



# VENEZUELA

2024 IFRC network country plan

20 March 2024

Funding Requirement **CHF 9.4M**

In support of the Venezuelan Red Cross Society



**24**

National Society branches



**1,400**

National Society staff



**4,448**

National Society volunteers

## People to be reached



**4,000**

Climate and environment



**15,000**

Disasters and crises



**30,000**

Health and wellbeing



**5,000**

Migration and displacement



**3,000**

Values, power and inclusion

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Longer term needs

- Health
- livelihoods
- disaster risk reduction

### Capacity development

- governance • communication
- planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting
- resource mobilization

## Key country data

Population

**28.3M**

INFORM Severity rating

**very high**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

**medium**

Human Development Index rank

**120**

## Hazards



Rains



Floods



Landslides



Earthquakes



Migration



Economic hardship

## Funding requirements

**Total 9.4M** CHF

Through the IFRC

**8.5M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **900,000** CHF

### IFRC Breakdown

#### Longer term needs

**150,000** CHF

Climate and environment

**1M** CHF

Disasters and crises

**5M** CHF

Health and wellbeing

**800,000** CHF

Migration and displacement

**250,000** CHF

Values, power and inclusion

**1.3M** CHF

Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

Argentine Red Cross\*

British Red Cross\*

German Red Cross

The Netherlands Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross\*

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross\*

*\*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.*

## IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAAVE003**

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Venezuelan Red Cross** has been fulfilling its humanitarian mandate in Venezuela since its establishment by ministerial resolution in 1895 and joined the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) at its foundation in 1919. The National Society is the largest private health network in Venezuela, operating eight hospitals, 26 outpatient clinics and 11 comprehensive medical centres. In addition to running the largest non-state health system in Venezuela, the Venezuelan Red Cross plays a crucial role in the communities it serves, providing the first response during disasters and crises, and assisting in community resilience building.

In emergencies, the National Society in Venezuela provides first aid, ambulance services, primary health care, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, relief and helps restore family links. To improve community resilience, the National Society works with local communities to design and implement participatory resilience actions across several key areas such as food security and livelihoods, community-based disaster risk reduction, community-based health, and water, sanitation and hygiene. As an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, the Venezuelan Red Cross coordinates its activities with different state bodies while maintaining respect for the Red Cross Red Crescent's fundamental principles.

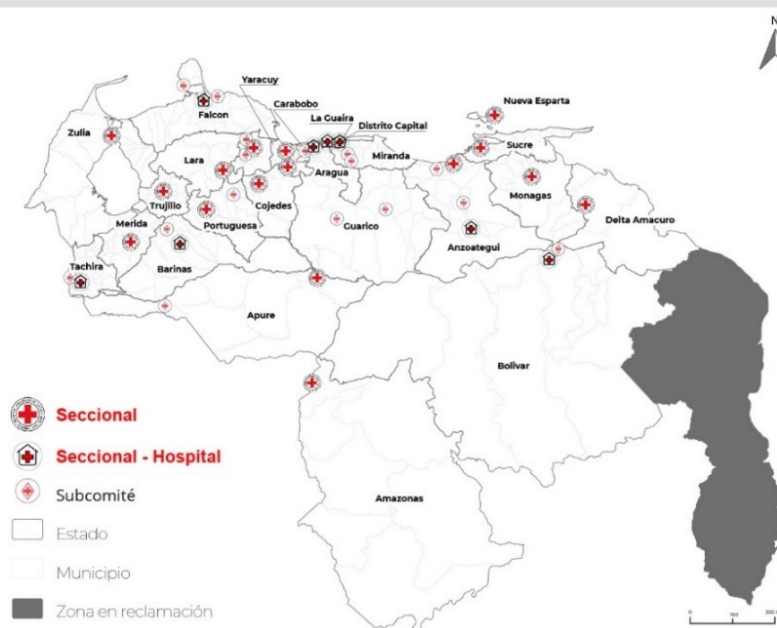
The Venezuelan Red Cross [Strategic Plan 2021–2026](#) identifies four strategic objectives, along with other priorities related to its development:

- Strengthen people's capacity to anticipate, overcome and overcome crises and recover quickly from them
- Contribute to healthy and safe living conditions for people, with dignity and a chance to thrive
- Mobilizing people for inclusive and peaceful communities
- Promoting a culture of non-violence, peace, and social inclusion

