



# DUTCH AND ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

14 December 2023

## IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS NATIONAL SOCIETIES OF THE DUTCH AND ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN



46

National Society branches



238

National Society staff



9,494

National Society volunteers

## PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



393

Disasters and crises



11,753

Health and wellbeing



3,831

Migration and displacement



598

Values, power and inclusion






235



# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 155,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 155,000
		Income	 255,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	 26
	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups	Yes
	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Applicable data not available
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People trained in first aid	 140

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>National Society Development</b>	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Yes
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Applicable data not available
<b>Humanitarian diplomacy</b>	National Society is participating in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Yes
	National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Applicable data not available
<b>Accountability and agility</b>	National Society has strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Multilateral Support		Bilateral Support	
		Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
National Society				
American Red Cross	●			
British Red Cross	●			
Italian Red Cross			●	
Japanese Red Cross Society				●
Netherlands Red Cross	●			

Planned
  Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

For the first six months of 2023, the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society** has spent substantial time on fostering a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Agriculture to work on climatic focused initiatives. Additionally, the National Society has spent a great deal of time building its first aid capacity while simultaneously generating income from first aid activities.

During this period, the National Society has also faced setbacks related to reputational risks that are being addressed by the Governing Board and with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society's (IFRC's) Country Cluster Delegation for the Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



#### Climate and environment

*Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises*

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross drafted an environmental plan in 2022 for implementation in 2023. As part of the environmental plan, a beach clean-up was completed in April, at which 26 youth volunteers collected 871 items weighing 331 pounds. Several other clean-ups are scheduled to take place later in 2023, including one in September. In addition, there are plans by youth volunteers to clean the park and roundabout in Freetown.

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross is in the process of developing an MOU with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs to undertake joint activities related to climate change and environmental sustainability. The National Society was first approached by the Forestry Unit of the ministry to engage in planting trees to encourage pollination by bats. However, the scope for cooperation was expanded when the value of the Red Cross was recognized by the wider ministry. The ministry is interested in the potential of the National Society to mobilize a substantial volunteer force that can engage in activities such as planting trees to stabilize slopes and encourage pollination. The MOU is expected to be signed by the end of 2023.



#### Disasters and crises

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

On the invitation from the National Office of Disaster Services, the President of the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross met with representatives from the World Bank to discuss the gaps in disaster response in Antigua and Barbuda and ways to improve disaster mitigation, response and management. The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross made a strong

point on the inclusion of Barbuda and the need to strengthen cooperation, coordination and collaboration between the various stakeholders in disaster management.

### *National Societies expand their leadership in the field of Disaster Law*

The IFRC's disaster law team continues to engage in preparations for the creation of a virtual exhibition that will highlight the work of National Societies in disaster law and promote the implementation of recommendations to strengthen disaster laws and policies. As part of this virtual exhibition, the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles programme (IDRL) study conducted for Antigua and Barbuda will be finalized and published by the fourth quarter of 2023.

In addition, work remains ongoing for the convening of the Second Caribbean IDRL Workshop in November 2023. This workshop will involve discussions among the Caribbean Emergency Management Agency and its participating states, the IDRL Working Group, National Societies and regional stakeholders on the progress made to advance IDRL in the region.



## Health and wellbeing

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### *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 National Society officially launched its ambulance service in February 2023, with support from the Japanese Red Cross. The ambulance service is operated by qualified emergency medical technicians of the health team at the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross. In attendance at the launch were the Minister of Health and the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, both of whom committed to continue working with the National Society to improve health on the islands.

### *The health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course*

The IFRC, along with the National Society, coordinated first aid training of trainers in March 2023. Also participating in the training were the Bahamas Red Cross Society and the Montserrat Red Cross Society. Participants completed training in advanced first aid, first aid for the outdoors/remote environments, as well as first aid for situations where help may be delayed and medical equipment is limited. The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross also received support from the Jamaica Red Cross Society with peer-to-peer training of trainers in mental health and psychosocial first aid.

These training courses are expected to supplement the first aid services offered by the National Society, thereby increasing its income-generating capacity as well as improving the capacity of the organization to support training with volunteers, staff and communities. In particular, first aid for situations where medical help may be delayed will be instrumental for emergency response in disasters. Overall, the National Society provided first aid training to approximately 140 people from eight organizations throughout Antigua and Barbuda.



## Migration and displacement

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Along with other countries in the Caribbean, Antigua and Barbuda faces a complex phenomenon of mixed migratory movements. It is a country of both destination and transit of migrants, including persons in need of international protection. Antigua and Barbuda requires strengthened capacity to manage this evolving issue. According to UNHCR and other international organizations, there is need for collaboration among Caribbean countries to manage data collection and analysis on migration; and to establish protection-sensitive entry systems, reception arrangements, mechanisms for the profiling and referral of vulnerable migrants, differentiated processes, and long-term solutions. Governments are encouraged to consider the fundamental rights and needs of persons in need of international protection. This includes refugees and stateless persons, victims of trafficking, as well as specific groups which require differentiated treatment – such as women and children. It is important that the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross, as an auxiliary to the government, is supported to be part of this dialogue.

# ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

*The IFRC network has increased its cooperation and coordination with external partners to address major challenges facing communities*

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross negotiated contracts for ambulance and emergency medical technician coverage with the Ministry of Health, the Antigua and Barbuda Drag Racing Association and with the Ministry of Creative Industries for its launch of the Antigua Carnival. This initiative is expected to increase coordination and improve cooperation between these entities and the National Society.

*Membership coordination enhances efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions, and the shift in its mindset towards a Federation-wide approach leads to increased trust within the IFRC network*

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross, along with seven other National Societies, became a member of the Caribbean Technical Advisory Group on First Aid on 26 April 2023. According to the Team Charter (2023), the working group was created to use the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality, and education. The focus for the advisory group is on the standardization of a regional first aid curriculum, developed specifically for the Caribbean to address the evolving crises of the Caribbean.

With the support of coaching sessions with the IFRC, the National Society spearheaded several fundraising drives, such as the thrift shop and jumble sales to increase income from the thrift shop and reduce the number of old stocks in store. In addition, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross developed a membership drive with a benefits programme to recruit new, paying members to the National Society. As an incentive to joining the National Society members can now enjoy discounts at various well-known establishments.



## 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*

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross has undertaken measures to improve its internal structures and legal base by developing and adopting several policies and guidelines. Some of the policies/guidelines for governance and management include: the Finance Policy and Procedure Manual; the Employee Handbook; the Revised Code of Conduct; the Integrity Policy (2019); Terms of Reference for the Disciplinary and Compliance Committee; Terms of Reference for the Finance Commission; Policy, Rules and Procedures of Governing Board Meetings; and the Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment (including Sexual and Discriminatory Harassment). Policies adopted for programmatic areas include: the Volunteering Policy; the Health Policy; the Food Security and Nutrition Policy; and the Disaster Risk Management Policy.

During the first half of 2023, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross reached out to IFRC's Country Cluster Delegation for support regarding the functioning of the Antigua and Barbuda branches. The aim was to mitigate any potential integrity issues that would harm the reputation of the National Society. After consultations with the President and a thorough analysis of the National Society's current constitution, the Country Cluster Delegation was able to present a risk analysis and a legal case for branch interventions.

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

During the reporting period, substantial focus was given to enhancing and facilitating mechanisms for youth and volunteer participation in the National Society. In February, the Caribbean Youth Network finalized and approved a working terms of reference that will guide their functions and elected a new coordinating National Society – the Jamaica Red Cross. The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross youth representative supported this sub-regional reactivation of the youth network and will continue to use this channel for improved engagement and networking, knowledge-sharing, community support, and advocacy on youth-related matters through one unified Caribbean voice. While it is not a constitutional body of the Federation, the Caribbean Youth Network will support, and be supported by, the Global Youth Commission in promoting youth at all levels.

In March 2023, the IFRC's National Society Development Youth and Volunteering Officer travelled to Antigua to provide support and guidance to the National Society in matters related to youth, volunteering and branch development. This included individual discussions with the President, the Programmes and Operations Coordinator, the Youth Officer and the Volunteer Manager. The opportunity was also taken to address the Governing Board on strategic planning for volunteering development, the volunteer development framework, key performance indicators and the value of volunteers.

Through focused discussions with the Programmes and Operations Coordinator and the Volunteer Manager, it became evident that the National Society remains unclear on how volunteers should be engaged and managed. Therefore, it is a challenge to attract sufficient motivated volunteers to support development initiatives. One of the key recommendations to the volunteer focal points was the need to focus on improving the volunteer experience by strengthening internal structures and creating an enabling environment for volunteer development. By tackling the underlying issues, the National Society would be seen as a more welcoming environment that can offer a fulfilling opportunity to provide humanitarian aid, thereby improving its volunteer retention rates.

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross facilitated the participation of a youth delegate at the Inter-American Conference that took place in the Bahamas from 6-8 June. The youth delegate, who serves as a youth member of the Governing Board, gave a presentation on Integrity, Trust and Accountability and was also engaged in a Youth Encounter, which took place for a day-and-a-half prior to the official start of the conference. At the Youth Encounter, delegates from across the Americas region came together to discuss challenges, gain insights and deeper understanding on youth perspectives, and to chart a course for future actions through its sub-regional networks and the Global Youth Commission. Having been part of two previous Inter-American Conferences, the youth delegate was able to use prior knowledge and experiences to guide peers and to encourage meaningful and thought-provoking engagement during the sessions.

As part of its efforts to strengthen protection for its volunteers, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross has secured accident and injury insurance through the IFRC's insurance scheme to cover 75 volunteers. In addition to accident and injury, the listed volunteers will also receive death benefits through the plan.

In recognition of their duty of care towards volunteers, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross has also recognized that the insurance should not be the sole source of protection and support to their volunteers. The National Society has therefore begun to develop a solidarity fund mechanism, which will complement the insurance coverage. Next steps in this process include the creation of a separate bank account to hold the funds, the official signing of the mechanism and formation of an oversight committee, along with a drive to seek out donors and other funding sources to contribute to the fund to ensure its sustainability.

***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***

The National Society continues to improve its financial sustainability by investing in the expansion of the thrift shop, first aid services and the ambulance service. The IFRC provides regular business coaching sessions to support the expansion of these initiatives. This includes the recent first aid training of trainers which has resulted in an expansion in first aid services, thereby increasing unrestricted income that should cover the National Society's core costs.






Standard operating procedures have been developed to improve first aid client payment procedures, in order to reduce the account receivables and to ensure that the necessary follow-up is done to recover funds owed. An instructor/volunteer payment policy has also been developed to assist in reducing the cost of instructor fees thereby increasing overall revenues.



The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross has taken several steps towards improving financial management, accountability and transparency at the National Society. This has included conducting an audit into the accounts for 2020 to 2022, settling any payable balances and transitioning to new staff members.

## BAHAMAS

### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW *in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 530,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 460,000
		Income	 167,000
<b>Participating National Societies</b>		Funding requirements	 20,000
		Income	 166,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups	Yes
	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Applicable data not available
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	Applicable data not available

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>National Society Development</b>	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Yes
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Yes
<b>Humanitarian diplomacy</b>	National Society is participating in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Multilateral Support		Bilateral Support			
	Climate	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	
National Society						
American Red Cross					Supported	
Canadian Red Cross Society	Supported		Planned	Supported		
Netherlands Red Cross	Supported					
Norwegian Red Cross	Supported					

Planned
  Supported

## OVERALL PROGRESS

In the post-Hurricane Dorian and post-COVID-19 landscape of the Bahamas, the **Bahamas Red Cross Society** is still in recovery mode. With reduced human resources, coupled with limited competencies to manage programmes, the National Society has been placing its focus on resource mobilization activities. A new president assumed office in June 2023, and plans are being developed to strengthen the National Society's auxiliary role and its partnerships with the government and sector ministries. Work is also ongoing to strengthen the volunteer base in some of the Family Islands.

The leaders of 34 Red Cross Societies from the Americas, gathered in Nassau, Bahamas, for the 22nd Inter American Conference from 5-8 June 2023. The key objectives were to promote cooperation, and networking among the regional Red Cross Societies around common humanitarian concerns and challenges and to position and show the added value of the Red Cross network as an auxiliary to governments. A major outcome of the conference was the Nassau Accord 2023-2027, highlighting key decisions for the region over the next four years.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

*Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises*

The Bahamas Red Cross has updated its youth engagement training curriculum to include beach clean-ups as part of its climate change and environment programme in 2023. Between January and June 2023, the National Society collaborated with The Nature Conservancy to assist several schools with beach clean ups.



### Disasters and crises

The Bahamas Red Cross has made progress in the implementation of the Alert Hub Initiative through the hosting of a Public Awareness Public Education workshop with local stakeholders. With the support of the Canadian Red Cross, the National Society was able to make progress with its preparedness for effective response workplan. This was done through the completion of a workshop to finalize the response plan, along with training in finance management, enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, and resource mobilization. However, the National Society, has struggled with implementing other key objectives outlined. It is unlikely that there will be any progress in the Cash and Voucher Assistance programme or in logistics capacity building.

*Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards environmental crises.*

The Bahamas Red Cross was identified as one of the pilot countries in the Caribbean region to participate in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society's (IFRC's) global Alert Hub project. Alert Hub is part of a global initiative supported by USAID and Google, which contributes to the United Nations' Early Warning for All initiative. The IFRC Alert Hub aims to protect lives and livelihoods by increasing the use of common alerting protocol and expanding the reach of reliable, fast, and actionable early warning messages to people at risk. In countries that do not have common alerting protocol, Alert Hub will advocate for its usage or provide support, where needed.

In March 2023, the National Society held an initial stakeholder engagement meeting for local partners engaged in early warning systems to introduce them to the project. Following this, the National Society organized a Public Awareness Public Education workshop on 23 and 24 May 2023. The workshop was facilitated by the IFRC. Among attendees at the two-day workshop were representatives from the National Emergency Management Agency, the police service, the fire services, the National Meteorological Agency and the Port Authority. The objective of the workshop was to develop a set of action-oriented key messages for all hazards across all alert levels, and to form core content and a foundation for:

- Public awareness messaging
- Social and behaviour change
- Information, education and communication materials
- Curriculum development for risk reduction to build a culture of safety and resilience

*National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters and their auxiliary role in*

## *disaster risk management is well defined and recognized*

The National Society has been working through its preparedness for effective response workplan, which was developed in 2021. Key activities that have been completed include the National Society Response Plan, finance management training, enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment training and training in resource mobilization.

## *National Societies expand their leadership in the field of Disaster Law*

In January 2023, during the preparedness for effective response workshop, the Bahamas Red Cross was sensitized to the newly enacted Disaster Risk Management Act (2022) and its implications for the National Society. This presentation prompted important discussions on how the new law impacts on the National Society's auxiliary role and ways in which these issues could be addressed. Following the workshop, the Bahamas Red Cross committed to work with the disaster law team to examine ways in which they could strengthen their auxiliary role within the disaster risk management framework.

In March 2023, the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles programme (IDRL) finalized and published a new report entitled [Disaster Recovery in The Bahamas – A Legal and Policy Survey](#). The report examines the strengths and gaps in the legal and policy frameworks for disaster recovery in the Bahamas and illustrates the challenges faced during the recovery from Hurricane Dorian. Good practices and lessons learned were also extracted, including an examination of the new Disaster Risk Management Act of 2022. Soft and hard copies of this report were shared with the National Society to equip them with the evidence-based recommendations needed for advocacy to public authorities.

The disaster law team continues to engage in preparations for the creation of a virtual exhibition (to be launched in the fourth quarter of the year) that will showcase the work of National Societies in disaster law and promote the implementation of recommendations to strengthen disaster laws and policies.

In addition, work remains ongoing for the convening of the Second Caribbean IDRL Workshop (November 2023) which will involve discussions among the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and its participating states, the regional IDRL working group, National Societies and regional stakeholders on the progress made to advance IDRL in the region.

