



DUTCH AND ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

11 October 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 23.5M**

In support of the Red Cross National Societies of the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean



41

National Society
branches



163

National Society
staff



12,334

National Society
volunteers

People to be reached



15,450

Climate and
environment



38,380

Disasters
and crises



20,900

Health and
wellbeing



5,450

Migration and
displacement



5,550

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

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for English & Dutch
Speaking Caribbean, based in Trinidad and Tobago

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

2026**

Total 11M CHF

Total 6.9M CHF

Total 5.6M CHF

Through the IFRC



→ **5.2M CHF**

Through Participating National Societies



1.8M CHF

Through Host National Society



4M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer-term needs

568,000 CHF

Climate and environment

830,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

495,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

123,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

263,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

495,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Through the IFRC



→ **4M CHF**

Through Host National Society



2.8M CHF

***Projected funding requirements*

Through the IFRC



→ **2.8M CHF**

Through Host National Society



2.8M CHF

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

British Red Cross*

The Canadian Red Cross Society*

French Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Norwegian Red Cross*

Swedish Red Cross*

The Netherlands Red Cross*

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

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAAG002 **MAAJM001**

MAABS002 **MAAKN001**

MAABB002 **MAALC001**

MAABZ002 **MAAVC001**

MAADM001 **MAASR001**

MAAGD001 **MAATT001**

MAAGY001

Hazards



Floods



Hurricanes



Volcanoes



Disease outbreaks



Earthquakes

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The 13 National Societies of the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean countries vary in size, while sharing common values and principles and facing similar contextual realities. They all act as auxiliaries to their governments in the humanitarian field, focusing on disaster response and contributing to national disaster management frameworks.

Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross

Number of staff:	9
Number of volunteers:	93
Number of branches:	1

The [Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross](#) was established as an overseas branch of the British Red Cross in 1941 and completed eighty years of operation in October 2021. It received national recognition in 1983 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1993. Its head office is on the main island of Antigua, where 98 per cent of the population live, with one branch on the smaller island of Barbuda. The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross has a positive national reputation and is visible in communities across the island. In 2022, the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross reached [25 people](#) through its long-term services and development programmes.

The Bahamas Red Cross Society

Number of staff:	23
Number of volunteers:	600
Number of branches:	3

The [Bahamas Red Cross Society](#) was founded in 1939 as a branch of the British Red Cross. It was officially recognized by the Bahamas Government in 1975 as a voluntary aid society and auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field. It was admitted to the IFRC in 1977. It is governed by an Executive Board comprised of members of the community and organized into working committees: the Management Committee, the Finance Committee and the salaried Operation Team, headed by the Director General. In September 2019, Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas, dramatically changing the role of the National Society. Since the [Dorian operation](#), it has been engaged in a comprehensive National Society development programme resulting in a new Strategic Plan, a revised constitution, a branch development strategy and improved volunteer management systems. The Bahamas Red Cross Society reached [12,000 people](#) through disaster response and early recovery programmes, it also reached 2,285 people through long-term services and development programmes in 2019.

The Barbados Red Cross Society

Number of staff:	8
Number of volunteers:	44
Number of branches:	0

The [Barbados Red Cross Society](#) began its operations in 1960 as a branch of the British Red Cross. It was incorporated as a voluntary aid society by a parliamentary act in 1969 which designated it as an organisation auxiliary to public authorities. The National Society became a full member of the International Red Cross in 1984 and was admitted to the IFRC in 1985.

Within the current emergency management framework, the Barbados Red Cross is identified as the organisation responsible for the provision of first aid services within Category 1 emergency shelters. In addition, the National Society receives an annual subvention from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, which supports its 'Meals on Wheels programme'. It also resides over several key committees which provide shelter, food and general supplies, emergency housing and rehabilitation and the health services standing committee. In [2021](#), the Barbados Red Cross Society reached 1,138 people through its long-term services and development programmes.

The Belize Red Cross Society

Number of staff:	8
Number of volunteers:	92
Number of branches:	6

The [Belize Red Cross Society](#) began operations in 1914 as a branch of the British Red Cross until 1983, when it officially became a National Society in its own right. In 1984, the Belize Red Cross admitted to the IFRC. Its activities help to build on the following strategic aims: saving lives, protecting livelihoods, strengthening recovery from disasters and crises, enabling healthy and safe living, and promoting social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace. Its work focuses on the areas of disaster management, including preparedness, response and recovery, disaster risk reduction and mitigation, and HIV/AIDS prevention through the 'Together We Can' peer education programme. The National Society is also considered a leader in basic first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the Home Care Givers Certification in Belize, as well as the provision of social assistance such as feeding programmes, assistance for fire victims and skills building programmes. The Belize Red Cross Society reached [2,649 people](#) through long-term services and development programmes in 2022. Through its disaster response and early recovery programmes, it reached 4,356 people.

Dominica Red Cross Society

Number of staff:	3
Number of volunteers:	300
Number of branches:	11

The [Dominica Red Cross Society](#) was established as a branch of the British Red Cross in 1958 and recognized by the Government of Dominica in 1983 as a National Society. It was recognized and admitted to the IFRC in 1989. The Dominica Red Cross has identified strategic goals to guide its objectives and strategies: building healthier and safer communities, reducing vulnerabilities, and strengthening its resilience to function effectively as a National Society that is well resourced, with robust capacity at all levels. Achieving these goals will enable the National Society to increase its reach while maintaining independence and identity. The Dominica Red Cross Societys key priorities for 2023 are climate resilience and disaster preparedness through early action, financial sustainability, and resource mobilization. The Dominica Red Cross Society reached [158](#) people through long-term services and development programmes in 2022. Through its disaster response and early recovery programmes, the National Society reached 296 people.

Grenada Red Cross Society

Number of staff:	0
Number of volunteers:	89
Number of branches:	1

The [Grenada Red Cross Society](#) started as a branch of the British Red Cross following the devastation of the island by Hurricane Janet in 1955. In 1987, the Grenada Red Cross Society became an independent National Society and was admitted to the IFRC. It has its headquarters in the country's capital city of St. George's. The mission of the National Society is to serve humanity through the promotion of health and safety, disaster preparedness and response, social welfare, and youth programmes. It is a member of the National Disaster Management Advisory Council and performs an auxiliary role to the Government in disaster- and health-related emergencies. The Grenada Red Cross Society reached [915](#) people through long-term services and development programmes. Through its disaster response and early recovery programmes, it reached 257 people.

Guyana Red Cross Society

Number of staff:	11
Number of volunteers:	150
Number of branches:	0

The [Guyana Red Cross Society](#) was established as a branch of the British Red Cross in 1948. After Guyana gained independence in 1967, it officially became the Guyana Red Cross Society. It was admitted to the IFRC in 1969. The Guyana Red Cross Society acts as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, providing a range of services addressing both immediate and long-term needs. These include emergency shelter, food and medicine, water, and sanitation, restoring family links for disaster victims, disaster preparedness, community-based health and care, first aid training and activities, control and prevention of disease, HIV/ AIDS prevention, and youth and volunteer activities. The Guyana Red Cross Society is responsible for delivering humanitarian aid and developing programmes and outreach services. The Guyana Red Cross Society reached [6,047](#) people through long-term services and development programmes in 2022. The number of people reached by disaster response and early recovery programmes was 3,974.

The Jamaica Red Cross

Number of staff:	26
Number of volunteers:	9,500
Number of branches:	13

The [Jamaica Red Cross](#) was admitted to the IFRC in 1965. It is currently working to obtain an amendment to the Jamaica Red Cross Society Act of 1964, to restore some of the privileges that were lost when it was placed under the National Charities Act, and to regain its distinctive auxiliary status.

