



COLOMBIA

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

23 October 2024

IN SUPPORT OF THE COLOMBIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY



31

National Society branches



208

National Society local units



25,722

National Society volunteers



2,900

National Society staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



1,628

Health and wellbeing



131,410

Migration and displacement



15,570

Values, power and inclusion



9,808

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

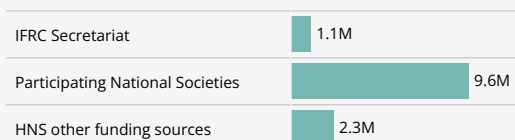
Country	Funding Requirement	21.3M
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	
	Funding	840,000
	Expenditure	790,000
	Longer-term	
	Funding Requirement	3.7M
	Funding	644,000
	Expenditure	537,000
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	1.3M
	Funding	2.6M
	Expenditure	2.7M
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	16.2M
	Funding	2.3M

Colombian Red Cross Society

Overview






Funding Sources



Appeal number **MAACO002**

In addition to: CHF 152,000 DREF Funding

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	Developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks?	Yes
	Implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups?	Yes
	Implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)?	Yes
	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	2,000
Health and wellbeing	People donating blood	 131,000
Migration and displacement	Data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move?	Yes
	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	 16,000
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes	27
Values, power and inclusion	People reached by RCRC educational programmes	 10,000

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of	13
	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
National Society development	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of their volunteers	Yes
	One National Society Development plan in place	Yes
Accountability and agility	Functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
	National Society have strengthened their integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes
	National Society is showing progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Bilateral Support						Multilateral Support
		Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Through IFRC
American Red Cross	145,000	●	●				●	✓
Argentine Red Cross								✓
British Red Cross								✓
Canadian Red Cross Society	18,000	●						
CICR				●	●	●	●	
German Red Cross		●	●	●	●	●	●	
IFRC		●	●	●	●			
Netherlands Red Cross								✓
No PNS 2023		●	●	●	●	●		
Norwegian Red Cross	4.9M							✓
Spanish Red Cross	3.1M	●						
Swedish Red Cross					●			✓

Total Funding Reported **CHF 7.4M**

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Located in the northwest of South America, at the level of the Equator, Colombia has a diverse geography. It is home to the Andean region, the Amazon region, an extensive plain shared with Venezuela, and both Caribbean and Pacific coasts and islands. Ranked 29 by the [INFORM Risk Index](#), Colombia is exposed to a broad range of natural hazards, hydrometeorological as well as geophysical. More than half of the people affected by natural hazards are also affected by the presence of armed groups and violence. Floods, landslides and flash floods are the most [recurrent events](#), due to the rainy season and the La Niña phenomenon.

There are currently [eight non-international armed conflicts](#) in Colombia. Three of them are between the government of Colombia and the following armed actors, respectively: the National Liberation Army (ELN), the Gaitanist Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AGC) and former FARC-EP currently not adhered to the Peace Agreement (former FARC-EP). The other five conflicts are between non-state armed actors. By the first week of July 2023, there were already [53 massacres](#) with 173 victims nationwide.

Consequently, internal and external displacement continue in the country with data registering [939,000 displaced people](#) between 2017 and October 2022. Over 70 per cent of those displaced cite acts of threats of violence or direct violence against them or clashes between armed groups (state and non-state) as their reason of leaving. The remaining 29 per cent of internally displaced said they left because of the larger context of violence. As of November 2023, more than [2.8 million Venezuelans](#) lived in Colombia, having fled Venezuela for similar reasons.

Colombia also faces health-related challenges as it works toward ensuring equity in health protection. The [two main challenges](#) are maintaining adequate financing of the health and social protection sector and continuing to make the necessary adjustments to ensure the financial sustainability of the General Social Security System (SGSSS).

The country also is struggling with gender-based violence. Due to the widespread and intersecting nature of the conflicts, perpetrators of gender-based crimes are rarely held accountable. In addition, Indigenous and Afro-Colombian women have been affected disproportionately. Among 3,445 cases of murder in Indigenous and Afro-Colombian individuals, [65.5 per cent](#) were women. High levels of poverty also remain a concern within the Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.

In June 2022, Gustavo Petro and Francia Márquez were elected as President and Vice President of Colombia. The government presented a plan during the [presidential campaign](#) to work towards gender equality, the promotion of equality, the recognition of the care economy, the fight against climate change, the energy transition, rural reform and the implementation of the Peace Agreement signed in 2016.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In efforts to adapt to the global risk of climate and environmental crises, the Colombian Red Cross Society contributed to COP28, the Climate Champions' Action Plan and the global platform for urban collaboration in Geneva. Local initiatives, such as regional workshops, which incorporated nature into humanitarian work through tools such as the nature navigator, [road map to community resilience](#) and [enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment](#) (eVCA) were also undertaken in 2023. The National Society also strengthened urban resilience against floods in cities like Barranquilla and Bogotá through the implementation of the climate resilience measurement for communities. Additionally, the La Mojana project improved [early warning systems](#) for 79 vulnerable communities. The National Society also engaged in cash transfer programmes and climate-smart [livelihoods](#) through technical training, cash distribution and [anticipatory action](#) workshops, enhancing preparedness and sustainability for local communities.

