



ECUADOR

2024 IFRC network country plan

10 June 2024

Funding Requirement **CHF 34.4M**

In support of the Ecuadorian Red Cross



Cruz Roja Ecuatoriana



24

National Society branches



208

National Society staff



7,813

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



258,000

Disasters and crises



258,000

Health and wellbeing



6,000

Migration and displacement

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and response
- Protection and assistance to migrants and displaced persons
 - Climate change adaptation
- Community and emergency health and WASH

Capacity development

- Digital transformation
- Internal systems efficiency
- Financial sustainability and resource mobilization

Key country data

Population	18M
INFORM Severity rating	Medium
INFORM Climate Change Risk Index	Medium
Human Development Index rank	95
Population below poverty level	25.2%

Hazards



Floods



Earthquakes



Volcanic eruptions



Landslides



Migration



Disease outbreaks

Funding requirements

Total 34.4M CHF

Through the IFRC

→ **1.3M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **5.8M**

Through Host National Society

27.3M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer-term needs

1.3M CHF

Disasters and crises

Participating National Societies

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAEC003

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

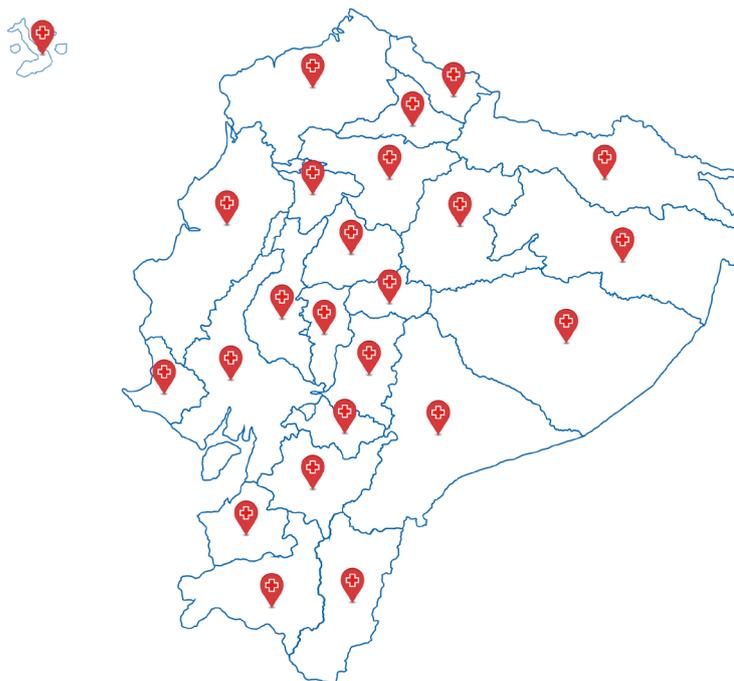
The **Ecuadorian Red Cross** was founded and ratified by Congress in 1910 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1923. It is governed by the law that established it, by international agreements and treaties approved by Ecuador and by its own statutes. As a humanitarian organization, it works to alleviate and prevent human suffering and to promote resilient communities. It is guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and is oriented by the concepts of sustainable development, well-being, dignity, and diversity.

The National Society's four programmatic areas are disaster risk management, health and community development, promotion of the fundamental principles and values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and programmes for young people. The Ecuadorian Red Cross headquarters is located in the capital, Quito, with coverage throughout the country, and is supported by its 24 local, and provincial branches. The National Society also has local "cantonal" boards and community volunteers in working through parish and neighbourhood brigades. It also operates associated components, such as a blood bank and hosts the only hemocentre in the country that allows blood processing to obtain hemocomponents.

In 2023 alone, the Ecuadorian Red Cross responded to multiple emergencies, such as floods and landslides, earthquakes, volcanic ash eruptions, and insecurity, in some cases with support from the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF). In recent years and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ecuadorian Red Cross developed interventions in all 24 provinces of the country. These include health services, psychosocial support programmes, prehospital care, blood donation, and support for the national vaccination campaign. In 2022, the Ecuadorian Red Cross reached one million people with disaster response and early recovery interventions, and over 790,000 people with long-term services and development programmes.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross [Strategic Plan 2021–2025](#) defines two strategic objectives:

- Promoting the development of resilient communities to alleviate and prevent human suffering
- Promoting the development of the National Society through strategic transformations to improve its performance



Provincial Branches of the Ecuadorian Red Cross

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Ecuador is a country located in the northwestern region of South America, composed of twenty-four provinces. A volcanic section of the Andes mountain range divides the territory from north to south, leaving the Gulf of Guayaquil and a forested plain on its western flank, and the Amazon to the east. It borders Colombia in the north, Peru to the south and east, and the Pacific Ocean to the west, which separates it from the Galapagos Islands. It also has maritime boundaries with Costa Rica.

Although the country has made significant socio-economic progress, there are still gaps in basic services, including poor access to health, education, housing, and economic capacity. High levels of violence and insecurity linked to organized crime led to the declaration of a 60-day state of emergency in the country in January 2024.