Since August 2023, the Venezuelan Red Cross has been undergoing a process of transition and restructuring at all levels which involves a thorough review of its different areas of action. In this connection, an Ad-Hoc Restructuring Board has been identified to carry out four lines of action prioritizing:

1. Integrity and protection of volunteers
2. Revision of legal framework
3. Sustainability of programmes and operations
4. Renewal and legitimisation of authorities and leadership

## Presencia de CRV en el territorio nacional



\*\*Las mapas utilizados no implican la expresión de ninguna opinión por parte de la Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja o las Sociedades Nacionales sobre las condiciones políticas de un territorio o de sus autoridades. Fuentes: Plan estratégico nacional (PEN), CRV 2021-2026, UNODHA, IFRC.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Venezuela is currently going through a complex multi-sectoral crisis that has worsened over the years with a recorded drop of more than 75% in the Gross Domestic Product. The Venezuelan population is facing a series of challenges, among which are the lack of access to basic services such as electricity, water, transportation, education, health, as well as a deterioration in livelihoods due to economic and social aggravation.

Hyperinflation between 2018-2021 in addition to the persistent high inflation since then has reduced household incomes, savings, and purchasing power. In September 2023, inflation was 158%. Over three-quarters of the population is estimated to live in multi-dimensional poverty, and the dollarization of the Venezuelan economy further widened the inequality gap. Despite efforts to curb price increases, high inflation as well as a 25% increase in dollar prices impact the most vulnerable population who do not have access to foreign currency.

The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are still present in the country, especially in the health system, as hospitals

lack medicines, medical equipment, qualified personnel, and adequate infrastructure to provide specialized services. In addition, the lack of access to safe water has increased water and sanitation needs. In many cases, the population resorts to other means to obtain water, which is often costly and does not guarantee quality and compliance with the parameters for safe water.

Migration has been the prevailing strategy to cope with the multi-dimensional crisis, initiating the exodus of more than seven million Venezuelans worldwide. Among the most vulnerable populations are people living in poverty, children, pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities, and the elderly, who are considered “left behind” as a result of the exodus.

Depending on the evolving economic situation in Venezuela and the financial panorama in neighbouring countries, there is a possibility of return migration, generating additional humanitarian needs. The needs at the country level have continued to increase, leading humanitarian actors to shift from an emergency approach to a longer-term resilience approach.



*Volunteers assist with dental services, general medicine, internal medicine, dentistry, gynecology, pediatrics, psychology, and medicine in a quite rural area with little means of transport in January 2023 (Photo: Venezuela Red Cross)*



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

The diverse and varied geography of Venezuela means that it is exposed to a broad array of hydrometeorological and environmental hazards. These are directly exacerbated by the impacts of climate change across the country, with increased and more severe weather-related events. Heavy rainfall typically occurs during the May to November rainy season. In 2022, exceptional levels were experienced, and by December, the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology had reported that 44 out of 51 tropical waves which formed in the region, passed through Venezuela. Several reservoirs were at risk of overflowing and contamination, and the rains and floods caused affectations in the agricultural sector.

Coastal communities along Venezuela's 2,800 kilometres of coastline are vulnerable to maritime and riverine floods, as well as the El Niño and La Niña Southern Oscillation and sea level rise. Meanwhile, the population, especially in the Andes and the centre of the country, faces the risks associated with rains, floods, landslides, droughts, and damage to homes every year. Venezuela's share of the Amazon rainforest, lakes, and coastline, constituting a rich biodiverse environment, has been impacted by increasing levels of pollution and degradation in recent years.

According to the draft of the second Academic Report on Climate Change, it is expected that the increase in temperatures will have a direct effect on the country's water resources, as well as a direct impact on health levels. The lack of policies at the national level focused on reducing the impact of climate change aggravates the conditions of vulnerability that the population already faces and puts at risk the areas that should be protected.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Venezuelan Red Cross seeks to integrate climate and environmental risk management into all its programmes and operations. It will prioritize the inclusion of climate change adaptation considerations in the training of communities and educational brigades, through the National Society's different actions at the community level. The actions will be led by the Venezuelan Red Cross youth programme.

Training staff and volunteers on climate change as a cross-cutting theme across all activities will also be a priority for the National Society, including the generalities of global

and local frameworks, such as IFRC Strategy 2030, the Sendai Framework, sustainable development goals and the Paris Agreement.

The Venezuelan Red Cross also aims to focus on climate change adaptation and environmental protection in a new disaster risk reduction strategy.

