



GUATEMALA

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

17 May 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 15.4M**

In support of the Guatemalan Red Cross



21

National Society branches



2,530

National Society staff



1,500

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



10,000

Climate and environment



20,000

Disasters and crises



20,000

Health and wellbeing



40,000

Migration and displacement



1,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk management
- Climate change adaptation
- Violence prevention and protection
- Epidemic preparedness and response

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy
- Partnerships and resource mobilization
- Quality and upgraded management systems

Key country data

Population	17.4M
INFORM Severity rating	High
INFORM Climate Change Risk Index	High
Human Development Index rank	135
Population below poverty level	59.3%

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras & Panama, based in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

2026**

Total 5.3M CHF

Total 5.1M CHF

Total 5M CHF

Through the IFRC



Through Participating National Societies



Through Host National Society



Through the IFRC



Through Participating National Societies



Through Host National Society



Through the IFRC



Through Participating National Societies



Through Host National Society



**Projected funding requirements

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

50,000 CHF

Climate and environment

182,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

34,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

270,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

90,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

454,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

British Red Cross*

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross*

Japanese Red Cross Society*

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:

MAAGT003

Hazards



Population movement



Hurricanes and Cyclones



Floods



Droughts



Disease outbreaks



Poverty

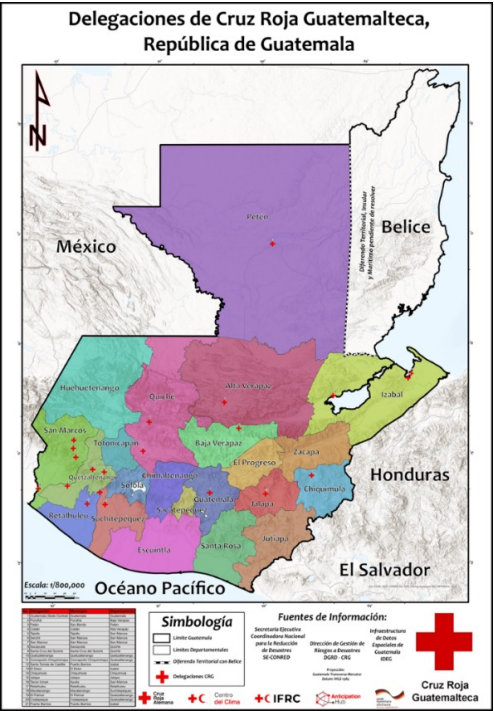
NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Guatemalan Red Cross** is an independent non-profit service organization. It was established in 1923 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) the same year. The National Society fulfils a humanitarian mission at the national and international levels, and is recognized as a voluntary, autonomous relief society, that serves as an auxiliary to the public authorities in its humanitarian activities.

The National Society provides nationwide coverage and has a permanent presence across 60 per cent of the country through its headquarters and 21 branches. It addresses humanitarian needs in the country through response operations during emergencies, disasters and crises, along with permanent health care services. In 2022, the Guatemalan Red Cross reached more than 49,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes, and more than 330,000 people through its long-term services and developments.

The National Society's projects and programmes are developed within the framework of its Strategic Development Plan 2022-2025 which focuses on six areas: disaster preparedness and response, climate change, community resilience, health, migration and social inclusion. The Guatemalan Red Cross also works in alignment with the IFRC's Strategy 2030, the National

Development Plan K'atun Nuestra Guatemala 2032, the National Development Priorities, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Guatemalan Red Cross branches

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Guatemala is a multi-ethnic, multilingual, and multicultural country, made up of four main ethnic groups: Maya, Garifuna, Xinca and Mestizo, who speak a total of twenty-three languages. The country borders the Pacific Ocean to the West, shares land borders with El Salvador and Honduras to the south and southeast, has a short coastline on the Gulf of Honduras to the east, and borders Belize to the east and northeast.

Guatemala is located in the tropics, has a warm and temperate climate, and has elevations ranging from sea level to 4,000 metres. Climates range from near-desert conditions to

rainforests, and the country is crossed by a large chain of 34 volcanos, four of which are active. The country has been affected by natural phenomena and climate change that have caused droughts and floods, impacting the quality of life of the population, especially those who live in poverty or extreme poverty.