The national poverty rate in Ecuador is estimated at 25% of the population, while the extreme poverty rate stands at

10.7%, with the highest incidence in rural areas. Communities in Ecuador are vulnerable to social upheaval, exacerbated by unfavourable economic conditions. The country has made considerable progress in its social protection systems and development programmes; however, the humanitarian needs are increasing amongst vulnerable populations, and access to basic supplies and services has become more difficult. Xenophobia and discrimination towards migrant populations have also increased, and there are still significant gaps and challenges with regard to inequality and inclusion. Ecuador is currently hosting significant numbers of Venezuelan migrants and it is home to the fourth largest population of migrants from that country.

Ecuador is also affected by natural hazards, weather events and climate change. Its location makes it vulnerable to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and its ungoverned land use and extraction of natural resources have recently caused a series of disasters, including floods, landslides, and forest fires. In addition, there is an increase in risks within the urban context due to high rates of urbanization, including unplanned and unsafe settlements in flood-prone, coastal, and mountainous areas.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

According to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, the main climate change impacts in Ecuador are the intensification of extreme weather events, such as those caused by the La Niña and El Niño phenomena, sea level rise, glacier retreat, decreased annual runoff, increased transmission of vector-borne and other diseases, expansion of invasive species in Galapagos and in other sensitive ecosystems of continental Ecuador, and species extinction.

In recent years, there has been evidence of more than 40% loss of glacier cover on the Antisana, Carihuayrazo, Cotopaxi and Chimborazo volcanoes. In Ecuador, the agricultural industry is highly vulnerable to temperature increases and extreme weather events. Changing precipitation patterns are affecting soil and water availability, and higher temperatures are becoming unfavourable for certain crops. The incidence of

floods and landslides is projected to increase, resulting in more frequent soil erosion that will lead to reduced yields, damaged crops, and livestock and, eventually, increased food insecurity. Intense droughts are already affecting approximately 70% of agricultural areas and more than half of livestock areas, while extreme rains are increasing floodable areas where nearly half of the country's population is located. Some vulnerable populations are needing to move to higher altitudes to survive, while the extensive coastline leaves communities vulnerable to rising sea levels. The El Niño phenomenon was upgraded from [yellow to orange alert](#) on 19 September 2023, following a declaration by the ERFEN (Estudio Regional del Fenómeno El Niño).

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador developed the [National Climate Change Strategy \(2021-2025\)](#) to guide the actions and measures that the country needs to prepare for extreme climate events, from the strategic lines of mitigation and adaptation. Likewise, Ecuador's

National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2023-2027) is a key instrument to reduce climate risk and increase resilience and adaptive capacity. According to the Ministry, Ecuador contributes 0.15% of global greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. The emissions are distributed through the following anthropogenic activities: energy, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, waste, forestry, and other land uses.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society 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 Ecuadorian Red Cross is developing a disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategy, and, in response to the El Niño phenomenon has formed a team of focal points at the national level. The National Society coordinates with the government's governing bodies at the strategic and operational levels to carry out actions on climate change adaptation and environmental protection. The Ecuadorian Red Cross, with the support of partners, carried out a climate-risk analysis in the provinces of Imbabura and Manabí on food sovereignty, agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, and fisheries. The analysis applied agroecological zoning modelling and design of climate change adaptation actions for climate-smart production. It contributed with trustful information to a pilot carried out with

the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock for hard yellow maize and potato production climate-smart production systems.

Planned activities in 2024

- Implement environmental management activities
- Carry out vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) with communities
- Elaborate the National Society's disaster risk deduction and climate change adaptation strategy
- Carry out risk reduction activities factoring in climate change risks and environmental protection
- Carry out actions aimed at reducing the ecological footprint of the National Society's programmes and operations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is part of the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the IFRC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) with implementation support from the **Spanish Red Cross** as lead EU National Society, the **German Red Cross**, the **Italian Red Cross** and the **IFRC**. The programme supported the National Society's climate risk analysis of the provinces of Imbabura and Manabí. It enabled the continuation of climate-smart programming, including providing communities with knowledge and inputs to cope with climate change.

The IFRC will provide technical support as required to the Ecuadorian Red Cross for the implementation of actions related to climate change adaptation and environmental protection.



The Ecuadorian Red Cross responding to the landslide that affected 24.3 hectares in the Alausí canton, Chimborazo province in March 2023 (Photo: Ecuador Red Cross)



Disasters and crises

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

Ecuador spans three geographically diverse zones: the Andean mountains, the Amazon rainforest, and the arid coastal areas. Each zone presents its unique hazards, and the country is affected by multiple natural hazards. It is located at the convergence of the Nazca and South American tectonic plates and is part of the “Pacific Ring of Fire” which entails a permanent seismic and volcanic risk. In the continental and insular territory, there are 84 identified volcanic centres, of which 27 are potentially active and seven are part of the ranking of [high and very high threat](#). In 2016, the country was hit by a [major earthquake](#) that affected the coastal areas in Manabí and Esmeraldas, killing 670 people and leaving more than 30,000 homeless. Ecuador is also exposed to hurricanes and tropical storms, with people in coastal areas also in danger of tsunamis.

