



URUGUAY

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

6 August 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 3.7M**

In support of the **Uruguayan Red Cross Society**



14

National Society branches



55

National Society staff



292

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



5,000

Climate and environment



4,000

Disasters and crises



5,000

Health and wellbeing



3,000

Migration and displacement



2,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk management
- Climate change adaptation
 - Community health

Capacity development

- Auxiliary role
- Financial sustainability and resource mobilization
 - Volunteering

Key country data

Population **3.4M**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **58**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for
South Cone, based in Argentina

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

2026**

Total 1.37M CHF

Total 1.2M CHF

Total 1.2M CHF


Through the IFRC

 → **250,000** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

 → **156,000** CHF

Through Host National Society

 **970,000** CHF

Through the IFRC

 → **250,000** CHF

Through Host National Society

 **970,000** CHF

Through the IFRC

 → **250,000** CHF

Through Host National Society

 **970,000** CHF

***Projected funding requirements*

IFRC Breakdown

Longer-term needs

50,000 CHF

Climate and environment

100,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

100,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

Italian Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross Society

The Netherlands Red Cross*

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

IFRC Appeal code

Longer-term needs:

MAUY002

Hazards



Earthquakes



Volcano



Drought



Floods



Fires



Disease outbreaks

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Uruguayan Red Cross** is a civil association established under the laws of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay on 5 March 1897, with its legal status granted by the Executive Branch on 26 October 1897. The National Society was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 1920.

Through its territorial network of 14 departmental and local branches, the National Society is able to provide a timely and efficient response wherever needed. Volunteers are often the first to arrive at a disaster scene and remain during the community rebuilding stages.

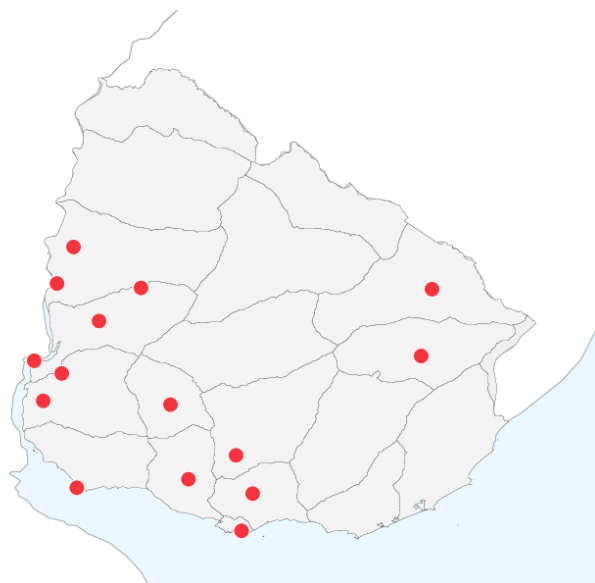
The National Society's mission is to fulfil its humanitarian mandate to assist people and their communities in vulnerable situations as well as to protect and promote health so that people can achieve a life of dignity. All this is achieved within the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values framework.

The Uruguayan Red Cross embraces different responsibilities, notably risk management and disaster response, communications, resource mobilization and development, and volunteering. It also hosts a comprehensive training centre that provides training services in areas such as first aid, water rescue, and nursing.

In its Strategic Plan (2022-2026), the Uruguayan Red Cross is committed to promoting community resilience, strengthen the

competencies of communities for the positive transformation, and generating institutional strategies aimed at internal strengthening for the response assertiveness in humanitarian assistance contexts.

Filiales 2024
Cruz Roja Uruguay



Map of the National Society's branches

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Uruguay is the second smallest country in South America and is located in the eastern part of the Southern Cone. It shares borders with Brazil and Argentina with a coastline on the Atlantic Ocean. The country's population is 3.4 million. The country has been going through an advanced ageing process. According to a study, by 2050, 22% of Uruguayans will be over the age of 65; this percentage will rise to 30% by 2100.

Uruguay has a democratic republican form of government with national, departmental, and municipal levels government and

administration. It has 19 departmental governments and 125 municipalities. Uruguay's next presidential and parliamentary elections will be held on in October 2024.

The country stands out in Latin America for having a high per capita income and low levels of inequality and poverty. In relative terms, its middle class is the largest in the Americas, accounting for more than 60% of its population. According to the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, the average unemployment rate was lower than in previous years (7.8%). In line with this, there has also been a reduction in the informality rate. The proportion of households living in poverty was estimated at 0.2%.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Uruguay is a country with a temperate-humid climate, with warm summers and mild winters. In addition, due to its geographical location and its proximity to the ocean, it has two rainy seasons in spring and autumn. However, since the last quarter of 2022, the country experienced a marked decline in rainfall causing a persistent drought which caused severe restrictions in the supply of drinking water and production losses of more than 1,000 million dollars. Before the water crisis in the metropolitan area, the drought had already affected 75,000 people in five departments of the country.