Around 70 per cent of the entire country has an exceedingly elevated level of vulnerability. The vulnerability dimension considers socio-economic vulnerabilities including development and poverty, a dependent population, and vulnerable groups categorized by unprotected population and other vulnerable groups. In addition, more than half of the country's municipalities face remarkably high and substantial risks.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Guatemala is one of the ten countries most vulnerable to extreme weather events and natural disasters. Its geographical location makes it prone to tropical storms, droughts, hurricanes, and earthquakes. In recent decades, extreme events have increased and intensified, due to the effects of climate change. Guatemala ranks 'high' on the INFORM Risk Index for both Climate Change and Severity.

The most vulnerable populations and sectors are those that are most sensitive to changes in climatic conditions and those that have the least capacity to establish effective adaptation strategies. Guatemala's vulnerability is determined, among other factors, by the high dependence of the national economy on agricultural production. Agriculture makes up 45 per cent of the national territory, 24 per cent of the country's GDP, and 29 per cent of the economically active population, besides being an important sector as a source of income, employment, and food. However, 7 out of 10 farming households live in poverty due to high rates of poverty, inequality, and exclusion, along with the high degree of deterioration and depletion of the natural ecosystem.

Guatemala's immense biodiversity is crucial to the multiple livelihoods benefits it generates. These natural resources represent the potential for significant income generation through sustainable forestry and fisheries, sustainable tourism, and other livelihood opportunities. Despite this rich biological and cultural heritage, natural resources across the country are threatened by habitat loss, overexploitation, wildlife trafficking, agricultural encroachment, climate change, poor governance and organized crime activity. The Guatemalan agencies responsible for the management of the country's natural resources suffer from chronic underfunding, insufficient human resources for management and protection, and limited institutional capacity.

These effects of climate change aggravate Guatemala's poverty conditions and malnutrition rates, increasing the vulnerability of many households, especially in the Western Highlands and the 'Dry Corridor'. The 'Dry Corridor' is an ecological region of Central America that is particularly vulnerable to increasing erratic rainfall, suffering from both severe droughts and floods.

The country has taken significant actions since 1992 to fulfil its commitments under the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including drafting a National Climate Change Policy, pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and signing the

ratified Paris Agreement. Guatemala has a National Climate Change Policy and one of the first climate change laws in the world: The Framework Law on Climate Change. The country created the National Climate Change Council which serves as a regulatory body for the country's key sectors under this law.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Guatemalan Red Cross is part of the IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally-led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services. The Guatemalan Red Cross is also a signatory of the Climate and Environment Charter since 2022, and an active member of the IFRC global Green Response group.

The National Society's objectives are to:

- Strengthen anticipatory action in the face of extreme hydrometeorological events
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices that contribute to climate change mitigation
- Socialize and implement the National Society's Climate Change Policy
- Participate at the national and local level in the coordination platforms related to climate change
- Improve its capacities through the generation and management of knowledge on climate change and environmental resilience

The Guatemalan Red Cross is also part of the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the IFRC. Through the DG ECHO-IFRC PPP, the trained staff and volunteers of the National Society will work with communities on nature-based solutions and climate-smart programming. Climate change will be further integrated into programming following the validation of the National Society's climate change policy and strategy.

Planned activities in 2024

- Generate, share, and disseminate information related especially to climate risks through communication channels that are understandable and relevant to the local context
 - Protect and strengthen livelihoods threatened or affected by the effects of climate variability
 - Develop early action protocols
 - Encourage and promote effective and efficient early warning systems, from the local to the national level, to enable people to prepare for climate-related risks
 - Scale up anticipatory action as a tool for effective humanitarian action in the face of growing climate risks
 - Participate in information analysis and climate dialogue platforms to strengthen capacities at local, regional, and national levels
 - Build capacities at the local level through the branches
 - Respect and comply with the country's legal regulations on environmental and climate change
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts in developing environmental policies and climate change adaptation strategies, based on evidence, and through mapping and risk scenarios. It will also support the National Society in capacity building. This will include enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments (eVCA) (training, peer-to-peer exchanges), developing training on climate change, and adapting, contextualizing and sharing information in local languages through reliable and accessible channels aimed at different audiences within the communities.

Further support includes areas such as developing communication, education, and information strategies on climate change and its impacts, targeting community behavioural transformation aimed at informing local policy-making, promoting community-led climate-smart solutions and plants that address challenges, improve behaviour and promote mitigation and adaptation strategies for climate change, and accessing technical support for climate-smart livelihoods, especially those based on food production and agriculture.