The indirect effects of eruptive processes such as volcanic ash affect millions of people, who are at risk of damage to health, loss of crops and animals, and pollution of air and water sources. In recent years, the Sangay, Reventador, Cotopaxi, and Chiles Cerro Negro volcanoes registered a significant increase in their level of eruptive activity, directly affecting the population.

In addition, threats such as floods, droughts, water shortages, overflowing rivers and estuaries, erosion, landslides, waves, thunderstorms, frost, or effects generated by El Niño and La Niña phenomena persist, often exacerbated by climate change. In the first quarter of 2023, Ecuador was impacted by several dangerous events that were triggered simultaneously including flooding, macro landslides, seismic movement, and volcanic activity (Cotopaxi, Reventador, and Sangay). These events exposed the population to human and material losses, with people killed and injured and in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. For example, a [landslide](#) was reported in the Province of Chimborazo, which caused loss of life and infrastructure, and left an area of 24.3 hectares and more than 1,650 people directly affected in the impact zone. At the same time, heavy rainfall caused seven rivers in the Province of Esmeraldas to overflow their banks, leaving 3,500 people affected by [flooding](#).

Ecuador’s Secretariat of Risk Management identifies other emergencies in the country, derived from:

- Human action (anthropogenic): soil erosion, deforestation, water, soil and air pollution from industrial processes and petroleum derivatives, among others
- Social practices: fires, spread of diseases, crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking and corruption or violence by armed groups, psychosocial and cultural violence, human mobility, among others

Highly populated urban areas, poor land use, environmental degradation and weak building codes that do not sufficiently address potential risks, all contribute to the country’s vulnerability. More than 60% of the population lives in areas that are exposed to multiple hazards. Populations living in poverty and extreme poverty tend to be those most at risk from natural hazards since they are located on the banks of rivers that overflow, on the slopes of active volcanoes, in areas with low productivity and exposed to cycles of drought and floods, on steep slopes prone to landslides, and informal urban settlements. In these areas, the supply of public and social services is usually limited, and disasters have severe impacts on their resilience.

The National Secretariat for Risk Management is the public body responsible for guaranteeing the protection of people and communities from the negative effects of natural and anthropic disasters. Through the Public Policy on Disaster Risk Management, the National Decentralized Risk Management System has been established, which is composed of the risk management units of all public and private institutions. The Ecuadorian government recently approved a Disaster Law (No. 488). It entails a key role of the National Society in the country and recognizes its role in mitigation, readiness, response, and recovery for disasters.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Every year the National Society prepares for and responds to multiple emergencies around the country, in coordination with the National Risk Management Service and local governments. The National Society activates its strategic stocks of humanitarian assistance and deploys first response teams to carry out search and rescue, provide first aid, conduct needs assessments and distribute relief, amongst other activities. The National Society has a qualified preparedness and response team, with equipment and trained focal points in almost every province.

To respond effectively, the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the National Society have prioritized the development of an internal [disaster risk management policy](#) within the framework of the country’s risk management system. The National Society has introduced new [cash transfer](#) and information management technologies and methodologies. It is also currently in the process of adopting the IFRC’s [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) methodology and is in the initial assessment phase. The National Society will continue to invest in the general and specialized response capacities of its technical teams nationwide and to create a network of “zone contingency plans” for effective, adequate, and efficient care in the event of a disaster or crisis. The National Society seeks to strengthen its strategic warehouse network system to support the wider,

national risk and disaster management system and act as a regional warehouse for neighbouring National Societies in Colombia and Peru.

To increase community resilience, the Ecuadorian Red Cross will implement a risk-based approach, enabling communities, volunteers, and disaster risk management institutions to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from the impact of evolving hazards, risks, and shocks. The approach will contribute to the increase of leadership in disaster law, by building strategic capacity as part of the decentralized national risk management system. The National Society will also support the strengthening of volcanic monitoring and information systems in Ecuador. The Ecuadorian Red Cross is one of the National Societies that pioneered early or anticipatory action, through IFRC-DREF Early Action Protocols (EAPs) and is one of the only National Societies with an EAP for volcanic ash fall. It also operates an EAP for intense rains caused by El Niño.

The multi-year objectives of the National Society include:

- Supporting communities in taking action to increase their resilience to multiple evolving impacts and hazards
- Meeting the needs of people affected by crises and disasters through access to in-kind assistance and support that is timely, adequate, flexible and strengthens their agency
- Improving the food security of people affected by crises and disasters and improving sources of income
- Sustaining the people affected by crises and disasters through multi-purpose cash grants
- Responding effectively to the wide range of evolving crises and disasters and leveraging their auxiliary role in emergency response

Planned activities in 2024

- Respond to emergencies as they arise and deliver in-kind and cash assistance to affected people as per their needs
 - Carry out an analysis of the vulnerabilities and capacities of the communities affected by disasters and crises
 - Develop thorough community action plans and family emergency plans along with practice drills
 - Develop additional Early Action Protocols
 - Establish and maintain strategic warehouses with adequate pre-positioned stocks
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2023, IFRC provided DREF allocations for four emergencies to support the Ecuadorian Red Cross response to floods and earthquakes, landslides, and volcanic ash eruptions, amounting in total to over CHF 1.16 million.