Some of the core services of the National Society include health, welfare and first aid, youth development, livelihood protection and emergency services, disaster preparedness and response, psychosocial support, and relief distribution, as well as climate change adaptation and ecosystem protection.

To tackle climatic, environmental, and disaster risks, the Jamaica Red Cross has prioritized the improvement of its community risk reduction, preparedness, and response programme. This includes carrying out a comprehensive assessment, retraining and re-equipping 48 Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs), and creating at least 30 new CDRTs over the next five years. The National Society will also work on its application of the enhanced IFRC vulnerability and capacity assessment tools, updating community plans, working on early warning systems, and focusing on eco-disaster risk reduction. It aims to scale up its environmental work, to reach other vulnerable communities, and expand the psychosocial support programme and actions. The Jamaica Red Cross

also aims to expand its work in community early warning systems to bolster preparedness efforts at the local level. The Jamaica Red Cross reached 18,000 people through long-term services and development programmes in 2020. Through its disaster response and early recovery programmes, it reached 2,800 people.

The Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society

Number of staff:	1
Number of volunteers:	153
Number of branches:	2

The Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society was introduced in 1942 and became a National Society in 1983 when the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis gained independence. It was admitted to the IFRC in 1993. It serves the twin island Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, with its headquarters and a branch office in Basseterre, St. Kitts, that covers three districts, equating to two-thirds of the island. In Nevis, a second branch in Charlestown covers the entire island.

The strategic objectives of the organization encompass three key areas of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, disaster response, and disaster preparedness. These objectives collectively reflect a holistic approach to humanitarian action and disaster management. The Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society reached 215 people through long-term services and development programmes in 2020.

The Saint Lucia Red Cross

Number of staff:	6
Number of volunteers:	280
Number of branches:	1

The Saint Lucia Red Cross is an auxiliary to the Government and was incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1984. It was admitted to the IFRC in 1986. It is comprised of a governance component of volunteers and members, and a management component, which employs paid staff to coordinate and support the work of the volunteers. The National Society operates solely out of the headquarters in Castries, but it is in the process of building a new branch in the south of the island in Vieux Fort. This will allow the National Society to decentralize its operations and improve its ability to respond to communities in that part of the island during emergencies.

The key services offered by the Saint Lucia Red Cross have expanded over the years. The National Society now has a combination of traditional and new operational activities, as it responds to the evolving needs of the population. The themes at the focus of the Saint Lucia Red Cross work are disaster risk reduction and response, health care in the community, youth

development, volunteer management and capacity building. The Saint Lucia Red Cross reached 3,000 people through long-term services and development programmes in 2022. The number of people reached by disaster response and early recovery programmes was 1,200.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross

Number of staff:	5
Number of volunteers:	400
Number of branches:	1

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross was founded in July of 1949 as a branch of the British Red Cross. In 1984, it became an independent National Society and was admitted to the IFRC in 1989.

The mission of the National Society is to work with others in the service of the communities, assisting the poor and vulnerable to alleviate human suffering. The National Society through its auxiliary role organises emergency relief to victims of disasters, contribute to the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering. This is done through implementing programmes of training and services to benefit the community and through inspiring children and youth with the ideals of the Red Cross namely health and international friendship. The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross reached 560 people through long-term services and development programmes in 2022. Through its disaster response and early recovery programmes, it reached 1089 people.

The Suriname Red Cross

Number of staff:	15
Number of volunteers:	120
Number of branches:	0

The Suriname Red Cross was founded in June 1940 and officially recognized in 1983 as an independent association through the Red Cross Decree. It was admitted to the IFRC in 1986. The National Society's main objective is to prevent and alleviate human suffering, in an impartial manner and without discrimination based on nationality, race, sex, religion, language, or social or political beliefs. The Suriname Red Cross manages the only blood bank in the country. Its main priorities for 2023 include the development of its 10-year strategy, early warning systems, environmental policy, organizational development, financial sustainability and volunteer development. The Suriname Red Cross reached 1,500 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes in 2022.

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society

Number of staff:	37
Number of volunteers:	637
Number of branches:	3

The [Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society](#) is an auxiliary in the humanitarian field to the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. It was admitted to the IFRC in 1963. As a non-profit humanitarian organization, the National Society

focuses its resources on providing communities with disaster preparedness and quality health programmes designed to empower the most vulnerable people. The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross is comprised of its headquarters and three branches situated in Port of Spain, San Fernando and Scarborough. Its mission is to mobilize the power of humanity through volunteerism, and to be a beacon of hope that supports and connects people as they regain control of their lives. The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society reached 3,569 people through long-term services and development programmes in 2020. Through its disaster response and early recovery programmes, it reached [47,000](#) people.

Country facts

Country	Population	INFORM CC Risk Index	Human Development Index rank
Antigua and Barbuda	94,000	Low	71
Bahamas	410,000	Very Low	55
Barbados	282,000	Very Low	70
Belize	405,000	Low	123
Dominica	73,000	Low	102
Grenada	125,000	Very Low	68
Guyana	809,000	Medium	108
Jamaica	2,800,000	Low	110
Saint Kitts and Nevis	48,000	Very Low	75
Saint Lucia	180,000	Very Low	106
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	104,000	Low	89
Suriname	618,000	Medium	99
Trinidad and Tobago	1,500,000	Low	57

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Caribbean countries, many of which are small island developing states, are susceptible to a wide range of risks, with limited capacity to deal with disasters when they occur. The 13 countries within the Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean region continue to be severely affected by climate change and geomorphological and hydrometeorological events, aggravated by the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

The pandemic has had negative economic impacts across the Caribbean, causing damage to key sectors including tourism and resource exports. This has resulted in some of the largest single-year declines in growth ever recorded for the region, and it has forced governments to think seriously about economic structures, diversification, and vulnerabilities linked to specific sectors.

According to the [Climate Change 2022](#) report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), small islands are increasingly affected by increases in temperature and are set to experience the most intense tropical cyclones, storm surges, droughts, changing precipitation patterns, sea-level rise, coral bleaching, and invasive species, all of which are already detectable across both natural and human systems.

In 2023 and 2022, the National Societies in the Caribbean were forced to respond to multiple [concurrent disasters](#), including flood events in Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia. The Red Cross in the Bahamas, Belize, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had to cope with the impacts of hurricanes, cyclones, and volcanic eruptions simultaneously. Due to the multi-dimensional vulnerabilities of Caribbean small island developing states, exacerbated by economic, social, and environmental factors, as well as the frequency of disasters in this region, recovery from crises can take years.

According to the [World Migration Report](#), the Caribbean experiences a large number of people moving to countries outside the Caribbean. Most intraregional migration is related to labour, with higher income countries in the Caribbean often attracting migrant workers from neighbouring islands with lower wages and limited employment opportunities. Factors such as gang-related violence, insecurity, political persecution, as well as deteriorating economic conditions also result in significant internal and cross-border displacement. By 2020, there were over 25 million migrants from the Caribbean residing in Northern America and another 5 million migrants from the region were in Europe. Recent political events in Haiti, along with the [7.1 magnitude earthquake in August 2021](#), have resulted in an upsurge of Haitian migrants in Jamaica and Suriname.