Disasters and crises

In 2023, the Colombian Red Cross Society responded to multiple emergencies through the [IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund](#) (DREF) including three different instances of floods and a volcanic eruption. To support recovery from disaster, the National Society provided emergency [water, sanitation and hygiene](#) (WASH) and [food related support](#) to Wayúu communities in La Guajira. It also supported water supply efforts in coordination with the National Disaster

Risk Management Unit across several departments. To bolster its preventive measures, the National Society invested in enhancing the emergency telecommunications network with a very high frequency (VHF) repeater and portable radio equipment for vulnerable communities.

Health and wellbeing

In 2023, the Colombian Red Cross Society expanded its public health capacity, focusing on disease prevention, [first aid](#), mental health, and [community-based surveillance](#). It maintained a national blood bank network, increasing blood donations by 15 per cent. The National Society also launched [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS) programmes, strengthened community health committees, and led family planning workshops. The Pacific Medical Mission and Senior Medical Mission II projects to protect healthcare workers and provide health services in conflict areas were also undertaken. Additionally, the Colombian Red Cross Society installed water treatment systems across multiple regions in its efforts to provide communities with appropriate and affordable [WASH services](#).

Migration and displacement

In 2023, the Colombian Red Cross Society updated its National Strategy for Attention to the Migrant Population for 2024-2030, focusing on border areas with Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama. Two key projects were developed: one to improve protection mechanisms and food security for migrants in Cúcuta and another to promote social inclusion in host communities. The National Society established Migrant Attention Points (PAMs) and Attention and Guidance Centres (CAOs) to provide health, protection and integration services. It also offered [shelter](#) solutions to people in transit and co-led initiatives on multisector accommodation and [cash assistance](#) (CVA). With assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the National Society continued its efforts in [restoring family links](#) (RFL).

Values, power, and inclusion

In 2023, the Colombian Red Cross Society advanced its efforts towards reducing the humanitarian impact of armed conflict and violence through [protection, gender, and inclusion](#) (PGI) initiatives. Key activities included launching a virtual course on the humanitarian approach to trafficking and implementing a [Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#) (PSEA) policy. The National Society strengthened its capacity through training on topics such as [safer access](#), human trafficking and risk from explosive devices. It further implemented 10 programmatic lines and seven hybrid lines, enhancing areas such as economic security, telecommunications and weapons contamination. Other notable activities included anti-personnel mine risk education and supporting over 100 victims of explosive devices.

Enabling local actors

In 2023, the Colombian Red Cross Society strengthened its institutional sustainability through the [National Society Investment Alliance](#) (NSIA) project, implementing a new phase of its institutional fundraising strategy. This included managing donation platforms, launching social media campaigns and developing new donation channels, such as a peer platform and contact centre. A diploma in project management was also created to train volunteers to enhance volunteer efficiency. The Colombian Red Cross Society undertook [digital transformation](#) efforts which contributed to enhanced data systematization and programme evaluation.

Changes and amendments

This document, after several months of work with the National Society's mission teams and with the participating National Societies, was approved in January 2023 and revised again in March 2024. As a result, it has undergone modifications. Its objective has been to complement the activities initially contemplated and to adjust their technical scope based on corrections.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Colombian Red Cross Society worked towards strengthening its climate strategies. As a part of these efforts, the institutional climate change policy was formulated in 2023. It provided strategic guidance on climate change to help advance climate-resilient and low-carbon development and reduce risks associated with climate change effects. The tools outlined in the policy will act as guidelines for the 31 Sectionals while undertaking programmes, projects, actions and services carried out by the National Society.

The Colombian Red Cross Society was one of the five National Societies in the Americas region designated as a Global Champion for Resilience and Climate Change. It actively contributed to the development of the Climate Champions' Action Plan.

The National Society also participated in meetings in Geneva with two points of focus. The first point was a workshop in Mexico on climate-smart programming at the event of the global platform for urban collaboration in Geneva. And second, to participate in the panel of the climate week in Panama, in preparation for COP28. In continuation of the efforts towards COP28, the Colombian Red Cross Society participated in the Conference of the Parties with the Colombian government. The conference was held in December 2023, with the aim of generating advocacy and contributing to the thematic agenda. The National Society's participation sought to "increase urgency and action to respond to the climate crisis" and show the Colombian Red Cross Society's continued commitment to anticipate the effects of the climate crisis in the country.

In April, the National Society was also a part of the pilot workshop held in the city of Barranquilla. It was the first workshop developed in the region which considered the framework of the activities mentioned in the IFRC Regional Roadmap on Climate Change and Environment and the [IFRC framework for community resilience](#). It aimed to highlight the importance of incorporating nature in humanitarian work, especially through tools such as the [nature navigator](#) and the combination of other tools such as the [road map to community resilience](#) and [enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment \(eVCA\)](#), and provide a space to learn about successful experiences in other countries in the region.