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, with implementation support from the **Spanish Red Cross**, the **German Red Cross**, the **Italian Red Cross** and the IFRC, the Ecuadorian Red Cross is increasing community preparedness for disasters. The National Society will continue to work with communities to raise awareness of disaster risks and develop family emergency plans. It will also continue to work with local authorities on risk management and contingency planning for floods and landslides, including the pre-positioning of supplies in strategic warehouses. It will further coordinate with the National Secretariat for Risk Management to direct resources towards preparing the population for the eventual eruption of the Cotopaxi Volcano.

The National Society will further develop and roll out the e-learning training platform with courses related to disaster risk management and anticipatory action. The procedure for cash and voucher assistance will be strengthened, considering findings from a recent feasibility study and financial risk assessment.

Other prioritized activities include capacity building for the implementation of early action, contingency and response plans, strengthening community relief and rescue teams, diagnosing needs according to the type of emergency, conducting drills, and replenishment of kits and supplies used in the first year.



According to data from the [Inter-American Development Bank](#), Ecuador is among the countries with the greatest development challenges in the field of health, ranking 54th out of 71. Around 87% of all public health personnel and professionals available in the country are concentrated in urban centres, while only the remaining 13% are in rural areas. The health system is composed of both public and private sectors and has seen the public sector affected by low budgets, shortages and instability of personnel and a lack of specialized infrastructure. Health institutions are experiencing critical shortages of trained personnel and medicines, leading to ongoing misinformation and mistrust in the healthcare system. Ecuador has made significant investments in recent years to strengthen its health sector and address the structural gaps that prevent it from meeting the population's demand.

Ecuador's health system suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic and diverted efforts from other health issues. In 2020, the city of Guayaquil had one of the worst infections and mortality rates in the world. The pandemic also had a significant impact on the mental health of people in the country. UNICEF reported that mental illness accounted for almost a quarter of the total disease burden in Ecuador, with self-harm the second-highest cause of death among children aged from 10 to 19. Primary care coverage and community support services through community intervention professionals, such as psychologists and social workers are insufficient. Migrants are also highly vulnerable to gaps in the health system gaps and need for greater access to effective health care.

Access to sexual and reproductive health is limited and in Ecuador, there are two births for every one thousand girls between 10 and 14 years old, and 54.6 births among adolescents between 15 and 19 years old. Sexually transmitted infections have increased in the young population between 20 and 35 years, a critical indicator is the increase of 29.8% of HIV infections.

Ecuador has the second-highest chronic child malnutrition rate in Latin America: according to UNICEF, 23% of children under five years of age and 27% of children under two years of age suffer from chronic child malnutrition. Four out of ten indigenous children under five years of age are chronically malnourished. The prevalence of chronic child malnutrition is higher in rural areas (28.7%) compared to urban areas (20.1%).

Water-borne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoeal diseases are expected to increase due to climate change, as well as the incidence of non-communicable diseases, such as acute respiratory infections, and communicable diseases, such as malaria, dengue fever, leishmaniasis and leptospirosis. The increase in air pollution and heat stress, the risk of injury from extreme events and the deterioration of certain socioeconomic levels will also affect the health of vulnerable

groups, including pregnant mothers, infants and children, older people, street workers and homeless people, those with chronic illnesses and other marginalized groups.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has significant experience in health interventions and [community-based health](#). It runs an ambulance service, offers pre-hospital care, and provides 75% of the blood components for transfusion therapies in the country. The National Blood Bank of the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the Zonal Fractionation Centres of Loja and El Oro are ISO 9001:2015 [quality management systems certified](#). Its work to improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations includes reducing chronic child malnutrition and promoting nutritional activities and support in the Posorja and El Morro parishes. The National Society also addresses the rights of older adults to access comprehensive health care services.

The National Society gives priority to further reinforcing [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS), nutrition-related activities and [water, sanitation and hygiene services](#). An updated MHPSS training curriculum was developed to strengthen and provide technical support to the provincial branches with training in psychosocial support and psychological first aid. The youth, health, and community development programme are in the process of forming the national suicide prevention team, and the Ecuadorian Red Cross participates in the process of validating the diagnosis, problem tree and mental health policy in Ecuador, working with the Ministry of Public Health. The Ecuadorian Red Cross will further support the public authorities and the Ministry of Public Health to deliver health policies through its participation in the National Health Council.

The multi-year objectives of the National Society include:

- Protecting the health and well-being of communities and improving access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services throughout life
- Maintaining the health and dignity of communities in emergencies and [disease outbreaks](#) by providing access to appropriate health services
- Ensuring communities have greater access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services
- Ensuring communities have sustained access to health services during emergencies

Planned activities in 2024

- Maintain the delivery of the National Society's various health services
 - Promote the importance of physical as well as mental health
 - Implement community-based surveillance with community volunteers and brigades
 - Raise community awareness on maternal and child health, and respiratory diseases, waterborne diseases, diseases caused by lack of access to vaccination, among others
 - Help communities identify preparedness and response actions to protect health in emergencies
 - Support vaccination campaigns
 - Target schools and health facilities for WASH services
 - Provide material for cleaning and prevention of vector-borne diseases
 - Ensure the delivery of safe water, water treatment kits, and chlorine delivery during emergencies
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disease outbreaks.

