

IN SUPPORT OF THE ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY RED CROSS NATIONAL SOCIETIES



National Society branches



National Society staff



National Society volunteers

ARGENTINA



66

branches

1,620

staff

5,000

volunteers

BRAZIL



74

branches

1,853

staff

28,000

volunteers

CHILE



143

branches

30

staff

4,450

volunteers

PARAGUAY



18

branches

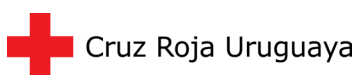
26

staff

1,043

volunteers

URUGUAY



20

branches

52





staff

350

volunteers

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total		Funding requirements	 1.9M
IFRC	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 1.9M
		Income	 24,000
Participating National Societies		Funding requirements	 50,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 3,000
Disasters and crises	People reached with shelter support	 500
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	Applicable data not available
Health and wellbeing	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 3,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	 3,000
Migration and displacement	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes	Applicable data not available
	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	Applicable data not available
Values, power and inclusion	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	Applicable data not available




IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support				
		Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
Australian Red Cross		Planned				
British Red Cross	Supported					
German Red Cross					Supported	
Spanish Red Cross		Planned				
Swiss Red Cross	Supported					
Turkish Red Crescent Society						Planned
Ukrainian Red Cross Society					Planned	Planned

Planned
 Supported






FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total		Funding requirements	 1.4M
IFRC	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 1.4M
		Income	 378,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)




IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support
National Society		Enabling Functions
Argentine Red Cross		
British Red Cross		
Ecuadorian Red Cross		
Italian Red Cross		
Spanish Red Cross		

 Planned
  Supported






FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total		Funding requirements	 1.6M
IFRC	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 1.5M
Participating National Societies		Funding requirements	 70,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Disasters and crises	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 4,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	 6,000
Health and wellbeing	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	 6,000
	People trained in first aid	 2,000
Migration and displacement	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes	 600



IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support					
		Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
Argentine Red Cross	●						
German Red Cross		●					
Italian Red Cross			●				
Japanese Red Cross Society	●						
Netherlands Red Cross	●						
Red Cross Society of China	●						
Spanish Red Cross		●					
Turkish Red Crescent Society						●	

Planned
 Supported





FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)




Total		Funding requirements	 905,000
IFRC	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 905,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Disasters and crises	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 1,000
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	Applicable data not available
Health and wellbeing	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	 3,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 3,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	 3,000
	People trained in first aid	Applicable data not available




IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support					
		Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
National Society							
Argentine Red Cross							
British Red Cross							
Netherlands Red Cross							

 Supported




FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)








Total		Funding requirements	 515,000
IFRC	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 445,000
Participating National Societies		Funding requirements	 70,000



[Click here for more financial information](#)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Disasters and crises	People reached with livelihoods support	 1,000
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 500
Health and wellbeing	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 10,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	Applicable data not available
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	Applicable data not available

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support				
		Climate	Migration and displacement	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
Argentine Red Cross						
Costa Rican Red Cross						
Italian Red Cross						
Netherlands Red Cross						
Spanish Red Cross						

 Planned
  Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Argentina: In Argentina, the economy is going through a difficult time, with exports of goods and services down, due to an historic drought and to multiple foreign exchange restrictions. Household spending has increased due to inflation and going into the second half of the year, the economy continues to weaken, due to increases in the value of the dollar and the devaluation of the local currency. There is also more pressure on the economy due to the upcoming presidential elections. So far, this has not caused a restriction in the operability and actions of the **Argentine Red Cross** and the IFRC's Southern Cone Country Cluster Delegation, however, it is a situation that must be monitored, as the context may change or worsen, making it difficult to obtain goods and services for the response or leading to budgetary discrepancies due to changes in the currency.

Brazil: A new Government was established at the end of 2022 in Brazil, in a very volatile environment. On 8 January, supporters of Brazil's former President, Jair Bolsonaro, occupied the country's presidential palace, the Congress and Supreme Court demanding a coup to reinstate him to power. Strikes were organized in the main Brazilian cities, with the authorities having to secure government buildings and with thousands of people arrested. The situation has calmed down, but it is still a very complex political situation. This year Brazil has experienced several important disasters, such as the floods in Sao Paolo, where 64 people were killed and thousands affected, or the crisis with the Yanomami in the State of Roraima. Unfortunately, the **Brazilian Red Cross** is also facing an institutional crisis and is not operational on the ground. Regular tripartite calls are organized between the ICRC, the IFRC and the National Society to propose a plan to overcome this extraordinary situation that has been under the IFRC's Compliance and Mediation Committee (CMC) for more than 10 years.