In addition, the Zurich Foundation and the Colombian Red Cross Society worked together to carry out the [community flood resilience programme](#). The programme aimed to strengthen resilience capacity in urban communities in Barranquilla, Medellín and Bogotá through the implementation of the [climate resilience measurement for communities \(CRMC\)](#) approach. The project has been ongoing since 2021 and reached 6,564 direct beneficiaries and 50,513 indirect beneficiaries by the end of 2023. To date, 3,069 people accompanied and contributed valuable information for the development of community diagnoses, allowing the Colombian Red Cross Society to implement both the eVCA and the CRMC approach.

The National Society also executed the La Mojana climate and life project along with the United Nations Development Programme. The project supported capacity building in the knowledge, monitoring, response and communication for hydrological alerts, which contributed to the implementation of seven community [early warning systems](#) with 79 vulnerable communities in the La Mojana region.

As part of the evaluation workshop on cash transfer programming, the National Society promoted and strengthened the capacity of a pilot project for the adaptation of the Access Red Cross technological tool to Spanish. This allowed it to be implemented in Latin America in October 2023. The pilot reached 97 families who benefited through [multipurpose cash](#) in the community of Soacha in Cundinamarca.

Additionally, training was also undertaken for programme and operational personnel from the National Directorate and the Sectionals/Subsidiaries who were trained through eight [anticipatory action](#) workshops focusing on construction, anticipatory action promoters, cash transfers, data collection and risk analysis using geographic information systems, standards and guidelines for livestock interventions in emergencies and simulation in anticipatory actions. A total of 195 people received these training.

With regard to economic security, virtual training was carried out for [climate-smart livelihoods](#) and accountability programme. As a result of the training, the National Society branches liaised with institutions such as Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA) and the Chamber of Commerce to support its technical training process for the benefit of 11 productive units. The units worked towards the implementation and empowerment of communities, particularly the sustainability of these livelihoods.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Colombian Red Cross Society with technical and financial support for various projects and programmes. It also supported the National Society's participation in the Conference of the Parties (COP)28 with the Colombian government through its inclusion as the IFRC delegation.

The **American Red Cross** and the **British Red Cross** (through [Cash Hub](#)) supported the National Society with the evaluation workshop on cash transfer programming. They also provided financial support for the development of the workshop.

The **Canadian Red Cross** provided financial support to the National Society during the formulation of the institutional climate change policy.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit [IFRC GO page: Colombia](#).

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) was approved for the following emergencies:

1

NAME OF OPERATION	Colombia Floods - La Mojana
MDR-CODE	MDR0021
DURATION	7 months (19 July 2022 to 31 January 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 499,956
PEOPLE TARGETED	18,216
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Operation Final Report

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 499,956 in July 2022 supported the Colombian Red Cross Society in assisting 18,216 people affected by the floods caused by the collapse of the dam in the Cara de Gato sector. The National Society provided support over a seven-month period with assistance through food kits, multipurpose cash transfers, family hygiene kits and [water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\)](#).

2

NAME OF OPERATION	Colombia floods- Cauca
MDR-CODE	MDR0022

DURATION	4 months (8 December 2022 to 30 April 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 499,988
PEOPLE TARGETED	25,353
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Operation Final Report

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 499,988 in December 2022 supported the Colombian Red Cross Society in aiding approximately 25,353 people affected by floods and heavy rains in the departments of Cundinamarca, Valle del Cauca, Cauca, La Guajira and Huila. The operation concluded reaching people affected by the emergencies, through response actions implemented in the areas of livelihoods, health and WASH.

3

NAME OF OPERATION	Volcanic Eruption
MDR-CODE	MDR0023
DURATION	5 months (14 April 2023 to 30 September 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 496,034
PEOPLE TARGETED	15,314
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Operation Final Report

The DREF allocation of CHF 496,034 in April 2023 supported the Colombian Red Cross Society in carrying out anticipatory actions by reinforcing the technical and operational emergency preparedness capacities of the National Society and the communities in the Colombian Red Cross Society branches. These departments were those of Caldas, Tolima, Cundinamarca, Risaralda and Quindío, allowing the communities at risk to be prepared in case a response phase was triggered. Response actions for prioritized populations included activities under health, WASH, livelihoods, multipurpose cash assistance, disaster risk reduction, and [protection, gender and inclusion \(PGI\)](#).

4

NAME OF OPERATION	Colombia floods
MDR-CODE	MDR0024
DURATION	3 months (17 November 2023 to 29 February 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 686,066
PEOPLE TARGETED	64,725
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Operation Final Report

The DREF allocation of CHF 686,066 in November 2023 supported the Colombian Red Cross Society in aiding approximately 64,725 people affected by the Atmospheric Disturbance (AL97) in the departments of Magdalena, Bolivar and Atlántico through the implementation of response actions in the areas of WASH and livelihoods.

People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through support that is timely, adequate, flexible and strengthens their agency

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Colombian Red Cross Society responded to several emergencies such as the floods in the Mojana Sucreña and part of the Caribbean and Andean Coast, landslides in the municipality of Rosas, volcanic activity in the Nevado del Ruíz Volcano, and torrential flooding in the municipality of Quetame Cundinamarca. The National Society interventions were carried out as part of different response mechanisms such as the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Crisis Modifier activated within the ECHO project.

