

IN SUPPORT OF THE URUGUAYAN RED CROSS SOCIETY



14

National Society
branches



16

National Society
local units



350

National Society
volunteers



52

National Society
staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Health and
wellbeing



2,500

Migration and
displacement



5,514

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement		725,000
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	Funding	358,000
		Expenditure	358,000
	Longer-term	Funding Requirement	655,000
		Expenditure	460
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	70,000	
	Funding	82,000	
	Expenditure	133,000	

Uruguayan Red Cross

Overview




Funding	960,000
Expenditure	875,000

Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat	445,000
Participating National Societies	70,000

Appeal number **MAAUY002**









STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Disasters and crises	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 3,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	 1,000
Health and wellbeing	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 6,000
Values, power and inclusion	Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

National Society development	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of their volunteers	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society is showing progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
	National Society have strengthened their integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Enabling Functions
Argentine Red Cross					
Costa Rican Red Cross					
Italian Red Cross					
Netherlands Red Cross					
Spanish Red Cross					

 Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

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 per cent of Uruguayans will be over the age of 65; this will rise to 30 per cent by 2100.

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

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 per cent of its population. According to the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, the average [unemployment rate](#) was lower than in previous years (7.8 per cent). 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 per cent.

In Uruguay, lack of rainfall since [September 2022](#) caused a significant reduction in the availability of and access to water in the country, which in turn has been affected by the presence of the 'La Niña' phenomenon in the region and by the high temperatures during the summer season. In [January 2023](#), the Uruguayan state declared a water emergency.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In 2023, the Uruguayan Red Cross launched a climate change project that empowered young volunteers to identify local issues and develop solutions. The initiative promoted [environmental protection and sustainability](#) through active youth involvement and project development.

Disasters and crises

In the period January to December 2023, the Uruguayan Red Cross developed digital campaigns to address crises and support community resilience. It conducted a comprehensive damage and needs assessment in response to drought impacts, assisting affected communities with livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) promotion and multi-purpose cash grants. Additionally, the National Society held a disaster law briefing to strengthen its auxiliary role and highlight key research and advocacy strategies, including the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) for Uruguay.

Health and wellbeing

For the reporting period, the Uruguayan Red Cross collaborated with the Ministry of Public Health and the Faculty of Chemistry at UDELAR to distribute health advisories, in response to Uruguay's severe drought. It shared guidelines for vulnerable groups and promoted recommendations focused on [water, sanitation and hygiene](#).

Migration and displacement

In 2023, the Uruguayan Red Cross engaged with migration focal points from Argentina, Chile, and Paraguay to improve coordination and data sharing on migration issues.

Enabling local actors

In 2023, the Uruguayan Red Cross strengthened its organizational capacity with a [Capacity Building Fund](#) grant and enhanced [mental health programmes](#) for vulnerable youth through [the Empress Shôken Fund](#). It organized a [youth event](#) to address humanitarian issues and foster regional networking. The National Society also hosted the VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, improving its advocacy efforts and government relations. It developed a financial management system, established new policies, restructured HR and invested in [digital transformation](#).

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Uruguayan Red Cross implemented a project focused on climate change and youth, aiming to promote active participation of young volunteers in addressing climate change. It encouraged young volunteers to identify climate change-related issues in their communities and develop projects to address them. The 'Youth-focused Project Incubator' initiative of the Uruguayan Red Cross facilitated environment protection and sustainability while also empowering young volunteers to become agents of change. The National Society encouraged young volunteers to identify climate change-related issues in their communities and develop projects to address them.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical assistance in the implementation of its climate change mitigation projects.



Disasters and crises

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

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC DREF](#)) was approved for one emergency.

1. Uruguay - Drought

NAME OF OPERATION	Uruguay drought
MDR-CODE	MDRUY004
DURATION	7 months (29 January 2023 to 31 August 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 381,390
PEOPLE TARGETED	12,000
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	Uruguay drought

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 381,390 in January 2023 supported the Uruguayan Red Cross in assisting approximately 12,000 people affected by the drought. The National Society supported the targeted people over a seven-month period with assistance comprising cash transfers for protecting and recovering livelihoods, multi-purpose cash assistance, water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) initiatives like water awareness talks and distribution of purification kits. Community engagement was also strengthened through information dissemination and a feedback mechanism.

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

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Uruguayan Red Cross developed digital content and campaigns to focus social conversations focused on addressing crises and their impacts on livelihoods, communities and ecosystems. This content will continue to support the National Society in their efforts to work with communities and to build their resilience to evolving hazards.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical support in the development of digital content aimed at building the resilience of communities.