Non-communicable diseases remain a challenge and are of particular concern – it is estimated that in 2023, they caused 81 per cent of deaths in the region. These conditions, such as [hypertension, diabetes, obesity and cancer](#), are the major causes of death and account for the greatest share of the disease burden in the Caribbean. The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the need to address non-communicable diseases, as most of deaths in the region have been linked to elderly people and those with comorbidities, particularly in countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas and Jamaica. The prevalence of chronic illnesses is higher in the Caribbean than in the rest of the Americas. After sub-Saharan Africa, the region has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the world, with one per cent of the adult population HIV/AIDS positive. The spread of vector-borne diseases, especially dengue, chikungunya and, more recently, Zika, is of great concern, and there is a high risk of widespread transmission because of the mobility of the population.

Evidence shows that the risk of [gender-based violence](#) increases during times of additional stress, including financial hardship, job losses and emergency situations like the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic created a lot of fear, and the potential for economic hardship, job losses and extended periods of quarantine and stay-at-home orders all combined to create a dangerous scenario for women and their children in abusive relationships. Violence and social exclusion are also on the increase in the region, particularly in urban areas, and women, girls, men who have sex with men and transgender populations are particularly vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence. Young people are an especially vulnerable group, as they experience high levels of unemployment, disenfranchisement, and exposure to crime and violence.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Due to their size and location, Caribbean small island developing states are particularly susceptible to the [serious threat](#) of the impact of climate change, despite their relatively low contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. In their precarious position as developing economies relying on sectors that are vulnerable to climate patterns (such as tourism, agriculture, and fishing), Caribbean nations are increasingly affected by sea level rise, changes in rain patterns and temperatures, and the increasing intensity of natural

hazards identified by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC).

According to the IPCC, average temperatures in the region have increased by 0.1° to 0.2°C per decade over the last three decades. Rainfall patterns have shifted in the region, and the number of consecutive dry days is expected to increase. Additionally, sea level rise has occurred at a rate of about two to four centimetres per decade over the last 33 years—a trend that presents risks to the region's freshwater resources and its largely coastal population who are dependent on tourism and agriculture to support their livelihoods.

To the Caribbean, the cost of failing to address the threat of climate change is high. [Projections](#) indicate that losses could total CHF 20.6 billion every year by 2050, a figure that represents 10 per cent of the current Caribbean economy. Increased resources could help the region reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, reduce its exposure to fuel price variability, and enable climate change mitigation activities.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Societies of Antigua, Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago are part of the IFRC's [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, [anticipatory action](#) and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The high-level objectives of the 13 national societies are:

- Ensure communities alongside IFRC staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises
- Support communities to have increased capacity to address the evolving impacts of climate change and ownership over programmes addressing climate risks
- Integrate and anticipates short- and longer-term impacts in programmes and operations to help communities absorb, adapt, and transform to climate change
- Update policies and climate action based on new technologies and new approaches that enhance climatic adaptation, mitigation, and resilience
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation

Planned Activities in 2024

In 2024, the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross** will focus on partnering with key government bodies on climate and environmental decisions.

The **Bahamas Red Cross Society** will drive climate adaptation, mitigation and awareness through community-focused projects in 2024. The National Society will advocate for government investment in greener response and recovery activities and finalize an environmental and climate change policy, which includes reducing carbon footprints, electrifying the vehicle fleet and decreasing fossil fuel use.

In 2024, the **Barbados Red Cross Society** will adopt a proactive and climate-responsive approach to enhance community resilience to climate hazards. The National Society will engage with government entities to support national climate change efforts and improve its role in addressing climate challenges.

The **Belize Red Cross Society** will align its policies with national climate goals and work closely with local governments. The National Society plans to establish MoUs and implement climate-smart strategies, promote resilient infrastructure, support circular economy practices and involve youth in environmental stewardship. The National Society will also build partnerships with environmental organizations, enhance staff and volunteer capabilities and encourage responsible consumption and lifestyle choices.

In 2024, the **Dominica Red Cross Society** will train and equip volunteers and staff to effectively tackle the climate crisis. The National Society will build partnerships, integrate climate risk into all planning, and promote sustainable practices in vulnerable communities, positioning itself as a climate action catalyst.

The **Grenada Red Cross Society** will integrate climate smart initiatives into its programming, enhance staff and volunteer knowledge on climate risks and support community and school-based climate activities. The National Society will collaborate on national climate initiatives, implement climate adaptation micro-projects and improve resource mobilization for climate-related efforts.

The **Guyana Red Cross Society** will enhance its climate and environmental programming through training on climate crises and adaptation. The National Society will partner with government bodies and climate fund entities, run community and school education on climate adaptation and develop an environmental action plan aligned with the IFRC environmental policy. It will also promote environmental screening for humanitarian project and launch campaign to drive climate change mitigation and influence environmental behaviour.

In 2024, the **Jamaica Red Cross** will enhance staff and volunteer expertise in ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) and climate adaptation. The National Society will conduct technical training on anticipatory action and livelihoods, develop Eco-DRR knowledge products, and

implement nature-based solutions in vulnerable communities. It will also establish Eco-DRR teams, assess vulnerable communities and create resilience action plans. It will also develop a multi-year climate strategy, form partnerships with local and regional climate entities and train volunteers, youth and senior management to promote climate change mitigation and sustainable practices.

In 2024, the **St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** will drive climate change mitigation and sustainable practices by engaging and training volunteers, including youth and senior management. The National Society will promote green response principles, use e-messaging to reduce environmental impact and develop an eco-friendly action plan focusing on volunteer transportation and reduced carbon emissions. It will also support green logistics, such as using natural ventilation in conference spaces and participate in community environmental campaigns like plastic recycling drives, beach cleanups and tree plantation.

In 2024, the **Saint Lucia Red Cross** will engage in monthly environmental clean-ups to improve local ecological health. The National Society will create and distribute brochures and IEC materials on climate change adaptation through presentations, training sessions and flyers to educate the public and raise awareness about effective climate adaptation strategies.

In 2024, the **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** will implement a micro-project for early warning signage and engage in tree planting with environmental agencies and Action Bequia Forestry. It will develop and approve an environmental policy focused on behaviour change and plastic reduction, complete a detailed environmental impact report and provide water safety training for trainers. Volunteers will also receive group management training.

In 2024, the **Suriname Red Cross** will enhance staff and volunteer capacity to raise community awareness about climate change impacts. The National Society will integrate climate change adaptation into its outreach efforts, equipping its team to address climate-related challenges effectively.

In 2024, the **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** will focus on climate resilience and sustainability by developing ecosystem-based livelihoods for vulnerable communities and supporting environmental programmes in schools. The National Society will conduct community workshops on energy-saving techniques, plant 1,000 trees with community support and provide educational materials on renewable energy and low-emissions lifestyles to schools and youth champions.

Longer-term support from the IFRC Network

The IFRC will support the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross** to improve its capacity to be an effective partner for environmental organizations in the country, especially the Ministry of Agriculture and Barbudan. The National Society will be supported in its implementation of the national climate risk assessment as a first step in its climate action journey. The IFRC will assist the training of staff and volunteers in nature-based solutions and climate change to support the development and implementation of climate-smart programming. The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross plans to be a pivotal stakeholder in climate change and environment decisions in the coming years.

The IFRC will support the **Bahamas Red Cross Society** in implementing its climate change policy and to engage youth in environmental actions. It will also financially support the installation of additional roof-top solar panel systems.

The IFRC will provide technical assistance to the **Barbados Red Cross Society** in developing its climate and environment policy and climate-smart programmes.



Dominica Red Cross distributing relief items to the Roseau residents affected by Hurricane Maria, in April 2021 (Photo: IFRC)

The IFRC will support the **Belize Red Cross Society** and **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** to advocate for nature-based solutions in the partnerships and policies being developed. It will provide technical support, updated tools, new technology, and guidance, alongside assisting the National Societies with writing proposals related to climate change and environmental sustainability.