Chile: In December and February, a heat wave affected central-southern Chile, followed by several serious fires - more than 400 fires were recorded, with more than 450,000 hectares affected. The government declared a state of emergency in the regions of Biobío, Ñuble and Araucanía and the IFRC activated a DREF to support the **Chilean Red Cross** in responding to these events. Through this operation, a total of 5,694 people were assisted in through health and multi-purpose cash programmes. On 27 February 2022, the Chilean government began deploying military forces on the borders with Peru and Bolivia to control the entry of migrants through unauthorized crossings. Both the IFRC in Tacna and the Chilean Red Cross in Arica are providing assistance to people remaining in the area, including health assistance and connectivity points to provide information to those on the move.

Paraguay: Paraguay was affected by floods in February, affecting more than 39,000 people. These floods were caused by heavy rains and rising rivers. The Paraguay River, located in the Department of Concepción, increased its flow by 5.2 metres and rose by 1.5 metres (29 cm in 24 hours), forcing families to abandon their homes and seek refuge in temporary collective centres. The **Paraguayan Red Cross** Risk Management team was relatively new and has been working on the implementation of a DREF operation to respond to this emergency. The National Society now aims to continue working in this area to develop and implement activities related to community preparedness, to ready communities for new emergencies. Forecasts indicate that from October / November onwards a strong "El Niño" phenomenon may cause serious floods in the area.

Uruguay: The lack of rainfall since September 2022 has caused a significant reduction in the availability of and access to water in the country, which in turn has been affected by the presence of the "La Niña" phenomenon in the region and by the high temperatures during the summer season. In addition to this, there is a water deficit in Montevideo, leaving a water supply that cannot be consumed by the population. In January, the Uruguayan state declared a water emergency, which is still in force. The **Uruguayan Red Cross** is carrying out a DREF operation to provide a response in five of the country's departments, which means almost the entire team at headquarters is dedicated to the operation, leaving little time for other programmatic work.

Key achievements

- The IFRC has activated five DREF grants since December 2022, to a value of CHF 1,659,737, which the National Societies have implemented, reaching over 23,000 people and providing them with assistance in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Shelter, Livelihoods and Health. This was provided to communities, working through Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approaches and using multi-purpose cash transfer programmes to provide flexibility and effective targeting.
- The National Societies were supported to develop up-to-date Health and Risk Management policies, to be better prepared for current emergencies.
- The completion of a case study on “Disaster Recovery in Brazil - A legal and policy survey” to support negotiations and planning to rebuild the work of the **Brazilian Red Cross**.
- The IFRC, ICRC and Southern Cone National Societies held meetings to improve coordination between border National Societies on migration issues, and to share tools and cross-check border surveillance data to improve operations.
- The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation has also been supporting the Southern Cone National Societies to strengthen their coordination with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and external partners. Movement Coordination meetings are now happening every month between the ICRC and IFRC Southern Cone delegations, with further meetings being organized with National Societies at country level.
- Work to implement the OCAC self-assessment continued in the region, with the **Paraguayan Red Cross** starting the process and the Argentine Red Cross moving to the second phase, and with peer-to-peer evaluation being carried out.
- The **Chilean Red Cross and Paraguayan Red Cross** are in the process of updating their Statutes and Regulations, while the **Uruguayan Red Cross**, with support from the IFRC’s Capacity Building Fund (CBF) and from the Country Cluster Delegation, has worked on the formulation of its financial policies on the “Prevention of Money Laundering”, on the “Financing of Licit Activities” and on its wider Financial Policy.

Changes and amendments

There were no changes or amendments to the 2023 planning.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

DREF operations are reflected in this report under the Disasters and Crises Strategic Priority, where you will find links to the plans and reports for each operation.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

There were no specific activities to report during this reporting period.



