



GUATEMALA

2025-2027 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 17.9M**

12 February 2025

In support of the Guatemalan Red Cross



21

National Society branches



21

National Society local units



249

National Society staff



650

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



9,000

Climate and environment



6,000

Disasters and crises



16,000

Health and wellbeing



44,000

Migration and displacement



1,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk management
- Climate change adaptation
- Violence prevention and protection
- Epidemic preparedness and response

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy
- Partnerships and resource mobilization
- Quality and upgraded management systems

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating **High**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **High**

Human Development Index rank **136**

World Bank Population figure **17.6M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **59.3%**

Funding requirements

2025

2026**

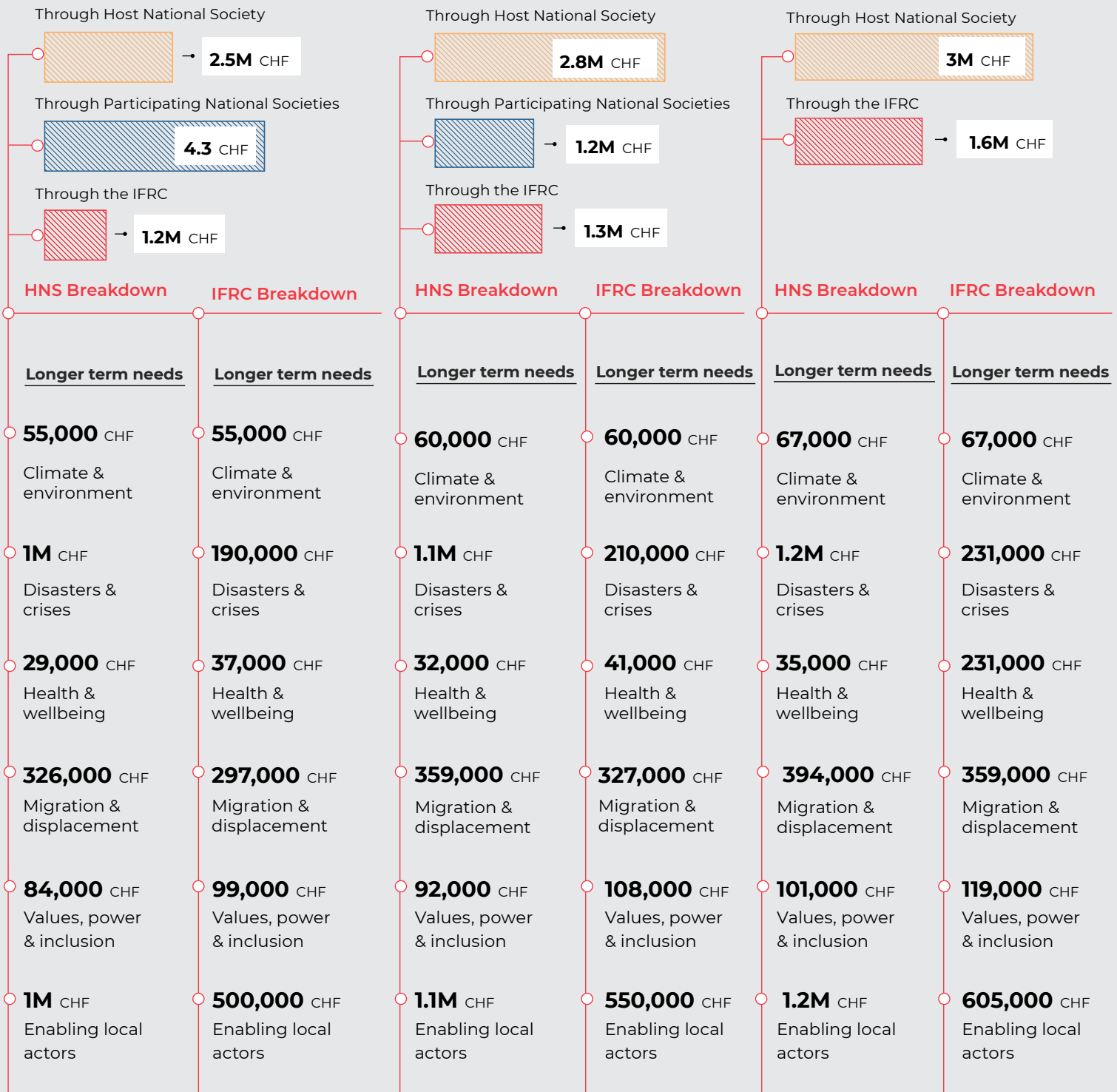
2027**

**Projected funding requirements

Total 8M CHF

Total 5.3M CHF

Total 4.6M CHF



See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
American Red Cross	401,000	●	●				●
German Red Cross	1.8M	●	●	●			
Spanish Red Cross	2.1M		●	●	●	●	