Recognizing that the role of the Bahamas Red Cross was not expressly mentioned in the new Disaster Risk Management Act (2022), the National Society is currently working with the disaster law team to conduct additional research and develop a proposal to the government to advocate for express recognition of the auxiliary role in national disaster risk management laws, policies and plans. This proposal will also align with the advocacy strategy developed and will build upon the auxiliary role study conducted in 2021/2022.



## **Health and wellbeing**

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*The health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course*

From January 2023, the National Society has been implementing risk communication and other community sensitization activities to increase the COVID-19 vaccination rate to reach the WHO recommended rate of 75%. When activities commenced the rate was at 40% and increased to 56.2% by July 2023. The National Society partnered with the Ministry of Health and Wellness to conduct health fairs, vaccine pop-up clinics and community walkabouts. Partnerships were strengthened with the Bahamas Psychological Association, which provided a psychosocial support hotline service, as well as with Urban Renewal and Community Policing, which coordinated the community walkabouts. Activities were done in the following Family Islands - North Abaco, Green Turtle Cay, Grand Bahama, Nassau and Arawak Cay. Additional activities will be conducted on other islands in the coming months.

The IFRC coordinated first aid training of trainers at the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society in March 2023, which included participation from the Bahamas Red Cross and the Montserrat Red Cross Society. Participants completed training in advanced first aid, first aid for the outdoors/remote environments, as well as first aid for situations where help may be delayed and medical equipment is limited. These training courses are expected to supplement the first aid

services offered and to increase the National Society's income-generating capacity. It should also improve the capacity of the organization to support training with volunteers, staff and communities. In particular, first aid for situations where medical help maybe delayed will be instrumental for emergency response in disasters.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



### Strategic and operational coordination

*Membership Coordination enhances efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions, and the shift in its mindset towards a Federation wide approach leads to increased trust within the network*

The Bahamas Red Cross is one of eight National Societies which became a member of the Caribbean Technical Advisory Group on First Aid on 26 April 2023. According to the team charter, the working group was created to use the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality, and education. The focus for the technical advisory group is on the standardization of a regional first aid curriculum, developed specifically for the Caribbean to address the evolving crises of the Caribbean.



### National Society Development

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

In February, the Caribbean Youth Network finalized and approved a working terms of reference, which will guide their functions. They elected a new coordinating National Society - the Jamaica Red Cross Society. The Bahamas Red Cross' youth representative supported this sub-regional reactivation of youths and will continue to use this channel for improved engagement and networking, knowledge-sharing, community support and advocacy for youth-related matters through one unified Caribbean voice. While it is not a constitutional body of the Federation, the Caribbean Youth Network will support and be supported by the Global Youth Commission in promoting youth at all levels.

The Bahamas Red Cross hosted the Inter-American Conference in Nassau on 6-8 June, as well as the Youth Encounter, which took place for a day and a half prior to the official start of the Conference. The Youth Encounter brought together youth delegates from across the Americas region to discuss challenges, gain insights and deepen understanding on youth perspectives, and to chart a course for future actions through its sub-regional networks and the Global Youth Commission. The Bahamas Red Cross was represented by three delegates, who will continue to advocate for youth related matters and, when possible, provide support to the Youth and Volunteer Manager of the Bahamas Red Cross.

The Bahamas Red Cross is now providing its volunteers with accident and injury insurance, which has been secured through the IFRC Insurance Scheme. In addition to accident and injury, the 500 listed volunteers will also receive death benefits through the plan. Coverage will expire on 31 December 2023.

*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*

The National Society continues to reduce dependency by investing in the expansion of the first aid service. The IFRC provided regular business coaching sessions to support the expansion of this service. The first aid training of trainers workshop held in Antigua and Barbuda in March augmented the types of first aid services that the National Society can provide, thereby increasing unrestricted income which should cover core costs. The businesses that the National Society plans to expand are the first aid programme, life guarding and psychological first aid. Coaching sessions with the first aid focal point were stopped due to governing board elections and installation of a new president. However, efforts will be made to engage the new president on matters of financial sustainability.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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*National Societies develop, with support from the IFRC network, communication and public advocacy resources and guidance to enhance their impact, build public trust, and improve understanding of their role and activities*

The Bahamas Red Cross is a member of the technical working group on first aid. The working group was created to leverage the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality and education.




The purpose of this advisory group is to:

1. Create a team of interested technical experts willing to develop and improve the quality of the first aid programme.
2. Conduct research by monitoring current and global trends, new technologies, new methodologies and pedagogies in first aid and make recommendations on the development and expansion of first aid in the Caribbean.
3. Explore opportunities to network and build capacity outside of the Caribbean. For example, around exchanges, internships, showcasing the good work of the Caribbean by presenting at forums, and creating shared visibility campaigns for expansion, to attract resources.
4. Mobilize resources for the Caribbean.
5. Create a repository of shared experiences and create lessons learned to maintain institutional memory.
6. Build and liaise with other aspects in related thematic areas where there are linkages in the Movement

The team charter was adopted on 26 April 2023.



## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 90,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 90,000
		Income	 63,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)




## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 1
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with livelihoods support	Applicable data not available
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	Applicable data not available
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People trained in first aid	 8

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Humanitarian diplomacy</b>	National Society is participating in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Yes
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## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Multilateral Support		Bilateral Support		
			Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
National Society					
Japanese Red Cross Society					
Swedish Red Cross					

 Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

The Barbados Red Cross Society has encountered economic challenges heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused shifts in government budgets and welfare programmes. The pandemic increased vulnerabilities, particularly among marginalized groups. These challenges could impact funding for initiatives, prompting the National Society to seek innovative ways to maintain its programmes. In a post-pandemic context, the Barbados Red Cross has adjusted strategies for improved social inclusion and addressing evolving social needs.

The Barbados Red Cross has successfully elected a new president and board. It continues to work closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to improve governance through the board. These efforts aim to make the National Society a stronger one.

## Key achievements

The Barbados Red Cross has made progress in its efforts to improve preparedness for effective response and actions related to Strategic Priority 2, Disasters and Crises. This includes pre-positioning household cleaning kits in communities prone to flooding and training community disaster response teams. The National Society has an upgraded warehouse which is equipped with air conditioning and an inventory management system, thereby enhancing operational efficiency.

In terms of health and well-being, training of instructors in psychological first aid will improve mental health support to the community. It is hoped that the utilization of the Better Impact System software and hiring of a volunteer officer will lead to the implementation of the volunteer policy and further strengthen the National Society's initiatives.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

The Barbados Red Cross had not started any activities related to this strategic priority during the period under review. However, in the second half of the year, the National Society has planned to clean gullies to reduce the risk of flooding. It also hopes to begin exploring options to reduce water scarcity in several communities.

*Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises*

The Barbados Red Cross is in the planning phase for 2023 activities related to climate and environment. Among the plans are several gully clean-ups to reduce flooding. The National Society plans to partner with organizations such as the Caribbean Youth Environment Network, Barbados, to execute these actions.

The Barbados Red Cross is also exploring composting its food waste to provide fertilizer for its kitchen garden. The kitchen garden, in turn, provides raw material for its Meals-on-Wheels programme. The National Society hopes that the composting can be used as a demonstration site for schools and surrounding communities.



## Disasters and crises

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

The Barbados Red Cross was identified as one of the pilot countries in the Caribbean region to participate in the Alert Hub initiative. Alert Hub is part of a global initiative that is supported by USAID and Google, which contributes to the United Nations Early Warning for All initiative. The Alert Hub initiative has developed a tentative workplan with the National Society and planned activities are expected to be implemented within the second half of the year.

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

Barbados will be part of a regional mapping exercise of financial service providers to ascertain if and what companies may be able to service the region in relation to cash and voucher assistance needs. The IFRC will hold meetings on this matter with the Barbados Red Cross, as well as with other National Societies which are no longer eligible for the use of IFRC visa debit cards.

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

In April 2023, the Barbados Red Cross sent a representative to a one-week regional Preparedness for Effective Response facilitator workshop held in Trinidad and Tobago. The purpose of the training was to broaden the understanding of the approach among National Societies and other Movement partners' staff, and to optimize its use along the disaster risk management continuum. Additionally, its purpose was to create a pool of qualified facilitators who would understand the Preparedness for Effective Response Approach, support National Societies in operationalizing it, and guide those who choose to carry out full capacity enhancement from preparations to the implementation of the workplan. The training was attended by National Society representatives from Aruba, Barbados, Belize, France (through the Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean), Grenada, Jamaica, the Netherlands, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

With the support of the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Barbados Red Cross was able to upgrade key aspects of their warehouse including the procurement of shelving, replacement of the warehouse door, and upgradation of the inventory management system. The National Society also received a cache of stock that included solar lamps, tabletop stoves, gender specific hygiene kits and a trolley to assist in the movement of goods in the warehouse.



## Health and wellbeing

In June 2023, the Barbados Red Cross trained a total of eight instructors in psychological first aid. First aid training is a key line of income generation for the National Society.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## National Society Development

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

The Barbados Red Cross continues to support the inclusion and development of youth in the National Society. There is currently one youth representative on the Governing Board of the National Society, and a youth strategy is in place. As of a 2022 baseline survey, the Barbados Red Cross has 15 active youth volunteers.

In February, the Caribbean Youth Network finalized and approved a working terms of reference that will guide their functions; they also elected a new coordinating National Society – the Jamaica Red Cross. Although the then youth representative of the Barbados Red Cross was not present at the time of elections, the National Society has shown support for this sub-regional reactivation of youth and will continue to use this channel for improved engagement and networking, knowledge-sharing, community support, and to advocate for youth-related matters through one unified Caribbean voice. The Barbados Red Cross has since appointed an additional youth representative who will work more closely with his regional peers on this initiative. While it is not a constitutional body of the IFRC, the Caribbean Youth Network will support and be supported by the Global Youth Commission in promoting youth at all levels.

The Barbados Red Cross ensured the participation of their youth delegate at the Inter-American Conference, which took place in the Bahamas from 6-8 June. The delegate, who attended the conference along with the newly elected president of the National Society, also took part in the Youth Encounter which took place for a day and a half prior to the official start of the conference. In this pre-event, youth delegates from across the Americas region came together to build relationships, discuss challenges, gain insights and deeper understanding on youth perspectives, and to chart a course for future actions through its sub-regional networks and the Global Youth Commission.

*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*

The National Society continues to improve on dependency by investing in the expansion of the first aid service, thrift shop and meals-on-wheels programme (profit component). The IFRC provided the National Society with regular business coaching sessions to support the expansion of these services. Action to bolster the first aid business model is on pause as the new board is currently discussing changes within the National Society. Plans are in place to revamp the website to enable it with e-commerce capability to support an online vintage store and facilitate online donations and fundraisers. Thus far, the National Society has held one fundraiser this year in the form of a jumble sale.



## **Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)**




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To better know who the volunteers are, their strengths, skills and experiences, as well as their interests and availability, the National Society invested in the Better Impact volunteer management software to improve its capacity to engage and manage volunteers in a more efficient and fulfilling manner. Since some of the features are still relatively new and unexplored, the relevant focal points will continue to navigate and learn the system, adding to it where possible and passing on knowledge of the system to their volunteers.

In the second half of the year, the National Society will upgrade its website with peer-to-peer support from the Dominica Red Cross Society, through the skills of a young volunteer who has agreed to voluntarily provide this service. Expected improvements include updated and higher quality photographs and graphics, additional details on humanitarian work being carried out, and a channel that allows site visitors to donate to the National Society or pay online for services and products.



## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 581,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 266,000
		Income	 125,000
<b>Participating National Societies</b>		Income	1,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	7
	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response	Applicable data not available
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups	Applicable data not available
	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Applicable data not available
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with shelter support	 6,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	 2,000
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 2,000
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 3,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	102

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (CONT.)

<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	120
	People whose access to education is facilitated through National Society programming	15

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>National Society Development</b>	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Applicable data not available
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Yes
<b>Humanitarian diplomacy</b>	National Society is participating in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Yes

## 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							
British Red Cross	●						
French Red Cross	●						

■ Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

The main focus of the **Belize Red Cross Society** in the first half of 2023 was on strengthening internal policies, strategies, management structures, infrastructure, and systems and procedures. This entailed the further development of volunteers, with particular emphasis on youth, and support to branches for their reactivation after a long closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the reporting period, the National Society conducted renovations on its newly acquired headquarters, for staff to be moved in by July 2023.

The Belize Red Cross has held extensive discussions with the National Emergency Management Organization over a three-month period as it works to strengthen its partnership with the organization. In an effort to build more resilient communities, during the first quarter of the year the National Society provided much needed support to people affected by Hurricane Lisa in 2022.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



#### Climate and environment

The Belize Red Cross participated in the Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (ECO-DRR) in the Caribbean project which resulted in the National Society building its capacity to use nature-based solutions to climate change. It also identified potential non-traditional partners for the National Society to work with. Belize Red Cross is hoping that a new Memorandum of Understanding with the National Emergency Management Organization will result in collaborative work in areas that include nature-based solutions.

*Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises*

Five volunteers and two staff members from three branches (Corozal, Toledo and San Pedro) were trained in ECO-DRR as part of the Mainstreaming ECO-DRR in the Caribbean project. The training has improved their knowledge of using nature-based solutions as an option to build resilience.

Also, under the Mainstreaming ECO-DRR in the Caribbean project, the Belize Red Cross Society assessed the gaps and opportunities in the country's policies, laws and regulations as well as in the country's data. The National Society has produced a road map to guide its ECO-DRR actions with its partners over the next three years. The road map can be used to mobilize resources to implement ECO-DRR and other nature-based solutions activities within the country.

The Belize Green Climate Fund country programme was launched on 10 February, and the Belize Red Cross has developed a concept note that is being reviewed by the Green Climate Fund.



The Belize Red Cross has been steadily working to improve its operational and response capacities. The National Society has contributed to the national disaster risk management landscape through its involvement in the advancement of national and community early warning systems. It has also made strides in contributing to building community resilience through the roll out of its' Community Disaster Response Team programme, micro-mitigation projects and participation in the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) training of trainers workshop.

The Belize Red Cross has engaged in initial discussions on integrating International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) nationally with the government. As the deputy chair of the Regional IDRL Working Group, the Belize Red Cross continues to support the advancement of IDRL in the wider Caribbean context.

### *Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards environmental crises*

The Belize Red Cross was identified as one of the pilot countries in the Caribbean region to participate in the IFRC's Alert Hub initiative. Alert Hub is part of a global initiative that is supported by USAID and Google which contributes to the United Nations Early Warning for All Initiatives. The IFRC Alert Hub initiative aims to protect lives and livelihoods by increasing the use of Common Alerting Protocol and expanding the reach of reliable, fast, and actionable early warning messages to people at risk. In countries that do not have the Common Alerting Protocol, Alert Hub will advocate for its usage or provide support, where needed. In February 2023, the National Society held an initial stakeholder engagement meeting for local partners engaged in early warning systems, to introduce them to the project.

Following this, the National Society organized a Public Awareness Public Education Workshop on 11 and 12 April, facilitated by the IFRC. In attendance at the two-day workshop were representatives from the National Meteorology Service, Belize Coast Guard, Belize Port Authority, a gender specialist, and the City Emergency Management Organization. The objective of the workshop was to develop a set of action-oriented key messages for all hazards across all alert levels, to form core content and a foundation for:

- Public awareness messaging
- Social and behaviour change
- Information, education and communication materials
- Curriculum development for risk reduction to build a culture of safety and resilience

A contextualization package was presented to the Belize Red Cross for dissemination to the participants.

Procurement of an early warning system for the Freetown Sibun community in the Belize district is in progress. The system is a measurement and control data logger that warns communities of fast-rising flood waters so they can evacuate quickly to higher ground. The National Society continues to consult with the IFRC and the vendors in Costa Rica from whom a final quotation was sought and received. The National Hydrology Department will install the system.

Training for community disaster response teams in the community of Freetown Sibun, Belize district, concluded in February 2023. At the graduation ceremony, certificates were presented by the Director General of the Belize Red Cross and the Regional Coordinator of the National Emergency Management Organization. A total of 30 community members attended the ceremony. Following the ceremony, the community disaster response teams were equipped with the necessary tools and equipment to respond during emergencies. They were then presented to the National Emergency Management Organization to strengthen the national response system.