Disasters and crises

Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards

As a result of the fires that occurred in early 2022 in the province of Corrientes, the **Argentine Red Cross** Health and Risk Management Directorates are jointly implementing a Risk Management programme, including aspects related to risk preparedness and mitigation, preparedness and health care actions. The general objective for this programme is to “Foster natural hazard and disaster risk reduction amongst rural communities and governmental stakeholders in northeast Corrientes (Los Bretes, Gómez Cue, Desiderio Sosa y Paraje Galarza localities), by building increased community resilience and disaster preparedness, as well as through the recovery of the ecosystem”. Through a 12-month period, the Argentine Red Cross expects these communities to better withstand, adapt to, and recover from future hazards and risks. This project addresses the following community needs, which become greater when an emergency or natural disaster strike: lack access to health care; lack of tools, guides and strategies to be better prepared to deal with hazards, emergencies or disasters; lack of access to basic services, due to distance and poor transportation systems. Rural communities also face poverty, exclusion and are socially disadvantaged, meaning they face higher risks and need to build increased resilience through capacity-building and training. At the same time, governmental stakeholders often lack knowledge of first aid and related best practices (e.g. CPR) and of disaster risk management, which are relevant in assisting communities to deal with natural hazards, emergencies or disasters.

In all current operations the **Argentine, Chilean, Paraguayan and Uruguayan Red Cross National Societies** have developed digital content and campaigns to catalyze social conversation about the RCRC’s actions to address the climate crisis and its impact on livelihoods, communities and ecosystems. This content will continue to support National Societies to work in community and governmental contexts to build resilience.

The **Paraguayan Red Cross**, with support from the Empress Shoken Fund, is implementing early warning systems in communities near watersheds or rivers.

People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through access to in-kind assistance and support that is timely, adequate, flexible and strengthens their agency

Multi-purpose cash grants - People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through multi-purpose cash grants

The National Societies are responding to emergencies, such as floods in Argentina, Chile and Paraguay, fires in Chile and droughts in Uruguay, in coordination with government authorities and through the territorial network of their branches, their national intervention teams and their monitoring teams. The four active National Societies have provided comprehensive responses, covering different areas, such as health, livelihoods, WASH, shelter, protection, and gender and inclusion, using tools, such as multi-purpose cash and CEA approaches. More specific information related to each of the operations can be found via the following links:

- **Argentina** - [MDRAR019](#) (CHF 269,978)
- **Chile** - [MDRCL015](#) (CHF 339,667) and [MDRCL016](#) (464,324 CHF)
- **Paraguay** - [MDRPY022](#) (CHF 204,378)
- **Uruguay** - [MDRUY004](#) (CHF 381,390)

National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters, and leverage their auxiliary role in emergency response

Forecast-based Action (FbA)

For more than three years, the **Argentine Red Cross** has been working with the IFRC’s Climate Centre to better activate the National Society’s response mechanisms and reduce the impact of emergencies for crises that can be anticipated at least 10 days in advance - mostly those associated with climate change and variabilities in the coastal area. The National Society is finalizing its Early Action Plan (EAP) for this work, with delivery due to take place during the second half of the year. The **Chilean Red Cross** is currently working with the German Red Cross to begin a feasibility study to start developing work in FbA, which is planned for the end of October 2023.

The **Argentine Red Cross** has set up a National Monitoring Team and system to monitor slow-onset events, and to support timely decisions to be made in these situations. The team is now active and has provided support in the preparation of action plans for slow onset and other emergency responses this year.

The **Paraguayan Red Cross** is working with the Country Cluster Delegation to develop its risk reduction policies.

National Societies expand their leadership in the field of Disaster Law and improve official/legal recognition of their auxiliary role

Head of Country Cluster Delegation Disaster Law briefing

With the appointment of the new Southern Cone Head of Country Cluster Delegation, a Disaster Law briefing was given to present 10 case studies, reports and research papers, which had been developed to support the National Societies during 2022, namely:

1. Advocacy Strategy and Roadmap: Strengthening the Auxiliary Role of the **Uruguayan Red Cross Society**;
2. Advocacy Strategy and Roadmap: Strengthening the Auxiliary Role of the **Chilean Red Cross Society**;
3. Advocacy Strategy and Roadmap: Strengthening the Auxiliary Role of the **Argentine Red Cross Society**;
4. IDRL Country Document: International Disaster Response Laws in Uruguay;
5. IDRL Country Document: International Disaster Response Laws in Paraguay;
6. IDRL Country Document: International Disaster Response Laws in Chile;
7. IDRL Argentina: Preliminary Report on Legal Preparedness for International Disaster Response in Argentina - summary version;
8. IDRL Argentina: Preliminary Report on Legal Preparedness for International Disaster Response in Argentina – full version;
9. Study for the Strengthening of the Auxiliary Role of the Southern Cone National Red Cross Societies;
10. IDRL/Humanitarian Hub Draft Law.