Total Funding requirement **CHF 4.3M**

Hazards



Population movement



Hurricanes and Cyclones



Floods



Droughts



Disease outbreaks



Poverty

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

German Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAGT003

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Guatemalan Red Cross** was established in 1923 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the same year. The National Society fulfils a humanitarian mission at the national and international levels. It is recognized as a voluntary, autonomous relief society, which serves as an auxiliary to the public authorities in its humanitarian activities.

The National Society provides nationwide coverage and has a permanent presence across 60 per cent of the country through its headquarters and 21 branches. It addresses humanitarian needs in the country through response operations during emergencies, disasters, and crises, along with permanent health care services.

The National Society's projects and programmes are developed within the framework of its Strategic Development Plan 2022-2025 which focuses on six areas: disaster preparedness and response, climate change, community resilience, health, migration and social inclusion. The Guatemalan Red Cross also works in alignment with the IFRC's Strategy 2030, the National Development Plan K'atun Nuestra Guatemala 2032, the National Development Priorities, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2022, the Guatemalan Red Cross reached more than 49,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes, and more than 330,000 people through its long-term services and developments.



Guatemalan Red Cross branches

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Guatemala is a multi-ethnic, multilingual, and multicultural country, made up of four main ethnic groups: Maya, Garifuna, Xinca and Mestizo, who speak a total of twenty-three languages. The country borders the Pacific Ocean to the West, shares land borders with El Salvador and Honduras to the south and southeast, has a short coastline on the Gulf of Honduras to the east, and borders Belize to the east and northeast.

Guatemala is located in the tropics, has a warm and temperate climate, and has elevations ranging from sea level to 4,000 metres. Climates range from near-desert conditions to rainforests, and the country is crossed by a large chain of 34 volcanos, four of which are active. The country has been affected by natural phenomena and climate change that have caused droughts and floods, impacting the quality of life of the population, especially those who live in poverty or extreme poverty.

Guatemala is among the countries in the world most prone to human and material damage and losses due to disasters and with the least capacity to deal with them. In 2023, the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) reported 3,427 incidents throughout the country, including epidemics (dengue), effects of the El Niño phenomenon, drop

in temperature, volcano eruption, hydrometeorological and geological events, incidents involving hazardous materials, rainy season, and forest fires, among others. In recent years, such risks have produced losses of human and economic lives that represent a high cost for the country.

Guatemala, like many other developing countries, faces a number of challenges in the health sector related to health coverage, access to basic health services, and the prevalence of both infectious and non-communicable diseases. This is also combined with other structural limitations such as poverty, which limits the majority of the population from putting their health or that of their family at the forefront.

Around 70 per cent of the entire country has an exceedingly elevated level of vulnerability. The vulnerability dimension considers socio-economic vulnerabilities including development and poverty, a dependent population, and vulnerable groups categorized by unprotected population and other vulnerable groups. In addition, more than half of the country's municipalities face remarkably high and substantial risks.

In recent years, Guatemala has gone from being a country of origin for migrants to being more a territory of transit and return, and, to a lesser extent, a place of destination. This has led to important changes in the country's migratory dynamics and the responses of the State, especially in the care and protection of migrants.



The Guatemalan Red Cross responded to large forest fire in Caserío Santa Fe de Coatepeque, 1 April 2024. (Photo: The Guatemalan Red Cross)



Climate and environment

Guatemala is one of the ten countries most vulnerable to extreme weather events and natural disasters. Its geographical location makes it prone to tropical storms, droughts, hurricanes, and earthquakes. In recent decades, extreme events have increased and intensified, due to the effects of climate change. Guatemala ranks 'high' on the INFORM Risk Index for both Climate Change and Severity.