Drought-related fires also impact the country. High temperatures and lack of rainfall have caused large amounts of wooded areas to catch fire. Heat waves reached their peak in January 2023 when the country recorded the highest temperature in its history 44° Celsius. Parliament is currently debating a forestry bill that includes important provisions to prevent these fires. In addition to the loss of forests due to fires, deforestation also contributes to the decreasing forest cover. Throughout the country, it is observable that the highest degree of degradation of the native forest occurs in the vicinity of and around cities and population centers, associated with the grazing and trampling of cattle and clear-cutting for the construction of bridges and roads.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Uruguayan Red Cross Society is part of the IFRC 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 National Society's high-level objectives are to:

- Encourage communities and IFRC staff to take urgent action to adapt to the growing and changing risks of the climate and environmental crises
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation

Planned activities in 2024

- Implement climate change mitigation actions and carry out actions designed in a youth and climate change laboratory carried out in 2023
- Implement, within the framework of the Livelihoods in Rural Areas programme, climate-smart actions aimed at responding to the effects of drought in the country

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Uruguayan Red Cross by providing technical support for the training of staff and volunteers in Climate-Smart Operations and Programmes.

The **Italian Red Cross** will continue to provide financial support to the National Society for the implementation of selected projects amidst the previously carried out laboratory on climate change.



Disasters and crises

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

Similar to all Southern Cone countries, Uruguay is affected by different crises or catastrophes in various ways. The main threats are meteorological and climatic. Extreme weather events include heat waves, cold waves, high winds, tornadoes, hailstorms, lightning, frost, heavy rain, storms, and coastal storms.

Uruguay experiences two types of [floods](#). Fluvial floods, which are gradual and associated with large river and stream basins, and drainage floods which are rapid, urban, and associated with small basins.

Conversely, the country also experiences [meteorological droughts](#) that occur due to a lack of rainfall. This in turn cause other types of droughts such as agricultural droughts (scarcity of water for crops), hydrological droughts (low availability of surface and groundwater), and socio-economic droughts (social and economic consequences).

Uruguay is currently facing a serious water crisis. At the end of June 2023, Uruguay's [Paso Severino dam](#), which supplies drinking water to more than half of the country's 3.4 million people, was only 2.4% full. As a result, officials began adding water to the supply from the Río de la Plata, an estuary where fresh water from two major rivers mixes with saltwater from the Atlantic Ocean. The influx of salt water raised sodium and chloride levels to more than double the levels considered safe under international standards. The government recommended that young children, older adults, pregnant women, and people with chronic kidney and heart disease avoid tap water.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

For the next decade, the National Society is focused on promoting community access to water supply and sanitation services to meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups.

In addition, the Uruguayan Red Cross intends to:

- Take action to increase [community resilience](#) to multiple evolving impacts and hazards
- Meet the needs of people affected by crises and disasters through access to in-kind assistance
- Provide [shelter assistance](#) to people affected by crises and disasters
- Respond effectively to the wide range of evolving crises and disasters and leverage their auxiliary role in emergency response
- Expand leadership in the field of [disaster law](#) and enhance the official/legal recognition of their auxiliary role

Planned activities in 2024

- Enable access to drinking water in areas of special vulnerability in the metropolitan area
- Implement community training actions to generate local capacities in terms of water care in the context of the current crisis
- Support the self-construction brigades that are implemented within the framework of the public policy of social housing to respond to the housing crisis
- Strengthen joint actions within the framework of emergency responses and the consolidation of its role as an auxiliary to the public authorities



During droughts, the Uruguayan Red Cross developed a cash transfer programme for 200 families with support of IFRC-DREF, 3 July 2023. (Photo: Uruguayan Red Cross)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Uruguayan Red Cross for the response to small and medium-scale emergencies

through its Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF). It will also provide technical support to the National Society team in the planning and implementation of operations.



Health and wellbeing

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of death in the country, accounting for 60% of all deaths and 62% of early mortality (deaths between 30 and 69 years old). In particular, cardiovascular diseases are the most prevalent. Deaths from road accidents also represent a large percentage of early deaths, although in the last year there has been a drop in the number of deaths from traffic accidents, from 434 deaths in 2021 to 431 at the end of 2022 (-0.7%).

Other causes of morbidity and mortality due to external causes are suicides. Suicide rates in Uruguay are the highest on the continent, at 21.4 per 10,000 inhabitants. According to the World Health Organization, Uruguay ranks 22nd in the world and first in the Americas. Older adults and young people between the ages of 10 and 24 are the most affected populations, with men committing suicide four times more often than women.