Brazil: A case study to support the recovery of the **Brazilian Red Cross** entitled '[Recuperação de desastres no Brasil- Uma pesquisa legal e política \(Disaster Recovery in Brazil- A legal and policy survey\)](#)', was finalized. The study was presented virtually to the internal cooperation personnel from the RCRC Movement partners, the relevant DRR / DRM personnel and the General Director of Brazilian Red Cross, who all recognize its importance. The next steps were also outlined and agreed, including the report's launch and circulation to key partners, particularly the key personnel and volunteers of the National Society and of the Government - the Minas Gerais Environment Ministry requested to see its presentation, as they were part of its construction. These actions will be undertaken once the Country Cluster Delegation agrees and authorizes the activities with the National Society.

The Auxiliary Role and Humanitarian Diplomacy Session at the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Induction Course

On 22-23 March, the Movement held a Movement Induction Course (MIC) in Panama City, Panama. The course was conducted in Spanish and attended by 23 participants, including Presidents and Directors of National Societies from North America, Central America, Latin America, the Caribbean, Andean Countries, and the Southern Cone. The Auxiliary Role session led requests for support from the **Paraguayan Red Cross** National President (to develop an Auxiliary Role study), the **Uruguayan Red Cross** National President (to develop a Legislative Advocacy Toolkit and training course). Both National Societies were looking into funding options through the CBF or the Country Cluster Delegation to support this work, which will go ahead when funding is confirmed with the National Societies to organize the next steps.

The Inter-American Conference 2023 (Bahamas): Plenary Session 8 on “Leveraging our Auxiliary Status with Governments”

The Disaster Law Team facilitated this plenary session, which focused on highlighting the importance of the auxiliary role of National Societies, by exploring the experiences and perspectives of the National Societies of Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Argentina and discussing these with their governments. **Argentine Red Cross** discussed the long process it had gone through to pass a new Red Cross law. This involved a first analysis of the organisation and its needs, followed by negotiations with the Government. The National Society then received support from its volunteers and the communities to get a million signatures to support the law. They also engaged in advocacy in the media, sensitizing the public on why a new law was needed and eventually passed the law.

The VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (Punta del Este, Uruguay)

The VIII Regional Platform was held from 28 February to 2 March 2023. The Platform represents an opportunity for governments, inter-governmental organizations, private sector representatives, civil society organisations, scientific / technological communities, youth groups, cooperation agencies and donors, as well as other relevant actors in the Americas and the Caribbean, to exchange experiences and facilitate decision-making on the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the “Implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas and the Caribbean” (originally agreed in 2017 in Montreal and revised under the auspices of the Government of Jamaica in November 2021). The logistics of the conference were coordinated by the Uruguayan Red Cross in cooperation with the National Emergency System of Uruguay (SINAE). Representatives from the **National Societies of Argentina**, Canada, Colombia and Mexico, as well as from the IFRC Delegations for Central America, the Southern Cone, and Andean Countries), as well as from Reference Centre for Disaster Preparedness (CREPD) and the Climate Centre, participated in the discussions and decisions to advance DRR in the different regions.



Health and wellbeing

National Societies capitalize on their auxiliary role to ensure their position on relevant country level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms

The **Chilean Red Cross** has conducted a training of trainers (ToT) course in First Aid. The course was coordinated through the Country Cluster Delegation with the **Argentine Red Cross**, who supported its development and implementation.

The **Paraguayan Red Cross** is working with Americas Regional Office (ARO) to support the development of its Health Policy.



Migration and displacement

Migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes as well access to durable solutions when appropriate

In coordination with the ICRC, the Country Cluster Delegation for the Andean Countries is holding meetings with the migration focal points of **Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay** to improve coordination between neighbouring National Societies around migration issues, to enable them to share tools and cross-check border monitoring data. Until the end of the year, the **Argentine Red Cross** is leading the coordination of this work, and then in the second semester, coordination will pass to another National Society in the team.

During the month of May, the **Chilean Red Cross** assisted vulnerable migrants in several areas around Tacna, on the border with Peru, during a complex situation. Among the activities carried out were First Aid assistance, referrals of serious health cases to medical facilities and delivery of individual food kits. To date, more than 600 people have been assisted through these actions. The Arica Branch has worked in coordination with migration authorities and the IFRC to deliver this assistance. An assessment and surveys have been carried out to understand the basic needs of the wider population.