The Venezuelan Red Cross' multi-year objectives include:

- Inculcating the knowledge, capacity, and resources of the staff and volunteers to serve as agents of change in the face of climate change and environmental degradation
- Ensuring local communities have a greater avenue in and ownership of programmes to contribute their views, knowledge, and ideas to address climate change
- Mobilizing urgent action to address the climate and environmental crises
- Promoting more sustainable environmental practices in communities and the National Society, through the support of committed and trained volunteers, youth, and senior managers

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Raise communities' awareness of climate change adaptation and climate-smart disaster risk reduction through participatory methodologies and diagnostic tools
  - Include adaptation to climate change as a theme within communities and educational brigade training
  - Adopt the youth programme in different programs and branches of the National Society as a means to promote action to adapt to climate change
  - Promote environmentally sustainable practices in communities
  - Create a toolbox for environmentally sustainable practices for the activities carried out internally and externally by the National Society
  - Train volunteers on anticipatory action based on forecasts, and exchange of experiences with other National Societies
  - Train staff and volunteers in climate change adaptation (nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, circular economy, climate-smart agriculture)
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Through **IFRC**, capacity building of the Venezuelan Red Cross volunteer network will be promoted to develop actions at the community level to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The IFRC will also assist the National Society through technical support, positioning, and financing urgent actions for climate risk adaptation and environmental sustainability.

The **German Red Cross** will promote the development and use in communities of participatory methodologies for educational sessions with key messages on climate change and adaptation, and support the Venezuelan Red Cross youth programs engagement, such as with standardisation and compilation of good practices. The German Red Cross will also support the Venezuelan Red Cross with anticipatory action and forecast-based financing, and green response.



## Disasters and crises

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

Venezuela, with an INFORM risk rating of 4.7, has a high risk of humanitarian crises and disasters, due to a combination of hazards, vulnerability, and lack of coping capacity. The country faces increased exposure to hydrometeorological hazards, and heavy precipitation can cause devastating floods and landslides with significant humanitarian impact. During floods in 2021, 79 overflowing rivers and 40 large-scale landslides affected 54,600 people across 10 states. 94 people died during the exceptional rainfall of 2022, and another 60,000 were affected, with around 14,000 homes damaged. The country also experiences hurricanes and earthquakes. In addition, the vulnerability of populations is exacerbated by socioeconomic factors such as poverty, inequality, and deteriorating infrastructure.

The lack of official sources and risk analysis at the national level further endangers the population due to the gap in knowledge about the ongoing situations. On the other hand, response capacity is limited which further exacerbates the risk, as first response institutions have been affected by the current socio-economic context. Addressing these vulnerabilities and strengthening coping mechanisms will be crucial to reduce Venezuela's overall risk profile.

In terms of food security levels, Venezuela is below average. It is estimated that a family of five requires 133 minimum wages to cover the basic consumption basket. The deterioration of livelihoods, which was aggravated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, has significantly impacted groups with specific vulnerabilities, such as children under five years of age, pregnant women, and the elderly. There is also a need to pay greater attention to indigenous populations and to increase livelihood activities to generate a higher level of self-sufficiency for people in vulnerable conditions.

## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Venezuelan Red Cross promotes community resilience and works with communities to strengthen their capacities to address the impacts of disasters and crises. Activities comprise vulnerability analysis, risk prevention and mitigation, and adaptation measures. As part of the capacity transfer process, these actions will be led by the National Society's youth program.

The Venezuelan Red Cross, with support from the IFRC network, will continue to ensure that an adequate response is provided to people affected by multiple hazards. The National Society aims to ensure that volunteers and staff have the necessary skills and knowledge to respond adequately to various events and needs. It also focuses on longer-term needs and seeks to further develop its support livelihoods.

The Venezuelan Red Cross seeks synergies with the national disaster risk management system to ensure proper coordination when responding to needs and emergencies.

The multi-year objectives of the National Society include:

- Supporting communities at risk by sharing and receiving actionable risk information to take active action and reduce their vulnerability and exposure to hazards
- Preparing communities for timely and effective mitigation, response and recovery from crises and disasters, including early action
- Giving timely and appropriate aid when markets and services are disrupted, and meeting people's needs during crises and disasters through access to in-kind assistance and support that strengthens their agency
- Advocating for effective and protective disaster-related laws, policies, and regulations

- Taking advantage of the capacity of the IFRC network for additional human resources, technical support, material assistance and equipment “as local as possible, as international as necessary”

- Maintain situation rooms for monitoring adverse events and storage levels at the local, regional, and national levels
- Update contingency plans and relief regulations of the branches and regional offices