With the support of the Belize Red Cross, the IFRC's Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Reference Centre hosted a webinar in March 2023 on integrating community disaster response teams in the national response system framework. The webinar provided insights on aligning community disaster response teams' preparedness and response activities with the national response system and ways in which these teams can be further developed.

Belize Red Cross sent a representative to a one-week regional workshop held in Guyana on the process of eVCA. The training was attended by colleagues from the Caribbean, including Aruba, Jamaica, Bonaire, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Nevis, St. Kitts, and Dominica. The workshop focused on the use of the roadmap to resilience and all the tools available in the eVCA. The report preparation and action plan were practiced using information gathered from one of the communities in Guyana. These tools included the problem

tree, the solution tree, the resilient star, semi-structured interviews, transect walks, mapping, venn diagram, seasonal calendar, and the historical calendar. The objective of the workshop was to develop and select a cadre of facilitators to present eVCA to other National Societies.

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

The National Society continued support to people affected by Hurricane Lisa in November 2022 through the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF). Areas of intervention included water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, multipurpose cash, shelter and National Society strengthening. The National Society targeted 5,000 people and successfully supported 5,525 people.

The Belize Red Cross is working in the community of Freetown Sibun to provide rescue equipment for saving lives during fast rising water levels. Freetown Sibun is a community that floods very quickly and there are times when children get trapped at school and are forced to walk in deep water to get home or must wait for hours to be transported by boat. The Red Cross purchased four fibreglass canoes that will assist community disaster response teams in their efforts to rescue those marooned by flood waters. The canoes will also be used to assist the local villagers to protect their livestock by taking them to higher ground. The National Society also procured 16 loads of sand and stones that were used to backfill and spread along four miles of entry road to the community in areas that are prone to flooding.

***National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters and their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognized***

The Preparedness for Effective Response Approach (PER) has been implemented throughout the Caribbean region since 2018. In an effort to learn from the experiences of the Red Cross Societies that have been a part of this programme, the IFRC's County Cluster Delegation in Port of Spain has embarked on the development of case studies to capture the experience of National Societies in relation to PER. Having completed its' first PER cycle in 2021, the Belize Red Cross has been included in the case study development.

In April 2023, the National Society sent a representative to a one-week regional PER facilitator workshop held in Trinidad and Tobago. The purpose of the training was to:

- Broaden the understanding of the approach among National Societies and other Movement partners' staff and optimize its use along the disaster risk management continuum.
- Create a pool of qualified facilitators who would understand the PER approach, support National Societies in operationalizing it, and guide those who choose to carry out the full capacity enhancement from the preparations to the implementation of the workplan.

The training arises out of the need to have a cadre of trained persons available for deployment to other regions when there are disasters. The training was attended by representatives from the National Societies of Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Netherlands, and St. Kitts and Nevis, and the French Red Cross' Regional Intervention Platform for the Caribbean and the Americas.

In March 2023, the communications officer from the Country Cluster Delegation in Port of Spain visited Belize to host a series of communications sessions with volunteers and staff. The sessions served as a refresher and lessons learned following a previously held training in September 2022 (On communications, Community Engagement and Accountability, and Protection, Gender and Inclusion) and the subsequent passage of Hurricane Lisa in November 2022. Three sessions were held with approximately 20 people (one in Belize City, one in Corozal and another in San Ignacio). These looked at topics such as communications in emergencies, media relations, Red Cross branding and content gathering. The first session in Belize City also incorporated Community Engagement and Accountability, and Protection, Gender and Inclusion in emergencies. The sessions were organized under the Caribbean prepared initiative, supported by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). A communications plan in emergencies was prepared for the National Society to help provide guidance to staff and volunteers on how to effectively carry out communications before, during and after emergencies.

***National Societies expand their leadership in the field of Disaster Law***

Since September 2022, Belize Red Cross continues to serve as the Deputy Chair of the Regional IDRL Working Group. This working group was established as a joint initiative with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and

IFRC to provide Caribbean-specific perspectives, insights and recommendations for improving the regional regulatory framework for the facilitation and coordination of international disaster relief within the context of comprehensive disaster management.

In May 2023, the working group completed the development of its workplan for 2023-2024 and has begun its implementation under the leadership of the Chair (Civil Defence Commission, Guyana) and the Deputy Chair (Belize Red Cross), with support from the Regional IDRL Working Group secretariat (IFRC/Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency).

The disaster law team continues to engage in preparations for the creation of a virtual exhibition (to be launched in the last quarter of the year) that will showcase the work of National Societies in disaster law and promote the implementation of recommendations to strengthen disaster laws and policies.

In addition, work remains ongoing for the convening of the Second Caribbean IDRL Workshop in November 2023, which will involve discussions between the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, the Regional IDRL Working Group, National Societies and regional stakeholders on the progress made to advance IDRL in the region.

The Belize Red Cross has engaged in initial discussions on developing IDRL in laws and policies with their government. Given the vulnerability of Belize to storms (Hurricane Eta/Iota 2020; Lisa 2022), in 2023 the government indicated its readiness to re-engage in IDRL discussions as a follow-up to workshops initially conducted with government stakeholders prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, the disaster law team will support the Belize Red Cross to conduct IDRL workshops and legislative advocacy trainings in the third and fourth quarters of 2023.



## Health and wellbeing

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*The health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course*

The Belize Red Cross has received a shipment of 339 wheelchairs from the Jesus Christ Church of Latter-day Saints to be distributed to vulnerable persons in Belize living with disabilities and limited mobility. The Belize Red Cross wheelchair programme was launched on 8 May, with training of assessors and technicians by the Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church. Nine volunteers from the Corozal, Toledo, and San Ignacio branches, and two staff members from Belize Red Cross headquarters received the training and were certified. Each participant now has the skills necessary to properly assess persons in need of a wheelchair, and to custom fit and assemble the wheelchair. The training was for one week and ended with two days of clinic, where practice with wheelchair patients was carried out. Twenty members of the community were assessed and received wheelchairs. The participants took the lead on providing the services and the facilitators (from the church) monitored and evaluated their performance. A total of 101 persons received wheelchairs during the months of May and June.

There was a virtual regional meeting for all first aid volunteers in the Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean on 12 June. A total of 12 volunteers and one staff member attended this meeting. Volunteers discussed the challenges they experienced in this field and shared best practices.

On 1 June, the National Society participated in a UNICEF child protective services evaluation, with all stakeholders of United Nations agencies. The aim of this virtual meeting was to determine the minimal level of child protection standards of each organization.

Two volunteers attended psychosocial training by the Pan American Health Organization on 6-7 June. The aim of the training, which focused on road safety, was to train trainers in the region who can commit to training the population of the Belize district in psychosocial support. The goal of the Pan American Health Organization is to spread information on the importance of mental health especially in crisis and disaster response. They hope to train as many citizens as possible to be able to conduct psychological first aid to people affected in the wake of an event.

The National Society's first aid volunteers supported the Roger's Community Group of Belize City by providing first aid services for several of their sport events held during the month.



## Migration and displacement

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The Belize Red Cross identified the following as priorities for 2023 given the emerging challenge of migrants, especially those transitioning to the United States of America:

1. Develop a National Society migration strategy and action plan
2. Develop and operationalize a National Society migration policy

Given the emerging challenge of increasing numbers of migrants from Central America as they traverse Belize to reach the United States of America, in 2021 the Belize Red Cross partnered with the International Organization for Migration to establish an information hub for migrants. This has resulted in the Belize Red Cross recognizing the need to scale-up their work with migrants. The Belize Red Cross is also exploring new partnerships (such as with UNICEF), which will allow the National Society to protect and assist migrant children and host communities. Cash opportunity to work on other programmes is also being explored.



## Values, power and inclusion

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Two staff members and one volunteer of the Belize Red Cross participated in UNICEF's Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH) training, conducted on 26 April. In this interactive training, scenarios were shared and discussed on the appropriate behaviour to honour UNICEF's zero tolerance on sexual exploitation, abuse, and sexual harassment. Partners learned the importance of upholding these values and adhering to the command chain for reporting. UNICEF expressed willingness to conduct a PSEAH session for all volunteers, based on their availability.

As further response to the affected population of Hurricane Lisa, Belize Red Cross continued the distribution of food packages through the financial support of the Inter-American Development Bank. Among the recipients were 18 persons living with diverse abilities. Assistance in identifying these persons was provided by the Human Development Disabilities Desk of the Ministry of Human Development.

On 31 May, the Belize Red Cross partnered with the British army training support unit, Belize and distributed cooked meals to over 120 older persons, persons living with disabilities and the homeless from the neighbourhood of St. Martin's and from the Mental Health Resource Centre.

The Corozal's women's group 3-month sewing project ended on 22 June. This project was planned and carried out by volunteers from the Corozal branch with assistance from volunteers from San Victor. There was a total of 18 participants, 15 of who successfully completed the course that taught the basic concepts of sewing, repairing garments, cutting, and sewing garments and bags. The goal of this project was to impact the socio-economic development of the community's mainly female led homes. The branch plans to make this a permanent project and to expand the course to include an advanced sewing class.

# ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

*The IFRC network has increased its cooperation and coordination with external partners to address major challenges facing communities*

Volunteer coordination mechanism meetings were conducted to bridge existing gaps in skilled corporate volunteers. Three organizations have met with the Belize Red Cross and have agreed to sign Memorandums of Understanding for partnership. These organizations are the Scouts Association of Belize, the Holy Redeemer Credit Union and the University of Belize. These partnerships will ensure better mobilization of the National Society through skill-based volunteers, income generating first aid sessions, and much more. The goal is to continue to have these meetings with different organizations in the community to build better partnerships. An informal understanding between the St. John's College Junior College, Servant Youth Leaders and the National Society was established. The Student Affairs Coordinator offered the assistance of their Servant Youth Leaders for any event where volunteers are required.



## 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*

A series of visits was conducted to the seven branches of the Belize Red Cross. During these visits, the youth and volunteer manager presented Belize Red Cross' 5-year strategic plan, provided orientation to new volunteers, as well as provided key updates of activities and projects implemented by staff at National Society headquarters. Headquarters is currently assisting both branches to identify key volunteers who are capable of contending for and assuming leadership of the branches through election of executive committees.

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

In February, the Caribbean Youth Network finalized and approved a working terms of reference that will guide their functions; they also elected a new coordinating National Society - the Jamaica Red Cross. The Belize Red Cross' youth representative supported this sub-regional reactivation of youth and will continue to use this channel for improved engagement and networking, knowledge-sharing, community support and to advocate for youth-related matters through one unified Caribbean voice. While it is not a constitutional body of the Federation, the Caribbean Youth Network will support and be supported by the Global Youth Commission in promoting youth at all levels.

The Belize Red Cross facilitated the participation of a youth delegate at the Inter-American Conference, which took place in the Bahamas from 6-8 June. Alongside the director general and a branch leader, the youth and volunteer manager actively participated in the plenaries and workshops of the conference. The manager was also engaged in the Youth Encounter, which took place for a day-and-a-half prior to the official start of the conference. At the Youth Encounter, youth delegates from across the Americas region came together to build relationships, discuss challenges, gain insights and deeper understanding on youth perspectives, as well as chart a course for future actions through its sub-regional networks and the Global Youth Commission.

*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*

The National Society has put in place more efficient systems and procedures to increase productivity and information access. Through funding from the digital transformation component of the IFRC's Capacity Building Fund, the National Society has procured financial software (QuickBooks Desktop Software Premier), an office printer and four laptops.

With the aim of improving financial sustainability, the National Society has taken action to increase its income-generation capacity by:

- Purchasing of new, more modern, durable chairs and tables for rental, as well as new kitchen equipment and start-up supplies (groceries, etc.) for reactivation of the snack shop.
- Renovating the snack shop (internal and external painting and repairs) through in-kind support.
- Procuring and retrofitting the new headquarters building with furniture and office equipment, e.g., cabinets, bookshelves, tables, desks, chairs, etc.

The National Society will monitor the income generated from the snack shop and rental business utilizing the network created with the financial software. The expected outcomes arising from the support received from the Capacity Building Fund includes better donor financial and narrative reports and sustainable income through the implementation of planned programmes (snack shop, table/chair rentals). Additionally, the replacement of critical digital equipment (printer, laptops, etc.) allows for greater efficiency and effective work. The networking of the financial software between management and the finance department increases and improves transparency and accountability as well as accuracy in financial management.

The National Society is engaged in an annual audit for March 2021 to February 2022 with the Marion Usher Audit Firm.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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*National Societies develop, with support from the IFRC network, communication and public advocacy resources and guidance to enhance their impact, build public trust, and improve understanding of their role and activities*





At the Inter-American Conference in June 2023, the Belize Red Cross, along with National Societies from Dominica, Guatemala and Costa Rica, participated in a panel discussion on the topic of overcoming challenges in accessing international humanitarian assistance. At this session, the National Societies shared their experiences on the main challenges faced in working with public authorities during emergencies and crises; the key lessons learnt in accessing international humanitarian assistance; and on the successes and benefits to advocating for better legal positioning in disaster-related laws and policies. Some of the key points discussed were in relation to the issues of unsolicited bilateral donations, challenges in obtaining various customs clearances, sharing of information and communication with government agencies, the need for humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy, and the need for a proper legal framework that facilitates IDRL.

Supported by the Belize Red Cross and the disaster law team, the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Belize proposed an amendment to an Organization of American States (OAS) resolution on the human rights crisis in Nicaragua. This resolution was adopted at the OAS General Assembly held in Washington D.C. in June 2023. The amendment sought to highlight concern for the dissolution of the Red Cross in Nicaragua and noted the importance of the Red Cross as an institution in 191 countries and its contribution to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

Belize Red Cross is supporting the initiation of negotiations to sign a Legal Status Agreement between the Government of Belize and the IFRC.




## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 476,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 421,000
		Income	 110,000
<b>Participating National Societies</b>		Funding requirements	 55,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	 9
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Yes
	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups	Applicable data not available
	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Applicable data not available
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 20
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People trained in first aid	 128

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>National Society Development</b>	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Applicable data not available
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Applicable data not available
<b>Accountability and agility</b>	National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Multilateral Support		Bilateral Support			
			Climate	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
National Society						
British Red Cross	●					
French Red Cross					●	
Italian Red Cross				●		●
Netherlands Red Cross	●					

Planned
  Supported

## OVERALL PROGRESS

Significant events impacting the humanitarian and development situation in Dominica continue to be the ongoing recovery from the destruction caused by Hurricane Maria in 2017 which remains a priority, particularly in terms of infrastructure rehabilitation, housing, and community resilience. Additionally, climate change related challenges, including increased frequency of extreme weather events, further emphasize the need for disaster preparedness and response capabilities.

The **Dominica Red Cross Society** has achieved progress across various strategic priorities during the first half of 2023. In response to climate and environmental challenges, the National Society is actively pursuing funding for nature-based solutions to climate change, aligning with Dominica's ambition to become the world's first climate-resilient country. Notably, during January to June 2023, the planting of 20 fruit trees in a wildfire and landslide-prone community showcases tangible adaptation measures which are being undertaken.

The organization's focus on disaster risk reduction and community engagement is evident through achievements such as expanding community disaster response teams (CDRTs) and participating in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society's (IFRC's) Alert Hub project.

In the realm of health and wellbeing, the National Society extended peer-to-peer support to provide neighbouring countries with first aid training, highlighting regional collaboration. The National Society's continued efforts to strengthen network branches, support youth involvement, and establish a solidarity fund for volunteers underline the commitment to local empowerment and volunteer protection.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



#### Climate and environment

*Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises*

The Bahamas Red Cross has updated its youth engagement training curriculum to include beach clean-ups as part of its climate change and environment programme in 2023. Between January and June 2023, the National Society collaborated with The Nature Conservancy to assist several schools with beach clean ups.



#### Disasters and crises

The Dominica Red Cross has made significant strides in the implementation of its workplan under this strategic priority. During the reporting period the National Society focused its efforts on early warning systems, training of CDRTs and National Society branches, as well as contributed to the work of the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles programme (IDRL) regionally. The National Society has also added to its workplan by way of aiming to complete a warehouse space by the end of 2023.