The IFRC will support the **Dominica Red Cross Society** to develop its policies guiding climate change, climate-smart programming and environmental sustainability. It will also assist the National Society in conducting a national climate risk assessment as a first step on the climate action journey.

The IFRC will support the **Grenada Red Cross Society** to develop policies that guide climate change programming and environmental sustainability. It will assist the National Society in advocating for and implementing nature-based solutions to adapt to climate change.

The IFRC will support the **Guyana Red Cross Society** to advocate for climate-smart measures in the National Society and the communities. It will further assist in the development and implementation of youth-led climate adaptation measures and the National Society's targets for [green response](#) under the [Climate Charter](#).

The IFRC will provide the Jamaica Red Cross with technical support to improve its community preparedness and response programme to tackle climatic and environmental risks. The support will include the application of [Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment](#) (eVCA) Tools, updating community plans with a greater focus on [ecosystem-disaster risk reduction](#) (Eco-DRR), and [early warning systems](#) to bolster preparedness efforts at the local level. The IFRC will also support the advocacy and representation of the Jamaica Red Cross in regional and international climate and environment initiatives.

The IFRC will support the **Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** to build the capacity of its staff and volunteers in climate change and environmental sustainability alongside implementing youth-led climate change actions. It will also support the National Society to design and implement actions to raise awareness of heat and its effects.

The IFRC will advocate with the **Saint Lucia Red Cross** to sign the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations. Through the Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Reference Centre (CADRIM), it will continue to promote the climate change online courses available on IFRC Learning Platform.

The IFRC will provide the **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** to write proposals for climate change and environmental sustainability. It will also assist in scaling up and replicating its use of [nature-based solutions](#) to adapt to climate change impacts.

The IFRC will support the **Suriname Red Cross** to develop its environmental policy. It will also assist the National Society in training the staff and volunteers in areas such as climate change and nature-based solutions to build the capacity within the country to implement relevant actions.



Disasters and crises

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

The diversity of the geography, population, wealth, culture, language, and economic models in the Caribbean presents several unique challenges when dealing with evolving crises and disasters. Disasters have become more complex and protracted and can even intersect with each other to form 'super emergencies and disasters.' Latin America and the Caribbean is the [second most disaster-prone region](#) in the world, with 152 million people affected by 1,205 disasters between 2000 and 2019 recorded in the international disasters database EM-DAT. Among its 13 countries, two feature in the global top 10 of countries for total deaths per million inhabitants during that period, with the Bahamas recording a 54.2 per cent death rate and Dominica 67.3.

As developing states, countries in the region share similar sustainable development challenges, such as limited resources, susceptibility to natural hazards, vulnerability to external shocks, excessive dependence on international trade, and fragile environments and ecosystems. These vulnerabilities are exacerbated by a combination of [anthropogenic influences](#) on the natural environment, including urbanization, deforestation, coastal degradation, and inadequate physical development planning. The Caribbean continues to confront critical issues shaped by complex and dynamic social, economic, and environmental processes – including climate change, disaster risk, development, and urbanization – which are now combined with the realities of COVID-19. The combination of these issues has a potentially devastating effect on lives and livelihoods and can overwhelm the capacities of governments and local institutions.

Communities are intricate and varied, and so too are the vulnerabilities that challenge them. The physical, human, financial, natural, and social factors that influence [community resilience](#) are interconnected and require consideration and understanding through a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach. An appreciation of the complex, dynamic nature of Caribbean communities and their vulnerabilities reinforces the idea that people living in the region know how things around them work, and how their lives can be improved by building safer, more resilient communities.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Societies will work to improve their capacity to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to, evolving crises and disasters, while improving the capacities of local vulnerable communities to do the same. Their objectives include:

- Ensure communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards
- Ensure increased access to livelihoods and food security for those affected
- Provide multi-purpose cash grants and in-kind assistance to people affected by crises and disasters
- Provide shelter assistance and essential household items to cover their basic shelter needs
- Respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters, and leverage their auxiliary role in emergency response
- Expand leadership in the field of disaster law and improve official/legal recognition of their auxiliary role

Planned Activities in 2024

In 2024, the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross** will create a logistics and development plan, provide warehouse management training, acquire disaster response equipment, and conduct Caribbean Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) training (change community to Caribbean in CDRT)

The **Bahamas Red Cross Society** will conduct enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments (eVCA) in five communities, implement adaptive projects, and prioritize funding for disaster management. It will revise contingency plans with IFRC, train new and existing CDRTs and establish and equip two new school-based groups.

The **Barbados Red Cross Society** will approve its disaster manual and disaster risk management strategies SoPs, recruit a disaster management coordinator and prepare staff and volunteers to implement SoPs. The National Society will upgrade logistics systems, enhance community preparedness, increase youth participation and advocate for official recognition of its auxiliary role in national policies.

The **Belize Red Cross Society** will strengthen disaster management by educating staff and volunteers, enhancing community disaster risk reduction activities, reviewing roles with National Emergency Management Organization and setting up early warning systems. It will also promote climate-smart agriculture and alternative livelihoods.

The **Dominica Red Cross Society** will build CDRTs, conduct eVCAs, establish early warning systems and train community members. The National Society will expand its contingency action plan, conduct simulations and implement cash and

voucher assistance. The National Society will secure funding and strengthen partnerships for IDRL advocacy.

The **Grenada Red Cross Society** will advocate for disaster-related laws and policies, develop evidence-based strategies, and provide training and peer support. The National Society will enhance its role in domestic disaster arrangements and strengthen partnerships with humanitarian, legal and academic networks.

The **Guyana Red Cross Society** will train disaster management committees, scale up DRR activities, and develop community action plans. The National Society will revise contingency plans, seek disaster risk financing, form CDRTs and coordinate with IFRC and external stakeholders. The National Society will also use recovery checklists and incorporate cash-based safety nets and climate-smart practices.

The **Jamaica Red Cross** will improve risk information and support for at-risk communities through micro-projects and staff training in logistics. The National Society will focus on special needs populations and update emergency response plans.

The **St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** will train CDRTs and improve anticipatory action knowledge. The National Society will enhance emergency communication tools, warehousing and stock levels and engage volunteers in DRR and preparedness activities.

The **Saint Lucia Red Cross** will train 45 individuals for National Intervention Teams, review response strategies, and train additional personnel in damage assessment, relief distribution, and shelter management. It will implement a community early warning system and train CDRTs in essential skills.

The **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** will complete eVCA training, engage in community disaster management, and participate in focus group discussions on disaster risks.

The **Suriname Red Cross** will implement an early warning system, explore forecast-based financing, and build capacity through training and market analysis. The National Society will finalize MoUs with suppliers and advocate with government authorities.

The **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** will update its Preparedness for Effective Response workplan, build logistics capacity, support EWS implementation, explore flood financing, and engage in community disaster management.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross** to re-develop its Disaster Risk Management programme. This would include the development of a disaster risk reduction policy, a review, and update of their response plans and support in the training and development of staff in key areas. The IFRC will also support the National Society within the framework of the Ready 360 Project (Phase 2).

The IFRC will support the **Bahamas Red Cross Society** by hosting online webinars and other knowledge events to strengthen awareness and skills to implement early warnings/early action. It will also promote the National Society's recommendations for disaster law studies and the recognition of its auxiliary role when requested. The Country Cluster Delegation in Port of Spain will continue to support the Bahamas Red Cross Society in the furtherance of their capacity building goals. It will ensure access to the planned regional Logistics and warehouse management training among other development goals.