The **German Red Cross** currently collaborates with the Guatemalan Red Cross at the national level, in the adaptation and implementation of anticipatory action mechanisms.



Under the Pillar of Prevention of Pandemics and Epidemics, groups of women have been trained to disseminate information in their communities about good health practices, WASH, nutrition, prevention of COVID-19 and other epidemics (Photo: Guatemalan Red Cross)



Disasters and crises

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

Guatemala is subject to multiple risks and hazards, including hurricanes, earthquakes, violence, environmental degradation and epidemics such as dengue. Multiple events can often occur within the same timeframe and geographical location, thereby severely affecting communities and the general population. [Hurricanes Eta and Iota](#) that occurred in 2020 impacted the population of several departments, causing the loss of human life, and affecting livelihoods, housing and health conditions.

Guatemala also faces human-caused hazards, which include widespread violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups, social unrest, and political and economic crises. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 hurricanes exacerbated the pre-existing food insecurity crisis nationwide, especially affecting vulnerable families in the Dry Corridor and impoverished families in the central-western highlands, specifically indigenous populations.

Guatemala has a National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is adapted from the 2015-2030 [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#). The policy aims to reduce exposure and vulnerability, prevent new disaster risks from occurring, and ensure accountability when new risks arise. It focuses on targeted areas to address the underlying factors that increase disaster risk, such as the consequences of poverty and inequality, climate change and climate variability, rapid and unplanned urbanization, inadequate land management, and other aggravating factors. The policy recognizes the need to further strengthen good governance in disaster risk reduction strategies at the national, regional, and global levels, and to improve national preparedness and coordination for disaster response, rehabilitation, and reconstruction, and to use post-disaster reconstruction and recovery.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Encourage communities to take action, and increase [community-based resilience](#) to crises
- Meet the [needs of the people](#) affected by crises and disasters through access to timely, adequate and flexible assistance and support
- Respond effectively to the broad spectrum of evolving crises and disasters, while ensuring its auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well-defined and recognized
- Develop its [preparedness for effective response](#) (PER) and institutional preparedness for response to the growing number of disasters
- Continue to strengthen its role in the National Coordination System for Disaster Reduction, with whom it coordinates disaster risk management at all levels

- Strengthen the auxiliary role of the National Society with the corresponding legislation that supports its humanitarian work
- Work on reducing disaster risks at the national level

Planned activities in 2024

- Carry out first-response care during disasters and crises through humanitarian services (pre-hospital care, search and rescue, evacuation)
- Bolster local response capacity
- Assist the population with humanitarian interventions in terms of [livelihoods](#) and basic needs, [shelter](#), and [cash transfers](#)
- Strengthen community resilience, with local governments and schools to identify, address and reduce disaster risks
- Provide support to and collaborate with government agencies to increase the capacity for coordinated response to disasters and crises

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society through mechanisms such as the [Disaster Response Emergency Fund](#) (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals. These will continue to be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2023, IFRC launched an [IFRC-DREF in support of the response of the Guatemalan Red Cross](#) to a dengue outbreak: the DREF allocation of CHF 277,247 in September 2023 supported the National Society in assisting 5,000 people affected by dengue in the targeted areas of Chiquimula and Izabal. Over a six-month period, the National Society is supporting people through dengue prevention actions, vector control interventions in communities, training staff and volunteers on environmental sanitation equipment operation, and implementing child protection measures, among others.

Through the [ECHO PPP](#), the Guatemalan Red Cross will continue to increase the resilience and response capacity of target communities with technical support from the **German Red Cross**. Based on the vulnerability and capacity assessments, the Guatemalan Red Cross will train the local coordinators for disaster reduction (COLRED) and work with them to develop contingency plans and early warning systems. The National Society will also increase its ability to use drone technology in emergency response to better assess risk, impacts and post-disaster needs. The mechanisms for cash and voucher assistance will be established, considering the results of the feasibility study.

The **German Red Cross** currently accompanied humanitarian response operations during Eta and Iota hurricane response in 2020, assisted in epidemic and pandemic response, and in the migration crisis of 2022.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will provide further support in shelter management, livelihoods restoration, cash transfer programmes and water distribution.