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, with implementation support from the **Spanish Red Cross**, the **German Red Cross**, the **Italian Red Cross** and the IFRC, the Ecuadorian Red Cross will further strengthen the capacity to prepare for and respond to epidemics. Working with the Ministry of Health, the National Society will support vaccination campaigns in areas with low coverage. Vaccination strategies will be reinforced through the implementation of humanitarian NEXUS strategies, such as the safe, healthy and sustainable brigades (funded by DG-INTPA). In the second year's framework of implementation of the PPP, the National Society will continue to work in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health to increase vaccination coverage in the national territory. The aim is to surpass the achievements of the first year, where the National Society's vaccinators managed to reach areas that previously did not exceed 40% of the immunized population.

The National Society will also improve water and sanitation services in target schools and health centres based on the assessment that was completed.



Migration and displacement

Ecuador is historically characterized as a country with high migration flows, being a country of origin, transit, and destination. Periods of emigration have resulted in 1.3 million Ecuadorians leaving the country by 2022. According to statistics from the Government of Panama, Ecuador shifted from being the thirteenth nationality in irregular transit through the dangerous Darien route (with 387 people in transit in 2021) to being the second nationality in transit (with 35,000 people in the first seven months of 2023).

Ecuador hosts citizens of more than seventy nationalities. In the last two decades, the country has accommodated successive flows of refugees from Colombia, Haitians fleeing to Ecuador due to the 2010 earthquake, and Cuban migrants arriving in Ecuador. Arrivals from Haiti have been observed again in recent times. Ecuador's economic conditions, especially dollarization, have been an attraction for the immigration of foreign nationals in recent years.

In recent years, Ecuador has gone from being a country of emigration to a receiving country, due to an important migratory flow of Venezuelan citizens. Ecuador is home to

the fourth largest population of Venezuelan migrants in the world, with nearly half a million Venezuelan nationals present in the country. Venezuelans enter Ecuador through irregular crossing points, in search of better living conditions. Risks are especially high for women and families with small children, and people are exposed to dangerous terrain, severe weather conditions, and other hazards, such as sexual abuse, trafficking, and other human rights violations. According to the UN, many travel through the country in transit to other South American nations

Around 65% of the migrants do not have any regular status and approximately 80% of families report having children and adolescents. In Ecuador, the government's legal framework guarantees universal access to basic services, such as health and education, including for refugees and migrants with irregular status. However, the limits on public capacities often create barriers for these migrants and refugees to access basic services. The lack of proper documentation affects their access to the formal labour market, exposing them to protection risks and limiting their socio-economic integration prospects.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society is part of the IFRC's 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.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross migration strategy aligns with Movement migration action plan for the Americas and articulates objectives for the National Society to:

- Exercise its auxiliary role to the public authorities in relation to humanitarian migration-related needs, within the framework of the Movement's fundamental principles
- Promote the resilience of both migrant communities and communities of origin of departing Ecuadorians, which implies actions of a developmental nature
- Prioritise the response based on the acuteness of needs and local capacity (poverty levels in the area, local infrastructure for access to rights such as health and education, governmental response capacity), to ensure maximum relevance in the face of migration flows affecting Ecuador's entire continental territory

Planned activities in 2024

- Ensure that migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes, as well as access to durable solutions when appropriate
- Deliver humanitarian aid kits, preventative, and curative medical care and psychosocial support services to migrant populations
- Strengthen health service provision and health surveillance for migrants and displaced persons
- Provide [restoring family links](#) (RFL) services
- Provide information and guidance to migrant populations to raise their awareness of risks
- Support social cohesion and mutual integration between host communities and migrants
- Provide [cash and voucher assistance](#) for migrant populations in vulnerable situations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, the Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to improve the comprehensive coverage of humanitarian assistance and protection of people on the move and to address the challenges faced by the humanitarian response in providing quality services. Humanitarian assistance and protection actions will be implemented in strategically located locations, providing different health and protection interventions, such as primary health care consultations, mental health assistance, health promotion services, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) guidance, information for people on the move, and community awareness-raising. Due to increased demand, the National Society will enhance RFL services, offering phone and internet access at service points. Social cohesion activities will continue to integrate the migrant population and host communities.

During the second year of implementation of the PPP, the National Society will continue to provide economic assistance to migrant, refugee, and displaced families through multipurpose cash and voucher assistance to reduce vulnerability. The National Society will also provide support based on its capacity in cash transfer programming (CTP) built over six years. The Ecuadorian Red Cross will continue to work with government entities and partner organizations for an orderly and coordinated provision of services to the migrant population in the country, constantly monitoring the market and analyzing the available information to adjust assistance to the changing needs of the vulnerable population.