With regard to sexually transmitted infections, Uruguay maintains an epidemiological pattern with prevalences in the general population of less than 1% and in specific populations greater than 5%. It is estimated that a total of 15,000 people living with HIV are currently living in Uruguay, of which 13,529 know their HIV status (90.2%).

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Protect the health and well-being of communities and improve it through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate and quality health services throughout life
- Maintain the health and dignity of communities in emergencies and disease outbreaks
- Ensure communities have access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH)
- Leverage its auxiliary role to secure its position in relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy, and policy platforms and mechanisms

Planned activities in 2024

- Implement communication campaigns for the prevention of non-communicable diseases and the promotion of healthy lifestyles
- Continue to develop community training in first aid
- Implement community training actions and provision of services in the field of mental health and psychosocial support for the prevention of suicide
- Carry out campaigns to remove and clean up public spaces for the prevention of epidemics such as dengue, zika, and chikungunya
- Identify health and wellness programmes for older adults to manage chronic conditions, promote physical activity, and improve mental health
- Reopen the Montevideo School of Nursing to generate a comprehensive training centre that will generate freely available income
- Carry out actions to strengthen the access of communities to safe water

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Uruguayan Red Cross as it continues to develop community training in first aid. It will also provide technical assistance in Health Promotion from the Regional Office and proposal submission to different donors. The IFRC will also offer support through the Empress Shôken Fund to implement services in the field of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for suicide prevention.

The **Canadian Red Cross Society** will support the National Society with funding for the renewal and updating of procedures at the Canada Rehabilitation Centre.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will financially support the National Society for the opening of the School of Nursing in Montevideo.



Migration and displacement

Uruguay receives the second-largest number of migrants in the Southern Cone. It has been experiencing an influx of Venezuelan migrants for some years now. Since 2016, when the exodus of Venezuelan migration began, Uruguay has been a pole of attraction, experiencing considerable growth in the entry of refugees and migrants. Uruguay has had comprehensive human mobility policies in place for more than a decade based on a universalist human rights perspective.

In the last year, there has also been a wave of people from Argentina. During 2022, of the 17,400 people who began the process to reside in Uruguay, 13,850 were from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Amongst these, 65% were from Argentina.

A large number of migrants suffer chronic medical conditions such as asthma, hypertension, diabetes and depression. Nearly 20% of migrants and refugees are 55 years or older, many of whom need daily medication.

More than 20% of migrants or refugees have children who are not in school. In most cases, the families are new to the country and lack appropriate documentation.

As of 2023, Uruguay hosted 51,503 refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants, most of them from Venezuela. Of these, 29,080 were people in need of international protection.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Ensure migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points

along migration routes, as well as access to durable solutions where appropriate

- Engage with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to more effectively assess, understand, and respond to their priority needs

Planned activities in 2024

- Develop actions to restore family links with a focus on the protection of the migrant population
- Implement feedback actions aimed at the migrant population to collect information and perceptions about the services provided that will allow the improvement of actions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Uruguayan Red Cross for the development of projects on human mobility so that the National Society can access new financing. It will also support awareness-raising and communication strategies aimed at the needs of people on the move.

The ICRC will support the National Society to restore family links with a focus on the protection of the migrant population on the border with Brazil.



Values, power and inclusion

The Southern Cone countries, including Uruguay, have high rates of crime and violence against populations in vulnerable situations. According to the survey on the prevalence of gender-based violence by the National Institute for Women (INMujeres), 1.1 million Uruguayan women experienced gender-based violence at some point in their lives.

A total of 48 femicides and 12 attempted femicides were registered in the country in 2022. Of all the territories in Latin America, Uruguay had the third highest reported femicides with 1.6 femicides per 100,000 women.

Regarding human trafficking, the National Directorate for Sociocultural Promotion reported that it identified 406 victims

of trafficking constituting 60 adult women and 346 children under 18 years of age. The Comprehensive System for the Protection of Children and Adolescents against Violence (SIPIAV) intervened in 7,473 situations of violence, at a rate of 20 per day, 92% of which were the direct family aggressors of the victims. Of these, 55% of the cases involved girls and adolescent women and 53% involved children up to 12 years old.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society will incorporate the protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) approach in a transversal way in the

community actions it carries out, prioritizing women, children, people with disabilities, the elderly, people who suffer or suffered violence and the LGBTBIQ+ population in the selection of target people.