Health and wellbeing

During most crises, women face greater risks, inequalities, and consequences that result in comparatively higher levels of mortality, morbidity, and limitations in access to health services, especially sexual and reproductive health. With regards to maternal healthcare, previous humanitarian crises showed that only 14 per cent had a first prenatal consultation, 10.8 per cent had institutional childbirth care, and there was a 61 per cent increase in the number of teenage pregnancies. The Ministry of Health recorded a national maternal death rate of 105 per 100 thousand live births.

According to the 2023 National Food Security Assessment, 26 per cent of Guatemalan households are moderately (23 per cent) or severely (3 per cent) food insecure. Although the year 2021 saw a decrease of 9.6 per cent in cumulative cases of acute malnutrition (moderate and severe) in children under five years of age, there was a 75.9 per cent increase in their mortality due to acute malnutrition. In 2023, the food insecure population increased by 2 per cent, in the category of severe food insecurity.

Guatemala has all the epidemiological and environmental characteristics for the transmission of vector-borne diseases. There were 2,893 cases of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and Zika in 2021; and of the three diseases, 99 per cent were due to dengue.

Guatemalans also face severe mental health situations. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare found that almost 40 per cent of those diagnosed with mental or behavioural disorders between January and July 2023, were people under the age of 19. The highest incidence rates were reported among adolescents and young people between 15 and 19 years old (8 per cent).

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), especially in the rural and indigenous communities of the country, is also a health concern. The water supply is often untreated or there is no access to water. Many homes have inadequate basic sanitation services, and to date, the country does not have updated data on the increase in coverage of these services

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Leveraging its auxiliary role to secure its position in relevant platforms and mechanisms for public health strategy, advocacy, and policy at the national level
- Protecting the health and wellbeing of communities, and improving access to sustainable, affordable, and quality health services
- Preparing for and responding to epidemics and pandemics through community networks and volunteers as the first line of response
- Maintaining the health and dignity of communities in emergencies through access to health services
- Ensuring greater access of communities to affordable, adequate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services, including for communities at risk of pandemics and epidemics

Planned activities in 2024

- Participate in sectoral working groups and coordinate closely with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) Risk Management Unit
- Implement community health actions for disease prevention, including water, sanitation and hygiene, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food and nutrition, and mental health and psychosocial support
- Enforce health preparedness, response, and recovery actions in emergencies
- Improve access to health care services during emergencies, including pre-hospital care and transfers to hospitals
- Ensure epidemic and pandemic preparedness for effective response at national and community levels
- Improve the quality of water at the household level and water systems through strengthening the capacities of water boards

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Guatemalan Red Cross in several areas of support include using [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) to better provide technical support. It will also assist in strengthening local preparedness and response, promoting proper coordination with local civil protection structures and with national systems.

Through the [DG ECHO-IFRC PPP](#), the Guatemalan Red Cross is receiving implementation support from EU National Societies and technical support from IFRC, to further strengthen its preparedness and response to epidemics and pandemics. At the community-level, the National Society will be supported to develop contingency plans for epidemics. Health education activities will continue to prevent dengue, zika, chikungunya, and COVID-19. The National Society is also being supported in its work with authorities at the municipal and national level to update strategies for epidemic and pandemic prevention,

preparedness, and response, including community-based surveillance.

The **American Red Cross** is supporting the Guatemalan Red Cross to address the most urgent water and hygiene needs of the communities in the municipalities of Morales and Gualán. It will support the National Society to restore water distribution and supply networks to pre-disaster conditions, increase household water storage and treatment capacity, and deliver hygiene kits, including kits for women to ensure adequate menstrual hygiene.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will assist with work on maternal and child health, pre-hospital care, reproductive health, nutrition, and referrals. As part of the [DG ECHO-IFRC PPP](#), it will work with the **German Red Cross**, support the activities of the National Society, such as domestic water treatment, cleaning of community water sources, construction of community water systems and distribution of water purification filters.



Migration and displacement

Guatemala's strategic location produces special conditions of vulnerability for migrants and displaced persons, being a country of origin, transit, and destination. According to the [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre](#), there were 242,000 internally displaced people as of the end of 2022, while according to the Humanitarian Needs Overview, the number of Guatemalan returnees had increased from 19,000 people (January to May 2021) to 41,000 in the first five months of 2022.