With the support of the **Spanish Red Cross**, community processes were carried out to bring together the migrant and host communities in provincial branches. This has included recreational activities (arts, sports), promoting dialogue to identify common needs, in particular access to sexual and reproductive health and the right to education for girls and boys. In this context, actions have been implemented that have directly benefited more than 3,000 people directly and 12,000 indirectly allowing the strengthening of the inter-institutional coordination of the Ecuadorian Red Cross with 15 public and non-governmental entities on migration-related issues.

The IFRC will extend technical support and proposal writing in support of the Ecuadorian Red priorities related to migration.



Values, power and inclusion

People in Ecuador face significant levels of violence, ranging from armed violence to social unrest caused by economic disparity. Since 2021, Ecuador has seen a systematic increase in criminal violence generated by organized criminal groups over territorial disputes linked to transnational drug trafficking. Figures from the Ministry of Interior recorded 3,599 violent deaths for the first semester of 2023, reflecting a 69% increase compared to the same period in 2022. In 2023, the [rise in violence](#) has put Ecuador as the top South American country in number of violent deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, rising in a single year from 25 to 42 violent deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. The increase in violence associated with drug trafficking was compounded by riots in detention centres, and a series of events led to the declaration of a state of emergency in the country on January 8, 2024, for a period of sixty days. The President of the country later declared the situation as an internal armed conflict. Violent events recorded in several provinces include car bomb explosions, the detonation of explosive devices, incinerated vehicles, kidnappings and retention of police officers, public and private servants, and attempts to take over public and private spaces (barracks, shopping centres, universities, media outlets, hospitals), among others).

In mid-2022, the country also experienced a national strike and social protests, with demands for access to better intercultural education opportunities, health services and medicines, and income generation or livelihood opportunities. The social mobilization took place in 22 provinces of the country, with the largest concentration of protesters seen in Quito, the country's capital.

High levels of violence and insecurity linked to organized crime, as well as the poverty and social inequality gaps, increased protection risks for women, girls and adolescents in both host communities and migrant and refugee groups. Services provided by organizations and the public sector for women survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were affected by the same situations of violence. It is estimated that 6.5 out of every 10 women in Ecuador have experienced some type of violence in their lifetime and one out of every four has suffered sexual violence. All types of violence continue to affect most Ecuadorian women, regardless of their ethnicity, level of education, age, or status. There are also challenges of gender inequality, with 76% of unpaid work carried out in the home and generated by women and illiteracy levels substantially higher among indigenous women. The secondary economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic reduced incomes and weakened support systems, and COVID-19 restrictions placed a disproportionate burden of domestic work and care on women. The quarantine measures also put many women at risk of exacerbated domestic violence. Regarding unemployment

levels, there is a gap of 1.4% between men and women and women's participation as elected representatives continues to be considerably below that of men. These [indicators](#) are even more prevalent in rural areas.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ecuadorian Red Cross sees [protection, gender, and inclusion \(PGI\)](#), and [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) as key cross-cutting approaches that need to be integrated into all its programmes and operations. It aims to ensure that staff and volunteers are cognisant of the IFRC [PGI minimum standards](#) in emergencies, and of the CEA [Movement-wide commitments](#) while developing specific actions and tools to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups and populations. The National Society has made inter-institutional coordination efforts to promote community engagement and accountability approach to government bodies and has focal points in all its provincial boards.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross youth program contributes to community development by training young people as agents of change in the construction of a just, equitable and inclusive society. The programme focuses on social innovation and community engagement approaches and promotes a culture of peace, non-violence, and environmental care.

The multi-year objectives of the Ecuadorian Red Cross include to:

- Raise awareness of humanitarian values and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Expand its humanitarian education, through training opportunities covering humanitarian values and fundamental principles
- Ensure that all programmes and operations promote dignity, access, participation and safety, in line with the IFRC PGI [minimum standards](#) in emergency operations, programmes and training
- Coordinate efforts to promote the CEA approach to government bodies as well as the National Society branches

Planned activities in 2024

- Further develop and use recreational tools to develop community activities addressing issues such as gender-based violence and xenophobia
- Implement feedback mechanisms and digital tools to improve communication with communities

- Strengthen CEA in emergency response and longer-term work with communities
- Further transfer knowledge and strengthen the capacities of staff and volunteers on PGI and CEA

DREF to support the Ecuadorian Red Cross preparedness and response efforts, following the declaration of a state of emergency by the government.

The IFRC will continue supporting the Ecuadorian Red Cross to institutionalise PGI and CEA, building on previous training. Support includes the development of a community feedback strategy, based on identified steps, and further integration of CEA in emergency response. The IFRC will encourage the National Society to expand its humanitarian education, through training opportunities covering the humanitarian values and fundamental principles and will also support peer-to-peer collaboration between National Societies.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to the humanitarian impacts of insecurity and social unrest. In January 2024, the IFRC granted an [allocation](#) of close to CHF 220,000 from the