It will also:

- Promote and support safe, equitable, and continuous access to quality education for all, especially children affected by disasters, crises, or displacement
- Ensure the network is safe and inclusive, ensuring the dignity, access, participation and safety of people of all identities

Planned activities in 2024

- Distribute school kits at the beginning of the school year to promote access to education and reduce school dropouts

- Incorporate the protection approach in all its actions to generate capacities that will allow them to then implement specific actions to prevent and respond to violence, stigma, and discrimination

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Uruguayan Red Cross for the mainstreaming of the protection approach in its actions. In addition, it will collaborate in the design of projects that allow the National Society to obtain financing that will allow it to implement specific actions.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Uruguayan Red Cross is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening. It has already carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2017. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process intends to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies concerning a wide range of organizational capacities.

The Uruguayan Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is in the work plan phase. The PER Approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it. The IFRC network is committed to supporting the National Societies' development in accordance with their identified priorities.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Become a network of relevant local organizations that are the trusted partners of choice for local humanitarian action with the capacity to act in the global network
- Coordinate with stakeholders to improve efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions and build greater trust within the network
- Renew and strengthen the framework agreements

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Uruguayan Red Cross in the review and updating of the current framework agreements, as well as in the development of new links with organizations and companies that can contribute to the financing of programmatic actions and the sustainability of the National Society.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Work on strengthening the organizational development and develop a comprehensive strategy and a renewal of the headquarters organizational chart
- Reopen the Montevideo school of nursing to generate a comprehensive training centre that will be constituted as a business unit

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Uruguayan Red Cross through the capacity building fund (CBF). The IFRC will provide technical and financial assistance in evaluating the capacities of the National Society and the development of recommendations for the constitution of business units.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will offer financial support for the refurbishment of the National Society facilities and the setting up of the nursing school.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Successfully promote its image and promote change, affecting public behaviour, policies and decisions at the national, regional and global levels
- Prompt the enactment of a law that strengthens the auxiliary role of the National Society to work directly with national authorities and agencies on issues related to the response to urgent humanitarian needs due to disasters

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical and political support to the Uruguayan Red Cross for the enactment of a new law in Uruguay. It will assist the National Society in developing a communication needs self-assessment as well as an external communications strategy.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Function as a responsible global network
- Undergo a digital transformation
- Use innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate, adapt and change in the face of complex challenges and opportunities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical support to the Uruguayan Red Cross for the development of a policy for the integral management of human resources in the National Society. It will also provide technical support for the development of the national policy for PGI and the internal regulations for the prevention of sexual harassment and abuse (PSEA).

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC operates in Uruguay through its Southern Cone and Brazil Cluster Delegation in Buenos Aires. The IFRC provides technical support to the National Society in organizational development, fundraising, financial sustainability, crisis and emergency response, programmatic development and membership coordination.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Society through an [IFRC-DREF](#) in relation to floods and droughts. The IFRC also provides technical support in a wide range of areas based on the needs of the National Society.

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 Uruguayan Red Cross participates in the network of migration focal points of the Southern Cone, managed by the Southern Cone Delegation. It also collaborates with other National Societies of the Southern Cone to strengthen the National Society through sharing and exchanging experiences.

Several participating National Societies support the Uruguayan Red Cross including:

The **Canadian Red Cross Society** supports the National Society with funding for the renewal and updating of procedures at the Canada Rehabilitation Centre.

The **Costa Rican Red Cross** provides peer support and first aid courses in Uruguay.








The **Italian Red Cross** works on youth climate change programmes and supports the development of resource mobilization in Uruguay. It will also continue to provide financial support to the National Society for the implementation of selected projects amidst the previously carried out laboratory on climate change.

The **Spanish Red Cross** provides financial support for the refurbishment of the National Society facilities and the setting up of the School of Nursing.



After a needs assessment in Tacurembó, the Uruguayan Red Cross distributed several three-layered tanks with a capacity of 1000 litres to support safe drinking water for residents, 7 August 2023. (Photo: Uruguayan Red Cross)

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Canadian Red Cross Society	2,000						
Italian Red Cross	115,000						
Spanish Red Cross	39,000						

Total Funding requirement

156,000

Movement coordination

The National Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation](#) (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

In [Uruguay](#), the ICRC encourages the implementation of the international humanitarian law (IHL) in the armed forces and supports the work of the National Committee for the implementation of IHL. The ICRC will also support the National Society in [restoring family links](#).

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Uruguayan Red Cross works closely with public and governmental entities such as National Emergency System (SINAER), the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of Social Development Quartermasters, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry

of Housing, volunteer agreement, the Ministry of Transport and Public Works Airports Uruguay. The National Society also coordinates with private companies such as Salus Haus, the Coca-Cola Company and Hyundai Fidocar.



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 Uruguayan 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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