### Planned activities in 2024

- Create and train community brigades for community-based disaster risk management, including early warning systems, evacuation plans and first aid
- Provide adequate timely response in the distribution of relief supplies
- Conduct needs analysis and evaluation of contexts for the development of micro projects or livelihood activities for recovery
- Maintain a mapping of established community brigades
- Strengthen the response capacities of the National Society at the branch, regional, and national levels on topics such as emergency needs assessments

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

To strengthen the Venezuelan Red Cross' capacity to perform its mandate, the IFRC network will continue its efforts to strengthen the capacities of the National Society and generate the coordination mechanisms to develop the proposed activities. **The IFRC** will ensure technical support and the search for financial resources to promote the defined priority actions. IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed to respond to adverse events if required.



## Health and wellbeing

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated health needs which, due to the socio-economic crisis in the country, were already escalating. It is estimated that, due to limitations in accessing a private doctor, nine out of ten people must resort to a public hospital or outpatient clinic, which are estimated to have lost about 70% of their capacity compared to pre-2016 levels.

Although drug shortages have been reduced (27.5% in August 2023), high costs and lack of access to medicines limit the population's ability to obtain them, which has led to an increase in chronic diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension, and has made it difficult to treat acute diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis.

Due to the socioeconomic context, medical personnel have been forced to migrate and/or seek other sources of employment, which has directly impacted the quantity and quality of services offered. This is more pronounced in remote areas of the main cities, where clinics lack a minimum of staff.

Among the most urgent needs is maternal and child health, one of the areas most affected by the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. The maternal mortality rate is 50 per 100,000 live births, one of the highest in Latin America. The infant mortality rate is 25 per 1,000 live births. Communicable diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS remain a grave problem in Venezuela. Due to the economic situation in Venezuela, state-sponsored disease prevention programmes have been

reduced, increasing the prevalence of tuberculosis, malaria, and other vaccine-preventable, water- and vector-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever.

A lack of access to basic goods and services is also aggravating the mental health of the population, causing higher levels of acute stress, anxiety and episodes of distress and suicidal tendencies among people, particularly young people, in Venezuela.

People in Venezuela are facing a rapidly decreasing supply of safe water, primarily due to a lack of investment in, and maintenance of, vital water systems such as aqueducts, pipelines, and treatment plants. In many rural and urban communities, water is available once or twice a week at most. It is often untreated and unsafe for consumption, leading to an increased risk of water-borne diseases.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Venezuelan Red Cross focuses on reducing the vulnerability of the prioritized people to avoidable mortality and morbidity risks due to communicable, non-communicable, and mental health diseases. The Venezuelan Red Cross seeks to improve access to essential health, safe water, and sanitation goods and services.

Based on its strong health outreach, the Venezuelan Red Cross aims to ensure the continued provision of primary

health care services through community health days, implementing community programmes covering maternal, child and other types of community health care, supporting sexual and reproductive health care for remote populations, training health committees and community brigades using the [community-based health and first aid approach](#), and implementing awareness campaigns for communicable diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis. The Venezuelan Red Cross actions include providing access to safe water and sanitation, and mental health and psychosocial support services through the National Society's health network, both nationally and within the communities that it serves.

The multi-year objectives of the National Society include:

- Maintain relevant and active health and [WASH](#) strategies
- Expanding the scope, quality, and modalities of [first aid](#) activities, including the training of volunteers, staff, and the general public in all contexts
- Providing contextually appropriate sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health services
- Responding effectively to [mental health](#) and psychosocial needs during emergencies
- Carrying out effective and appropriate evidence-based and impact-driven health promotion, disease prevention and community care activities, focusing on people in vulnerable situations in all contexts
- Assisting communities in identifying and reducing health risks through adaptations of health facilities

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Provide access to health care to more people by expanding the number of communities covered
- Train communities and National Society staff in first aid so that they can act in an emergency
- Implement health promotion activities, disease prevention and community care, and develop community brigades
- Strengthen community health committees and their health promoters, and community actions in the health centres
- Conduct psychosocial support consultations in communities for vulnerable people, and refer patients in the community who need further support to the community clinic