Values, power and inclusion

There were no specific activities to report during this reporting period.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

The IFRC's Country Cluster Delegation has been supporting all the Southern Cone National Societies to strengthen its coordination with external partners.

The President of the **Argentine Red Cross**, the IFRC Regional Director for the Americas and the Head of Country Cluster Delegation all visited the Inter-American Development Bank (CAF) Vice-President and discussed collaboration between CAF, the IFRC and the National Society in Argentina and across the continent. Follow up discussions occurred during the DRR Platform in February / March and the CAF was invited to participate at the IFRC Inter American Conference.

In Brazil, the IFRC Head of Delegation together with a representative of the IFRC's Office of the Secretary General (OSG) visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Government representatives to discuss **Brazilian Red Cross's** role as auxiliary to the Government and the IFRC's work to support the National Society.

In **Chile**, several meetings (both virtual and face-to-face) were organized with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to discuss the migration situation in the country. Chile is hosting the third highest number of Venezuelan migrants in the Americas region.

In **Uruguay**, the IFRC Southern Cone Country Cluster Delegation participated in the VIII Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP23), engaging with representatives from the **Uruguayan Red Cross** and other National Societies from the region. Meetings were also organised with the Head of Civil Defense of Uruguay and with donors, such as the CAF.

Movement Coordination meetings are now happening every month between the ICRC and the IFRC Southern Cone Country Cluster Delegation and meetings are also organized with National Societies at country level. The IFRC Head of Country Cluster Delegation also has monthly meetings with the Swiss Red Cross, which is the only participating National Society with a presence in the Southern Cone region.



National Society development

The IFRC network is a network of relevant local organizations who are the trusted partners of choice for local humanitarian action with the capabilities to act in the global network

During the month of March, **Argentine Red Cross**, carried out the second phase of the OCAC process, focusing on peer evaluation and experience sharing around organisational areas. This was supported with funds from the CBF and with the support of the Regional Office for the Americas and the Southern Cone Country Cluster Delegation.

Paraguayan Red Cross is also coordinating its implementation of the first stage of the OCAC process – the National Society's own self-evaluation. This has been scheduled to take place in July and will be carried out with financial support from the Swiss Red Cross and with technical support from the ARO and the Southern Cone Country Cluster Delegation.

Chilean Red Cross is in the process of updating its Statutes and Regulations, supported by the Southern Cone Country Cluster Delegation and in collaboration with the Joint Commission on Statutes.

Paraguayan Red Cross is also in the process of updating its Statutes and Regulations, which it started doing in April, with the approval of its National Assembly.

Uruguayan Red Cross has received support from the CBF to carry out work on its financial policies and has received the support of the Country Cluster Delegation to deliver it. The National Society has since worked on the formulation of its policies on: "Prevention of Money Laundering"; "Financing of Licit Activities" and has developed its wider Financial Policy. These policies are expected to be approved at the National Assembly in September.

Paraguayan Red Cross has carried out a market study and a perception study to inform the development of new strategies to support the work of its business units and the drawing up of an operational plan for the sale of its services and for the mobilising resources. This research, which included an analysis of the situation and trends in politics, economics, society and technology, recommended setting up fundraising strategies for the National Societies three CRP business units and is helping to design a business strategy for the CRP.

The **Uruguayan Red Cross** has developed a Financial Management System, based on “Monday.com”, which will allow them to monitor the organisation’s accounting and financial movements, including the processes used for purchase requests, logistical requisitions, purchase orders, validation and authorisation of movements, stock control, etc. This system was realised with the support of funds from the CBF.

Argentine Red Cross has been awarded CBF funds to support the implementation of the second stage of the OCAC process, which includes a peer review and work on a volunteer management platform using the “Monday.com” tool.

Paraguayan Red Cross has benefited from its application for two CBF grants in 2022 and 2023, both focused on supporting the National Society’s resource development capacity, not only at headquarters, but also in direct support of the branches. At the same time, they have received approval for an Empress Shoken Fund grant to support the development of early warning tools for flooding.

Uruguayan Red Cross received a CBF grant for 2022 / 2023 to support organisational strengthening, with a particular focus on finance. It also received support from the Empress Shoken Fund to fund programmes to support mental health and psychosocial work with youth populations in vulnerable areas.