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

The Dominica Red Cross was identified as one of the pilot countries in the Caribbean region to participate in the Alert Hub project. Alert Hub is part of a global IFRC initiative that is supported by USAID and Google, which contributes to the United Nations Early Warning for All initiatives. The IFRC Alert Hub initiative aims to protect lives and livelihoods by increasing the use of the Common Alerting Protocol and expanding the reach of reliable, fast, and actionable early warning messages to people at risk. In countries that do not have Common Alerting Protocol, Alert Hub will advocate for its usage or provide support where needed. In January 2023, the National Society held an initial stakeholder engagement meeting for local partners engaged in early warning systems to introduce them to the project.

Following this, the National Society organized a workshop on Public Awareness Public Education on 8 and 9 March, which was facilitated by the IFRC. In attendance at the two-day workshop were 25 representatives from the Office of Disaster Management, the Disabled Association, the Dominica Meteorological Office, the University of the West Indies, the Seismic Research Centre, and the Ministry of Public Works among others. The objective of the workshop was to develop a set of action-oriented key messages for all hazards across all alert levels, to form core content and a foundation for:

- Public awareness messaging
- Social and behaviour change
- Information, education and communication materials
- Curriculum development for risk reduction to build a culture of safety and resilience

The Dominica Red Cross trained one new CDRT. The community of Bense now has a total of 20 people trained as CDRTs with the capacity to respond and to prepare for any disaster in the community. With support from the Fire Department, the Office of Disaster Management, and others with experience in disaster management, the National Society held a simulation exercise in the community to demonstrate the skills of the CDRT. The closing ceremony was held on 30 March, where the CDRT members were presented to their community and supplies (such as tools, ropes and chainsaws) were donated to the village council. The disaster plan for Bense was completed and copies were presented to the Office of Disaster Management, the Bense Village Council, and the Parliamentary Representative for the community of Bense.

In addition to training a new CDRT, a CDRT refresher training was held in May 2023. Members shared information on their activities in the community while reviewing protocols and preparedness activities for the 2023 Hurricane season.

In the month of May 2023, a meeting was held with the Kalinago council regarding the establishment of a Red Cross group in the Kalinago Territory. Present at the meeting was the Minister of Kalinago Affairs (and members of the ministry's project team), the Kalinago Chief, and the Disaster Coordinator for the Dominica Red Cross. The Kalinago council as well as the Minister are in support of this initiative and have indicated that they will assist the Dominica Red Cross in forming this group.

The National Society has embarked on the erection of signs of hazard-prone areas in the Loubiere community. Through a joint effort with the police force, a walk-through was conducted to ascertain the types of signs that would be needed and where they needed to be placed in the areas identified as hazardous. The design of all the signs was issued by the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force and completed signs have since been collected by the National Society. The expected next step is the preparation of the signs for erection in the community of Loubiere.

The Dominica Red Cross sent two representatives to a one-week regional workshop held in Guyana on the process of Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCA). The training was attended by National Societies from the Caribbean, including Aruba, Jamaica, Bonaire, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Nevis, St. Kitts, and Belize. The workshop focused on the use of the Roadmap to Community Resilience and all the tools available in the eVCA. The report preparation and action plan were practiced using information gathered from one of the communities in Guyana. These tools included the problem tree, the solution tree, the resilient star, semi-structured interviews, transect walks, mapping, venn diagram, seasonal calendar, and the historical calendar. The objective of the training was to develop and select a cadre of facilitators to present eVCA to other National Societies.

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

The Dominica Red Cross has been making progress on the implementation of activities from the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment plan of action. These activities included:

- Financial management training for six of the 10 branches
- Purchase of computers for the branches
- Training in radio communications for La Plaine, Loubiere, Grandfond and Penville branches, along with the implementation of volunteer management software.

Branch orientation training was conducted with all branch leaders in attendance. The training focused on the mandate of the Dominica Red Cross, the symbols of the Red Cross Movement, what is expected of volunteers and who can be a volunteer within the Movement.

The Dominica Red Cross added logistics capacity development to its 2023 workplan. The National Society currently has an unfinished warehouse building, which it aims to complete by the end of 2023.

### ***National Societies expand their leadership in the field of Disaster Law***

Since September 2022, the Dominica Red Cross has continued to serve in the Regional IDRL Working Group, which was established as a joint initiative with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the IFRC to provide Caribbean-specific perspectives, insights, and recommendations for improving the regional regulatory framework for the facilitation and coordination of international disaster relief within the context of comprehensive disaster management.

In May 2023, the Regional IDRL Working Group completed the development of its workplan for 2023-2024; and has begun implementation under the leadership of the Chair (Civil Defense Commission, Guyana) and Deputy Chair (Belize Red Cross Society) with support from the Regional IDRL Working Group secretariat (IFRC/CDEMA).

The disaster law team continues to engage in preparations for the creation of a virtual exhibition (to be launched in the last quarter of 2023) that will showcase the work of National Societies in disaster law and promote the implementation of recommendations to strengthen disaster laws and policies.

In addition, work remains ongoing for the convening of the Second Caribbean IDRL Workshop in November 2023, which will involve discussions among CDEMA and its participating states, the Regional IDRL Working Group, National Societies and regional stakeholders on the progress made to advance IDRL in the region.



## Health and wellbeing

*The health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course*

The National Society conducted instructor training with volunteers to support their first aid expansion strategy. Volunteers were trained in first aid, CPR, basic life support, and in the use of automated external defibrillators.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

*Membership Coordination enhances efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions, and the shift in its mindset towards a Federation-wide approach leads to increased trust within the network*

The Dominican Red Cross became a member of the Caribbean Technical Advisory Group on First Aid on 26 April 2023, along with seven other National Societies. According to its team charter, the working group was created to use the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality, and education. The focus for the Caribbean Technical Advisory Group is on the standardization of a regional first aid curriculum, developed specifically to address the evolving crises of the Caribbean.

The purpose of the advisory group is to provide technical expertise for the development and improvement of the quality of the first aid programme. The Dominica Red Cross is also a co-chair of the advisory group.

The National Society has challenges in raising funds due to limited human resource capacity. To reduce dependency, the National Society has invested in first aid expansion, hall rental, table and chair rentals, advertising wall space and the monthly jumble sale.



## 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 May 2023, a multi-purpose mission was carried out to the Dominica Red Cross by the National Society Development team of the Country Cluster Delegation based in Port of Spain.

The youth and volunteering officer supported the National Society's leaders in strengthening their branches by providing them with tailored training on volunteer management, and facilitating the creation of a volunteer recognition plan since recognition was identified as a priority for the National Society. Field visits to the Delices and La Plaine branches were also conducted during the mission. The La Plaine branch gave a tour of its newly constructed and recently launched branch building, which they achieved through the support of the French Red Cross' Regional Intervention Platform for the Caribbean and the Americas.

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

In February 2023, the Caribbean Youth Network finalized and approved a working terms of reference that will guide their function and elected a new coordinating National Society - the Jamaica Red Cross Society. The Dominica Red Cross' youth representative supported this sub-regional reactivation of youth and will continue to use this channel for improved engagement and networking, knowledge-sharing, community support and to advocate for youth-related matters through one unified Caribbean voice. While it is not a constitutional body of the Federation, the Caribbean Youth Network will support and be supported by the Global Youth Commission in promoting youth at all levels.

The Dominica Red Cross remains the only National Society in the English and Dutch speaking country cluster of the Caribbean to have established a solidarity fund for its volunteers. With the original funding being provided by the Lacoste clothing company in 2021, the solidarity fund mechanism continues to be fed by other means, including by membership fees and local donations as designated by the committee that oversees its usage.

The National Society continues to improve on dependency by investing in the expansion of the first aid service and supporting new initiatives such as the rental business. The IFRC provides regular business coaching sessions to support the expansion of these initiatives. This support includes the recent first aid instructor training, which saw an increase in the first aid services which the National Society provides, thereby increasing unrestricted income that should cover the National Society's core costs.

The National Society is also being supported by the IFRC in their first aid expansion with funding to facilitate salaries, equipment purchase, security enhancement, marketing, and sales. The Beyond Business Service is a pilot of the IFRC. The service aims to reduce workplace risk and save lives by improving National Society commercial first aid training via a phased approach. Phase one of the service will focus on business strategy and service quality. The specific objective for phase one is to enhance the Red Cross' capacity to deliver high-quality first-aid training in workplace safety, thereby building workplace resilience to natural disasters and health emergencies. Indicators of success of the initiative are:

- Client satisfaction with Red Cross services
- Increase in corporate clientele by at least five per cent within the next two years
- Increase in the percentage of core costs covered (15 per cent increase in gross income within five years).

The Dominica Red Cross also received assistance in the development of an integrated approach to financial sustainability which identified specific areas for funding support for improving income generation. Aspects of the plan are as follows:

Phase 1:

- Support the National Society to expand communications with branches via the purchase of radio equipment. Due to the mountainous landscape on the island, communication can be an issue for staff and volunteers traversing the interior.
- Increase the number of tables and chairs the National Society offered for rental to improve income generated from this business activity.
- Complete the website and ecommerce capability, which is currently in process.

Phase 2:

- Develop a resource mobilization strategy and plan along with the improvements in the National Society's digital transformation efforts to support income generation.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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At the Red Cross Inter-American Conference in June 2023, the Dominica Red Cross, along with National Societies from Belize, Guatemala and Costa Rica, participated in a panel discussion on overcoming challenges in accessing international humanitarian assistance. At this session, the National Society shared its experiences on the main challenges faced in working with public authorities during emergencies and crises; the key lessons learnt in accessing international humanitarian assistance; and on the successes and benefits to advocating for better legal positioning in disaster-related laws and policies. Some of the key points discussed were in relation to:

- Issues of unsolicited bilateral donations
- Challenges in obtaining various customs clearances
- Sharing of information
- Communication with government agencies
- The need for humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy
- The need for a proper legal framework that facilitates IDRL

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

Dominica Red Cross is a member of the Technical Working Group on First Aid. The working group was created to leverage the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality, and education.

The purpose of this advisory group is to:

1. Create a team of interested technical experts willing to develop and improve the quality of the first aid programme.
2. Conduct research by monitoring current and global trends, new technologies, new methodologies, and pedagogies in first aid and make recommendations on the development and expansion of first aid in the Caribbean.
3. Explore opportunities to network and build capacity outside of the Caribbean. For example, around exchanges, internships, showcasing the good work of the Caribbean by presenting at forums, and creating shared visibility campaigns for expansion, to attract resources.
4. Mobilize resources for the Caribbean.
5. Create a repository of shared experiences and create lessons learnt to maintain institutional memory.
6. Build and liaise with other aspects in related thematic areas where there are linkages in the Movement.

The team charter was adopted 26 April 2023. The National Society is also a co-chair of the Caribbean Technical Advisory Group on First Aid.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)




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*The IFRC network undergoes a digital transformation*

Through a Digital Engagement Capabilities initiative, the Dominica Red Cross received financial support to improve the National Society's video conferencing capacities at its national headquarters. The team was able to procure a Logitech video conferencing stationary package, a portable web camera, a wireless keyboard, a projector, a television, a monitor, a laptop and accompanying accessories to facilitate the set-up of the equipment. This acquisition will allow the National Society to improve its ability to communicate effectively with its 10 branches and to deliver training internally to its staff and volunteers. Additionally, the Dominica Red Cross can deliver training externally to clients requiring hybrid or online options for first aid content delivery, thereby lending to the agility of its main income generating stream. In May, computers were purchased for the Penville, Layou and Wesley branches to support branch activities.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 922,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 461,000
		Income	 402,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	 110
	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response	Applicable data not available
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups	Applicable data not available
	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Applicable data not available
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 3
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People trained in first aid	 40

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

### National Society Development

All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation

Applicable data not available

### Accountability and agility

National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

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

■ Supported

## OVERALL PROGRESS

The **Grenada Red Cross Society** has had challenges implementing its 2023 workplan, particularly in relation to the availability of human resources to implement the activities highlighted. In a post COVID-19 economy, the National Society continues to launch economic recovery efforts. However, staffing issues remain a challenge. To address this, the IFRC provided support by seconding a Director General to the Grenada Red Cross for six months until September 2023. This will assist the National Society in maintaining strategic alignment and operational momentum given the ongoing limitations.

Despite the limitations, active engagement in the Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (ECO-DRR) in the Caribbean project has primed the National Society for future ECO-DRR undertakings and potential partnerships. Additionally, Grenada will be the target for a new project implemented through the IFRC with support from the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund. This project is set to begin in the second half of 2023.

The Grenada Red Cross has made some progress in the advancement of its 2023 workplan, despite the challenges being experienced. The latter half of 2023 will be geared towards focusing on the implementation of Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification recommendations and implementing community-based activities. Health and wellbeing objectives are being advanced through extensive first aid training and strategic collaborations and will continue to be a key activity for the rest of 2023.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

The Grenada Red Cross participated in the Mainstreaming ECO-DRR in the Caribbean project that formed most of its activities under Strategic Priority 1. Through the project, the National Society was able to plan for future ECO-DRR activities as well as to interact with potential partners. By the end of 2023, the National Society will participate in an ecosystem-based adaptation project that will take place in two of its communities. In addition, the National Society developed a roadmap to mainstream ECO-DRR into its activities. The road map can also be used to mobilize resources and partners.

*Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises*

As part of the ECO-DRR project, the Grenada Red Cross invited volunteers and partners to attend an online training on the topic. Representatives from the Inter-Agency Group of Development Organizations, a potential partner organization, attended the training. One unintended benefit was that the inter-agency group, on learning of the work of the Grenada Red Cross and potential synergies with its own work, expressed interest in working with the National Society.

The ECO-DRR project also saw the National Society develop a roadmap to help it work with partners to integrate ECO-DRR into its operations as well as in national decision-making spaces.



### Disasters and crises

The Grenada Red Cross Society has made some progress in the advancement of their 2023 plan despite delays due to staffing and other issues at the National Society. This hampered progress on the Alert Hub Initiative and the other key activities in their workplan. The latter half of 2023 will be geared towards focusing on the implementation of Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification recommendations and implementing community-based activities.

The Grenada Red Cross sent three representatives to a one-week regional workshop held in Guyana on the process of Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCA). The training was attended by Caribbean National Societies including Aruba, Jamaica, Bonaire, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Grenada, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Nevis, St. Kitts, and Dominica. The workshop focused on the use of the roadmap to community resilience and all the tools available in the eVCA. The report preparation and action plan were practiced using information gathered from one of the communities in Guyana. These tools included the problem tree, the solution tree, the resilient star, semi-structured interviews, transect walks, mapping, venn diagram, seasonal calendar, and the historical calendar. The objective was to develop and select a cadre of facilitators to present eVCA to other National Societies.

*National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters and their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognized*

In April 2023, the Grenada Red Cross sent two representatives to a one-week regional workshop for facilitators on preparedness for effective response, held in Trinidad and Tobago. The purpose of the training was to:

- Broaden the understanding of the approach among National Societies and other Movement partners' staff and optimize its use along the disaster risk management continuum.
- Create a pool of qualified facilitators who would understand the preparedness for effective response approach, support National Societies in making it operational and guide those who choose to carry out the full capacity enhancement from the preparations to the implementation of the workplan.

Trained persons will make up a cadre of National Society members who can be deployed globally when there is a disaster event. The training was attended by representatives of the National Societies of Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Netherlands, St. Kitts and Nevis, and the French Red Cross' Regional Intervention Platform for the Caribbean and the Americas.



## Health and wellbeing

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*The health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course*

The National Society has trained staff and volunteers in first aid, CPR and basic life support. There were some challenges with securing instructors for commercial first aid, but the National Society has been actively recruiting to overcome this.

The Grenada Red Cross teamed up with the Women in Sports division of the Grenada Olympic Committee, to train 17 (5 females and 12 males) coaches and physical education teachers in first aid and CPR in April 2023.

Additionally, in June 2023, the National Society trained 22 persons from the cadet corps (5 females and 17 males) as first responders.