The most vulnerable populations and sectors are those that are most sensitive to changes in climatic conditions and those that have the least capacity to establish effective adaptation strategies. Guatemala's vulnerability is determined, among other factors, by the high dependence of the national economy on agricultural production. Agriculture makes up 45 per cent of the national territory, 24 per cent of the country's GDP, and 29 per cent of the economically active population, besides being an important sector as a source of income, employment, and food. However, seven out of 10 farming households live in poverty due to high rates of poverty, inequality, and exclusion, along with the high degree of deterioration and depletion of the natural ecosystem.

Guatemala's immense biodiversity is crucial to the multiple livelihoods benefits it generates. These natural resources represent the potential for significant income generation through sustainable forestry and fisheries, sustainable tourism, and other livelihood opportunities. Despite this rich biological and cultural heritage, natural resources across the country are threatened by habitat loss, overexploitation, wildlife trafficking, agricultural encroachment, climate change, poor governance, and organized crime activity. The Guatemalan agencies responsible for the management of the country's natural resources suffer from chronic underfunding, insufficient human resources for management and protection, and limited institutional capacity.

Compounding these threats, Guatemala is one of the ten countries most vulnerable to extreme weather events and natural disasters. Its geographical location makes it prone to tropical storms, droughts, hurricanes and earthquakes, and the incidence of extreme weather events is expected to worsen as a result of climate change. These effects of climate change aggravate Guatemala's poverty conditions and malnutrition rates, increasing the vulnerability of many households, especially in the Western Highlands and the 'Dry Corridor.' The 'Dry Corridor' is an ecological region of Central America that is particularly vulnerable to increasing erratic rainfall, suffering from both severe droughts and floods.

The country has taken significant actions since 1992 to fulfil its commitments under the Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC), including drafting a National Climate Change Policy, pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and signing the ratified Paris Agreement. Guatemala has a National Climate Change Policy and one of the first climate change laws in the world: The Framework Law on Climate Change. The country created the National Climate Change Council which serves as a regulatory body for the country's key sectors under this law.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

The Guatemalan Red Cross is also a signatory of the Climate and Environment Charter since 2022, and an active member of the IFRC global Green Response group.

The National Society is involved in the Early Warnings for All initiative (EW4All), which aims to ensure everyone on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027. In this United Nations-led initiative, the IFRC is the lead of Pillar 4 on preparedness for response to warnings and is also actively engaged in Pillars 1 and 3 of Disaster Risk Knowledge and Warning Dissemination and Communication. The National Society, with IFRC support, will be working with national authorities to coordinate Pillar 4 and implement activities.

The National Society's objectives are to:

- Take urgent action to adapt to the growing and evolving risks of the climate and environmental crises
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation

Planned activities in 2025

- Implement the National Society's Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change policies
- Generate, share, and disseminate information related to climate risk through several communication channels in accordance with the local context

- Promote efficient [early warning systems](#), from local to national level, to enable people to be prepared for climate-related risks
- Address [anticipatory action](#) as a tool for effective humanitarian action in the face of growing climate risks
- Protect and strengthen livelihoods threatened or affected by the effects of climate variability
- Link health within the approach to climate change, considering this sector within the Integrated Risk Management cycle

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), and with implementing support from EU National Societies, the **American Red Cross** will support the National Society with a focus on community resilience. This will be done through actions including risk management component in the departments of San Marcos and Suchitepéquez. It will support the National Society with training delegations for the development of vulnerability and capacity analysis with [nature-based solutions](#). It will also assist with the development of community response plans and community micro-projects for risk reduction.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts in developing environmental policies and climate change adaptation strategies, based on evidence, and through mapping and risk scenarios. It will also support the technical implementation of the Guide on Climate-Smart Operations and Programmes, through technical visits, workshops, and advanced courses in the field.

The **German Red Cross** will provide technical assistance with training in anticipatory actions. It will also support the development of community micro-projects to strengthen [livelihoods](#).



Disasters and crises

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

Guatemala is subject to multiple risks and hazards. In 2024 alone, the country was faced with [dengue outbreaks](#), [floods](#) associated with tropical cyclones, [droughts](#) in the 'dry corridor', and political and social turmoil due to the general election process. Multiple events can often occur within the same period and geographical location, thereby severely affecting communities and the general population. It is feared that over the next decade, [one in three urban dwellers](#) will at some point live in informal settlements and suffer from severe deprivation.

Guatemala also faces human-caused hazards, which include widespread violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups, social unrest, and political and economic crises. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 hurricanes exacerbated the pre-existing food insecurity crisis nationwide, especially affecting vulnerable families in the Dry Corridor and impoverished families in the central-western highlands, specifically Indigenous populations.