With the aim of generating greater coverage in the national territory, the National Society deployed different emergency responses under the programmatic integration of the Red Cross mission lines. One of these responses was consolidated during 2023 through emergency WASH and food support for Wayúu communities, affected in La Guajira, Colombia. The response supported 313 families and 1,402 people belonging to twelve reservations in Manaure and Uribia. The protection approach was in line with the [IFRC's minimum standards on PGI in emergencies](#). Similarly, in the departments of La Guajira such as Antioquia, Bolívar, Caldas, Meta, Norte de Santander and La Guajira, and in coordination with the National Disaster Risk Management Unit, the National Society supported the response and recovery actions through the supply of water by tank cars to the Humanitarian Logistics Centres.

Considering the prolonged rainy season that lasted a year, the Colombian Red Cross Society began a campaign 'In the face of emergencies due to rains #HazUnClicPorLaVida' to raise resources. The initiative invited members of the International Red Cross Movement, the National Government, private companies and the community in general to join the efforts of the Red Cross in this response so that many beneficiaries could be reached.

As a preventive measure in the face of damage that may occur, the National Society worked with the National Disaster Risk Management Unit to strengthen the emergency telecommunications network through the installation of a very high frequency (VHF) repeater in the department of Caldas. It facilitated the coverage of the upper part of the municipality of Villamaría and the delivery of portable radio equipment in the department of Tolima, specifically to the communities in the municipalities of Murillo, Herveo, Casabianca and Villahermosa.

The Colombian Red Cross Society also carried out the delivery of humanitarian food and non-food assistance in 22 prioritized departments of the national territory. In collaboration with the Colombian Petroleum Company, ECOPETROL, services were provided in Antioquia, Arauca, Atlántico, Bolívar, Boyacá, Caldas, Caquetá, Casanare, Cesar, Córdoba, Cundinamarca, Huila, La Guajira, Magdalena, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Putumayo, Santander, Sucre, Tolima and Valle del Cauca.

In addition, the Colombian Red Cross Society deployed the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD) search and rescue team USAR Col-1 in February, as part of the bilateral agreement between the governments of Türkiye and Colombia.



As part of the Colombian Red Cross Society, a team of doctors, psychologists, nurses, and volunteers provided medical care and emotional support to communities in Agua Sucia, 10 April 2023. (Photo: Colombian Red Cross Society)

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC, under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) with the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), supported the Colombian Red Cross Society in working towards activating crisis modifiers. The IFRC further supported the National Society through timely review and processing of the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) requests.

Support was also provided to the National Society by the IFRC in organizing a workshop to strengthen [preparedness for effective response](#) (PER) in the event of the eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz Volcano. It also supported the National Society in deploying the SNGRD Search and Rescue Team USAR Col-1.

With the purpose of strengthening the use of data for the development of risk analysis, the IFRC facilitated a regional workshop within the framework of the Global Crisis Data Bank project that took place in Panama.

The **German Red Cross** supported the National Society through the 'Implementation of the [Forecast-Based Action Mechanism](#) in Colombia' project. The National Society received assistance in promoting and innovating [disaster risk management](#) in the country, strengthening the capacities for action based on forecasts.



Health and wellbeing

The health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate and quality health services throughout life

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In its endeavour to ensure the health and wellbeing of communities, the Colombian Red Cross Society maintained a comprehensive health management team. The team was dedicated to the prevention of diseases, especially through the development of strategies with primary health care and was also transversal to the several types of responses undertaken by the National Society. During 2023, capacity building continued on issues related to [first aid](#), [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS), [community-based surveillance](#) (CBV), epidemic response strategies and the constitution of new community health committees.

The National Society has expanded its capacity to carry out public health events, which aim to provide prevention and preparedness for epidemics and pandemics. The Colombian Red Cross Society has received support for public health events through projects that strengthened community capacities, prevented communicable diseases and responded to communities affected by the effects of COVID-19. As a part of the efforts to reinforce preparedness, anticipation and response to epidemics and pandemics (PARTE), the National Society conducted a workshop in November that strengthened the knowledge and tools in CBV. The workshop was attended by more than five branches and focal points of the Ministry of Health and the epidemiological surveillance departments of emergency regulatory centres.

The national blood bank network was maintained, where each centre coordinated to distribute blood in areas of difficult access. The National Society expanded the donor room of all the blood banks to promote the collection and distribution of blood components, reaching a 15 per cent increase in blood donation with 130,236 units captured throughout the network.

A compilation of milestones in [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS) was carried out and the capacities of volunteers and branches in first aid for situations of injury by weapons were strengthened. This included several components such as contamination by weapons. In addition, a training of trainers was carried out in MHPSS to promote the National Society's capacity to respond with MHPSS, ensuring comprehensive and quality care in situations of crisis and vulnerability.

The National Society also partook in a pilot project on family planning and sexual and reproductive health in Colombia. This included a workshop which trained instructors in family planning. The participants included 11 people, six health professionals from the project provision of humanitarian assistance and five midwives from the Association of Midwives. The National Society also carried out the Pacific Medical Mission project. It aimed to complement actions in the areas of community health and resilience, rapid health response teams and prevention of sexual and gender-

based violence. The project was undertaken in the departments of Nariño, Cauca, Chocó, Valle del Cauca, as well as Norte de Santander.