## Values, power and inclusion

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On 28 June, the Grenada Red Cross participated in the 4th Network Meeting of the Global Network for Women Leaders that was held in Mongolia. The representative from the Grenada Red Cross shared with female leaders the experiences from Grenada and discussed issues such as gender, safety, and inclusion.

# ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

*Membership Coordination enhances efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions, and the shift in its mindset towards a Federation-wide approach leads to increased trust within the network*

The Grenada Red Cross became a member and Chair of the Caribbean Technical Advisory Group on First Aid on 26 April 2023. Since 2022, the National Society has been instrumental in rallying first aid colleagues for the development of the technical advisory group. The purpose of the advisory group is to provide technical expertise for the development and improvement of the quality of the first aid programme. According to the group's team charter the working group was created to use the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality, and education. The focus for the advisory group is on the standardization of a regional first aid curriculum, developed specifically for the Caribbean to address the evolving crises of the Caribbean.

The Grenada Red Cross is also an active member of the working groups with the Global First Aid Reference Center Steering Committee.

Domestic fundraising has been slow due to the lack of staff. However, the National Society has set up meetings with key stakeholders to improve in this area. The focus of the Grenada Red Cross is the expansion of commercial first aid, which is being funded as a business service through the IFRC.



## 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*

The National Society continues to improve on dependency by investing in the expansion of the first aid service. IFRC provides regular business coaching sessions to support the expansion of this initiative. This includes terms of reference support for the recruitment of resource mobilization and first aid volunteers.

The National Society is also being supported by the IFRC in their first aid expansion with funding to support salaries and equipment purchase through the Beyond Business service. This pilot service aims to reduce workplace risk and save lives by improving National Society commercial first aid training via a phased approach. Phase one of the service will focus on business strategy and service quality. The specific objective for phase one is to enhance the National Society's capacity to deliver high-quality first-aid training in workplace safety, thereby building workplace resilience to natural disasters and health emergencies. Indicators of success of the initiative are:

- Client satisfaction with Red Cross services
- Increase in corporate clientele by at least five per cent within the next two years
- Increase in the percentage of core costs covered (15 per cent increase in gross income within five years)



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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*National Societies develop, with support from the IFRC network, communication and public advocacy resources and guidance to enhance their impact, build public trust, and improve understanding of their role and activities*

The President of the Grenada Red Cross Society is a member and Chair of the Technical Working Group on First Aid. The working group was created to leverage the collective efforts in first aid training in t/he Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality, and education.

The purpose of this advisory group is to:

1. Create a team of interested technical experts willing to develop and improve the quality of the first aid programme.
2. Conduct research by monitoring current and global trends, new technologies, new methodologies, and pedagogies in first aid and make recommendations on the development and expansion of first aid in the Caribbean.
3. Explore opportunities to network and build capacity outside of the Caribbean, for example, around exchanges, internships, showcasing the good work of the Caribbean by presenting at forums, and creating shared visibility campaigns for expansion, to attract resources.
4. Mobilize resources for the Caribbean.
5. Create a repository of shared experiences and create lessons learned to maintain institutional memory.
6. Build and liaise with other aspects in related thematic areas where there are linkages in the Movement.

The team charter was adopted on 26 April 2023.






## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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The Grenada Red Cross has collaborated with Protonic Solutions Inc., an information and communications Technology agency based in Grenada offering services and solutions primarily in the areas of web, networks, security and multimedia. This company has aided the National Society in installing and setting up Microsoft Office 365 tools as well as creating official email accounts for key positions such as President, Director General, Grenada Team and others. This is a welcome step forward for the National Society and will assist in preventing the loss of critical information and files. Protonic Solutions Inc., through its focal point, has since continued to provide voluntary support to the Grenada Red Cross lending its technological expertise to the development and promotion of local humanitarian work.



## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 238,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 238,000
		Income	 112,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)




## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 21
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People trained in first aid	 371

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>National Society Development</b>	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Applicable data not available
<b>Humanitarian diplomacy</b>	National Society is participating in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Applicable data not available

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support			
		Climate	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
National Society					
British Red Cross					
Japanese Red Cross Society					
Netherlands Red Cross					

 Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

Guyana remains vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods due to its low-lying coastal terrain and settlement patterns close to the sea and rivers. This is exacerbated by the effects of climate change and climate variability, economic challenges and high poverty rates, potential health crises and public health emergencies, migration and displacement issues, social unrest or conflict, food insecurity and other still ongoing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the first half of 2023, the **Guyana Red Cross Society** has been engaged in National Society Development, humanitarian diplomacy and accountability initiatives. These undertakings underscore the National Society's commitment to community resilience and disaster preparedness, with a strong emphasis on collaboration and capacity-building.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



#### Disasters and crises

The Guyana Red Cross has made significant progress in the implementation of its 2023 action plan. This is especially true as it relates to community disaster preparedness and resilience-building activities. The National Society has conducted Community Disaster Response Team training and completed an Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) in a community and has developed community micro-projects. The Guyana Red Cross has upgraded its warehouse and received a cache of stock to help serve communities. There are also plans to expand logistics capabilities through training and the procurement of additional stock in the latter half of 2023.

#### *Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards environmental crises*

The village of Caria Caria was selected as a new community for community disaster response team training, disaster planning and micro-mitigation projects. Over the years, Caria Caria has experienced various occurrences of heavy winds, flooding and erosion, causing small landslides, collapse of houses and fires. The vulnerable and elderly in the population have, at times, been cut off from parts of the village due to poor access across makeshift bridges. The Guyana Red Cross previously worked with this community over eight years ago. The National Society has taken steps to re-establish a community disaster response team group there, which can offer assistance when help is far away. In March 2023, a community engagement meeting was held where the National Society met with representatives of the community to explain project activities and to gain their acceptance of project implementation.

February 2023 saw the completion of the National Society's First Responder Training for both new first responders and volunteers, as well as for senior first responders and volunteers. This training was a priority for the National Society, which recognised the importance of first responders and the support needed by volunteers to undertake this role. The completion of theory and physical exams was done on 18 March, with a total of 21 persons completing the programme - 13 new volunteers and 8 senior volunteers. The National Society's first responder programme is highly active and requires much support from volunteers.

The Guyana Red Cross, in coordination with the regional office of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) conducted a knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) online survey with the trained Community Disaster Response Teams. This was done to assess their level of knowledge, and the linkages between early action response and community early warning systems in high-risk communities. A total of 25 trained Community Disaster Response Team members participated in the online KAP surveys with the use of data collection tools from

the Kobo Toolbox to measure knowledge retention on disaster mitigation, response and early warning systems. The result of the survey will be used to support the establishment of community early warning systems to reduce the impact of hazardous events.

The Lil Bayboo community was selected to benefit from a micro-mitigation project. The community decided on a water pump to pump out flood waters from their farmlands.

With the support of the Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Reference Centre, the Guyana Red Cross hosted a regional eVCA facilitator training in June 2023. The training was attended by three representatives from the National Society and colleagues from the Caribbean, including Aruba, Jamaica, Bonaire, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Nevis, St. Kitts, and Dominica. The workshop focused on the use of the roadmap to community resilience and all the tools available in the eVCA. The report preparation and action plan were practiced, using information gathered from one of the communities in Guyana. These tools included the problem tree, the solution tree, the resilient star, semi-structured interviews, transect walks, mapping, venn diagram, seasonal calendar, and the historical calendar. The objective of the training was to develop and select a cadre of facilitators to present eVCA to other National Societies.

*National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters and their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognized*

The Guyana Red Cross has taken steps to improve its logistics capabilities. The National Society is in the process of updating its warehouse and has thus far renovated the doors, completed the necessary electrical work and repainted the exterior of the building. In addition, it has received a cache of stock comprising hygiene kits, tarpaulins, shelter tool kits, sleeping cots, solar lamps and more. This stock will help the National Society in the deployment of response activities.



## Health and wellbeing

During the months of January to March 2023, the Guyana Red Cross provided first aid training to 371 persons (141 males and 230 females) as part of their income generating activities and health programming.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

*Membership Coordination enhances efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions, and the shift in its mindset towards a Federation-wide approach leads to increased trust within the network*

The Guyana Red Cross, along with seven other National Societies, became a member of the Caribbean Technical Advisory Group on First Aid on 26 April 2023. According to the team charter the working group was created to use the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality, and education. The focus for the advisory group is on the standardization of a regional first aid curriculum, developed specifically for the Caribbean to address the evolving crises of the Caribbean.

The purpose of the advisory group is to provide technical expertise for the development and improvement of the quality of the first aid programme.



## National Society Development

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*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*

The National Society continues to improve on dependency by investing in the expansion of the first aid service. IFRC provides regular business coaching sessions to support the expansion of this initiative. The National Society is also being supported by the IFRC in their first aid expansion with funding to support salaries, equipment purchase, and marketing and sales through the Beyond Business service, which is a pilot of the IFRC.

The service aims to reduce workplace risk and save lives by improving National Society commercial first aid training via a phased approach. Phase one of the service will focus on business strategy and service quality. The specific objective for phase one is to enhance the National Society's capacity to deliver high-quality first-aid training in workplace safety, thereby building workplace resilience to natural disasters and health emergencies.

Indicators of success of the initiative are:

- Client satisfaction with Red Cross services
- Increase in corporate clientele by at least five per cent within the next two years
- Increase in the percentage of core costs covered (15 per cent increase in gross income within five years)



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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*National Societies develop, with support from the IFRC network, communication and public advocacy resources and guidance to enhance their impact, build public trust, and improve understanding of their role and activities*

Guyana Red Cross is a member of the Technical Working Group on First Aid. The working group was created to leverage the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality and education.




The purpose of this advisory group is to:

1. Create a team of interested technical experts willing to develop and improve the quality of the first aid programme.
2. Conduct research by monitoring current and global trends, new technologies, new methodologies, and pedagogies in first aid and make recommendations on the development and expansion of first aid in the Caribbean.
3. Explore opportunities to network and build capacity outside of the Caribbean, for example, around exchanges, internships, showcasing the good work of the Caribbean by presenting at forums, and creating shared visibility campaigns for expansion, to attract resources.
4. Mobilize resources for the Caribbean.
5. Create a repository of shared experiences and create lessons learned to maintain institutional memory.
6. Build and liaise with other aspects in related thematic areas where there are linkages in the Movement.

The team charter was adopted on 26 April 2023.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 804,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 303,000
		Income	 756,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	 222
	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response	Applicable data not available
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups	Applicable data not available
	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Applicable data not available
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with livelihoods support	 250
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 19
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People trained in first aid	 404
<b>Migration and displacement</b>	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	 37
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	 100

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

**Humanitarian diplomacy** National Society is participating in IFRC-led communication campaigns Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Multilateral Support		Bilateral Support				
			Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
National Society							
Japanese Red Cross Society	●						
Netherlands Red Cross	●						

■ Supported

## OVERALL PROGRESS

The **Jamaica Red Cross Society** is being seen as a global champion for climate and environmental sustainability issues, as it continues to take the lead and is a recipient of more donor funding for such programmes.

During the reporting period, the Jamaica Red Cross rolled out trainings and refreshers in more locations across the country, strengthening the resilience of communities against disasters. The National Society continued to support efforts related to the global challenge of displacement of persons; two of its branches provided emergency aid and other forms of relief to migrants.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



#### Climate and environment

The Jamaica Red Cross is participating in several projects that have helped it to achieve the overall climate and environmental goals under Strategy 2030. These include the now-concluded Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (ECO-DRR) in the Caribbean project and the ongoing Resilient Islands by Design and Greening DRR projects. The staff and volunteers continued to use nature-based solutions to climate change as one of the National Society's main ways to reduce disaster risk and increase resilience. During the period under review, the

Jamaica Red Cross was also recognised as the first Global Climate Champion from the Dutch and English-Speaking Caribbean Country Cluster Delegation.

Jamaica Red Cross will also participate in the ecosystem-based adaptation project funded by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund by the end of 2023. The project will build on activities started under the Resilient Islands and Greening DRR projects.

### ***Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises***

As part of the Greening DRR project, the Jamaica Red Cross trained staff, volunteers and community members in disaster risk management focusing on ecosystem-based disaster risk management. The community of Rock River is one of the newer communities that was added to the Greening DRR project. The training was used to build the capacity of community members, staff, and volunteers to mobilize to adapt to climate and environmental crises.

As part of the Mainstreaming ECO-DRR in the Caribbean project, the Jamaica Red Cross completed an assessment of the ECO-DRR data gaps within the national decision-making space. It was determined that even though there are large amounts of information/data on ECO-DRR in the country, they are in silos and not easily accessible or not in useable formats.

During the period under review, the Jamaica Red Cross began the process of being named as a Global Climate Champion. These are National Societies, along with their technical and managerial staff, who have demonstrated the capacity to effect change, not just at the local levels, but at the national, regional, and international levels as well.



## **Disasters and crises**

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The Jamaica Red Cross has made significant progress in implementing activities under its 2023 workplan through steady and consistent work. Advancements have been made in building community resilience through work with Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs), Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) and community-based livelihoods initiatives. The National Society is on track to complete most of its activities by the end of 2023.

The Annotto Bay community started their eVCA process in January 2023. In February 2023, the National Society hosted the eVCA and Nature Navigator Certificate award ceremony at which participants who were trained in the eVCA, and Nature Navigator methodologies were awarded. This included representatives from the IFRC, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, the National Environment and Planning Agency, five Parish Disaster Coordinators from the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, as well as staff and volunteers of the Jamaica Red Cross.

Two Jamaica Red Cross representatives also attended a one-week regional workshop on the process of eVCA held in Guyana. The training was attended by colleagues from the Caribbean, including Aruba, Belize, Bonaire, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Nevis, St. Kitts, and Dominica. The report preparation and action plan were practiced using information gathered from one of the communities in Guyana. These tools included, the problem tree, the solution tree, the resilient star, semi-structured interviews, transect walks, mapping, venn diagram, seasonal calendar, and the historical calendar. The objective of the training was to develop and select a cadre of facilitators to present eVCA to other National Societies.

The training of the Rock River ECO-DRR/CDRT commenced on 17 January, with 19 community members trained in CDRT and disaster risk management. This included information on critical disaster risk management terms and concepts as well as on major hazards impacting the community such as hurricanes, landslides, earthquakes etc. The development of the ECO-DRR/ CDRT in Rock River continued in the community with shelter management and first aid training completed on 23-24 February and 7-8 March respectively. The sessions saw the training and certification of 14 new shelter managers in Rock River (10 females and 4 males) and 19 (17 females and 2 males). Training focused on standard first aid and CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation). This was the first of at least two batches of persons to be trained in first aid. These skills are critical for the DRR teams to fulfil their roles as community first responders for risk reduction, in addition to the environmental stewardship responsibilities to be undertaken by the teams.

The Portland Cottage community is the most advanced with the core group of CDRT members now trained in basic disaster management, fire safety, light search and rescue, mental health and stress management, first aid and CPR. The training will continue and the equipping of the team will follow. The Wheeler Field community was also trained in the above disciplines in April 2023. Equipping of both communities will take place during their respective graduation ceremonies.

The Jamaica Red Cross' Greening DRR team completed the first knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) training session for volunteers, which included introduction to the KAP survey instrument to be used in the Rock River and Woodford communities. This was undertaken on 15 March and saw 16 staff and volunteers being trained in the KAP methodology as the initial assessment and internal pilot of the project survey instrument.

From April–June 2023, 25 existing CDRTs in Jamaica were sampled to measure knowledge retention on disaster mitigation and response, and early warning systems.

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

The Jamaica Red Cross is working on the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf (CCCD) - water management and climate resilient agriculture project. It is a climate resilient strengthening and risk management intervention that aims to minimize drought impacts, build and strengthen climate change resilience, awareness and response capabilities of people with hearing disabilities and the CCCD. The project has three components, the first two of which were completed.