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The National Society is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening, in line with the priorities identified in its strategic plan. To have a complete, comprehensive, and realistic institutional diagnosis, the Ecuadorian Red Cross has worked with the different governing, management, and operational bodies in each of the 24 branches nationwide.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross carried out its first self-assessment part of the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2017. The self-assessment part of the process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of a National Society as a whole in relation to a

wide range of organizational capacities. In February 2023, the National Society conducted a new OCAC preliminary exercise with the IFRC to update its capacity mapping. In March 2023, the eighty-five OCAC attributes were analysed with the management team of the institution and a roadmap was defined.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is also committed to the IFRC's Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process. It carried out the PER assessment in 2022, resulting in an action plan that is currently being implemented. The approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps in their preparedness and response mechanisms and take the necessary action to improve them.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Coordinate at the highest level in the humanitarian field with State institutions in charge of the country's public policy, non-governmental organizations, and civil society as part of its auxiliary role to the public authorities
- Maintain close coordination and being part of the decentralized national system of risk management, which includes the integral security system "ECU 911", and coordination with key ministries such as the Ministry of Public Health, Environment, and Education

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC network will continue to support the National Society's external engagements through the various programmes they support, including climate change adaptation and migration. The IFRC network will also ensure strong coordination amongst partners, in alignment with the Ecuadorian Red Cross priorities. This includes continued close work as part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the IFRC and DG-ECHO, which receives implementation support from the **Spanish Red Cross, German Red Cross, and Italian Red Cross**. The members will continue joint planning and procurement, regular coordination meetings, and aligning technical support for the Ecuadorian Red Cross to be the lead local actor.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Update the National Society general regulations, based on its amended Statutes which came into effect through ministerial agreement in 2023
- Prepare for OCAC certification
- Further develop and revise key internal policies
- Launch the process of drafting the next institutional Strategic Plan
- Consolidate quality management systems, in particular by developing the operational safety policy
- Launch the newly developed application to provide volunteer staff with updated and easily accessible information, in line with the decentralisation approach
- Provide training at all levels to strengthen the National Society, including:
 - the volunteer school for people interested in joining the National Society

- the e-learning platform for humanitarian personnel, currently proposing 64 courses
- the school for advanced training and leadership for the institution's governing bodies
- Continue to strengthen financial sustainability and prioritize resource mobilisation efforts in new areas such as digital transformation and adaptation to climate change

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Ecuadorian Red Cross in applying the OCAC process, and all its development efforts. It will also support the National Society in accessing pool funds dedicated to National Society development. IFRC network partners will also provide support in line with the National Society priorities, and their own areas of expertise. The IFRC also provides support in strengthening the National Society's security protocols, in complementarity with the ICRC's actions.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Carry out high-impact humanitarian diplomacy and legislative advocacy activities with public authorities
- Collaborate with relevant non-governmental bodies and academia for impactful humanitarian diplomacy and legislative advocacy
- Maintain the focus on key themes including migration, pandemics, epidemics, and endemics, disaster law, early warning systems, international humanitarian law and volunteering

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide support for humanitarian diplomacy and legislative advocacy of the Ecuadorian Red Cross, as well as for its public communications efforts. The IFRC will also cooperate with the ICRC for support to initiatives related to the promotion of international humanitarian law in Ecuador.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

With the support of the [IFRC Compliance and Mediation Committee](#), the Ecuadorian Red Cross implemented a series of actions as part of a roadmap to strengthen its integrity systems. Important steps taken amongst others included: the termination of trusts; development of a policy on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH); approval of the Code of Ethics, good institutional practices and anti-corruption policy; development of the administrative, financial and accounting policy; development of the volunteering policy; development of the regulations of the legal commission; implementation of the international financial reporting standards; and revaluation of the assets of the Ecuadorian Red Cross headquarters. It is worth noting that the 2022 external audit concluded with no observations for the National Society.

The National Society's multi-year objectives include to:

- Safeguard the physical and emotional integrity of volunteer and humanitarian personnel through the socialization of protocols and guidelines
- Implement an Enterprise Resource Planning and Management System (ERP)
- Develop a data protection policy for the Ecuadorian Red Cross in line with Ecuador's new data protection law
- Standardize and regulate data collection and processing through technological solutions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the [digital transformation](#) of the National Society, and provide technical advice for the application of the data protection policy and the use of technological tools for data collection. Support includes a grant from the jointly-led [IFRC-ICRC National Society Investment Alliance](#) for the ERP.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has supported the National Society through its Andean Country Cluster Delegation based in Lima, Peru, since 2016. The IFRC has also maintained a permanent office in Ecuador since 2016, following the response to the Manabí earthquake. The IFRC supports the National Society in its strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, and in strengthening its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Society through several DREF [operations](#) in response to floods

and landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and ash, population movement, and civil and penitentiary unrest. The IFRC has also supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response through its [global Emergency Appeal](#). In 2023 alone, the Ecuadorian Red Cross received four IFRC-DREF allocations for various emergency responses, and since January 2024 been implementing an IFRC-DREF operation aimed at preparing and responding to the humanitarian impacts of the unprecedented levels of violence in the country.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to analyse the humanitarian context, assess humanitarian situations and needs, agree on common priorities, co-develop strategies to obtain greater humanitarian access, acceptance, and space, mobilize funding and other resources, clarify consistent public messaging, and monitor progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clear humanitarian actions and development assistance and reinforce the auxiliary role of the National Societies in their respective countries.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is part of multiple coordination spaces organised by the IFRC in the region and globally, including the IFRC regional PGI network, livelihoods working group, Americas innovators network, youth network of the Americas and Caribbean, and the IFRC global migration Task Force.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the IFRC, supported by the **Spanish Red Cross** (as lead EU National Society), the **Italian Red Cross** and the **German Red Cross**. The partners are providing support to implement activities across disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, humanitarian assistance, protection of people on the move, and cash and voucher assistance. Risk communication and community engagement and accountability are addressed as cross-cutting themes within the main pillars of the intervention.