Since attacks against the Medical Mission were regular, efforts were made towards the protection of the Medical Mission. Improvement of knowledge and awareness, regarding prioritized departments, was undertaken, reaching 7,597 people of which 67.33 per cent were women.

In addition to the Medical Mission programme, the Senior Medical Mission II project was implemented in the Arauca, Bolívar, Cesar, Cundinamarca and Bogotá, La Guajira, Magdalena, Risaralda and Santander Sections. The areas were prioritized for their effects on the Medical Mission such as ambulance retention, theft of biomedical equipment and medicines, physical and psychosocial violence against health personnel, roadblocks and damage to infrastructure among others.

To mitigate the crisis generated by COVID-19 in areas affected by the armed conflict, the National Society coordinated an intervention in municipalities part of the Development Programme with a Territorial Approach (PDET). The intervention was undertaken through rapid response teams that provided health services by medical professionals, nursing and psychology, complementary services derived from consultations (delivery of medicines, minimum procedures and management of referrals to the different hospitals) and referrals for consultations with specialists.

As a means to work towards its objective of providing communities with appropriate and affordable [water, sanitation, and hygiene](#) (WASH) services, the National Society carried out actions to strengthen community based prevention of the spread of COVID-19. It also undertook the delivery of hygiene kits to vulnerable families, the creation of groups to respond to first aid through community committees, the training of first aid response groups and the strengthening of health personnel through self-care. Over 14,107 people were reached through the interventions, most of whom belong to the Afro-Colombian ethnic group.

As part of the water and sanitation line, the National Society strengthened its skills in the teams of the Arauca, Caquetá, Nariño and Valle del Cauca Sectionals. This included the installation and maintenance of the water treatment systems and the dialogue with the community.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society through technical assistance. It supported a national workshop in November that strengthened preparedness, anticipation, and response to epidemics and pandemics (PARTE). The IFRC also aided the National Society with a self-diagnosis analysing its capacities in terms of emergency medical equipment.

The **German Red Cross** assisted the National Society with a high-level meeting regarding 'new humanitarian approaches in the integrated health management of the Colombian Red Cross Society. It was sponsored by the German Red Cross and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). It further supported the National Society with projects that strengthened community capacities regarding [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#).

The **Norwegian Red Cross** assisted the National Society in carrying out the Pacific Medical Mission project. It further supported the National Society with epidemic and pandemic preparedness.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supported the National Society with projects that strengthened community capacities regarding epidemic and pandemic preparedness.

The ICRC supported the National Society with its focus on health and protection in the Colombian Pacific, specifically in the departments of Nariño.



Migration and displacement

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

Progress by National Society against objectives

As one of the main humanitarian actors in the nation, the Colombian Red Cross Society consolidated and defined its strategic priorities on migration for the coming years to better assist the returnees and migrants in border areas with Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama. The National Society updated the National Strategy for Attention to the Migrant Population plan for 2024-2030, with a goal of aligning it with the global migration strategy.

By the end of 2023, the National Society began developing two projects. The first one involved the 'Improvement of protection mechanisms and food security for the migrant population and vulnerable communities in Cúcuta (*Mejora de los mecanismos de protección y de la seguridad alimentaria a población migrante y comunidades vulnerables de Cúcuta*)' with AECID. The project provided care to 2,399 people, of which 44 per cent were children. Around 44 per cent of the beneficiaries were part of the host population with Colombian nationality, while 53 per cent were Venezuelan nationals and three per cent with dual nationality.

The second National Society project included the 'Promotion of the social inclusion and respect for the rights of the migrant population with a vocation to remain in Cúcuta (*Favorecer la inclusión social y el respeto de los derechos de la población migrante con vocación de permanencia en Cúcuta*).' The project reached 1,016 people of which 70 per cent were women and 29 were men, between the ages six and 60 years old.

Due to their adaptability and flexibility, humanitarian service points (HSPs) were set up as neutral spaces arranged along migratory routes that provided a welcoming and safe environment. Migrants were attended to by staff and volunteers, regardless of immigration status, gender, sex, race, religion, disability or ideology. Since HSPs could be fixed or mobile, the National Society created both migrant service points (PAM) and care and guidance centres (CAO).

The first model, Migrant Attention Points (PAM), worked to provide an immediate response to the basic needs of migrants in either transit or return. By 2023, there were 23 PAMs located in border departments and migrant transit municipalities. They provided health care, protection, humanitarian assistance, water and sanitation, and in some cases temporary accommodation.

In terms of shelters, together with the International Organization for Migration, temporary shelter and hotel shelter solutions were implemented for populations in transit. This was especially carried out in the municipalities of Popayán on the border with Ecuador and in Norte de Santander on the border with Venezuela. The intervention benefited 4,324 people in total.

The second model of HSP, the Attention and Guidance Centre (CAO), aimed to respond to the dynamics of settlement and the need for stabilisation through integration and development services. The centre's work included activities to reduce stigma, dissemination of key messages, promoting participation and integration. It also provided guidance on health care routes, employability, regularization of migratory status, education, maintenance of family contacts and psychosocial support. By 2023, there were five CAOs located in Cali, Santa Marta, Soacha, Ipiales and Norte de Santander.