Guatemala has a National Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is adapted from the 2015-2030 [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#). The policy aims to reduce exposure and vulnerability, prevent new disaster risks from occurring, and ensure accountability when new risks arise. It focuses on targeted areas to address the underlying factors that increase

disaster risk, such as the consequences of poverty and inequality, climate change and climate variability, rapid and unplanned urbanization, inadequate land management, and other aggravating factors. The policy recognizes the need to further strengthen good governance in disaster risk reduction strategies at the national, regional, and global levels, and to improve national preparedness and coordination for disaster response, rehabilitation, and reconstruction, and use post-disaster reconstruction and recovery.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Support communities in increasing their resilience to multiple and changing shocks and threats
- Meet the [needs of the people](#) affected by crises and disasters through access to timely, adequate and flexible assistance and support that strengthens their capacity for action
- Support the [food security and livelihoods](#) of people affected by disasters and crises
- Provide [multi-purpose cash grants](#) to those affected by disasters and crises to meet their needs
- Respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters, and enhance their auxiliary role in emergency response

Planned activities in 2025

- Strengthen community resilience, with local governments and schools to identify, address, and reduce disaster risks
- Bolster local response capacity including the identification and management of local risks
- Provide humanitarian interventions to assist the population in terms of livelihoods and basic needs, housing, health, water, and sanitation, through direct assistance and humanitarian aid in kind
- Develop Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) in response to the growing number of disasters and crises
- Develop anticipation mechanisms to face different threats in the country
- Coordinate with state agencies to increase the capacity for coordinated response in disasters and crises
- Expand leadership in the field of disaster law and improve the official/legal recognition of their auxiliary role

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the National Society through mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals. These will continue to be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2024, IFRC supported the National Society in responding to dengue outbreaks, floods, droughts, and civil unrest due to the general election process.

Through the partnership between the IFRC network and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European

Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) resulting in Pilot Programmatic Partnership (DG-ECHO PPP), the Guatemalan Red Cross will continue to increase the resilience and response capacity of target communities. The Guatemalan Red Cross is working with communities to provide tools and information to anticipate, respond and recover from emergencies. Three microprojects have been implemented in the Department of San Marcos and another three in Mazatenango. The types of projects implemented include remodelling a retaining wall, creating a rainwater harvesting system, and developing Early Warning Systems.

The **American Red Cross** will assist the National Society through the acquisition of equipment for community and school committees. It will also assist in the development of drills for the validation of community disaster response plans.

The **German Red Cross** will support the National Society with the strengthening of disaster risk reduction, forecast-based financing (FbF) and anticipatory action. It will also support the institutional strengthening of COMRED (Municipal Coordinator for Disaster Risk Reduction) community microprojects, and the National Society's overall auxiliary role.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will provide the National Society support for Prehospital Care and Hostel Management. It will also assist with water distribution, purifying filters, and water system repair. The **Danish Red Cross**, through the Spanish Red Cross, will provide pre-agreed financing for anticipatory actions due to volcanic activity.

The **ICRC** will provide support to the National Society in the handling of corpses during emergencies. On occasions required, it will also aid people in need through hygiene kits.



Health and wellbeing

Although Guatemala has made progress in the health status of the population, the country is still experiencing an institutional crisis with regard to guaranteeing access to and coverage of basic health services, drinking water, and sanitation infrastructure. The health indicators are uneven, recording low indicators in areas with the largest Indigenous, rural, and poor populations. Maternal mortality is 2.2 times higher in the Indigenous population than in the non-Indigenous population. Chronic malnutrition in children under 5 years of age is 1.8 times higher in indigenous people than in non-indigenous people. Municipalities with the lowest concentration of poverty, the least rurality, and the lowest percentage of Indigenous population concentrate the largest amount of physical infrastructure for health services.

During most crises, women face greater risks, inequalities, and consequences that result in comparatively higher levels of mortality, morbidity, and limitations in access to health services, especially sexual and reproductive health. With regards to maternal healthcare, previous humanitarian crises showed that only 14 per cent had a first prenatal consultation, 10.8 per cent had institutional childbirth care, and there was a 61 per cent increase in the number of teenage pregnancies. The Ministry of Health recorded a national maternal death rate of 105 per 100 thousand live births.