The IFRC will support the **Barbados Red Cross Society** in its advocacy for disaster laws and policies, providing an enabling environment for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The Country Cluster Delegation for the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean, Port of Spain (POS CCD) will ensure that the National Society has access to the planned regional logistics and warehouse management training, community disaster relief teams training, emergency operations coordination management, and any other training and technical support that is in line with their development goals.

The IFRC will support the **Belize Red Cross Society, Dominica Red Cross Society, Guyana Red Cross Society, and Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** by hosting the training of Caribbean disaster response teams (CDRT) to expand the cadre of people able to enhance community resilience. The IFRC will also provide if needed, trained enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (eVCA) facilitators to support the completion of eVCAs in selected communities across the countries.

The IFRC will also support anticipatory action dialogue with government authorities led by the Belize Red Cross Society. With support from the shelter cluster, the IFRC will support the Dominica Red Cross Society in their shelter development needs and review its existing Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) work plan in line with its current challenges and aspirations. The Guyana Red Cross Society will be further supported with regional logistics and warehouse management training in addition to a cash preparedness assessment to address the identified gaps. The IFRC will provide logistics and warehouse training and management including support for warehouse repairs and upgrading to the Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society. Additionally, where possible, the IFRC will also support the provision of stock for response to small-scale emergencies.

The IFRC will support the **Grenada Red Cross Society** to promote the recommendations of disaster law studies and the recognition of its auxiliary role. The support will include the facilitation of disaster law workshops, legislative advocacy training, and facilitating dialogues with government partners. Within the context of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, IFRC will support the National Society to develop an advocacy plan for ecosystem-based adaptation for the area of Woburn Clarke.

The IFRC will support the **Jamaica Red Cross** in developing community contingency plans and standard operating procedures (SOP) and improving them through simulation drills. It will also provide technical assistance to build resilience among special needs communities, to reduce risks and build resilience to climate, environment, and wider disaster risks.

The IFRC will support the **Saint Lucia Red Cross** with the framework of the Ready 360 Project (Phase 2). It will support the National Society to conduct a national case study to analyze legal and policy frameworks in disaster preparedness and response and will also conduct a national case study on the possibilities of integrating first aid education into national laws and policies.

The IFRC will support the **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** with its capacity-building initiatives including training of trainers and tools to implement in-country programmes and best practices to build resilience and community-based actions. The IFRC will further collaborate to provide access to funds and capacity building linked with IFRC RoadMap to Resilience approach and the Ready 360 Project.

The IFRC will support the **Suriname Red Cross** and **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** in the furtherance of its capacity-building goals. The POS CCD will ensure that the National Society has access to the planned regional Logistics and warehouse management training, CDRT training of trainers, emergency operations coordination management and any other training or technical support that is in line with their development goals.



Health and wellbeing

COVID-19 has had a serious impact on the Caribbean region's health system, economy, and psychology. The prevalence of pre-existing health conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and obesity makes Caribbean communities extremely vulnerable to COVID-19, while high levels of inequality and informality in the region make the situation potentially more catastrophic than in other parts of the world. This is compounded by the region's abundance of small island developing states, which are also vulnerable to climate change.

Many of these countries are low-lying, small, often remote, and economically vulnerable. The Caribbean region already has a heavy burden of non-communicable chronic diseases (NCDs). NCDs are linked to more than 7 out of 10 deaths in the Caribbean region, which exceeds the global average of nearly 60%. The risk factors such as obesity, physical inactivity, smoking, and alcohol which contribute to the development of NCDs are also on the rise in Caribbean countries. The risks of infectious diseases, triggered by emergency events, also stretches the limited capacities of Caribbean health systems.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Protect the health and wellbeing of communities and improve through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course
- Maintain the health and dignity of communities in emergencies and disease outbreaks through access to appropriate health services
- Build and maintain community-level capacity in effective detection, prevention, and response to infectious disease outbreaks and immunization campaigns
- Ensure communities have increased access to environmentally sustainable water and are practicing proper sanitation and hygiene (WASH), especially during emergency settings
- Capitalize on its auxiliary role to ensure their position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy, and policy platforms and mechanisms

Planned Activities in 2024

In 2024, the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross** will conduct a national health and wellness needs assessment and enhance its First Aid services.

The **Bahamas Red Cross Society** will integrate a health manager into its core structure, advocate for certified first aid personnel in schools and businesses and conduct various first aid trainings. It will also organize vaccination clinics, health fairs, vector control projects, and climate-change-linked clean-up campaigns.

The **Barbados Red Cross Society** will launch a national health and wellness campaign, including a men's health event, community zumba sessions and partnerships with civil society. Then National Society will also enhance community capacity through health action plans.

The **Belize Red Cross Society** will initiate a health campaign aligned with national policy, revise its First Aid Policy, conduct health fairs, and run wellness programmes. It will introduce a Blood Recruitment Programme, enhance diabetes awareness, establish an ambulance service, and promote clean water management and sanitation.

The **Dominica Red Cross Society** will join the national WASH committee, enhance community access to safe water, and educate on wastewater treatment and reuse.

The **Grenada Red Cross Society** will scale up First Aid training, increase blood donations, and provide psychological first aid. It will strengthen health promotion, surveillance, immunization, MHPSS, and disaster risk reduction activities.

The **Guyana Red Cross Society** will focus on epidemic risk management, advocate for early mental health support,

and support government initiatives under the International Health Regulations. The National Society will scale up first aid training, provide psychosocial support and develop climate-health adaptation plans.

The **Jamaica Red Cross** will enhance its role in health sector planning, expand its commercial First Aid programme and provide Psychological First Aid training. It will strengthen its collaboration with government and NGOs, and update community-based health and first aid training.

The **St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** will solidify its role in epidemic preparedness, expand First Aid training, and integrate digital components. The National Society will participate in MHPSS platforms and advocate for coordinated MHPSS responses.

The **Saint Lucia Red Cross** will upgrade partnerships and MoUs with the Ministry of Health, implement CBHFA in four communities, and train community care representatives in psychological first aid and personal support practices. The National Society will also enhance elderly and home care services.

The **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** will purchase new First Aid and CPR equipment, train volunteers in psychosocial support, and provide training in elderly and childcare in emergencies.

The **Suriname Red Cross** will pursue innovative health approaches at the blood bank and community levels to enhance its services.

The **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** will expand the psychological first aid training, produce educational materials on health and enhance clinic services with tele-care options and new clinics.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross**, the **Barbados Red Cross Society**, and the **Dominica Red Cross Society** with the Health and Wellbeing Working Group comprised of health focal points of National Societies formed to enhance and expand existing health and wellbeing initiatives. The purpose will be to develop Caribbean-wide large-scale programmes to address the more pressing health and wellbeing gaps, in line with Strategy 2030 and the Nassau Accord.

The IFRC will provide the **Bahamas Red Cross Society** with technical assistance during the First Aid training opportunities as a cross-cutting issue when implementing community-based projects.

The IFRC will provide the **Belize Red Cross Society** with technical guidance and support through the sharing of case studies, tools, materials, methodologies, and other resources. It will also support the training of staff and volunteers, especially those working in First Aid, ambulance management, and as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

The IFRC will provide the **Guyana Red Cross Society** and **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** technical support, and capacity-building support, as well as a partner to explore opportunities for resource mobilization health and well-being activities and building new partnerships.

The IFRC will support the **Jamaica Red Cross** with technical support, training, and funding to ensure the delivery of quality and sustainable community-based health and WASH activities through their volunteers and staff. The IFRC Caribbean Cluster will also assist the National society to coordinate and collaborate with health partners such as PAHO, the Ministry of Health, CARPHA, and other stakeholders in advocating for health programming based on local need.