As a part of combatting stigma and xenophobia against populations on the move, the National Society promoted social inclusion and respect for the rights of the population, reaching 1,225 people from both migrants and the host communities in the metropolitan area of Cúcuta. The outreach especially focused on women and children at risk of being affected by violence.

The National Society recognized that people on the move were often vulnerable to multiple intersecting factors. As a result, the National Society implemented a project on the 'Provision of Humanitarian Assistance to vulnerable populations subject to multiple effects (Internal Conflict, Migration and/or Disaster).' During the implementation period, it developed actions in health, disaster risk management, WASH, protection, and food security which reached 189,479 people.

A meeting was held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accompanied by the IFRC, to present the Colombian Red Cross Society's interest in participating and contributing, from the technical and thematic component of the agenda to the National Government in this space.

Other achievements for 2023 focus on the incorporation of a system of community participation and accountability. They also included co-leadership of the roundtable on multisector accommodation and cash transfer, coordinated by IOM and UNHCR and at the territorial level in the GIFMM Urabá working table.

The National Society was also able to provide an immediate response to emerging transit flows through Putumayo.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC, under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) with the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), supported the Colombian Red Cross Society in funding its project on the 'Provision of Humanitarian Assistance to vulnerable populations subject to multiple effects'. Additionally, the IFRC accompanies the National Society in a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote the Colombian Red Cross Society's interest in participating and contributing to the national government in the migration space.

The **German Red Cross** supported the National Society in implementing the project on the 'Provision of Humanitarian Assistance to vulnerable populations subject to multiple effects'.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supported the National Society in promoting social inclusion and respect for the rights of the population in the metropolitan area of Cúcuta. It also assisted the 'Provision of Humanitarian Assistance to Vulnerable Populations Subject to Multiple Effects' project.

The ICRC provided technical support to the National Society for the formulation of a humanitarian diplomacy programme on migration. The programme would be supported by the **Swedish Red Cross** over the next three years at the regional level with the Colombian Red Cross Society as the lead of the programme. The ICRC further supported the National Society in its [restoring family links](#) (RFL) efforts.



Values, power and inclusion

The IFRC Network is safe and inclusive, ensuring the dignity, access, participation and safety of people of all identities

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In its efforts to promote and support safe, equitable and continuous access for all, the Colombian Red Cross Society maintained a Peacebuilding and Institutional Doctrine team. The team sought to contribute to the reduction of humanitarian consequences of armed conflict through engaging in programmes of prevention and mitigation of violence. The intervention strengthened the capacity of the National Society to respond in these contexts, especially with regard to [protection, gender, and inclusion](#) (PGI) therefore establishing it as a benchmark in the implementation of actions aimed at peacebuilding, which has been recognized by different bodies.

In addition, the virtual course on the humanitarian approach to trafficking was designed and implemented, with the participation of 526 people. The National Society also worked on its Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy.

In 2023, the Colombian Red Cross Society also continued to strengthen its capacity through training and socialization spaces on topics such as usage of the emblem, risk from explosive devices, [safer access](#), safe behaviours, human trafficking, protection of family ties, prevention and mitigation of violence, and gender and diversity, among others.

Specifically in the context of the internal armed conflict and other situations of violence in the country, the National Society executed 10 programmatic lines and seven hybrid lines for strengthening the National Society and its branches. In partnership with the ICRC, the lines undertaken were a) safer access b) strengthening of knowledge in [international humanitarian law](#) c) organizational and mission development d) local initiatives e) strengthening of the telecommunications network for security and access f) public communication g) operational communication h) economic security i) operational management j) educational brigades for volunteering. Meanwhile, the seven hybrid lines included weapons

contamination, protection of family ties, health, water and sanitation, protection in urban environments, education in urban environments and awareness against sexual violence.

To contribute to positive change in communities with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of young people, the National Society has been strengthening missionary issues of the youth group through its educational brigades. In addition to the training component, education in urban environments was promoted in Antioquia, Nariño, Norte de Santander and Valle del Cauca. This included a focus on skills and basic first aid for teachers of educational institutions, and conflict resolution, leadership and rights for the youth. The efforts reached a total of 1,059 beneficiaries.

The line of protection in urban environments has been implemented in the Norte de Santander and Valle del Cauca branches with regard to the minimum approach to protection, prevention and mitigation of violence. The substantial number of people who requested and received guidance through the point of care at the Buenaventura support group facilities stands out, with a total of 812 people reached. In addition, the strategy for the protection of family ties was also implemented and six connectivity points were installed through which 33,414 connectivity services were provided (8,404 battery charges, 11,754 WiFi services and 13,256 calls).

The National Society also worked on a project, financed by the Administrative Department of the Presidency of the Republic (DAPRE), whose main objective is the implementation of comprehensive action against anti-personnel mines. The emphasis remained on education on the risk of anti-personnel mines within the framework of the rapid response strategy, route of care for victims of anti-personnel mines, humanitarian demining pedagogy and peace pedagogy in prioritized areas.