Component 1 has improved the existing water storage capacity at CCCD Knockpatrick campus to enhance crop production of the existing greenhouse under cultivation. The farm had a single black tank with a capacity of approximately 1,500 litres, which was inadequate to serve both crop and livestock production. This phase increased water storage by adding an additional 15,140 litres to the existing storage with the installation of four (3,785 litres) storage tanks. Prior to the project there was low agricultural productivity owing to persistent drought. The lack of irrigation systems for consistent year-round crop growth stymied production and lessened CCCD's capacity to meet its domestic food needs as well as expand agriculture as a social enterprise initiative for sustained income generation.

The Knockpatrick campus had an existing irrigation system that was gas-operated but only served a small section of the farm. To build its resilience as well as to adopt green technology, component 2 upgraded the irrigation system through the installation of a solar powered drip irrigation system. Drip irrigation systems deliver calibrated, scheduled, and consistent water and fertigation for improved and increased crop yields of the existing 20' x 30' greenhouse under cultivation. The installation of the solar powered pump allowed for the introduction of another greenhouse as well as the expansion of cultivation to another 10-15 acres of arable agricultural lands. This project reached 100 persons directly and 150 persons indirectly.

Component 3 will focus on training and implementation of climate smart agriculture technologies among the deaf community served by the Knockpatrick campus and will be funded through this programme.

***National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters and their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognized***

With the support of funding from the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Jamaica Red Cross has made significant progress in advancing its logistics and warehouse capacities at both the headquarters and branch level. At headquarters, there was a comprehensive cleaning of the main warehouse. This involved the clearing of expired items and physical improvements which included the purchase of additional racks for storage, patching of the warehouse roof, recounting of stock, and updating of stock and bin cards. At the branch level, the retrofitting of a container to serve as an emergency storage facility and office/meeting space for the St. Mary Branch was completed. In Trelawny, the land was surveyed, and the needed site development plan was completed for approval by the Trelawny Municipal Corporation (Local authority) for piling the container. Based on this approval, the base for a container was constructed. Branch assessments were also conducted that would form the basis for future improvements at the branch level.

A cache of unconventional stock was also delivered to the Jamaica Red Cross. This included work boots, gloves and hats to ensure that occupational health and safety standards were met for those working in the warehouse. Delivery trollies were also sent to the National Society to support the ease of execution of daily tasks. The cache of stock also

included items such as tabletop stoves, gender-specific hygiene kits, and solar lamps which were in line with the needs of the communities they serve.

In April 2023, Jamaica Red Cross sent a representative to a one-week regional preparedness for effective response facilitator workshop held in Trinidad and Tobago. The purpose of the training was to:

1. Broaden the understanding of the preparedness for effective response approach among staff of the National Societies and other Movement partners, as well as optimize its use along the disaster risk management continuum.
2. Create a pool of qualified facilitators who would understand the approach, support National Societies into making it operational, and guide those who choose to carry out the full capacity enhancement from the preparations to the implementation of the workplan. This comes with the need of being deployed within the Americas Region and abroad. The training was attended by representatives from the National Societies of Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Netherlands, and St Kitts and Nevis, along with the French Red Cross' Regional Intervention Platform for the Caribbean and the Americas.

### *National Societies expand their leadership in the field of Disaster Law*

At the close of 2022, all deliverables for Jamaica under the Resilient Islands project were completed. The following products are being used for continued advocacy and stakeholder engagement:

- Synthesis report: An integrated analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the legal and policy frameworks in DRR and climate change adaptation, with recommendations for generating a clear pathway for improvement, in a way that optimizes the potential for nature-based solutions. The IFRC's checklist on law and DRR was used as a tool of analysis in this report.
- Policy brief: A summary of key findings and recommendations of the synthesis report along with key messages for wide dissemination to policymakers and stakeholders.
- Advocacy strategy and roadmap: A strategy and action plan for advocating to government authorities and communities to incorporate nature-based solutions into their local, national and regional scale decisions and to prioritize and invest in nature-based climate adaptation strategies.
- Communications strategy: An action plan to catalyse key activities under the advocacy strategy and roadmap, with the aim of increasing awareness of climate change adaptation, DRR, and nature-based solutions among government, community members, environmental allies, and other relevant stakeholders. The action plan also calls for advocacy to policymakers for increased consideration and use of nature-based solutions in DRR and climate change adaptation plans, laws, policies, and legislative frameworks.

The disaster law team continues to engage in preparations for the creation of a virtual exhibition (to be launched in the last quarter of the year) that will showcase the work of National Societies in disaster law and promote the implementation of recommendations to strengthen disaster laws and policies.

In addition, work remains ongoing for the convening of the Second Caribbean International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) Workshop in November 2023, which will involve discussions among the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and its participating states, the IDRL working group, National Societies and regional stakeholders on the progress made to advance IDRL in the region.

Through the support of the Capacity Building Initiative project, Phase 5, the disaster law team will support the Jamaica Red Cross in the second half of the year to advocate for a new Red Cross Act that better defines and optimizes its auxiliary role. Actions identified through its advocacy strategy will be implemented and built upon.



## **Health and wellbeing**

The health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course

The Jamaica Red Cross began implementing activities under the Ambulance Capacity Building Fund in 2023. The National Society, in expanding its response mechanism in health and safety, aims to establish locally a first-class fleet

ambulance service for emergency and non-emergency purposes to transport and transfer patients on demand. This service will serve the public through the provision of urgently needed additional ambulance services. The service will save lives and provide quality healthcare, thereby augmenting the government services. Recruitment has begun for the hiring of staff for this service.

The IFRC supported the purchase of automated external defibrillators for first aid and ambulance services through the procurement team of the IFRC Americas regional office. These defibrillators were delivered in Spanish. However, a meeting held with IFRC's regional office rectified the situation. Language adapters were shipped to the National Society to enable the change from Spanish to English.

The IFRC, together with the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society, coordinated training in mental health and psychological first aid. The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross was supported by peer-to-peer training of trainers with the Jamaica Red Cross. The training is expected to add additional first aid services to increase the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross' income-generating capacity. It should also improve the capacity of the organization to support training with volunteers, staff, and the communities. The continued support of the Jamaica Red Cross in psychological first aid is helping to expand first aid services regionally.



## Migration and displacement

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The Jamaica Red Cross has an established programme with migrants, which includes supporting state authorities by providing humanitarian aid when requested. This ranges from providing welfare items as well as shelter for migrants at various Jamaica Red Cross facilities. In addition, the National Society has had a long-standing and successful Restoring Family Links programme. Most recently, there has been an uptick in the migrants from Haiti and to some extent Cuba, which the National Society has had to address.

The increase of Haitian migrants regularly coincides with political and economic unrest as well as disasters in Haiti, such as the 2010 and 2021 earthquakes. Specifically, the Portland and St. Mary branches of the Jamaica Red Cross have had to address the humanitarian needs of migrants. Other requests include the need to support foreign nationals awaiting the results of their refugee applications.

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

Given the evolving crisis in Jamaica, particularly related to the increase of Haitian migrants, it is important that support to the Jamaica Red Cross staff and volunteers is scaled-up in the latter part of 2023. The National Society continues to support the Government of Jamaica in providing humanitarian support to migrants, especially from Haiti. This includes food supplies and other necessities, as well as the management of shelters on behalf of the government. Currently, 37 Haitians (24 men, 5 women, 5 girls, and 3 boys) are being provided humanitarian support by the National Society. It is unclear the duration this support will be required as the migrants await the outcome of their application for asylum. Further, there is the possibility of additional Haitians arriving in 2023.



## Values, power and inclusion

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In the deaf community located in Manchester, the Jamaica Red Cross is working to increase the supply of water for agriculture in the water-scarce community. The National Society, through a grant from the COVID-19 Recovery Project, was able to install solar-powered irrigation systems at the school for the deaf and purchase four large tanks for water storage. When further funding is available, the National Society plans to resurface the two retention ponds on the site and possibly add another.

# ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

*Membership Coordination enhances efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions, and the shift in its mindset towards a Federation-wide approach leads to increased trust within the network*

The Jamaica Red Cross became a member and co-chair of the Caribbean Technical Advisory Group on First Aid on 26 April 2023. Seven other National Societies sit on the advisory group. According to the team charter, the working group was created to use the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality, and education. The focus for the advisory group is on the standardization of a regional first aid curriculum, developed specifically for the Caribbean to address the evolving crises of the Caribbean.

The purpose of the advisory group is to provide technical expertise for the development and improvement of the quality of the first aid programme.



## National Society Development

*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*

In February, the Caribbean Youth Network finalized and approved a working terms of reference which will guide their functions. While the network is not a constitutional body of the Federation, the Caribbean Youth Network will support and be supported by the Global Youth Commission in promoting youth at all levels. The youth representatives elected a new Coordinating National Society- the Jamaica Red Cross. This sub-regional reactivation of Red Cross youths will foster improved youth engagement at various levels, peer-to-peer support and knowledge-sharing, a renewed community focus, and advocacy for youth-related matters through one unified Caribbean voice.

As coordinating National Society, the Jamaica Red Cross, through its representative, will be expected to chair meetings of the network, represent the Caribbean Youth Network in international forums, and provide support to peers to fulfill the objectives of the network and drive youth development across the Caribbean.

The Jamaica Red Cross facilitated the participation of a youth delegate at the Inter-American Conference, which took place in the Bahamas from 6-8 June. Alongside the president and other members of the delegation, the delegate attended in two capacities - first, as the youth delegate of the Jamaica Red Cross and second, as the coordinator of the Caribbean Youth Network. During the conference, the delegate participated as one of the three panelists in a plenary entitled "Inspiration to Mobilize Volunteers". The delegate also engaged in the Youth Encounter which took place for a day and a half prior to the official start of the Conference. At the Youth Encounter, youth delegates from across the Americas region came together to discuss challenges, gain insights and a deeper understanding of youth perspectives, build relationships and chart a course for future actions through its sub-regional networks and the Global Youth Commission.

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

The National Society continues to improve on dependency by investing in the expansion of the first aid service and the ambulance service. IFRC provides regular business coaching sessions to support the expansion of these initiatives. Through support from the IFRC, baseline information on the status of the first aid programme and the number of sales per month were captured. The National Society completed a workplace first aid summary sheet on the financial reports with key performance indicators in first aid. Five years of financial data on first aid was received for additional baseline information. With the current baseline data received on the Jamaica Red Cross' first aid service, the IFRC can now have a better picture of the programme and will be able to better support the National Society in future.

The National Society was supported with the purchase of automated external defibrillators and first aid equipment in support of the first aid expansion strategy. The business plan strategies and marketing information are being updated from the 2021 versions.



## National Society Development

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## Humanitarian diplomacy

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*National Societies develop, with support from the IFRC network, communication and public advocacy resources and guidance to enhance their impact, build public trust, and improve understanding of their role and activities*

At the Red Cross Inter-American Conference in June 2023, the Jamaica Red Cross participated in a panel discussion on "Leveraging our Auxiliary Status with Governments". This session focused on highlighting the importance of the

auxiliary role of National Societies by exploring the experiences and perspectives of National Societies (Costa Rica, Jamaica, Argentina) with their governments. Key points from Jamaica Red Cross' intervention include:

- Jamaica Red Cross has supported its government through its auxiliary role in many different capacities including serving on various national committees related to disaster risk management and health.
- However, due to the passing of the Charities Act in 2013 to regulate the large number of charities, the Jamaica Red Cross has had to conform to this new law, which created unfamiliar constraints. For example, removal of duty-free facilities on imports.
- Jamaica Red Cross was also viewed as an ordinary NGO, rather than having a special auxiliary role status. Considering this, the National Society has been able to find short-term solutions such as receiving assistance from the Ministry of Health and Wellness or the IFRC to receive and clear goods.
- Long-term solutions are also being pursued, for instance revising the Jamaica Red Cross Act to ensure that the National Society can optimize its auxiliary role and benefit from the necessary legal facilities to carry out its mandate.

Jamaica Red Cross is a member and co-chair of the Technical Working Group on First Aid. The working group was created to leverage the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality, and education. The purpose of this advisory group is to:





1. Create a team of interested technical experts willing to develop and improve the quality of the first aid programme.
2. Conduct research by monitoring current and global trends, new technologies, new methodologies, and pedagogies in first aid and make recommendations on the development and expansion of first aid in the Caribbean.
3. Explore opportunities to network and build capacity outside of the Caribbean, for example, around exchanges, internships, showcasing the good work of the Caribbean by presenting at forums, and creating shared visibility campaigns for expansion, to attract resources.
4. Mobilize resources for the Caribbean.
5. Create a repository of shared experiences and create lessons learnt to maintain institutional memory.
6. Build and liaise with other aspects in related thematic areas where there are linkages in the Movement.

The team charter was adopted on 26 April 2023.

# SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 650,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 60,000
		Income	 19,000
<b>Host National Society other funding sources</b>		Funding requirements	 590,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response	Applicable data not available
	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	Applicable data not available
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups	Applicable data not available
	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Applicable data not available
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 2
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	 58

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>National Society Development</b>	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Applicable data not available
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Applicable data not available

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support			
		Climate	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
French Red Cross					Planned
Japanese Red Cross Society	Supported				
Netherlands Red Cross	Supported				
Turkish Red Crescent Society					Planned

Planned
  Supported

## OVERALL PROGRESS

St. Kitts and Nevis continues to be affected by environmental challenges such as extreme weather events which has been a major cause of economic losses and population displacement. In this regard, during the first half of 2023, the **St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** has focused its efforts on the preparedness for effective response process to enhance its capacity to respond to adverse events. Additionally, the National Society has indicated that the current disaster law in the country does not specifically include clear roles and responsibilities of the St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross, given its auxiliary role. The National Society is working on a means of addressing this.

Other areas of focus for the National Society have been enhancing first aid for financial sustainability, improving financial management and assessing its digital needs and readiness.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross continued to build the capacity of its staff, volunteers and stakeholders in nature-based solutions to climate change. The National Society has expressed interest in having a heat awareness day before the end of August 2023 and is seeking opportunities for research on the effects of heat in a small island context.

*Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises*

Staff, volunteers, and stakeholders of the St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross were trained in ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (ECO-DRR). The training emphasised the need to use ecosystem services sustainably to reduce disaster risks and increase resilience.



### Disasters and crises

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

The St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross sent two representatives to a one-week regional workshop on the process of Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCA) held in Guyana. The training was attended by National Societies from the Caribbean, including Aruba, Jamaica, Bonaire, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Nevis, Belize, and Dominica. The workshop focused on the use of the roadmap to community resilience and all the tools available in the eVCA. The report preparation and action plan were practiced using information gathered from one of the communities in Guyana. These tools included the problem tree, the solution tree, the resilient star, semi-structured interviews, transect walks, mapping, venn diagram, seasonal calendar, and the historical calendar. The objective of the training was to develop and select a cadre of facilitators to present eVCA to other National Societies.

*National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters and their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognized*

In April 2023, the National Society sent a representative to a one-week regional preparedness for effective response facilitator workshop held in Trinidad and Tobago. The purpose of the training was to broaden the understanding of the approach among staff of National Societies and other Movement partners and optimise its use along the disaster risk management continuum; create a pool of qualified facilitators who would understand the approach; support National Societies in making it operational; and guide those who choose to carry out the full capacity enhancement from the preparations to the implementation of the workplan. The training arose out of a need to have a cadre of trained persons available for deployment to other regions when there are disasters. The training was attended by National Society representatives from Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Netherlands, St. Kitts and Nevis, and France (through the Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean).

*National Societies expand their leadership in the field of Disaster Law*

The disaster law team continues to engage in preparations for the creation of a virtual exhibition (to be launched in the last quarter of the year) that will showcase the work of National Societies in disaster law and promote the implementation of recommendations to strengthen disaster laws and policies.

In addition, work remains ongoing for the convening of the Second Caribbean Workshop on International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) in November 2023. The workshop will involve discussions among the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and its participating states, the IDRL working group, National Societies and regional stakeholders on the progress made to advance IDRL in the region.

Within the context of the capacity building initiative (Phase 5), the IDRL study conducted for St. Kitts and Nevis will be finalized and published by the last quarter of the year.



## Health and wellbeing

Several support initiatives in health occurred during the first half of 2023. The National Society supported the Yatchman's sailing Easter camp with members of the National Society teaching water safety. Eight youth were trained.