The IFRC will support and guide the **Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** in its strategies to develop health in emergencies and public health institutional frameworks to support the Ministry of Health. It will also provide opportunities for collaboration, training, and experience sharing with fellow participating National Societies with strong structured operational mandates as auxiliary to their ministries of health.

The IFRC will support the **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** in identifying longer-term warehouse locations and for the pre-positioning of cleaning kits in preparation for emergencies.



Migration and displacement

The Caribbean region is often overlooked as a destination for part of the estimated 7.7 million migrants and refugees who fled the political and economic crises in Venezuela. Governments have not been equipped to respond to the unprecedented increase of migration into the Caribbean region, nor have they responded in a coordinated manner. Throughout the Caribbean, Venezuelan migrants face a variety of legal, economic, and social barriers that prevent their integration into society, especially amid pandemic-related concerns among public officials and host communities that their arrival puts undue pressure on public resources.

More recently, people facing difficult economic circumstances have also left Haiti and Cuba, often travelling to other countries in the region. In Haiti, the 7.2 magnitude earthquake in August 2021 and the assassination of the country's President caused a surge in migration to Jamaica and the Bahamas. Some migrants try to reach the United States by transiting along a difficult route through Central America and Mexico, but many have put down roots within the Caribbean region.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Societies of Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago are part of the IFRC's three-year Global Route-Based Migration Programme, which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The National Society will also work to:

- Ensure migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes
- Ensure migrants, including asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers, in vulnerable situations and irrespective of their legal status have their essential needs met through assistance and protection services, including through humanitarian service Points (HSP)
- Ensure migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and are informed of their rights, criteria, and regulations for regularization
- Engage with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to assess, understand, and respond to their priority needs more effectively

Planned Activities in 2024

The **Bahamas Red Cross Society** will advocate for safe spaces for vulnerable groups and provide health services, including first aid and psychosocial support. The National Society will assist with shelter management, food distribution, and deploy damage assessment teams to support relief efforts.

The **Belize Red Cross Society** will upgrade its migrant information hub, train staff in report writing and record-keeping, and provide first aid, conflict management and psychosocial support in migrant communities.

The **Grenada Red Cross Society** will support migrants and displaced persons by facilitating access to humanitarian assistance and resources to meet their priority needs.

The **Guyana Red Cross Society** will offer humanitarian assistance, protection services, and basic needs support to migrants and displaced persons. The National Society will adhere to PGI guidelines and enhance its capacity through training and peer support.

The **Jamaica Red Cross** will provide food, non-food items, and mental health and psychosocial support to migrants

and asylum seekers. The National Society will train staff and volunteers, implement a cash-based assistance programme and engage in advocacy and training for stakeholders.

The **St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** will support vulnerable migrants through integration and social inclusion activities, training staff and volunteers, and advocating for migrant protection and rights. The National Society will develop policies and strategies for engagement with these populations and collaborate with global and regional networks.

The **Saint Lucia Red Cross** will build the capacity of volunteers and staff to support migrants and displaced persons effectively, enhancing skills for humanitarian assistance and protection.

The **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** will strengthen volunteer and staff capacity to address the needs of migrants and displaced persons, ensuring effective humanitarian assistance and protection.

The **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** will provide multi-purpose cash grants to migrant families and offer mental health and psychosocial support. The National Society will conduct hygiene promotion campaigns and provide mobile clinic services. Additionally, it will implement a menstrual hygiene campaign and expand telehealth services for remote locations.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the **Bahamas Red Cross Society** during its participation in regional or cross-regional discussions, consultations, and workshops to support the work of National Societies along migration routes.

The IFRC will provide the **Belize Red Cross Society, Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society, and Saint Lucia Red Cross** with financial support, technical guidance, case studies, success stories, and peer-to-peer support to build its capacity to expand its migration programming.

The IFRC will provide technical support to the **Grenada Red Cross Society, Jamaica Red Cross, and Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** to build capacity in migrant operations to treat an evolving situation.

The IFRC will provide the **Guyana Red Cross Society** with technical and capacity-building support as necessary and support the National Society to explore opportunities for new partnerships and resource mobilisation.



Values, power and inclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about restrictions and social isolation measures, as well as economic and social stress – and this led to an increase in gender-based violence in the Caribbean's small island developing states. As governments enforced COVID-19-related lockdowns, many women were

left with limited options, confined at home with their abusers while services to support survivors were disrupted or made inaccessible.

A UN Women report indicates that the COVID-19 pandemic has not only increased the prevalence of violence within the home, but also other forms of violence against women and girls, particularly migrants. The pandemic has further aggravated the situation for migrants and refugees, creating a lack of access to services, protection, livelihoods, and health. Many migrants in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana work in the hospitality sector, which has been repeatedly locked down. In an August 2020 UNICEF study, it was estimated that unemployment among migrant populations rose to more than 50 per cent. Xenophobia-related violence, harassment, and other forms of violence in public spaces and online has also become more prevalent, and the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse in exchange for social safety net benefits is common.

Emergency response assessments in countries such as Belize, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, have also demonstrated worsening inequalities, with an increase in incidents of sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children during and after emergencies.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) approach for the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean will focus on further building the capacities of the National Societies. The PGI network established in the region will focus on the implementation of the IFRC PGI operational framework 2022–2025, which sets out how to turn the new IFRC PGI policy into action.

- Ensure the network is safe and inclusive, ensuring dignity, access, participation, and safety for people of all identities
- Promote and support safe, equitable, and continuous access to quality education for all, especially children affected by disaster, crisis, or displacement
- Contribute to a positive change in communities through wider understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of fundamental principles and humanitarian values
- Focus on enhancing young people's knowledge, skills, and behaviour
- Increase focus on integrating protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in programmatic and project activities

Planned Activities in 2024

The **Bahamas Red Cross Society** will train and raise awareness for staff and volunteers, ensuring systematic training for new recruits and regular updates for existing members. The National Society will integrate basic mental health and psychosocial support into all programming,

develop procedures for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

The **Belize Red Cross Society** will promote humanitarian values and the Movement's seven Fundamental Principles at community and school events. The National Society will train staff and volunteers, support disaster preparedness in schools, offer psychological support to disaster-affected children and provide gender equality training. It will also reinstate social assistance programmes, create community support groups and a community engagement and accountability programme.

The **Dominica Red Cross Society** will focus on promoting fundamental principles and empowering youth. The National Society will strengthen partnerships for humanitarian education, collaborate with education authorities and develop a youth strategy to support quality education access for children affected by crises.

The **Grenada Red Cross Society** will integrate protection, gender, and inclusion into its programmes, enhance documentation practices to capture sex, age and disability data (SADD) and ensure inclusive programme outcomes.

The **Guyana Red Cross Society** will enhance staff and volunteer capabilities, especially among youth, to implement effective humanitarian education programmes. It will focus on inclusive leadership training, promote diversity in management and governance, and use the revised community engagement and accountability guide to ensure safe and inclusive practices.

The **Jamaica Red Cross** and the **St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** will offer specialized training in PGI in emergencies, expand its MHPSS programme to include children and implement restoring family links activities in alignment with the RFL Strategy 2020-2025.

The **Saint Lucia Red Cross** and the **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** will promote the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and build capacity on PGI standards and community engagement and accountability practices to ensure respect for humanitarian values.