The initiative had a rapid response approach, reaching 3,570 people. It implemented victim care days in the departments of Chocó and Arauca, managing to tend to 100 people affected by explosive devices. Four workshops were held, aiming to provide the community with safe behaviours that allowed self-protection against the suspicion or presence of explosive devices, managing to train 2,080 people. The peacebuilding workshop reached 1,120 beneficiaries, the risk management workshop reached 20 participants and the contingency response workshop trained 250 people across four departments.

Within the framework of this operational partnership, the Colombian Red Cross Society carried out 3,507 activities that contributed to the fulfilment of its humanitarian action, reaching 14,212 people.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC will support the National Society in aligning its work with the IFRC [PGI policy](#) and [PGI minimum standards](#) in emergencies. The IFRC also helped review the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy of the National Society. It further cooperated with the National Society on the virtual course for the humanitarian approach to trafficking.

The **Spanish Red Cross** provided the National Society financial assistance for the provision of humanitarian aid to vulnerable population with multiple affectations in Colombia project.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** assisted the National Society with the Strengthening Communities for Peace project. The project was developed in six departments of the national territory: Antioquia, Arauca, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta and Norte de Santander.

The ICRC, through a model of operational partnership with the National Society, supported humanitarian actions in the context of the Internal Armed Conflict and other situations of violence. It supported the implementation of 10 programmatic lines and seven hybrid lines of strengthening for the National Society and its branches.

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.

In Colombia, the National Society takes a lead role in coordinating technical platforms, using its technical and operational capacities and experience across a range of platforms including migration, emergency response, localization, health, education, fundraising, youth and volunteering. The IFRC supports the National Society in its coordination with member National Societies, to jointly assess the humanitarian context and needs, agree on common priorities, co-develop strategies, mobilize funds and other resources, agree on consistent public messaging and monitor progress.

The Colombian Red Cross Society is a member of the Governing Board of the IFRC, representing the Americas region and is part of a number of IFRC strategic and technical platforms and networks at global and regional levels. It has been one of the 14 National Societies piloting the IFRC network New Way of Working initiative, aiming to establish a new model of membership coordination, working over multiple years to develop and establish a thorough change in the way the IFRC network works together and places the National Society of the country at the centre of the action.

Several participating National Societies also have longer-term partnerships with the Colombian Red Cross Society including the **American Red Cross**, the **British Red Cross**, the **German Red Cross**, the **Norwegian Red Cross** and the **Spanish Red Cross**.

Movement coordination

The Colombian Red Cross 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 Colombia, [the ICRC](#) carries out actions to support the victims of conflict and other situations of violence and those affected by migration. Its cooperation with the National Society includes programmes in [safer access](#), public and operational communications, economic security, health, WASH, [restoring family links](#), protection, and education in urban environments, [International Humanitarian Law](#) (IHL), prevention of and response to sexual violence and institutional strengthening.

External coordination

In line with its auxiliary role, the Colombian Red Cross Society coordinates closely with the public authorities in the humanitarian field and the National Society's role is clearly articulated as part of the national disaster risk management system. It is a member of the main national coordination platforms for emergencies and participates in the unified command posts for the coordination and management of emergency responses. It is also a member of the national committees for risk knowledge/reduction and disaster management, including departmental and municipal councils for disaster risk management.

At the end of 2022, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection approved a statutory reform of the Colombian Red Cross Society, ratifying the legal representation of the institution, and reinforcing coordination with departmental and municipal health secretariats, public health committees and the emergency regulatory centres. There is also constant communication with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Border Management Agency on issues of migration.

The National Society currently has agreements with 33 external partners across government, academia, technical and scientific institutions, the private sector, cooperation agencies of foreign governments, NGOs and UN agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), UNHCR and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, among others. The Colombian Red Cross Society is an active participant in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and other national platforms, such as the inter-agency group on mixed migratory flows. The Colombian Red Cross Society is represented in ten clusters and in eight groups and sub-groups, to avoid duplication of efforts and improve coordinated delivery.

The Colombian Red Cross Society has enjoyed successful private-sector partnerships, including the bilateral collaboration with Zurich Colombia Seguros - part of the IFRC’s long-standing partnership with the Zurich Foundation, which supports flood resilience. The programme supports community flood resilience in Barranquilla, Medellin and Bogota, through its “Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities” approach. It also aims to strengthen public and private sector partnerships and improve public policy, technical capacity, compliance and investment in flood resilience at local and national levels. The programme ends in December 2024.



National Society Development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Within the framework of the [National Society Investment Alliance](#) (NSIA) project, the National Society implemented an Institutional Fundraising Strategy to increase its visibility and also to expand its donor network to strengthen the institutional and operational sustainability of national fundraising. To this extent, a new phase of the strategy was implemented which included previous processes such as the management of the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform, the donation platform in addition to a new strategy of advertising on social networks and creation of digital campaigns. On the other hand, new initiatives such as the peer platform were developed with the aim of covering different fronts and possibilities of increasing income from donations. A new donation collection channel ‘contact centre’ was also developed, it consisted of a team that contacted the National Society database through calls, emails and text messaging.