The partnership meets the humanitarian needs that arise from extended crises and provides longer-term predictable funding, to facilitate actions and processes and provide greater 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 biggest donor of international aid in the world.

Participating National Societies that have longer-term partnerships with the Ecuadorian Red Cross include:

The **German Red Cross** has a close and longstanding relationship with the Ecuadorian Red Cross, which was established in 1989–1990, when the German Red Cross

supported the National Society to set up its blood bank. In 1994, the German Red Cross partnered with the American Red Cross to support the development of disaster management structures within the National Society, and ten years later on disaster risk reduction. Since 2019, the German Red Cross has worked with the Ecuadorian Red Cross on forecast-based financing and anticipatory action. In cooperation with the IFRC and the [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](#), the German Red Cross is hosting [the Anticipation Hub](#), a platform to facilitate knowledge exchange, learning, guidance and advocacy around anticipatory action. The German Red Cross also supports the National Society since 2017 on institutional development. The German Red Cross has also supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross in implementing a COVID-19 project funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The **Italian Red Cross** has been present in the region for more than 20 years, supporting National Societies to deliver activities across disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, National Society development and migration. It currently supports the Ecuadorian Red Cross on migration, health, and innovation, as well as on disaster risk management at institutional and community levels. Currently, the Italian Red Cross has two focal points to manage preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the regional level.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross since 1980 and has had a presence in the country through an established delegation in Quito since 2000. The Spanish Red Cross supports the National Society in Ecuador to deliver humanitarian, emergency, and development interventions. Since 2016, the two National Societies have worked together on more than 40 projects across humanitarian assistance and emergency response, as well as in development, enabling the Ecuadorian Red Cross to increase its expertise and capacity in disaster risk reduction management and early response to emergencies, population movement, physical and mental health, cash transfer, economic recovery and livelihoods, water and sanitation, and protection. The Spanish Red Cross also supports the Ecuadorian Red Cross's institutional strengthening related to the care and well-being of volunteers, psychological first aid, mental health, and psychosocial support, and dealing with isolation in temporary shelters and infrastructures.

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	337,000		●				●
Italian Red Cross	2.1M		●				●
Spanish Red Cross	3.4M		●	●	●		●

Total Funding requirement

5.8M

Movement coordination

The National Society leads the Movement's cooperation and coordination mechanisms in Ecuador, and a framework agreement has been in place since 2021 between the Ecuadorian Red Cross, the IFRC and the ICRC. The agreement has a validity of five years and allows for the maintenance of multilateral and bilateral cooperation mechanisms. This is in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC is concerned about the humanitarian consequences derived from armed violence in Ecuador. For decades,

the ICRC has carried out activities to promote respect and dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), visits people deprived of liberty and maintains a close relationship of cooperation and coordination with the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

The ICRC provides support to the National Society through its regional delegation in Lima, Peru, on [safer access](#), restoring family links services, promotion of the fundamental principles and respect for the emblem, dissemination of international humanitarian law, and crisis communication, through a cooperation agreement.



Programmatic Partnership Migration response in the region of Tulcán on the border between Colombia and Ecuador where migrants walk to their new destination. (Photo: IFRC and Ecuadorean Red Cross)

Coordination with other actors

The Ecuadorian Red Cross, in line with its auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, coordinates at the highest level with the state institutions in charge of the country's public policy, and non-governmental and civil society organisations. Collaboration with ministries and public bodies includes: the Ministry of Public Health, Secretariat of Risk Management, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior, National Assembly, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Water Regulation and Control Agency, Technical Secretariat "Ecuador Grows without Child Malnutrition", and National Service for the Comprehensive Care of Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders.

As part of the national decentralized risk management system, it maintains close coordination with the "ECU 911" comprehensive security system, is a permanent actor in the national and provincial emergency operations centres and participates in technical working groups at national

and sub-national level. Within the Emergency Operations Committee manual in force, the Ecuadorian Red Cross participates in the three technical working tables for safe water, sanitation, and waste management (as guest and support member), health and primary health care (as main member), and temporary shelter and humanitarian assistance (as support member). It also takes part in the search and rescue working group, and in other tables and groups when required by the government.

The National Society is also part of the Humanitarian Country Team alongside representatives from the UN system, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors. It participates in several of the clusters formed, in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), livelihood recovery, food security, health, and temporary shelter. Coordination has also been ensured for population movement through participation in the human mobility technical table, bringing together government agencies and non-governmental organizations such as UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, IOM, HIAS, Alas de Colibrí, CARE, and Plan International, among others.



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 Ecuadorian 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 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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