The main needs of refugees, [migrants and returnees](#) are first aid, provision of essential primary health services, psychosocial support, safe referral services for refugee/asylum applications, food, orientation on risks in migratory routes, and communication with family members. There are specific information needs on risks, weather-related problems, disease prevention, and other available services. The risks to which they are exposed are dominated by situations of violence, which result in important humanitarian needs.

Due to the limited access to health and [protection services](#) and necessary resources for quality care for people on the move, the process of migration increases vulnerability in transit and exposure to violence, trafficking, kidnappings, legal, cultural, social, and comprehensive health barriers. The most vulnerable groups are children, unaccompanied adolescents, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA people, and people with protection needs.

The government of Guatemala gives priority to the rights of immigrants and has [enacted legislation](#) to ensure access to basic public services such as education, healthcare, and security. It has also participated in the [Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Regional Framework \(MIRPS\)](#) since 2017. The framework pioneers an initiative to promote regional cooperation between countries of origin, transit, and destination for a greater shared responsibility for the prevention, protection, and lasting solutions.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society is part of the IFRC three-year [Global Route Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy. Socio-economic conditions also remain challenging in Egypt, particularly for migrant and refugee families.

In line with the above, the objectives of the National Society include:

- Strengthening access for migrants and displaced persons to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migration routes, as well as access to durable solutions, when needed
- Engaging with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to assess, understand and respond more effectively to their priority needs

Planned activities in 2024

- Provide humanitarian aid such as water, snacks, basic medicines and distribute various kits such as hygiene kits
 - Coordinate community engagement and accountability meetings for communities in-transit
 - Equip the eight branches on migratory routes and strengthen mobile assistance posts
 - Provide training in basic first aid to supportive families along migratory routes
 - Conduct awareness-raising sessions on prevention of stigma and discrimination
 - Provide rapid training of volunteers on referral protocols
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the establishment and coordination of humanitarian service points at key locations along migration routes, with at least one community engagement and accountability feedback mechanism in each humanitarian service point. It will also provide global, regional, and local analyses of current and emerging trends, anticipating population movement where possible.

With the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and IFRC Programmatic Partnership (DG ECHO-IFRC PPP) support, the Guatemalan Red Cross will continue to deliver humanitarian assistance to people on the move at four humanitarian service points, with the technical support of the **Spanish Red Cross**. The National Society will be supported in its provision of pre-hospital care, psychosocial support, restoring family links, medical care, information, and humanitarian assistance. Social cohesion activities will continue with host communities to raise awareness and address the stigma and discrimination of migrants. The Guatemalan Red Cross will continue to be supported in its coordination efforts with other National Societies along the migration corridor, including the exchange of information and approaches.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will support provision of humanitarian aid and livelihood support for internally displaced persons, and training of staff and volunteers on issues related to migration.



Values, power and inclusion

Besides economic inequality and poverty, gender inequality and violence are also a grave concern in Guatemala. According to official data from the Public Prosecutor's Office in 2021, almost 60,000 women reported being victims of some type of violence, including psychological, physical, and economic violence. The National Union of Guatemalan Women, an organization that accompanies women as victims of violence, points out that the place where women are most violated is in their homes, as their perpetrators are close relatives. It also indicates that psychological violence especially impacts the lives of women.

In Guatemala, child protection is a significant issue due to the fact that approximately 29 per cent of women are married or in a union before the age of 18. Additionally, about one in ten women believe that a husband is justified in domestic violence for at least one of the specified reasons.

In addition, gender is often at an intersection with other vulnerabilities. Impoverished and poorly educated women

suffer discrimination differently compared to women from more affluent social classes, the latter also having increased access to justice in cases of violence. Similarly, indigenous women, Afro-descendant women, women with disabilities or illnesses, young women, heterosexual women, lesbians, and transsexual women, experience different types of discrimination.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Guatemalan Red Cross operates under a transversal gender and diversity approach and implements accountability activities throughout its programmes. It maintains an inclusive environment in all actions in accordance with the IFRC's protection, gender and inclusion policy.