In addition, the Diploma in Project Management was carried out, demonstrating the progress that had generated six study modules. The modules were then carried out by experts in the field and adapted to the institution, expecting to train 1,000 volunteers. Also, the internship and experience exchange programme included three groups which strengthened and developed the implementation of their own programmes that are the *raison d’être* of the volunteering and that allow the generation of a much more efficient and relevant community process.

In November, the National Society conducted an [organization capacity assessment and certification](#) (OCAC) self-assessment with IFRC support, evaluating 85 attributes. Of these, 96 per cent (82 attributes) were rated above development levels C, D, and E, with 43 per cent at the highest level, E. Only three attributes were below the required development levels, with one at level A and two at level B. The National Society committed to improving these areas to apply for phase II of the OCAC and achieve certification in 2024. The IFRC is providing technical support to address the identified areas of innovation, document management and violence prevention.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society through the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#) (CBF) which strengthened the financial sustainability of the Cauca and Magdalena Branches. In November, the IFRC delegation in Colombia identified an additional investment opportunity, linking the business unit with the [Empress Shoken Fund](#) for innovative initiatives. The IFRC also supported the National Society through the IFRC and ICRC’s joint [National Society Investment Alliance](#) (NSIA).

The IFRC also supported a resource mobilization workshop conducted by the global fundraising leader, which provided techniques to enhance the National Society’s fundraising strategy and to increase the number of individual donors.

The **American Red Cross** carried out a project to strengthen the capacities, procedures, administrative and financial controls of the Colombian Red Cross Society’s project management. The support advanced the National Society’s functionalities and financial reporting to a great degree.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** supported the project on 'Strengthening National Societies of the Colombian and Ecuadorian Red Cross' which impacted 23 branches.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society worked on the implementation of planned communication and awareness-raising activities to enhance impact, build public confidence and improve understanding of the role and activities of the Colombian Red Cross Society. It included developing strategies and resources, reaching out to specific audiences, participating in networks and improving media and capacities.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC placed special emphasis on supporting and positioning the National Society with regard to the Colombian government and within international spaces. Among the main achievements was including the Colombian Red Cross Society within the IFRC delegation at COP 28, as well as promoting its participation in the Global Refugee Forum 2023.

Additionally, the IFRC promoted a consultancy in humanitarian diplomacy with the aim of supporting the National Society's efforts in diplomacy related to migration and climate change, as well as continuing to strengthen capacities in this area.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society completed the implementation of the occupational health and safety system which allows controlling and mitigating occupational risks in all the operational activities of the institution. The National Society also implemented a policy on diversity and gender, as well as on non-discrimination.

It also developed the manual on the management of reputational crises and in the VIII national meeting on communication and image. The purpose was to strengthen institutional capacities for more effective communication management, through the national communications network of the Colombian Red Cross Society.

The National Society also reaffirmed its commitment to modernization and adaptation of technological advances in 2023. It carried out a series of initiatives in the field of digital transformation. These actions included the conception and development of innovative tools such as the beneficiary platform and a platform for reporting on action plans. These made it possible to systematize data at the national and regional levels, making it possible to have a deeper and more precise understanding of the social dynamics and emerging needs in various regions of the country. In addition, the systematization of data has amplified the capacity of the National Society to evaluate the impact of its interventions and to evaluate the effectiveness of its humanitarian programmes.

The National Society also participated in the digital transformation self-assessment workshop, which resulted in a report assessing the National Society's digital transformation and provided recommendations for improvement. These efforts were aligned with the guidelines set out in the Strategic Plan, Governance Plan, as well as with the vision outlined in the IFRC's 2030 Strategy.

With regard to the National Blood Bank, the National Society developed software dedicated to the management of blood donors. This software represents a fundamental advance in the optimization of blood donation and storage processes, allowing for more efficient management of crucial donor-related information.

The capacities of the Colombian Red Cross Societies were strengthened in the area of community participation and accountability (CEA) through a workshop in which focal points from different technical areas participated. In this workshop, a diagnosis was made for the development of a standard operating procedure for information management under a CEA approach. Likewise, important inputs were identified for the development of a tripartite roadmap (the Colombian Red

Cross Society, the IFRC and the ICRC) that can be implemented during 2024 to strengthen the community participation and accountability approach.

In 2023, the Colombian Red Cross Society launched its magazine 'Rostros'. The magazine brings to light stories of inspiration and compassion.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Colombian Red Cross Society with the development of the manual on management of reputational crises and in the VIII National Meeting on Communication and Image.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** supported the National Society through expert personnel for the Digital Transformation Self-Assessment (TD) workshop.



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 Colombia 2023 Financial Report](#)

Note: For emergencies for which financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRCO021](#), [MDRCO022](#), [MDRCO023](#) and [MDRCO024](#)

- [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](#)

Contact information

Ruben Romero

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for
Andean Countries, based in Lima
T +51 963 764 977
ruben.romero@ifrc.org

Monica Portilla

Head of Strategic Engagement &
Partnerships
IFRC Regional Office for Americas,
Panama
T +502 586 57619
monica.portilla@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

Lead
IFRC Global Strategic Planning &
Reporting Centre New Delhi
sumitha.martin@ifrc.org