People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through access to in-kind assistance, multi-purpose cash grants and support that is timely, adequate, flexible and strengthens their agency

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Uruguayan Red Cross conducted a thorough damage and needs assessment in February and March 2023. It coordinated with the National Emergency System to address the impacts of the [drought](#) on livelihoods, health and water access. The assessment revealed that 2.3 million people faced water scarcity, 409,115 of them being in the most affected areas. As many as 20,000 people needed assistance in water, sanitation and hygiene and livelihoods. In response, the Uruguayan Red Cross assisted 12,000 people (2,400 households) focusing on livelihoods, [WASH](#) promotion and multi-purpose cash grants.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the Uruguayan Red Cross in its efforts to assist the people affected by the drought, through its [IFRC DREF](#) mechanism.

National Societies expand their leadership in the field of Disaster Law and improve official/legal recognition of their auxiliary role

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The [disaster law](#) briefing held for the new Southern Cone Head of Cluster, highlighted ten case studies, reports and research on the South Cone National Societies. This included an advocacy strategy and roadmap focused on strengthening the auxiliary role of the Uruguayan Red Cross. The briefing also featured the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Country Document for Uruguay, detailing international disaster response laws specific to it.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in the formulation of its [disaster law](#).



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In response to the severe drought that impacted Uruguay in 2023, the Uruguayan Red Cross partnered with the Ministry of Public Health (MSP) and the Faculty of Chemistry at the Universidad de la República (UDELAR) to disseminate critical health advisories. The Uruguayan Red Cross facilitated the distribution of specific guidelines from the Ministry of Public Health for individuals with hypertension, kidney issues, pregnant women and nursing mothers. Additionally, it promoted UDELAR's recommendations, which included boiling water for three to five minutes before use, taking short baths in well-ventilated areas and regularly checking the quality and maintenance of wells and water filters.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Uruguayan Red Cross in its efforts to actively collaborate with the public authorities.

Progress by the National Society in water, sanitation and hygiene

The Uruguayan Red Cross distributed water pumps for semi-surgent wells complementing a government project that constructed subsidized wells for vulnerable families without access to drinking water. Additionally, it delivered

1,000-litre tanks and distributed water filters, accompanied by informative talks on their use. The National Society also distributed videos and publications promoting water care, safe storage and treatment, in drought affected areas. Additionally, the Uruguayan Red Cross created educational materials for adults and schools, including cards, brochures, posters and interactive activities. These sessions covered water care, storage and purification, using participatory methods for both adults and children.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical support in the implementation of its interventions focused on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).



Members of the Uruguayan Red Cross conducting a needs assessment in areas affected by drought, in March 2023 (Photo: Uruguayan Red Cross)



Migration and displacement

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

Progress by National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Uruguayan Red Cross participated in meetings with migration focal points of Argentina, Chile and Paraguay. These meetings were aimed at enhancing coordination between the border National Societies on migration issues, sharing tools and cross-checking border monitoring data.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided coordination and structuring support to the Uruguayan Red Cross for the meeting with migration focal points.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

IFRC membership coordination

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 in-country participating National Societies include the **Costa Rican Red Cross** and the **Italian Red Cross**.

Movement coordination

The Uruguayan Red Cross 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 also supports the National Society in Restoring Family Links.

External coordination

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.



National Society Development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Uruguayan Red Cross enhanced its organizational capacity with a [Capacity Building Fund](#) grant focusing on financial sustainability. It implemented mental health programmes targeting vulnerable youth through the support received from [Empress Shôken Fund](#). The National Society also organized a youth event for [engaging young leaders](#) in discussions on humanitarian challenges, decision-making and regional networking. Key topics included inter-generational dialogue, [mental health and psychosocial support](#) services for the youth and integrating the protection, gender and inclusion approach with the programme shaped directly by the participants.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the Uruguayan Red Cross through grants such as the Capacity Building fund (CBF) and Empress Shôken Fund. It also supported the National Society in the strengthening of its organizational capacity.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Uruguayan Red Cross advanced its advocacy efforts and public image by organizing the VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean. It gathered governments, organizations, the private sector and other key stakeholders for the event. The National Society also coordinated conference logistics with Uruguay's National Emergency System (SINAE) and strengthened its relationship with the Uruguayan government by highlighting its role in disaster response.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Uruguayan Red Cross in defining and strengthening its auxiliary role.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Uruguayan Red Cross developed a financial management system using 'Monday.com' to monitor accounting and financial movements, including purchase requests, logistical requisitions and stock control. It formulated policies on the prevention of money laundering and financing of licit activities along with a broader financial policy. Additionally, the National Society engaged in discussions to analyze job descriptions, reorganize its HR structure and identify critical leadership roles. The Uruguayan Red Cross also participated in the IFRC's National Society Digital Engagement Capacity Building Project, investing in video conferencing systems, equipment and internet services as part of its [digital transformation](#) efforts.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society through improved timing and feedback on recruitment and selection processes. It also provided technical support for the National Society's digital transformation efforts.



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.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Uruguay 2023 Financial Report](#)

Note: For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRUY004](#)

- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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