- Implement sexual and reproductive health services according to the capacities of each of the branches, carry out activities focused on gynaecology and obstetrics and activities for adolescents on sexual and reproductive health
- Develop a one-month treatment schedule for children and adolescents with nutritional supplements and raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and physical activity in older adults
- Train people in the communities with [Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation](#) for the promotion and correct use of safe water
- Promote menstrual hygiene management in communities
- Carry out infrastructure-based rehabilitation, improvement, and construction of community water supply systems
- Create and strengthen community water committees, provide knowledge on correct management and disposal of community waste, and train communities on vector control
- Train volunteers in activities related to [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#), health promotion, disease prevention, and community care
- Equip mobile health units to provide greater assistance to communities, and access to remote communities
- Maintain a water treatment plant for emergency response
- Maintain multisectoral relations and work with other organizations such as health clusters and the Ministry of People's Power of Health
- Update the health strategy with realistic and feasible actions for implementation

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in jointly assessing the relevance and implementation of its health and WASH strategies and continue to promote partnerships to ensure the strengthening of this sector. The IFRC will also provide technical support to the National Society in strengthening its capacities at the national level.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** has shown interest in supporting the development of capacities in epidemiological surveillance at the community level.





Mixed migratory flows continue to occur in and out of the country, including people who intend to leave, returnees, and people who make cross-border pendulum movements. It is estimated that 7.7 million Venezuelans left the country. By October 2023, there had been an increase in migratory flows heading north, passing through the Darien Gap, considered one of the most dangerous routes in the Americas. Many cases consist of Venezuelans who migrated within South America, returned to Venezuela to obtain legal documents or to go with family members, and left again in search of new horizons. Of the 248,000 migrants who crossed the Darien in 2023, 55% have been Venezuelans, further risking vulnerable conditions. It is increasingly common to see women, unaccompanied children, and young people on the migration route, often in extremely vulnerable states.

The profile of the migrant has evolved with less common use of informal routes and more common use of established routes. The reasons for migration vary between lack of access to goods and services, deterioration in quality of life, lack of education or employment services, as well as insecurity. The impacts of migration are both short and long-term, including the increase of protection risks for communities along the migration route, and the loss of human capital in specialized sectors, which affects productivity levels and availability of qualified personnel.

The impacts of migration are expected to increase if no changes occur in the economic, political, and social context. The probabilities of return are reduced when the initial conditions or reasons for emigration persist over time.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

The Venezuelan Red Cross will continue to focus on ensuring that migrants have self-care messages for a safe route on their journeys, including information about protection risks, humane and dignified care, and effective and efficient humanitarian assistance when needed. The National Society seeks to monitor migration dynamics and use this data to deliver the appropriate humanitarian services, in conjunction

with other local, national, and international organizations. The National Society will continue to offer integrated humanitarian services to migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees, and the population of Venezuela as a whole.

The National Society's high-level objectives include:

- Addressing the immediate assistance and protection needs of vulnerable migrants and displaced persons, including internally displaced persons
- Undertaking advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy, and effective partnership-building in support of migrants and displaced persons
- Providing appropriate training, tools, and guidance to guide the engagement of staff and volunteers in the field of migration and displacement
- Assessing the needs of migrants and displaced persons and developing the necessary plans, strategies, and policies to guide engagement

### Planned activities in 2024

- Provide primary health care to migrants and displaced people, mental health, and psychosocial support, restoring family links services, and water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion
- Disseminate key messages to migrants on the safe route and migrant protection risks, and promote community support for the safe route orientation
- Train community advocates to promote the inclusion of returnees and the culture of peace in the communities
- Train volunteers to raise awareness with the migrant population regarding human trafficking, gender, and sexual violence, and other PGI issues
- Strengthen alliances with external actors present in border areas and at the national level
- Develop a communication plan to promote inclusion and non-xenophobia against migrants
- Develop a comprehensive migration response plan

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Through the support of stakeholders, **IFRC** will continue to promote partnerships to ensure the strengthening of the Venezuelan Red Cross branches in border states. It will also provide technical accompaniment and support in the search for resources that provide continuity with community processes and bring together migrant and host populations.



## Values, power and inclusion

A decline in the availability, access, and quality of specialized protection services in Venezuela has exacerbated protection risks for vulnerable populations. This includes people who are survivors of gender-based violence, at-risk children, pregnant women, indigenous people, people living with disabilities, the LGBTQI+ community, displaced populations, migrants, people living with HIV and chronic diseases, and the elderly.

According to data from [UN Women](#), in a 2018 study of adolescent girls and adult women aged 15 to 49 years, 8.5 per cent of the participants reported that they had experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, by a current or former partner in the previous 12 months. Pregnant women face several obstacles in accessing adequate prenatal and postnatal care, which in turn increases the risk of complications during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum.