The **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** will prioritize diversity and inclusion through its PGI approach, addressing violence, discrimination, and exclusion. The National Society will involve a dedicated PGI focal point in the consultative process for the PGI Global Strategic Framework 2021-2025 to align its initiatives with global standards.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the **Bahamas Red Cross Society** during sensitive feedback and training for CEA staff and volunteers on safeguarding, including a survivor-centred approach and PGI minimum standards. The Canadian Red Cross Society will support the National Society with PGI.

The IFRC will support the **Barbados Red Cross Society** with technical support to enhance knowledge and seamlessly integrate it into its programming for more effective operations.

The IFRC will provide the **Belize Red Cross Society** with financial support, technical guidance, case studies, success stories, and peer-to-peer support to build its capacity.

The IFRC will support the **Dominica Red Cross Society** in its mission to promote the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, with a strong emphasis on youth development.

The IFRC will support the **Grenada Red Cross Society, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross, and Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** in enhancing its PGI approach, aimed at combating violence, discrimination, and exclusion



Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross conducts the first-ever community emergency response team (CERT) training in the Caribbean exclusively for the deaf and hard of hearing community, in February 2022 (Photo: Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross)

across all operational contexts, which is at the heart of their humanitarian work.

The IFRC will provide the **Guyana Red Cross Society** and **Saint Lucia Red Cross** with technical and capacity-building support as necessary.

The IFRC will provide the **Jamaica Red Cross** with training opportunities for key child protection standards such as inter-agency Minimum Standards on Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. It will also include the Jamaica Red Cross Society staff in specialized PGI in emergency training or sessions for sexual and gender-based violence including psycho-social support in Emergencies.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Dutch and English speaking Caribbean National Societies are committed to pursuing National Society development, and all of them, apart from The Guyana Red Cross Society have carried out a self-assessment as part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process. The self-assessment process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The National Societies are also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, and 10 of them are at different phases of completion. The approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, and take necessary action to improve it.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase its cooperation and coordination with external partners to address major challenges facing communities
- Fulfill its priorities for Movement coordination and cooperation, as outlined in the Council of Delegates meeting in 2019
- Ensure effective shelter cluster coordination with partners inside and outside the network and take an increased role in shelter cluster coordination
- Effectively increase financial resources, both through domestic fundraising

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross**, **Dominica Red Cross Society**, and **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** technical support including accompanying it in partnership engagement and supporting new and non-traditional partnerships. It will enhance efforts to collaborate and coordinate with their external partners leveraging already established partnerships on the regional and global level. It will also support the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross** in its resource mobilization strategy and plan.

The IFRC will support the **Bahamas Red Cross Society** by forming long-lasting partnerships with various stakeholders, leveraging the international organization status of the IFRC, experimenting with innovative financing partnerships.

The IFRC will collaborate closely with the **Barbados Red Cross Society** to support the development of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with educational institutions like the UWI Give Back Programme. The MOUs will serve as a means to harness specialized expertise in fields such as psychology, social work, and environmental science, enriching the skills and knowledge base of volunteers and members.

The IFRC will provide the **Belize Red Cross Society** and **Guyana Red Cross Society** with financial support, technical guidance, case studies, success stories, and peer-to-peer support to build its capacity.

The IFRC will provide the **Jamaica Red Cross** with technical support to ensure the proper capacity to manage different alliances with a long-term vision. It will also conduct regional training in resource mobilization and financial sustainability.

The IFRC will provide technical support to the **Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** as it explores its current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Disaster Office and the Nevis Branch, in order to strengthen the auxiliary role for the National Society.

The IFRC will support the **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** in developing and finalizing its resource mobilization strategy.

The IFRC will support the **Suriname Red Cross** in facilitating the needs of the most vulnerable communities. This will be undertaken through active volunteers guided by a strategy which is understood, carried out, and supported by all stakeholders.

The IFRC will provide the **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** with technical support and guidance for youth and volunteering initiatives, as requested.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue to be a network of relevant local organisations who are the trusted partners of choice for local humanitarian action with the capabilities to act in the global network
- Promote image and advocate for change, affecting public behaviour, policies, and decisions on a domestic, regional, and global scale
- Prioritize volunteering development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action, ensuring access and nurturing trust in all contexts

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross** in finalizing the strategic plan, , and the building of the operational plan and budget for 2025. A comprehensive multiyear [National Society development](#) plan focusing on the results of assessments will be developed and funding sourced to support it.

The IFRC will support the **Bahamas Red Cross Society's** improvement of communication, coordination, and interrelations among the network of branches and volunteer groups across the islands. The support will focus on the provision of resources and the transfer of knowledge to volunteer groups on the more vulnerable and disconnected islands.

The IFRC will support the **Barbados Red Cross Society** through coaching, training, enhancement mechanisms, and funding via the [Capacity Building Fund](#), Financial Intermediary Fund, iRaiser, website, and others to improve the sustainability of income-generating initiatives. It will also support the National Society in collecting feedback from volunteers on their satisfaction levels and their overall experience to inform decisions made by the Youth and Volunteer Officer expected to be hired in 2024.

The IFRC will provide the **Belize Red Cross Society** technical support to strengthen its local network of branches, including a travel mission for in-person support to individual branches and headquarters.

The IFRC will support the **Dominica Red Cross Society** in developing and finalising a new strategic plan and building a multi-year National Society Development plan with the operational plans. Support will be provided to understand their role in the process, including performance management.

The IFRC will provide support to the **Grenada Red Cross Society** for the development of policies and structures to support the implementation of plans. It will also provide the National Society with technical support to conduct a satisfaction study, including access to the satisfaction tool developed by the regional youth and volunteering team.

The IFRC will provide the **Guyana Red Cross Society** with technical support in obtaining insurance for volunteers and setting up complementary protection mechanisms as part of the IFRC's [Duty of Care](#).

The IFRC will support the **Jamaica Red Cross** by attending and engaging in regional meetings on financial sustainability, resource mobilization, First Aid, peer-to-peer meetups, financial development competency networks, IFRC innovation meetings, entrepreneurship meetings, National Society Development brown bag sessions, and various communities of practice.

The IFRC will support the **Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** in the development of a comprehensive multi-year national society development plan alongside a budget and resource mobilization plan to address sustainability. The IFRC will further provide support for the business aspect of the first aid CBF, ensuring that first aid can improve income to establish full-time staff cost recovery.

The IFRC will provide the **Saint Lucia Red Cross** with technical support to conduct a thorough analysis of volunteering. Using the Volunteering Development Framework, it will assist the National Society in identifying priority needs and inform actions to be taken in 2024 and beyond.

The IFRC will support the **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** in developing and finalizing the strategic plan, the operational plan and the budget for 2025. Support will be provided to the governing board in understanding their role in the process, including performance management. The IFRC will also support the revision and expansion of youth programmes.

The IFRC will support the **Suriname Red Cross** in enhancing the volunteer experience and improving retention rates so that the National Society builds a cadre of well-prepared and well-equipped volunteers to deliver its services. The volunteering focal points at the Suriname Red Cross will receive support to undergo a comprehensive analysis of volunteering, in accordance with the commitments made under the Nassau Accord, and using the Volunteering Development Framework as the main guidance tool.

The IFRC will support the **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** in attaining financial sustainability through funding options such as the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#) (CBF).