The multi-year objectives of the National Society are:

- Ensuring that the National Society is a safe and inclusive organization, including ensuring the dignity, access, participation, and safety of people of all identities

- Empowering vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals and communities to influence decisions that affect them, and to trust the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to serve their interests
- Now that its CEA policy is in place, it will strengthen its capacity in Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) with the support of [DG ECHO-IFRC PPP](#). The National Society will develop mechanisms for feedback and complaints based on consultations carried out.

sessions, home visits, information sessions, focus groups and community theatres, promoting protection, gender, and inclusion

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC assists the Guatemalan Red Cross in developing a roadmap for the implementation of the [community engagement and accountability minimum commitments](#). The IFRC assists the National Society to train staff and volunteers, and equip them with guidance and tools to monitor community satisfaction, and levels of commitment and accountability within activities and programmes, while promoting protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) approaches. It supports the measurement of key performance indicators of the National Society's progress and the disaggregation of data by age and gender.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will assist the National Society with supporting the economic autonomy of vulnerable groups, especially women victims/survivors of gender-based violence. It will also adapt materials to be contextually and culturally relevant and support the National Society's Friendly Neighbourhood methodology.

Planned activities in 2024

- Prepare action protocols which guarantee dignity and access to vulnerable people
- Build initiatives aimed at the promotion, inclusion and diversity in opportunities, representation, and decision-making processes, both within the Red Cross and its volunteers, and in the communities in which they operate
- Carry out community actions through individual and collective approaches, with leaders, women, adolescents, and children
- Promote the production of written and recreational materials, radio and TV spots, awareness-raising

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Guatemalan Red Cross is committed towards institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the IFRC's Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Coordinate among members to improve efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian actions and to inspire greater trust within the network
- Ensure effective coordination of hosting clusters within network and off-grid partners
- Increase financial resources, both through national fundraising and through increased international support from National Societies
- Achieve the financial sustainability of services and actions at the national level, within the framework of the National Society's Resource Mobilization Strategy

- Prioritize and develop a portfolio of projects to enable the expansion of income generation activities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society by ensuring that all partners adhere to the National Society's framework for joint planning and prioritization. It will develop and formalize new Movement Coordination Agreements and prepare contingency plans for the Movement. The National Society will also be supported in the process of updating its resource mobilization strategy and its efforts to diversify sources of income, besides the promotion of peer-to-peer exchanges on topics such as resource mobilization and business plans.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Prioritize the development of youth volunteerism and action as critical catalysts for behaviour change and local action, ensuring access and building trust in all contexts
- Following the OCAC evaluation process carried out in 2023, the areas in which strengthening is needed will be prioritized and developed

- Establish strategic alliances for the recruitment of volunteers with different technical and professional skills, and, in addition, fostering a sense of institutional belonging for volunteers

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in personalized work to strengthen the protection and welfare systems of volunteers. It will also support the participation of youth delegates in the General Assembly and statutory meetings.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Promote its image and promote change, influencing public behaviour, policies, and decisions at national, regional, and global levels
- Develop strategies in the field of advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy
- Contribute to the dissemination of the current law, in which the role and fundamental principles of the Guatemalan Red Cross is highlighted
- Create context-appropriate materials as part of the key messages of all National Society communications campaigns

- Encourage the participation of external entities in humanitarian response efforts to ensure the effectiveness of responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Guatemalan Red Cross in developing content and key messages tailored to specific audiences and communicated through effective channels. This will include dissemination of the current law, promoting the national implementation of global and regional commitments, and participation in regional workshops held for Central American National Societies on humanitarian diplomacy.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Developing the draft of the General and Specific Induction manual for new personnel
- Develop a human talent management strategy which will include elements such as incentives and specific training
- Prioritize work on its financial policy, protection policy, and zero tolerance policies on fraud and corruption

- Review and update the National Society's regulations and policies, as well as the creation of new policies and regulations, as needed

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC is supporting the National Society in its collection of data, through the provision of technical support and facilitating high-quality evaluations. It will also assist in digitalization efforts.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC is represented by the cluster delegation for Central American countries in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and operates with a large team of specialists in different areas, in all Central American countries. This allows for close support, coordination and constant communication with the National Societies of Central America and the participating National Societies that support them. IFRC's support focuses on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

The IFRC's annual programme consists of supporting the Guatemalan Red Cross in National Society development, disaster risk management and preparedness, health, WASH, migration and displacement, cash and voucher assistance, and community engagement and accountability. In the last decade, the IFRC has supported the Guatemalan Red Cross through multiple Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations in relation to tropical storms and hurricanes, floods and landslides, droughts, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, population movement, civil unrest, and disease outbreaks.