There has been evidence of an increase in protection risks particularly in border areas for children and the elderly. Known as the “left behind”, this population, often lacking access to basic services, faces aggravated vulnerability. A 2020 [Help Age International rapid needs assessment](#), conducted in Miranda, Lara and Bolívar, found that 77 per cent of elderly people in Venezuela do not have access to sufficient food supplies. Furthermore, 31 per cent of older adults living with a disability depend on their family and friends to receive basic goods. There are also gaps in guaranteeing the right to identity of children and adolescents. This especially holds in foster care and family strengthening programs in border areas and destination communities.

Almost three per cent of the population in Venezuela identifies as indigenous. While indigenous rights are recognized in the country's constitution, this population faces socio-environmental challenges to their territories and way of living. The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) has reported that Indigenous people in Venezuela experience health problems due to the prevalence of malaria, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and gastrointestinal and respiratory diseases in the country. Migratory flows also affect indigenous populations and territories.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Venezuelan Red Cross will prioritize the implementation of activities through the cross-cutting approach of [protection, gender, and inclusion \(PGI\)](#), to ensure that all actions are developed respecting and dignifying the populations. The National Society also seeks to strengthen the cross-cutting axis of [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#), as it is a priority for the institution to work on actions that allow for optimal identification of community needs.

Throughout its work, the Venezuelan Red Cross protects and promotes the Red Cross Red Crescent's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values to effect positive change within the Venezuelan population. The Venezuelan Red Cross focuses on youth empowerment both within its organizational structure and in its action in favour of people affected by multiple challenges. The Venezuelan Red Cross youth department brings together children and young people from eight years of age until adulthood. With support from the National Society, the young people involved form children's brigades and youth groups and even work as coordinators of various programmes. The department aims to assist children and young people in situations of vulnerability, with activities to strengthen their development and encourage them to become drivers of change.

The multi-year objectives of the National Society include:

- Strengthening commitment and accountability to communities through the integration of communication, participation feedback, and grievance mechanisms within programs and operations
- Improving protection, equity and inclusion, safety, and well-being in education
- Disseminating knowledge of fundamental principles, humanitarian values, the postulates of International Humanitarian Law, and human rights
- Promoting compliance with the Code of Conduct as the primary norm of the Movement's actions at all levels
- Developing a PGI policy for the National Society, to ensure inclusive, resilient, and sustainable actions
- Expanding technical and financial support for [youth-led education](#) and action, building on the Youth Engagement Strategy and other youth-led initiatives
- Nurturing strategic alliances with key actors and innovative mechanisms for humanitarian education

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Promote safe spaces within schools and communities
- Establish a reporting line as a feedback mechanism for the community
- Conduct educational sessions on inclusion issues in educational centres
- Form school brigades as an option within the school curriculum on “interest groups” or “stable groups”
- Hold educational sessions with state security forces and public entities as well as with the target population

- Continuously conduct sessions for volunteers on the code of conduct, Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy, PGI, and other relevant regulatory instruments
- Train volunteers on community engagement and accountability, and feedback mechanisms

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support in the development of the PGI policy, among other actions.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Venezuelan Red Cross is in the process of restructuring and transitioning in 2023, requiring a thorough analysis and support from its different strategic partners. The transformation in its organizational structure aims to guarantee, in the first place, the protection and safeguarding of its volunteers and employees to maintain the continuity of its operations, while updating its legal framework will serve as a basis for the development of its programs and activities in the country.

A restructuring board was formed in August 2023 to prioritize the execution of tasks that will allow this renewal in a period of 12 months. Understanding that institutional processes are developed in the medium and long term, this plan prioritizes the actions to be carried out during 2024. It is expected to have a steering committee in place at the end of the year that will ratify and update the actions prioritized by the Venezuelan Red Cross for the following years.

Furthermore, the IFRC, based on Articles 4 and 5 of its Constitution and other formal frameworks, considers as a priority to guarantee technical support to the Venezuelan Red Cross, and to make available all needed tools for institutional development, ensuring a transparent and efficient transition process that allows the strengthening of the institution.



### Strategic and operational coordination

#### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The transition period of the Venezuelan Red Cross has allowed it to establish relations with the State and different governmental agencies, to achieve its mandate in the implementation of a transformation in its organizational structure. It will remain important that the governing and management bodies of the Venezuelan Red Cross meet at least once a year with the main

State authorities, to review ongoing activities in the context of the National Society's role as an auxiliary to the public authorities and to coordinate efforts for an efficient response to emergencies.