The National Society's Nevis branch also assisted the Department of Youth - Nevis with basic first aid training to 50 participants of Camp Inspire

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

*Membership Coordination enhances efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions, and the shift in its mindset towards a Federation wide approach leads to increased trust within the network*

The St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross became a member and Chair of the Caribbean Technical Advisory Group on First Aid on 26 April 2023. Seven other National Societies sit on the advisory group. According to the team charter, the working group was created to use the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality, and education. The focus for the advisory group is on the standardization of a regional first aid curriculum, developed specifically for the Caribbean to address the evolving crises of the Caribbean.

The purpose of the advisory group is to provide technical expertise for the development and improvement of the quality of the first aid programme.



## National Society Development

*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*

In February, the Caribbean Youth Network finalized and approved a working terms of reference, which will guide their functions, and they elected a new Coordinating National Society - the Jamaica Red Cross. While it is not a constitutional body of the IFRC, the Caribbean Youth Network will support and be supported by the Global Youth Commission in promoting youth at all levels. The St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross' youth representative supported this sub-regional reactivation of youth and will continue to use this channel for improved engagement and networking, knowledge-sharing, community support and to advocate for youth-related matters through one unified Caribbean voice.



*National Societies develop, with support from the IFRC network, communication and public advocacy resources and guidance to enhance their impact, build public trust, and improve understanding of their role and activities*

St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross is a member of the Technical Working Group on First Aid. The working group was created to leverage the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality and education.




The purpose of this working group is to:

1. Create a team of interested technical experts willing to develop and improve the quality of the first aid programme.
2. Conduct research by monitoring current and global trends, new technologies, new methodologies and pedagogies in first aid and make recommendations on the development and expansion of first aid in the Caribbean.
3. Explore opportunities to network and build capacity outside of the Caribbean, for example, around exchanges, internships, showcasing the good work of the Caribbean by presenting at forums, and creating shared visibility campaigns for expansion, to attract resources.
4. Mobilise resources for the Caribbean.
5. Create a repository of shared experiences and create lessons learnt to maintain institutional memory.
6. Build and liaise with other aspects in related thematic areas where there are linkages in the Movement.

The team charter was adopted on 26 April 2023.




## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)



<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 165,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 10,000
		Income	 28,000


[Click here for more financial information](#)

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with livelihoods support	 450
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 450
	People reached with shelter support	 150
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	1

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Multilateral Support		Bilateral Support	
			Climate	Disasters and crises
National Society				
Japanese Red Cross Society				
No bilateral PNS support in Plan ..				

 Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

In 2023, the **St. Lucia Red Cross Society** concluded operations on its International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC's) Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) funded operation for the November 2022 floods. A total of 1,000 people were targeted and reached through the expenditure of 66,000 Swiss francs, which supported affected communities of Corinth, Bois d'orange, Bexon, Assou Canal and Marc.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



#### Disasters and crises

##### *Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards environmental crises*

The St. Lucia Red Cross sent a representative to a one-week regional workshop on the process of Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCA) held in Guyana. The training was attended by National Societies from the Caribbean, including Aruba, Belize, Jamaica, Bonaire, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Nevis, St. Kitts, and Dominica. The workshop focused on the use of the Roadmap to Community Resilience and all the tools available in the eVCA. The report preparation and action plan were practiced using information gathered from one of the communities in Guyana. These tools included, the problem tree, the solution tree, the resilient star, semi-structured interviews, transect walks, mapping, venn diagram, seasonal calendar, and the historical calendar. The objective was to develop and select a cadre of facilitators to present eVCA to other National Societies.

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

The St. Lucia Red Cross provided support through the DREF to respond to persons affected by floods in November 2022. The National Society reached approximately 450 people through interventions focused on shelter and multipurpose cash. This emergency was also supported by the French Red Cross Society, which provided clothing, hygiene kits, and boxes of food to assist with the disaster relief.

##### *National Societies expand their leadership in the field of Disaster Law*

The disaster law team continues to engage in preparations for the creation of a virtual exhibition (to be launched in Q4) that will showcase the work of National Societies in disaster law and promote the implementation of recommendations to strengthen disaster laws and policies. As part of this virtual exhibition, the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) Study conducted for St. Lucia will be finalized and published by the last quarter of the year.

In addition, work remains ongoing for the convening of the Second Caribbean IDRL Workshop in November 2023, which will involve discussions among the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and its participating states, the IDRL Working Group, National Societies and regional stakeholders on the progress made to advance IDRL in the region.







#### Health and wellbeing

During the IFRC-DREF operation, the National Society reported on providing psychosocial support during the assessment phase.

# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES


## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 520,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 260,000
		Income	 98,000
<b>Host National Society other funding sources</b>		Funding requirements	 260,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**Disasters and crises** People reached with disaster risk reduction  39

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>National Society Development</b>	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Applicable data not available
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Applicable data not available
<b>Accountability and agility</b>	National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support			
		Climate	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
American Red Cross	●				
British Red Cross	●				
French Red Cross					●
Netherlands Red Cross	●				
Norwegian Red Cross	●				

Planned
  Supported

## OVERALL PROGRESS

The **St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross Society** places its focus on its strategic direction. Leadership development was identified as critical to this process. Following the completion of the La Soufriere Volcano Emergency Appeal, the National Society has faced challenges with retaining staff. This has affected its work in the first half of 2023.

Having managed compound disasters over the last few years, the National Society is recognized as a leader in supporting fellow National Societies as it relates to volunteering in multi-hazard contexts and strengthening its auxiliary role through building partnerships with key sector agencies.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



#### Climate and environment

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross received 50,000 US dollars (44,615 Swiss francs) to install a roof top solar system. This is targeting an 80 per cent reduction in electricity costs and 100 per cent reduction in carbon production for the National Society headquarters' electricity needs. The savings in electricity costs for 2024 and 2025 will go towards continued actions on climate change and environmental crises.



The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross has made progress in the implementation of their community resilience and preparedness activities through the implementation of Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) trainings and refreshers. However, due to staffing, financial and other issues at the National Society, progress has been slow across other key objectives.

### *Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards environmental crises*

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross sent two representatives to a one-week regional workshop on the process of Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCA) held in Guyana. In preparation, there were a series of compulsory certificate courses that were taken and passed. The training was attended by colleagues from the Caribbean, including Aruba, Belize, Bonaire, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The workshop focused on the use of the roadmap to resilience and all the tools available in the eVCA. The report preparation and action plan were practiced using information gathered from one of the communities in Guyana. These tools included, the problem tree, the solution tree, the resilient star, semi-structured interviews, transect walks, mapping, venn diagram, seasonal calendar and the historical calendar. The objective was to develop and select a cadre of facilitators to present eVCA to other National Societies.

From April to June 2023, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross co-authored a research paper on volunteering in a multi-hazard environment with the Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Reference Centre, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. St. Vincent and the Grenadines is prone to a wide range of natural hazards which include hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, droughts and landslides. In 2021, the National Society and their volunteers were asked to bolster the national disaster management system before and after the eruption of the La Soufriere volcano. Staff and volunteers were placed on the frontline again after the passing of Hurricane Lisa in 2022. Both these responses were needed during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research was undertaken to understand how National Societies can provide national assistance while also ensuring the welfare of their volunteers in a multi-hazard environment. This research took a deeper look at:

- Understanding the perceptions of volunteer safety and how these perceptions can be addressed in a multi-hazard environment
- Understanding the challenges faced by volunteers
- Understanding the actions needed to mitigate the level of burn-out among volunteers in a multi-hazard environment
- Making recommendations on how to sustain volunteer well-being and motivation in a multi-hazard environment
- Recommending how the mobilization of CDRTs can improve

With the support of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross, Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Reference Centre hosted a webinar on Integrating CDRTs in the La Soufriere Volcano Eruption Response in May 2023. The webinar provided an overview of the CDRT structure within the National Framework and the La Soufriere volcano eruption. They shared information on CDRTs assisting with preparedness measures, the role of CDRTs during the La Soufriere response and challenges faced by the National Society. In total, 37 people participated in the webinar.

### *National Societies expand their leadership in the field of Disaster Law*

Since September 2022, the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross continues to serve in the Regional International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Working Group, which was established as a joint initiative with Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to provide Caribbean-specific perspectives, insights and recommendations for improving the regional regulatory framework for the facilitation and coordination of international disaster relief within the context of comprehensive disaster management.

In May 2023, the Regional IDRL Working Group completed the development of its workplan for 2023-2024 and has begun implementation, under the leadership of the Chair (Civil Defence Commission, Guyana) and Deputy Chair (Belize Red Cross Society) with support from the IDRL Working Group Secretariat (IFRC/CDEMA).

The Disaster Law team continues to engage in preparations for the creation of a virtual exhibition, to be launched in the last quarter of 2023, that will showcase the work of National Societies in disaster law and promote the implementation of recommendations to strengthen disaster laws and policies.

In addition, work remains ongoing for the convening of the Second Caribbean IDRL Workshop in November 2023, which will involve discussions among CDEMA and its participating states, the IDRL Working Group, National Societies and regional stakeholders on the progress made to advance IDRL in the region.

In the second half of 2023, the Disaster Law team will support the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross to follow up on discussions with the National Emergency Management Organization on the strengthening of their auxiliary role in the disaster risk management framework. This may include consultations with the National Emergency Management Organization and sensitization on the recommendations of disaster law studies, as well as reviewing advocacy strategies and conducting legislative advocacy trainings, as needed.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



### Strategic and operational coordination

*Membership Coordination enhances efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions, and the shift in its mindset towards a Federation-wide approach leads to increased trust within the network*

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross became a member and Chair of the Caribbean Technical Advisory Group on First Aid on 26 April 2023, along with seven other National Societies. According to the 2023 team charter, the working group was created to use the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality, and education. The focus for technical advisory group is on the standardization of a regional first aid curriculum, developed specifically for the Caribbean to address the evolving crises of the Caribbean.



### National Society Development

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

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross engaged the IFRC for support with a constitutional review, strategic planning, leadership development and induction, financial sustainability and first aid expansion. The National Society changed the Governing Board in 2023 and the newly appointed president and vice president reached out to the IFRC with specific requests for support in the areas of leadership, strategy, and financial sustainability. The main purpose of the mission was to support the Governing Board with the change management process.

The National Society Development team, comprising the Institutional Coordinator and the Technical Lead in Financial Sustainability, carried out the following activities in April 2023:

- Phase 1 – Baseline information and fact finding on the first aid programme
- Phase 2 – Training, simulation and role plays to enhance skills in governance, financial sustainability, resource mobilization, partnerships and relationship development, ideation, innovation and business.
- Board meeting observation with support on changing the organisational structure.

Key output documents developed in support of the president were a job description for the Director General and a revised organisational structure, which was later ratified by the Governing Board.

***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***

In February 2023, the Caribbean Youth Network finalized and approved a working Terms of Reference that will guide their functions. They also elected a new coordinating National Society, the Jamaica Red Cross. The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross youth representative supported this sub-regional invigoration of youth and will continue to use this channel for improved engagement and networking, knowledge-sharing, community support and to advocate for youth-related matters through one unified Caribbean voice. While it is not a constitutional body of the IFRC, the Caribbean Youth Network will support and be supported by the IFRC's Global Youth Commission in promoting youth at all levels.

The National Society continues to improve its financial autonomy by investing in the expansion of first aid services, as well as administration of the Chateaubelier Early Childhood Care Centre. The IFRC provides regular business coaching sessions to support the expansion of these initiatives.

A review of the first aid programme was done to increase funding via the IFRC's Capacity Building Fund. The financial management and capturing of financial data for first aid will need to be improved, coupled with standard operating procedures with a marketing and sales strategy.

In addition, standard operating procedures need to be developed to inform the procedures for client payments, remuneration for staff first aid instructors versus volunteer instructors, and other identified issues. The standard calculation of the unit cost of a first aid training, especially with staff versus volunteer trainers, will need to be developed. It was recommended that the National Society complete a business model canvas on first aid, a budget, break-even point and core costs recovery, and complete an implementation plan for utilizing the Capacity Building Fund.



## **Humanitarian diplomacy**

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***National Societies develop, with support from the IFRC network, communication and public advocacy resources and guidance to enhance their impact, build public trust, and improve understanding of their role and activities***

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross is a member of the Technical Working Group on First Aid. The working group was created to leverage the collective efforts in first aid training in the Caribbean, for optimal income generation through the improvement of standards, quality and education.

The team charter was adopted 26 April 2023. It outlined that the purpose of this advisory group is to:

1. Create a team of interested technical experts willing to develop and improve the quality of the first aid programme.
2. Conduct research by monitoring current and global trends, new technologies, new methodologies and pedagogies in first aid, and to recommend actions to develop and expand first aid in the Caribbean.
3. Explore opportunities to network and build capacity outside of the Caribbean, for example, around exchanges, internships, showcasing the good work of the Caribbean by presenting at forums, and creating shared visibility campaigns for expansion. These could attract financial resources.
4. Mobilize resources for the Caribbean.
5. Create a repository of shared experiences and create lessons learnt to maintain institutional memory.
6. Build and liaise with other aspects in related thematic areas where there are linkages in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



## The IFRC network undergoes a digital transformation



The National Society has prioritized its digital transformation journey by appointing a digital transformation officer to ensure progress on the implementation of the non-profit offer of Microsoft Office 365. This includes access to 10 Microsoft 365 office suite licenses and discounts for any additional licenses required. There were eight staff members, 44 volunteers and 16 CDRTs who attended the first digital transformation awareness session.

Following this initial session, staff and volunteers have been engaged in a series of trainings in the use of each of the ten new Microsoft tools. These trainings have mainly targeted persons belonging to the various volunteer groups in order to build capacity across the country. This initiative is being led by the digital transformation officer, as part of their plan for development.

# SURINAME


## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 92,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 92,000
		Income	55

[Click here for more financial information](#)

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	Applicable data not available
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 2

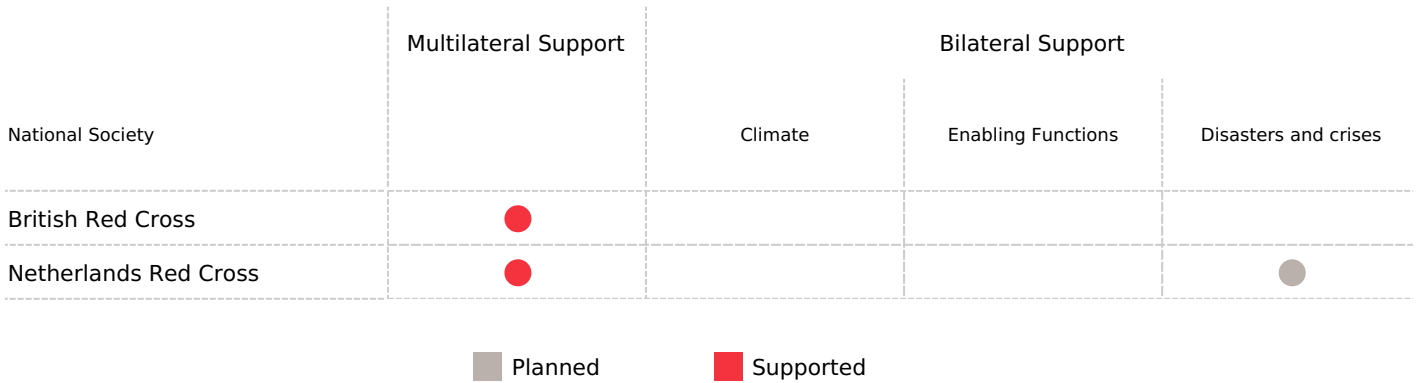
# ENABLING FUNCTIONS

**National Society Development**

Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place

Applicable data not available

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES



# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

In February of 2023, Suriname experienced civil unrest in the capital of Paramaribo including riots, looting, police firing and arrests. All as a result of the people’s dissatisfaction with the austerity policies put forward by the government. International organizations such as the United Nations as well as member states of the Caribbean community intervened to ensure that dialogue with relevant stakeholders at the national level took place. The country is currently stable and the government remains in control.