According to the 2023 National Food Security Assessment, 26 per cent of Guatemalan households are moderately (23 per cent) or severely (3 per cent) food insecure. Although the year 2021 saw a decrease of 9.6 per cent in cumulative cases of

acute malnutrition (moderate and severe) in children under five years of age, there was a 75.9 per cent increase in their mortality due to acute malnutrition. In 2023, the food insecure population increased by 2 per cent, in the category of severe food insecurity. According to the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the country, food insecurity has positioned itself as a permanent crisis that affects not only vulnerable families in the Dry Corridor but also impoverished families in the central-western highlands, specifically Indigenous subsistence farming families and day labourers.

Guatemala has all the epidemiological and environmental characteristics for the transmission of [vector-borne diseases](#). In March 2024, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) of Guatemala issued an [epidemiological alert for dengue](#). As of epidemiological week 35, 85,687 cases of dengue were registered in the country, representing a rate of 480.20 per 100,000 inhabitants. Of all these cases of dengue registered, 81 per cent correspond to Dengue without warning signs and 18 per cent dengue with warning signs. There was a notable prevalence in children under 15 years of age.

Guatemalans also face severe mental health situations. The [Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare](#) found that almost 40 per cent of those diagnosed with mental or behavioural disorders between January and July 2023, were people under the age of 19. The highest incidence rates were reported among adolescents and young people between 15 and 19 years old (8 per cent). The diseases that most affect the Guatemalan population are anxiety, depression, stress, and post-traumatic stress.

[Water, sanitation, and hygiene](#) (WASH), especially in the rural and Indigenous communities of the country, is also a health concern. The water supply is often untreated or there is no access to water. Many homes have inadequate basic sanitation services, and to date, the country does not have updated data on the increase in coverage of these services. These communities also show deterioration of the scarce water systems and in health services, it is necessary to install cleaning points and rehabilitate the water infrastructure to guarantee the necessary quality and quantity. The ongoing update of the [Public Policy on Drinking Water and Sanitation 2023-2035 in Guatemala](#), under the leadership of the Directorate of Drinking Water, Sanitation, Health and Environment of the MSPAS, represents an important opportunity for the effective integration of WASH services and a gender approach in watershed planning.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Protecting the health and wellbeing of communities, and improving access to sustainable, affordable, and quality health services
- Maintaining the health and dignity of communities in emergencies through access to health services

- Ensuring greater access of communities to affordable, adequate, and environmentally sustainable [water, sanitation, and hygiene](#) (WASH) services, including for communities at risk of pandemics and epidemics
- Leveraging its auxiliary role to secure its position in relevant platforms and mechanisms for public health strategy, advocacy, and policy at the national level

Planned activities in 2025

- Implement community health actions for the prevention of diseases including Maternal and Child Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Food and Nutrition, epidemic control, [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS), [protection, gender and inclusion](#) (PGI)
- Response to [epidemics and pandemics](#) through the implementation of physical, ethological, mechanical, cultural, and chemical control measures
- Undertake actions and services to improve access to the population including medical care, transfers, pre-hospital care, and promotion of voluntary blood donation
- Implement preventive actions to improve water quality and water systems at the household level including strengthening the capacities of water boards for the proper administration, operation and maintenance of water, and the construction of latrines and drains
- Launch response and recovery actions in [water, sanitation, and hygiene](#) (WASH) with water treatment actions, distribution, mass production, distributions, and rehabilitation of water systems, latrines, and showers among others
- Implement actions that improve access to quality water, as well as the adequate disposal of excreta, grey water, and solid waste. Hygiene, cleaning and physical control kits will also be delivered, and hygiene will be promoted using the [PHAST methodology](#)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support to the National Society for the development and review of its health strategies, including capacity building for pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response. It will also support with establishment of feedback systems to monitor and act on community perceptions, concerns, rumours, and misinformation of a specific disease.

Through the [DG ECHO-IFRC PPP](#), the Guatemalan Red Cross will strengthen preparedness and response to epidemics. Community Health Commissions have been set up in all of the targets.

Communities in Quetzaltenango and Coatepeque. The main objective is to strengthen community health, and the services

established in the communities, as well as provide them with supplies to follow up on outbreak detections and facilitate community surveillance.

The **German Red Cross** will support the National Society with the strengthening of WASH through the training of volunteers and staff. It will also assist with amplifying community awareness campaigns related to approved [early action protocols](#).

