based disaster risk management project which builds community resilience, and a project to build capacity of local leaders in community health risk management. These initiatives are being considered to scale-up to national level.

The 2017-2020 country programme built upon the achievements of previous years country programmes, with the goal of “strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable population”. It included the Southern Zone Development Project, which aimed to scale-up local and regional governments and civil society as leaders of community-based operations. It also supported the on-going Expanding Opportunities Project, which includes activities to reduce risks faced by youth due to urban violence and create opportunities for social inclusion.

The Swiss Red Cross has collaborated with the Honduran Red Cross since 2019 in the “Dry Corridor” as a main partner in a consortium [with the GFA and

Swiss Development Cooperation] to promote climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction along the Goascoran River Basin. Additionally, the Swiss Red Cross has been a strong partner in strengthening the National Society's National Blood Programme.

In recent years, the Swiss Red Cross began transitioning to a country programme management model, strengthening institutional capacities and positioning the Honduran Red Cross to lead in grant administration, financial management and monitoring and evaluation. The Swiss Red Cross remains as a financial and technical partner. This evolution is expected to be complete before the end of the 2021-2024 country programme.

Movement coordination

The IFRC leads regular coordination meetings between the different International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement actors, including participating National Societies and the ICRC, through established national and regional mechanisms. It also coordinates humanitarian assistance during emergency responses. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC contributes to the Honduran Red Cross protection work, including minimum standards, restoring family links, self-care messages for migrants, health and first aid, and support in humanitarian diplomacy. The ICRC also specifically supports the Honduran Red Cross with shelter, multi-purpose cash, water, sanitation and hygiene.

Coordination with other actors

The Honduran Red Cross works in close collaboration with local and national authorities and other humanitarian organizations for a coordinated response. It is a member of the National Civil Protection System. Local and departmental government authorities are actively involved in all operations undertaken by the National Society to ensure they complement and work in alignment with public policies and response plans in emergencies. As first responders to natural disasters and extreme weather events, the National Society plays a key role in the coordination of other humanitarian actors acting at the local level, and coordination with national levels of civil protection.

The Honduran Red Cross plays a key role as auxiliary to the public health system in the areas of primary health, outreach to vulnerable communities and pre-hospital care. The National Society coordinates with the Ministry of Health to prioritize the location of interventions, and implement health activities in communities and

with health personnel that align with national health guidelines. During COVID-19 operations, the National Society coordinated with the Ministry of Health to implement prevention measures. The IFRC assisted emergency operation centres leading the response, in collaboration with government institutions, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). To ensure adequate communication and collaboration with all key stakeholders involved in the response to COVID-19, the National Society held regular technical coordination meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Health, WHO and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at the national level.

The Honduran Red Cross, together with the IFRC, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross, play an active role in the Humanitarian Information Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, a multi-stakeholder coordination space led

by UNOCHA. The National Society participates in the WASH, Shelter Coordination, Health, Early Recovery and Protection Clusters. The National Society also participates in national roundtables on Child Protection, Migration, Health and WASH, and has been the lead coordinator for these spaces at different times. The Honduran Red Cross takes part in the cash and voucher assistance working group at the country level, and has made advances in pre-positioning for cash distributions with the private sector.

The cross-border phenomenon of migration and displacement requires coordination both within and between countries to maintain the humanitarian chain of assistance that delivers urgent protection services to migrants, people in transit, returnees and displaced persons. In-country and regional coordination involves international organizations including the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, Médecins Sans Frontières, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Doctors of the World and Save the Children. The Honduran Red Cross plays an essential role in the National Protection Roundtable,

led by the Ministry of Human Rights, where the ICRC and international NGOs participate. The National Society and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish the Honduran Red Cross as the administrator of the Assistance Centre for returned migrants in the town of Omoa.

The Honduran Red Cross also maintains relationships with other international actors. Municipal emergency response committees are supported by the Swiss Cooperation Office. The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation supports efforts to care for populations displaced by violence and returnees. Efforts to support children affected by the consequences of migration receive support from UNICEF, and the Interamerican Development Bank provides funds to strengthen hospital capacity for responding to COVID-19, among other activities.

The IFRC participates in national and regional coordination spaces with external partners, to stay informed about the humanitarian context and contribute to the IFRC network's perspective and work.

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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