The National Society also seeks to strengthen its relations and cooperation with external actors to promote effective, coordinated, and efficient humanitarian assistance.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the management of the Venezuelan Red Cross in the functions of external representation to key stakeholders and the establishment of strategic dialogue. A permanent relationship will be maintained with key interlocutors, such as the government, community representatives, national and international partners, and the media, to provide regular updates on the progress of the restructuring process.

Specifically, the IFRC will provide accompaniment to the Venezuelan Red Cross for the establishment and maintenance of relations with the executive branch of the State and different government entities, which by their nature have an impact on the activities carried out by the Venezuelan Red Cross. This aims to guarantee support to the National Society as a reference for civil society in health care and emergencies, as well as that of a key player due to its humanitarian role with the largest network of volunteers in the country.

The IFRC will continue to participate in monthly meetings with the members of the interagency humanitarian country team to coordinate efforts and be aware of the programs implemented by each of the organizations present in Venezuela, to provide a comprehensive response, as well as to avoid duplication of efforts and favour the strengthening of the humanitarian network.



## National Society development

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

As part of the priorities identified for 2024, efforts will be made to develop the basis for a law that regulates the legal link between the National Society and the State, establishing the necessary conditions for its activities to be carried out both in times of peace and in times of armed conflict. This process will include consultations at all levels to reflect the reality and visions of the Venezuelan Red Cross.

A review of the National Society's statutes is also needed, in line with the latest Movement guidelines, as well as the start of the election process, with the support and advice of the IFRC. The process will be structured in separate phases to guarantee transparency, which will be carried out by the ad-hoc restructuring board.

Other priorities of the Venezuelan Red Cross include updating its strategic plan, creating a regulatory framework for the protection of its volunteers and employees, and implementing an efficient and transparent governance and management model. Priority will be also given to strengthening areas such as financial sustainability, project management, accountability, logistics and volunteer protection through the development of training, processes, manuals, and policies.

As part of the restructuring board's exploratory process, sources of funding will be identified to generate funds and mobilize resources.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Considering the context of the National Society, **the IFRC** will provide support to the Venezuelan Red Cross and its restructuring board, in the process of updating its statutes. The support of the Movement and the Participating National Societies is essential to assist in the execution of the activities that will achieve compliance with the guidelines.

The accompaniment of IFRC and ICRC through the creation of a roadmap during the transition period has provided a more fundamental basis for the strategic plan proposed by the restructuring board. The objectives will be periodically reviewed for follow-up and evaluation of the management of each area and to ensure their fulfilment.

The IFRC will support the implementation of new business models in branches and subcommittees, under the guidelines of the national headquarters, to enable sustainable growth through a fair distribution of income among all the areas that comprise them.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Anchored in the fundamental principles, the Venezuelan Red Cross, together with the IFRC, will work on actions that facilitate public understanding of the role and actions led by the Venezuelan Red Cross, especially in the restructuring process, guaranteeing the neutrality and independence of the actions.

The National Society assesses the humanitarian environment at the national level and communicates to the relevant authorities the most important needs of the most vulnerable population. The needs assessment will also allow for situation reports to be shared with other humanitarian actors to strengthen cooperative relationships and ensure effective, coordinated, and efficient assistance.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will continue to support the Venezuelan Red Cross in regularly communicating with key stakeholders about its

performance and organising meetings to evaluate areas for improvement. This will help maintain the relationships that have been consolidated during the transition period, including with diplomatic representatives. Communication and engagement have provided transparency on the transition process, and proximity enabling support based on the humanitarian needs of the country.

The IFRC will support the National Society in establishing a communication strategy to disseminate its mandate in the country, ensuring the Venezuelan Red Cross is respected and recognized as a neutral, independent, and impartial humanitarian actor, achieving the mobilization of volunteers to support the needs of vulnerable communities. In addition, work will continue with the National Society to increase understanding of the Red Cross as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, regarding the country's complex context. A crisis management guide will be developed, and internal National Society capacities will be strengthened.





## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The restructuring board will plan and communicate in detail the restructuring process to its internal public consisting of volunteers and employees, with the accompaniment of IFRC and ICRC and diplomatic representation, to provide greater transparency in the transition process.