The **Spanish Red Cross** will provide support to the National Society with Maternal and Child Health in Emergencies, WASH promotion (access to water, hygiene kits, awareness campaign, latrine installation, rehabilitation of water systems), and food and nutrition (counselling, provision of stoves and appliances to improve food preparation conditions, provision of food).



Migration and displacement

Migration in Guatemala is a complex phenomenon influenced by multiple economic, social, political, and environmental factors. Guatemala is one of the countries in Latin America with the highest rates of poverty, inequality, and violence. Approximately [59 per cent of the population](#) lives in poverty, and extreme poverty affects 23 per cent of Guatemalans. This socioeconomic situation is one of the main drivers of migration, as many people seek better economic opportunities in other countries, especially in the United States. Furthermore, Guatemala's strategic location produces special conditions of vulnerability for migrants and displaced persons, being a country of origin, transit, and destination. According to the [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre](#), there were 242,000 internally displaced people as of the end of 2022, while according to the Humanitarian Needs Overview, the number of Guatemalan returnees had increased from 19,000 people (January to May 2021) to 41,000 in the first five months of 2022.

The main needs of refugees, [migrants and returnees](#) are first aid, provision of essential primary health services, psychosocial support, safe referral services for refuge/asylum applications, food, orientation on risks in migratory routes, and communication with family members. There are specific information needs on risks, weather-related problems, disease prevention, and other available services. The risks to which they are exposed are dominated by situations of violence, which result in important humanitarian needs.

According to data from the [Guatemalan Institute of Migration](#) (IGM), it indicated that, from 1986 to May 2024, Guatemala had recognized 1338 people with refugee status, of which 272 were reported during 2024. Similarly, the IGM reports that, as of August 2024, 57,707 Guatemalans returned, compared to 31,715 on the same date in 2023, which reflects an increase of 81.95 per cent from 2023 to 2024.

Due to the limited access to health and [protection services](#) and necessary resources for quality care for people on the move, the process of migration increases vulnerability in transit and exposure to violence, trafficking, kidnappings,

legal, cultural, social, and comprehensive health barriers. The most vulnerable groups are children, unaccompanied adolescents, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ people, and people with protection needs.

Despite the complex security conditions, both for Guatemalans and migrants, in July 2024 the displacement of Mexican families from municipalities in the State of Chiapas, Mexico, to the municipality of Cuilco raised a challenge for local authorities. This posed a logistical and coordination challenge for the authorities and humanitarian actors, considering the difficult access to the communities that offered refuge to more than 200 people who were displaced from their communities of origin by threats from armed civilian groups in Mexico. If the security situation along Mexico's southern border worsens, it is highly likely that displacement will continue.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society is part of the IFRC's three-year [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people annually across the world who are either on the move or living in host communities. It will do so 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.

In line with the above, the objectives of the National Society include:

- Strengthening access for migrants and displaced persons to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migration routes, as well as access to durable solutions, when needed

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

Planned activities in 2025

- Maintain the provision of basic and [psychological first aid](#) through the [humanitarian service points](#) (HSPs) located on the country's main migratory routes, guaranteeing access to the migrant population
 - Strengthen capacity in [Restoring Family Links](#) (RFL), ensuring a better deployment in the response to migration emergencies.
 - Provide psychosocial support and pre-hospital care to the migrant population, ensuring transfers to healthcare centres and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid, including bottled water, shelter kits, hygiene, snacks, and recreational activities
 - Develop community activities for awareness and social cohesion such as awareness-raising processes at the community and school level in communities of origin and transit/reception
 - Implement livelihood processes to contribute to the reintegration of the returned migrant population and promote the inclusion of those migrants with a vocation to remain in Guatemala
 - Formulate and implement Early Action Plans for transit and return migration, using relevant data and analysis to improve the response to the needs of the migrant population in 2024
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical and financial support to the National Society for the implementation of better case management and cross-border coordination. It will also assist in the periodic evaluation of HSPs in addition to the assessment of migrant needs. Furthermore, it will also reinforce the capacities of the National Society in terms of migration and displacement, through the promotion of training spaces such as workshops on safeguarding, [protection, gender, and inclusion](#) (PGI), [community engagement and accountability](#) (CEA).

Through the [DG ECHO-IFRC PPP](#), the Guatemalan Red Cross will deliver humanitarian assistance to people on the move at four humanitarian service points in Quetzaltenango, Santa Elena (Peten), Municipality of Puerto Barrios (Izabal), and Agua Caliente (Chiquimula). It will also support the National Society in assisting in pre-hospital care, psychosocial care, psychological first aid, humanitarian aid (kits), and safe water.