In March, the regional MIC was held, with participation from the **National Societies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay**. The event was facilitated and coordinated by the IFRC ARO and the ICRC. The participation of the Southern Cone National Societies was financially supported by the ICRC. The meeting shared experience of working together as a Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and looked to improve coordination.

The IFRC network prioritises volunteering development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action, ensuring access and nurturing trust in all contexts

Preparation for the Volunteering National Meeting in Argentina: The Regional team for the Coordination of Volunteering & Youth Development, together with the Country Cluster Delegation, supported the National Team from the **Argentine Red Cross** to develop and prepare a session on volunteering for their National Volunteering Meeting. The objective was to discuss the basic concepts of volunteering to better understand the enabling environments, why they are necessary and how to deliver them when carrying out the humanitarian mission. This was achieved by looking at the different programmatic areas and setting up trigger questions so that the participants could work on those areas internally in their teams, from headquarters down to local levels.

The RC3 global event and the Interamerican Centre for Volunteering Development (ICVD) participated in the first Long Night of Research in the IFRC network. The IFRC Americas Region, through the ICVD, presented a session based on a case study of a National Society in the Southern Cone: “The Case of the Volunteering Development Framework – From Research to Implementation”, with participation from the National Societies of Panama, Honduras and **Argentina**.

Technical support was also given to the **Argentine Red Cross** to prepare its next Workshop on the Volunteering Cycle at national and branch levels, based on a terms of reference that was prepared the Regional Coordination of Volunteering and Youth Development team and adapted to the needs of the National Society. The Country Cluster Delegation also held an induction session was delivered to support the new Director of Talent Management in the **Argentine Red Cross**. This served as an opportunity to discuss how volunteering and talent management could be strengthened across the National Society.

The First Virtual Regional Meeting of First Aiders: A first virtual meeting was held to enable volunteers from the First Aid programmes across the region to exchange knowledge and experiences between National Societies. The **Argentine Red Cross** participated in the meeting held in June, which also aimed to foster motivation. The space helped volunteers and teams to work together to identify challenges and seek solutions to problems faced by First Aid volunteers in their National Societies, to help them work together as a more efficient network in the service of the most vulnerable.

As part of the Volunteering Learning Programme, a first follow up meeting was held to report on the progress made to date. Participants from the National Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Jamaica, **Paraguay**, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Venezuela had the opportunity to share their experience and results.

Technical support was provided to the new youth team from the **Chilean Red Cross**. Together with the Andean Countries Country Cluster Delegation, support was provided to the new team in charge of youth, with information and online training on youth development provided, including on the initiative “Youth As Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC)” and the strategic orientations of youth policy matters and the implementation of a Youth Engagement Strategy (YES).

Plenary on “Inspiration to Mobilize Volunteers and Youth”: This session was held at the Interamerican Conference to ensure that the future steps in relation to volunteering and youth development in the region will be visionary, agile, and relevant to all National Societies. This plenary session was moderated by the **Argentine Red Cross** and focused on strengthening volunteer leadership (including for young people) and how find local solutions that can contribute to addressing global challenges. This included how to position and showcase the added value of the IFRC network in its auxiliary role with governments today and in the future beyond. During this plenary session, the results of the regional survey on a Strategic Vision and Future, which had been conducted before the IAC, were presented. This survey involved participation from over 2,500 volunteers from 26 National Societies in the Americas Region.

Youth Event at the Interamerican Conference: A Youth event was held prior to the Interamerican Conference, at which 25 young people and 17 guests from National Societies in the region participated. The event provided an opportunity for young leaders to discuss humanitarian challenges, their involvement in decision-making processes, and the strengthening of relevant regional networks. Participants proposed and worked on topics such as the importance of inter-generational dialogue, the fundamental need to establish and strengthen mental health systems for young people, and the need to ensure the integration of protection, gender, and inclusion perspectives. Similarly, working groups created by the youth networks focused their discussions on rebuilding social fabric, access to employment and the importance of innovation, and how young people are positive agents of behavioural change in their National Societies and communities. Participatory methodologies were encouraged, as was critical thinking and exchange among participants and the programme was developed directly by the young people in the meeting, with time and space to propose new topics of interest. During the first evening, an open dialogue took place between RCRC Movement leaders, including with the IFRC Vice-President, the IFRC Under-Secretary General, the President of the Honduras Red Cross and the Regional Director of the Americas. After the Youth Event, all participants joined their respective National Society delegations and participated in the Interamerican Conference.

The Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) Version 2.0: The Volunteering and Youth Development Regional Coordination team and the National Youth Coordinator of the **Argentine Red Cross** have been actively contributing to the IFRC’s new global process - YES 2.0 - in conjunction with the Global Youth Commission and the Secretariat in Geneva. In March 2023, the Regional Coordination team presented the results of a global survey, launched in December 2022, to collect feedback from all National Societies on the previous YES. This survey and its results will contribute to a wider process that seeks to improve the IFRC’s new YES strategy and to build an approach that goes further and does more to support young people in their local communities and beyond. This process, which is led by the Youth Commission and overseen by the IFRC Governing Board, will culminate at the 24th session of the IFRC General Assembly, where the IFRC network-owned YES version 2.0 will be submitted for adoption.

The Volunteering Network of the Americas: The network has been reactivated, with support from the **National Societies of Argentina and Chile**. It comprises the national volunteering directors from each National Society in the region, who participate in online meetings, which aim to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience among the members of the network and to share relevant information. During the first meeting there were presentations of two projects by the Honduras Red Cross and the Panama Red Cross. The latter presented the “experience of volunteers providing services on the borders between Panama and both Costa Rica and Colombia”, while the Honduras Red Cross presented “the participation of volunteers in the design and execution of community micro-projects”. Additionally, information was shared about volunteering for the Inter-American Conference and about opportunities for participating.



Humanitarian diplomacy

The IFRC network is successful in promoting its image and advocating for change, affecting public behaviour, policies, and decisions on a domestic, regional, and global scale

The Reference Centre of the Humanitarian Observatory of **Argentine Red Cross** carried out global research commissioned by the IFRC Secretariat on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic. The fieldwork and data collection were carried out by 42 National Societies and private actors who gathered representatives from different sectors to support the research.

The research is looking to:

- Identify the main problems and consequences of the pandemic in each sector (e.g. public and private health sector, humanitarian sector, food sector, transport and logistics sector, NGO and civil society organisations sector, academic sector)
- Retrospectively analyse the experiences of each sector or industry participating in the research and compare the overall results according to each involved region, to recognize differences in approach.
- Systematise the actions of various organizations regarding the pandemic.
- Analyse the impact of the pandemic on the use of technology and on social solidarity in each sector.
- Assess the impact of the pandemic on the mental health of the surveyed individuals.

In Argentina, the IFRC Head of Delegation, together with **Argentine Red Cross** and the ICRC met the Ministry of Health to discuss the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's participation at the Global Mental Health Summit that will be hosted by the Argentine Government on 5 and 6 October 2023. As a result, the IFRC will be part of a technical working group and has secured the participation of a number of National Societies at the Summit. Furthermore, the Humanitarian Observatory will present mental health reports that have been conducted by National Societies in several countries.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

The IFRC network works as a global accountable network

Talent development, people management, human resources

During February 2023, the IFRC Southern Cone Country Cluster Delegation coordinated a return to the office in line with the hybrid model outlined by the IFRC's new global policy on staffing and presence in the office post COVID-19. In June 2023, the delegation also strengthened its compensation package to enable national staff to cope with Argentina's unstable economic situation and to ensure it became a more competitive workplace and could attract and retain talented staff. Throughout the semester, the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation also improved its timing and feedback around recruitment and selection processes, and ensured its management of personnel information and all HR reports were completed and updated on digital files.

During the reporting period, discussions started with the **Uruguayan Red Cross** to support them in analysing job descriptions and matching them with required positions, reorganizing its HR structure and identifying its critical leadership roles.

Security

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation achieved 100% compliance in its Minimum Security Requirements (MSR), including for all five countries of the Southern Cone Cluster. It started providing a Welcome Security Briefing to all IFRC and National Society personnel before they travelled to any of the Southern Cone Cluster countries, participated in weekly regional security meetings and shared Country Cluster Delegation security updates and reports.

The IFRC network undergoes a digital transformation

Argentine Red Cross, Chilean Red Cross, Paraguayan Red Cross and Uruguayan Red Cross have all participated in the IFRC's National Society Digital Engagement Capacity Building Project and, through this, have invested in their video conferencing systems, equipment and internet services. The project is helping strengthen their management's digital capacities and their digital infrastructure.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 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.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

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](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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