A regulatory framework for the protection of the integrity and safeguarding of volunteers and employees will ensure that the Venezuelan Red Cross complies with its legal and ethical obligations and creates a safe and healthy environment for its collaborators. The implementation of the IFRC Integrity Line supports the actions of the Venezuelan Red Cross' integrity committee. This is so that anyone can report any possible misconduct affecting personnel, assets, or operations, including reports of corruption, fraud, harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse, unethical behaviour, child abuse and especially violations of applicable laws, the code of conduct, or other regulations and policies of the organization.

The Venezuelan Red Cross will develop a planning and monitoring system that includes identifying objectives, developing an action plan, monitoring progress, and evaluating results. It will also conduct an external accounting

audit to evaluate the current financial structure of the Venezuelan Red Cross, which will be the basis for establishing multi-year objectives. The audit will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the organizational structure and areas for improvement. Digital transformation will also be promoted to optimize established processes and ensure accountability.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the Venezuelan Red Cross in implementing a financial reporting system that provides a complete record of financial transactions, covering the branches and subcommittees, which meets all standard financial reporting requirements. In addition, support will be provided to strengthen areas such as financial sustainability, project management, accountability, and protection of volunteers, with the implementation of training, online and in-person workshops.

The IFRC will also provide the National Society with an assessment of its current data and digitization capabilities, as well as its aspirations for the future. It aims to measure the current capacity for continuous improvement of humanitarian operations through the application of data analytics and digital technology.



*In Sucre state in January 2023, volunteers distributed DREF-supported vital kits to restore the resources of families affected by natural disasters.  
(Photo: Venezuela Red Cross)*



# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC delegation in Venezuela was established in 2018, and a status agreement was signed with the authorities in 2020. The delegation is staffed by a head of delegation and eleven local workers who provide technical assistance to the National Society in the implementation of different programs and operations.

Committed to the humanitarian work carried out by the Venezuelan Red Cross, the IFRC has prioritized its accompaniment in the institutional strengthening required

by the restructuring process of the ad-hoc board. The IFRC will continue to work in the different areas detailed in this plan, with the objective of strengthening the National Society and guaranteeing the continuity of operations.

In addition to longer-term support, the IFRC supports the Venezuelan Red Cross through the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations when needed, such as in recent years in relation to floods and health emergencies.










## IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations, and needs; agreeing on common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

Through different spaces, the IFRC network partners of the Venezuelan Red Cross, such as the **German Red Cross**, **Italian Red Cross**, the **Netherlands Red Cross**, **Norwegian Red Cross**, **Spanish Red Cross**, The **Canadian Red Cross**, and **Qatar Red Crescent** have ratified their support to the Venezuelan Red Cross in the restructuring process.

The **German Red Cross** has given bilateral and multilateral support to the Venezuelan Red Cross since 2019 for primary and emergency health care. Following an integration agreement with the IFRC, signed in 2022, the German Red Cross has also maintained an in-country presence.

### Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
German Red Cross	900,000						
Netherlands Red Cross							
Norwegian Red Cross							
Spanish Red Cross							

Total Funding requirement

**900,000**

## Movement coordination

In Venezuela and over the years, there has been regular Movement coordination between the National Society, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), based on a tripartite agreement signed at the end of 2018. The Movement's priorities in Venezuela focus on adopting a coordinated approach to strengthen the institutional development of the National Society. This has also aimed at increasing the National Society's technical and operational capacity to deliver emergency response and humanitarian programming, covering areas such as migration, restoring family links, relief, and health. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0.

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The [ICRC regional delegation](#) in Caracas works to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of armed violence in Venezuela. Working with the authorities and the communities it serves, it carries out activities in the areas of health, water and sanitation, economic and food security, dignified management of the dead, protection of detainees and Restoring Family Links. It also promotes international humanitarian law and international standards on the use of force by the armed forces and police.

The ICRC also supports the Venezuelan Red Cross in the areas of logistics, visibility, and communication, and provides training courses on the [Safer Access Framework \(SAF\)](#) and other areas of expertise.

## Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Venezuelan Red Cross coordinates with the governmental risk management system, which includes the country's emergency mechanism VEN911, civil protection, the fire brigade, and local, regional, and national response bodies.

The IFRC network in Venezuela will continue to work with the main humanitarian actors present in the country. Observation

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and follow-up of the development of the Venezuelan Red Cross restructuring process will be provided to long-term and emerging donors, as foreseen in the transparency guidelines of the restructuring board. This will enable the support of actions aligned with the priorities identified by the restructuring board and based on the designed action plan.



## 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](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the Venezuelan Red Cross, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with [IFRC Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process, and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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