Planning discussions with the **Suriname Red Cross Society** have taken a positive turn as the National Society has expressed a wish to continue work in the areas of climate, disaster and health, using a community approach. The National Society also indicated a need to focus on volunteers at the centre of development as well as financial sustainability.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

The Suriname Red Cross is working with partner organisations to increase the capacity of communities affected by extreme hydrometeorological events to adapt and cope with increasing frequency of events. The National Society is planning for awareness-building on extreme weather events with affected communities in the second half of 2023.

*Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises*

Suriname Red Cross is working with the UNDP on a project funded by the European Union to build resilience to climate change in coastal communities in western Suriname. The communities are alternately affected by droughts and flooding. The National Society is increasing community capacity to withstand weather-related events, including through training in Community Disaster/Emergency Response Teams. They are also developing and distributing awareness material on flood and drought awareness. The Suriname Red Cross plans to host three community fairs to share information on adapting and responding to floods and drought before the end of 2023.



### Disasters and crises

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

The Suriname Red Cross sent two representatives to a one-week regional workshop on the process of Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCA) held in Guyana. In preparation, there were a series of compulsory certificate courses that were taken and passed. The training was attended by colleagues from the Caribbean, including Aruba, Belize, Bonaire, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. The workshop focused on the use of the roadmap to resilience and all the tools available in the eVCA. The report preparation and action plan were practiced using information gathered from one of the communities in Guyana. These tools included, the problem tree, the solution tree, the resilient star, semi-structured interviews, transect walks, mapping, venn diagram, seasonal calendar and the historical calendar. The objective was to develop and select a cadre of facilitators to present eVCA to other National Societies.

# ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## National Society Development

*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*

In February 2023, the Caribbean Youth Network finalized and approved a working Terms of Reference which will guide their functions. They also elected a new coordinating National Society, the Jamaica Red Cross. The move to reactivate and revitalize Caribbean youth was championed by the then youth representative of the Suriname Red Cross, which served as coordinating National Society until the elections. This channel will be used for improved engagement and networking, knowledge-sharing, community support and to advocate for youth-related matters through one unified Caribbean voice. While it is not a constitutional body of the IFRC, the Caribbean Youth Network will support and be supported by the IFRC's Global Youth Commission in promoting youth at all levels.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

*The IFRC network is using innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate, adapt to and change for complex challenges and opportunities*





In 2021, a youth team from the Suriname Red Cross applied and was accepted into the Solferino Academy's Limitless programme, which focused on the COVID-19 pandemic and innovative solutions to challenges raised during this difficult period. This team of young innovators designed an initiative called The Blueprint Project, which bridged the digital divide by bringing access to online education in farming and culinary arts to students with limited or no access to regular online schooling.

In an effort to foster a culture of innovation, the innovation team at the Reference Centre for Disaster Preparedness established an innovation network in the Americas, which is still in its development stages but gaining traction and attention through the region. This network meets every two months to share stories, inspire innovation, and keep abreast of tools and resources that support innovation. In February 2023, the Suriname team was invited to join one of these network sessions to share their experiences with the Limitless programme and updates on The Blueprint Project, in order to motivate their peers.

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO







## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 1.9M
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 609,000
		Income	 5.5M
<b>Host National Society other funding sources</b>		Funding requirements	 1.2M

[Click here for more financial information](#)

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	 19
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 1,000
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 40
	People reached with livelihoods support	 10
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 80
<b>Migration and displacement</b>	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	 561

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>National Society Development</b>	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
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## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support				
		Climate	Migration and displacement	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
French Red Cross	●					
Japanese Red Cross Society	●					
Netherlands Red Cross	●					
Swedish Red Cross	●					

■ Supported

## OVERALL PROGRESS

### Context

The **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** has been dealing with varied socio-political and economic challenges over the year. The COVID-19 pandemic, although over, continues to impact the country influencing the humanitarian and developmental situation. Lockdowns and restrictions have led to increased vulnerability among marginalized communities. Additionally, the nation faces heightened environmental concerns, with a rise in climate-related events, including hurricanes and floods. As a result, the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society continues to enhance its disaster preparedness and response efforts, focusing on community resilience and capacity-building.

### Key achievements

During the first half of 2023, there were significant achievements. The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross played a pivotal role in climate adaptation activities, conducting a comprehensive assessment challenges to integrating ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (ECO-DRR), leading to the formulation of nature-based solution policies.

There was also progress towards building community resilience through initiatives like Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), Public Awareness and Public Education, and Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) training. Challenges arose in securing local buy-in for CAP compliance. While aiming to build disaster response capacity, the National Society actively engaged in flood preparedness and response activities. This period also saw Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, enhancement of storage facilities and advancing regional logistics strategies.

The National Society concluded operations under the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC's) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for the floods that affected the country in November 2022. Seven communities impacted along the east-west corridor of Trinidad were targeted, reaching a total of 1,250 people.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross developed an environmental programme in 2021, but has not started to implement it. The National Society is focusing on building its capacity to integrate climate change and environmental sustainability into its activities. There are plans to begin applying for the Green Fund of Trinidad and Tobago by the end of 2023, and complete the application by the end of 2024. The fund has the potential to cover most of Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross' environmental programme for the next five years.

In addition, the National Society launched its climate-smart agriculture programme in Tobago in February 2023. A hydroponic system is a demonstration of agriculture that requires less water than traditional methods. This is especially important as Signal Hill, where the project is located, is frequently subject to water restrictions. A total of 10 youth and adults from surrounding schools and communities participate in the pilot project. The produce is either given away or sold for funds to reinvest in the project.

*Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises*

As part of the Mainstreaming ECO-DRR in the Caribbean project, the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, with the support of the IFRC's International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) team, assessed gaps in policies, regulations, etc., that must be addressed for ECO-DRR to be integrated into environmental decision-making in the country. The National Society also assessed the ECO-DRR data gaps in the national space and developed a nature-based solutions policy for its own integration of nature-based solutions and ECO-DRR.



### Disasters and crises

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross has made significant progress in implementing activities under the 2023 workplan through steady and consistent work. Advancements have been made in building community resilience through their work with CDRTs, Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCA), and community-based livelihoods initiatives. They are on track to complete most of their activities by the end of 2023.

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

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross was one of the pilot countries under the Alert Hub Initiative. The National Society was keen on attending the CAP workshop and using that information to contextualize local hazard messages to be CAP compliant. However, there was little buy-in from the local National Disaster Office. This significantly hampered the process of this initiative, as the National Disaster Office is a major stakeholder in the process and a key participant in ensuring its success.

In March 2023, the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society conducted a CERT training in the Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo Regional Corporation, where 40 community members from across the region took part. The four-day theoretical and practical skills training culminated in a full-scale simulation exercise on 13 May.

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross sent a representative to a one-week regional workshop on eVCA held in Guyana. In preparation, there were a series of compulsory certificate courses that were taken and passed. The training was

attended by colleagues from the Caribbean, including Aruba, Belize, Bonaire, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname. The workshop focused on the use of the roadmap to resilience and all the tools available in the eVCA. The report preparation and action plan were practiced using information gathered from one of the communities in Guyana. These tools included, the problem tree, the solution tree, the resilient star, semi-structured interviews, transect walks, mapping, venn diagram, seasonal calendar and the historical calendar. The objective was to develop and select a cadre of facilitators to present eVCA to other National Societies.

Community flood marking activities in Sangre Grande were supported by the World Meteorological Organization.

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

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross effectively provided support through the DREF to respond to people affected by flood rains in November 2022. For the first half of 2023, the National Society targeted and successfully supported 1,250 people through interventions focused on shelter, multipurpose cash, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and National Society strengthening. The total DREF allocation was CHF 133,688.

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross launched their climate smart livelihoods micro-project with the development of a hydroponics system. The micro-project aims to develop and foster a climate-smart sustainable livelihoods programme and has two main components:

- Investment in resources to develop a hydroponics system at the Tobago branch of the National Society - This effectively expands on the current hydroponics demonstration site established in 2020, as well as utilizes sustainable climate sensitive approaches to traditional farming in the available land space surrounding the branch.
- Creation of an environment of learning to build a culture of change for youth to see farming as a viable career and educate persons on hydroponics systems - This includes training for both youth and adults in hydroponics, small-scale entrepreneurship guidance and information on downscaling for home use.

An introductory session on hydroponic systems was completed on 2 February, with seven participants in attendance. The various types of systems, including the system based at the Tobago branch, were explored. On 9 February, a practical training session was completed with eight participants, and they were advised on how to plant seedlings in the system. On 10 February 2023, a hydroponics expert returned to explain the process through which chemicals should be measured, mixed, and then fed to the system. By 16 February, 375 seedlings were planted, for a total of 764 plants planted across a two-week period. Overall, 10 youth participate in the project.

Additionally, this micro-project focuses on the physical security of the Tobago branch property, specifically the perimeter fence. The completed hydroponic system is a sizeable and costly piece of infrastructure, and physical security to protect the new assets protects the crops being planted.

***National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters and their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognized***

With support from the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross made significant progress in advancing their logistics and warehouse capacities. At the Tobago branch, the National Society was able to seal and tar the roof of their existing storage facility as well as erect a fence to secure the property. At National Society headquarters in Trinidad, there is space to construct a 40 foot by 60 foot structure, which will almost double the current storage space that is made of metal containers. In the long-term, maintenance of a brick-and-mortar structure is easier than the current steel containers that are 20 years old. A contractor to complete the structure has been retained, and construction has started. The construction of this building will also support the advancement of the regional logistics strategy in which Trinidad and Tobago is named a sub-regional focal point for the deployment of goods during an emergency.

***National Societies expand their leadership in the field of Disaster Law***

The disaster law team continues to engage in preparations for the creation of a virtual exhibition, to be launched in the last quarter of 2023, that will showcase the work of National Societies in disaster law and promote the implementation of recommendations to strengthen disaster laws and policies.

In addition, work remains ongoing for the convening of the second Caribbean IDRL workshop in November 2023 which will involve discussions among the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and its participating states, the IDRL working group, National Societies and regional stakeholders on the progress made to advance IDRL in the region.

In March 2023, the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross, with support from the disaster law team, completed comments and recommendations to the draft comprehensive disaster management policy. This was submitted to the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management, which sought additional research to support recommendations that would allow for the National Society to have its auxiliary role more clearly outlined in the new comprehensive disaster management policy and legislation. This research will be submitted to the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management during the third quarter of the year.

The disaster law team is also working to mobilize funding (through the Japanese Red Cross) to support the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management. This is to complete the comprehensive disaster management legislative and policy review process. Specifically, the funding would support the carrying out of stakeholder consultations.



## Health and wellbeing

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*Communities have increased access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services*

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross provides primary health care to the most vulnerable through its Henry Dunant Clinic in a welcoming and friendly environment, with volunteer doctors and nurses supported by English and Spanish translators and Red Cross staff. The clinic has two locations, Port of Spain and Tobago.

In addition, since the pandemic, the National Society offers bilingual (English/Spanish) mental health and psychosocial support services, especially targeting the migrant population and the most vulnerable.

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, as an auxiliary to the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, was asked to facilitate a WASH promotion education session for the inmate population of Trinidad prisons. Approximately 80 inmates from across seven prisons in Trinidad participated in three-hour sessions. As a vulnerable population, who do not have control of their environment, the National Society approached addressing WASH challenges by identifying key information through a survey that was sent to the prisons administration. The survey indicated the access prisoners have to essential WASH services such as potable water, hygiene supplies, sanitation facilities and safe disposal of waste. This information allowed the National Society to craft a special training to address the unique gaps faced by male prisoners compared to female prisoners.



## Migration and displacement

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

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross has scaled up its work with vulnerable communities through various multipurpose cash programmes, including most recently the following:

- A programme for teens: This is an initiative of the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross and UNICEF, which provides cash grants to migrant households with students enrolled in the Dawere online learning platform.
- Unaccompanied and separated children: Aid is given to children who are not recognised as adults by law, but are still deemed fit to live on their own as they may not be accompanied by parents or legal guardians.

Multi-purpose cash grants were issued to 187 migrant households in Trinidad and Tobago as part of a programme funded by UNICEF. Of these, 177 households were migrant families who had children enrolled in the online education programme Dawere, which is the only option migrant children have in Trinidad and Tobago to access secondary school education.

The multi-purpose cash was used to support families with meeting basic needs such as food, rent, and utilities to reduce the burden on households and ensure that children were able to attend their online school. The 10 other households are considered child-headed households or households with unaccompanied and separated children. The National Society's partnership with the Alternate Care Programme, which comprises stakeholders such as the Children's Authority and UNICEF, allows the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross to provide this cash support to these unaccompanied and separated children to meet their basic needs.

The National Society engaged in capacity development through participation in the annual Americas Caribbean Restoring Family Links Network meeting and virtual dialogue in May 2023.

In summary, the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross identified that the principal needs for migrant communities are communication, food security, multipurpose cash, integration, protection, education access, access to medical and psychosocial health services, livelihood opportunities and shelter. The goal of the National Society's migration programme is to reduce the vulnerability of the migrant population in Trinidad and Tobago while creating opportunities for self-sufficiency.

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS



### Strategic and operational coordination

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross enjoys good relationships with national authorities, especially with Ministry of Health, and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM). For instance, the National Society continues to train CERT for the ODPM, and will organize the first ever National CERT simulation exercises in July 2023.

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross has been successful in securing funding from external international partners based in the country, such as the European Union and the Inter-American Development Bank. The National Society has built partnerships with UNICEF as well as the United National Development Programme (UNDP).



### National Society Development

*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*

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross ensured the participation of a youth delegate at the IFRC Inter-American Conference, which took place in the Bahamas from 6 to 8 June 2023. Accompanying the National Society president, the youth delegate attended sessions and participated in the Youth Encounter, which took place for a day-and-a-half prior to the official start of the conference. In this pre-event, youth delegates from across the Americas region came together to build relationships, discuss challenges, gain insights and deeper understanding on youth perspectives, and chart a course for future actions through its sub-regional networks and the IFRC Global Youth Commission. A total of 18 delegates attended from the Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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At the IFRC Inter-American Conference in June 2023, the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross, supported by the disaster law team, facilitated a panel discussion on “Leveraging our Auxiliary Status with Governments”. This session focused on highlighting the importance of the auxiliary role of National Societies by exploring the experiences and perspectives of three National Societies working with their governments (Argentine Red Cross, Costa Rican Red Cross and Jamaica Red Cross). This session was well received by participants, who benefited from the good experiences of the National Societies in advocating for a new Red Cross Law, and overcoming challenges regarding the recognition of their auxiliary role status.



**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.

## 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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### Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross

**W** [www.facebook.com/ab.redcross/](https://www.facebook.com/ab.redcross/)

### Bahamas Red Cross

**W** [bahamasredcross.org/](https://bahamasredcross.org/)

### Barbados Red Cross

**W** [www.barbadosredcross.com/](https://www.barbadosredcross.com/)

### Belize Red Cross

**W** [www.facebook.com/BelizeRedCrossSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeRedCrossSociety/)

### Dominica Red Cross

**W** [www.ifrc.org/national-societies-directory/  
dominica-red-cross-society](https://www.ifrc.org/national-societies-directory/dominica-red-cross-society)

### Grenada Red Cross

**W** [grenadaredcross.gd/](https://grenadaredcross.gd/)

### Guyana Red Cross

**W** [guyanaredcross.org.gy/](https://guyanaredcross.org.gy/)

### Jamaica Red Cross

**W** [www.jamaicaredcross.org/](https://www.jamaicaredcross.org/)

### Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross

**W** [www.facebook.com/sknrcs/](https://www.facebook.com/sknrcs/)

### Saint Lucia Red Cross

**W** [www.saintluciarredcross.org/](https://www.saintluciarredcross.org/)

### Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross

**W** [www.redcross.vc/](https://www.redcross.vc/)

### Suriname Red Cross

**W** [www.ifrc.org/national-societies-directory/  
suriname-red-cross](https://www.ifrc.org/national-societies-directory/suriname-red-cross)

### Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross

**W** [www.ttrcs.org/](https://www.ttrcs.org/)

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