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; jointly 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, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Guatemalan Red Cross is also part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the IFRC. As such, the Guatemalan Red Cross is receiving the implementation support of the Spanish Red Cross as lead EU National Society and the German Red Cross, with coordination support of IFRC, in reference to its efforts in disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, humanitarian assistance and protection for people on the move, cash and voucher assistance, and community engagement and accountability.

This partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with the potential for greater, longer-term impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the world's biggest international donor for humanitarian assistance.

The following participating National Societies provide support to the Guatemalan Red Cross:

The **American Red Cross** is supporting the Guatemalan Red Cross to address the most urgent water and hygiene needs of the population of the communities in the municipalities of Morales and Gualán. At the same time, it is supporting the incorporation of protection, gender, and inclusion principles in educational talks.

The **German Red Cross** currently collaborates with the Guatemalan Red Cross at the national level, in the adaptation and implementation of Anticipatory Action mechanisms in the face of crises and disasters. Among the programmatic actions to be developed, the German Red Cross is strengthening capacities for management. The German Red Cross has a permanent regional office in Honduras, with specialized staff that accompany the National Societies in capacity building and advise on all initiatives of shared interest. It has also accompanied humanitarian response operations during the Eta and Iota hurricane response in 2020, assisted in epidemic and pandemic response, and the migration crisis of 2022.

The cooperation between the **Spanish Red Cross** and the Guatemalan Red Cross began in the context of the 1976 earthquake with humanitarian aid actions. Later, a delegation was established in the country in 1998 in the context of Hurricane Mitch, which was a turning point in terms of disaster preparedness strategies and clearer goals to save lives, homes, infrastructure, as well as livelihoods and the environment. Currently, the National Society, with the support of the Spanish Red Cross, has developed various development projects focused on the sectors of health, food and nutrition security, livelihoods, social inclusion, and migration.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
American Red Cross	805,000	●	●	●			●
German Red Cross		●	●				●
Spanish Red Cross	1M	●	●	●	●	●	●

Total Funding requirement

1.8M

Movement coordination

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

The **ICRC** contributes to the National Society's work in protection, including minimum standards, restoring family links, self-care messages for migrants, health and first aid, and supporting the National Society in humanitarian diplomacy. The ICRC also specifically supports the Guatemalan Red Cross in health, WASH, and education.



A flood reportedly swept away homes and families in the Dios es Fiel settlement. The Guatemalan Red Cross mobilized the rescue team and medical care personnel, as well as mental health and psychosocial support services, to provide care to the affected families. (Photo: Guatemalan Red Cross)

Coordination with other actors

The Guatemalan Red Cross is part of the National Coordination System for Disaster Reduction with whom it coordinates disaster risk management at all levels. It also coordinates with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources and plays an active part in the National Roundtable for Disaster Risk Reduction, the National Emergency Operations Centre, the National Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Aid and Assistance, and the Inter-institutional Liaison System, among other coordination platforms.

The National Society is also a member of the Response Operations Centres at local and national levels that facilitate emergency responses, dialogues and coordinated actions with key actors. The Guatemalan Red Cross coordinates with the National Epidemiology Centre and the Health Risk Management Unit. At the local level, it collaborates with authorities from the Health Area and Health District Directorates. The National Society carries out health responses in emergencies in accordance with the country's regulatory framework, which includes the Health Code, National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the National Response Plan. Additionally,

in 2005, it signed an agreement with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance to establish goals for the National Society, in its auxiliary role, to respond to emergencies, disasters and crises using Government funds.

The Guatemalan Red Cross is part of the Humanitarian Country Team and participates in different clusters to implement a harmonized response to emergencies, including health, WASH, nutrition, protection, and food security. It works closely with the United Nations agencies such as FAO and WFP, and with civil society organizations such as Médecins du Monde, Save the Children, and Oxfam. The National Society has a permanent focal point to coordinate with other humanitarian actors, establish new coordination spaces, and provide complementary spaces for collaboration to leverage synergies and learn from experiences.

The National Society has positioned itself as a key player in the national protection sector, taking leadership roles in cluster coordination and reaching collaboration agreements with UNICEF and UNHCR.



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 Guatemalan Red Cross, the IFRC, and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with [IFRC's 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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