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Successfully promote its image and advocate for change, affecting public behaviour, policies, and decisions on a domestic, regional, and global scale
- Promote image and advocate for change, affecting public behaviour, policies, and decisions on a domestic, regional, and global scale

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross**, **Bahamas Red Cross Society**, **Barbados Red Cross Society**, **Belize Red Cross Society**, **Dominica Red Cross Society**, **Grenada Red Cross Society**, **Guyana Red Cross Society**, **Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society**, **Saint Lucia Red Cross**, **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross**, and **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** in establishing a Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that will foster engagement and continued learning between National Societies. It will also promote the collective advocacy efforts of National Societies to influence outcomes at relevant regional and international platforms related to disaster risk management, climate change, and other relevant thematic issues. The IFRC will also support the National Societies to engage in a peer-to-peer exchange on international disaster response law with the Japanese Red Cross and between government and inter-governmental counterparts such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

The IFRC will support the **Suriname Red Cross** to strengthen its auxiliary role through the development and implementation of advocacy strategies, and through legislative advocacy training. Additionally, it will support the National Society to participate in national, regional, or international fora, through the provision of key messages, policy briefs, initiating peer-to-peer exchanges, dialogues on humanitarian diplomacy, and participating in advocacy networks.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Works as a global accountable network
- Undergoes a digital transformation at the Head Quarters as well through improved monitoring and evaluation structures

- Use innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate, adapt to, and change for complex challenges and opportunities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross'** digital transformation plans to improve the National Society's agility and adaptability in finding new and innovative ways to continue to provide its services. The IFRC will assist in the establishment of basic IT capacities, including the acquisition of hardware (laptops, computers, and associated equipment) and software (integral licenses), technical guidance, and seeking additional financial support.

The IFRC will provide technical assistance to the **Bahamas Red Cross Society** to prepare a proposal for submission to the capacity building fund to support the funding in the first year of digital activities. It will also be using digital global fundraising campaigns to mobilize resources.

The IFRC will support the **Barbados Red Cross Society's** operational plan's objectives. This support would encompass providing technical expertise, guidance, and resources in areas such as governance, compliance, fundraising insights, and monitoring and evaluation.

The IFRC will provide the **Guyana Red Cross Society** support and guidance in the establishment of transparent financial policies and procedures, including clear guidelines for financial management and regular communication with stakeholders. It will also support the National Society with financial training and capacity-building programmes for staff and volunteers.

The IFRC will provide technical assistance to the **Jamaica Red Cross** and assist it in better understanding accountability as a norm with concrete impacts that will help ensure long-term relationships with donors, communities, and other stakeholders. At the community level, the IFRC will continue to promote the adoption of the community, engagement and accountability (CEA) approach in all programmers and projects implemented by the National Society.

The IFRC will actively collaborate with the **Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** to facilitate the annual unified planning process, offering guidance through its technical teams whenever necessary. Additionally, IFRC will play a pivotal role in the development and utilization of digital tools, enhancing programme management, enabling efficient data collection, and providing access to essential PMER tools, training, and resources.

The IFRC will support the **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** in its digital transformation journey and will promote the use of the Data Playbook to help build capacity.

The IFRC will support the **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** by including it in any capacity-building activities at the regional level.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean National Societies through its country cluster delegation based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The IFRC's support centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC supports the National Societies with strengthening their auxiliary roles by meeting key stakeholders at government level on a regular basis.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Societies in the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean through a number of [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) and [Emergency Appeal](#) operations in relation to hurricanes and tropical storms, floods, disease outbreaks and volcano eruptions. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global appeal, has supported the National Societies' COVID-19 response across the region. The IFRC also provides technical and expert support to National Societies in several areas.

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 the Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean, various established national and regional mechanisms provide space for coordination and knowledge sharing. Those include, most prominently, the Red Cross Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Cell (CADRIM), which takes the lead in building and contributing knowledge and providing services to the IFRC network in the Caribbean, as well as contributes in the Americas and globally. CADRIM actively works towards the development of evidence, data and research on how to strengthen community resilience through sustainable preparedness and risk reduction activities, particularly in small island developing states.

The **French Red Cross**, through the Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean of the French Red Cross (PIRAC), works in Eastern Caribbean countries under the Ready Together project in international disaster response law and civil military activities, as well as in climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness activities. The platform will also work with the National Societies of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to train trainers and accredit National Society commercial first aid with the IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre.

Participating National Society Support

Country	National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actor
Antigua and Barbuda	French Red Cross	300,000	●	●				
Dominica	French Red Cross	300,000	●	●				
	Italian Red Cross	45,000	●					
Grenada	French Red Cross	300,000	●	●				
Saint Kitts and Nevis	French Red Cross	300,000	●	●				
Saint Lucia	French Red Cross	300,000	●	●				
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	French Red Cross	300,000	●	●				

Total Funding requirement

1.8M

The National Societies of the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean also receive long-term support from the **American Red Cross** (Bahamas), the **Canadian Red Cross Society** (Bahamas), the Country Cluster Delegation in **Port of Spain** (the Bahamas), **French Red Cross** (Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines), **Italian Red Cross** (Dominica, and exploring support to Antigua and Barbuda), the **Netherlands Red Cross** (Suriname) and **Turkish Red Crescent Society** (St. Kitts and Nevis).

Movement coordination

The National Societies 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.

The ICRC supports some of the National Societies in their work on restoring family links and tracing, primarily in the areas of migration, and in promoting international humanitarian law. The Caracas regional delegation covers Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

Coordination with other actors

The IFRC continues to have a robust alliance with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), and IFRC staff and National Societies actively participate in various technical events, committees and working groups. Currently, the IFRC is represented on the CDEMA's school safety committee, it is working on renewing their joint Memorandum of Understanding and developing a technical annex that will form the basis of joint programming.

The Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Reference Centre (CADRIM) continues to collaborate with CDEMA, the Nature Conservancy and other development partners in the

development and implementation of several community resilience tools. Most recently, the CADRIM team coordinated several technical working groups to develop a self-paced, e-learning climate change course and the Public Awareness and Public Education (PAPE) Library, as well as updating training manuals for community response teams and various aspects of early warning systems programming.

In the Bahamas, the IFRC leads the shelter cluster. The Global Shelter Cluster is an inter-agency standing committee coordination mechanism and the IFRC has been leading it in disaster contexts since the establishment of the cluster approach in 2005. This critical mandate places the IFRC as one of the lead agencies in the international humanitarian coordination system. The IFRC leverages its leadership position in the Global Shelter Cluster to improve coordination, develop stronger policies and standards across the sector, and ensure that affected people are supported in their recovery.

Since 2017, the IFRC, together with its National Societies and the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, has been implementing the Capacity Building Initiative in the region, focusing on preparedness at both the institutional and community level. Phase IV of the initiative began in September 2021.

In 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, and it is expected that more will be signed by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the University of the West Indies, Cavehill Campus in Barbados, and the Digicel Group



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 National Societies in Dutch and English Speaking Caribbean, 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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Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross

www.facebook.com/ab.redcross

Bahamas Red Cross

bahamasredcross.org

Barbados Red Cross

www.barbadosredcross.com/

Belize Red Cross

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeRedCrossSociety)

[BelizeRedCrossSociety](https://www.facebook.com/BelizeRedCrossSociety)

Dominica Red Cross

[www.ifrc.org/national-societies-
directory/dominica-red-cross-society](https://www.ifrc.org/national-societies-directory/dominica-red-cross-society)

Grenada Red Cross

grenadaredcross.gd

Guyana Red Cross

guyanaredcross.org.gy

Jamaica Red Cross

www.jamaicaredcross.org

Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross

www.facebook.com/sknrcs/

Saint Lucia Red Cross

www.saintluciarredcross.org/

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross

www.redcross.vc

Suriname Red Cross

[www.ifrc.org/national-societies-
directory/suriname-red-cross](https://www.ifrc.org/national-societies-directory/suriname-red-cross)

Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross

www.ttrcs.org