The **German Red Cross** will support the National Society with the formulation of a [simplified early action protocol](#) in migration (transit and return).

The **Spanish Red Cross** will support the National Society with the distribution of information as part of its aid efforts. It will also assist with the deployment of [livelihood efforts](#) for internally displaced persons.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will support the National Society by strengthening the capacity for migration preparedness. It will also accompany the National Society for the formulation of a bilateral project.

The ICRC will support the National Society with the deployment of RFL tools. It will also assist with staff training and volunteering in RFL and data protection.



Values, power and inclusion

The World Economic Forum's [Global Gender Gap Report 2024](#) reflects positive progress in Guatemala in terms of social conditions to break down the barriers that affect women compared to men. Compared to data from the 2023 report, Guatemala climbed 24 positions, placing itself as one of the five countries with the greatest progress in the last year. However, [gender inequality](#) and violence remain a grave concern in Guatemala. According to official data from the Public Prosecutor's Office, almost 60,000 women reported being victims of some type of violence, including psychological, physical, and economic violence. The National Union of Guatemalan Women, an organization that accompanies women as victims of violence, points out that the place where women are most violated is in their homes, as their perpetrators are close relatives. It also indicates that psychological violence especially impacts the lives of women.

In Guatemala, [child protection](#) is a significant issue due to the fact that approximately 29 per cent of women are married or in a union before the age of 18. Additionally, about one in ten women believe that a husband is justified in domestic violence for at least one of the specified reasons.

In addition, gender is often combined with other axes of discrimination. For example, impoverished and poorly educated women [suffer discrimination](#) differently compared to women from more affluent social classes. Their access to justice in cases of violence takes on different features. Similarly, [indigenous women](#), [Afro-descendant women](#), women with disabilities or illnesses, young women, heterosexual women, lesbians, and transsexual women, experience [different types of discrimination](#).

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Guatemalan Red Cross operates under a transversal gender and diversity approach and implements accountability activities throughout its programmes. It maintains an inclusive environment in all actions in accordance with the IFRC's [protection, gender and inclusion policy](#).

The multi-year objectives of the National Society are to:

- Ensure that the National Society is a safe and inclusive organization, including ensuring the dignity, access, participation, and safety of people of all identities
- Empower vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals and communities to influence decisions that affect them, and to trust the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to serve their interests
- Promote and support safe, equitable and continuous access to quality education for all, especially for children affected by disasters, crises, or displacement

- Contribute to positive change in communities through increased understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of the [fundamental principles](#) and humanitarian values, with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills and behaviour of young people

Planned activities in 2025

- Develop initiatives aimed at promoting inclusion and diversity in opportunities, representation, and decision-making processes for both Red Cross staff and the communities in which they intervene
- Establish effective channels for the dissemination of information and feedback, ensuring that messages reach as many sectors as possible and that community responses are also received promptly
- Provide guides to Guatemalan Red Cross staff on inclusion, equality, and equity as part of an ongoing awareness-raising process to serve as tools to guide actions in individual or collective cases that arise in the communities
- Facilitate adequate communication and coordination with the areas of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) to ensure adequate monitoring of each situation
- Create educational materials designed specifically for children including learning guides, stories, educational videos, and interactive games that can be used in temporary shelters, affected communities, or temporary school settings

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society with the dissemination of created material through the IFRC's official channels. It will also assist with tools to monitor community satisfaction within activities and programmes promoting PGI and CEA approaches. This will include allocating core funds for monitoring the institutionalization of the CEA approach.

Through the [DG ECHO-IFRC PPP](#), the Guatemalan Red Cross has formulated a CEA policy to integrate this approach into all humanitarian actions of the National Society. A workshop was held to disseminate the CEA Policy and minimum standards to volunteers from the National Society branches.

The National Society is expanding its efforts to apply the approach nationally in projects, programs, and operations, also developing a CEA mechanism to support the institutionalization process within the National Society.

The **German Red Cross** will support the National Society with the strengthening of the communication and dissemination plan.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will support the National Society in aiding the economic autonomy of vulnerable groups such as

women victims/survivors of gender-based violence, internally displaced persons, and returned migrant populations. It will also assist with the creation of materials adapted to the context and cultural relevance.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Guatemalan Red Cross is committed towards institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the IFRC's Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2012 and 2016. The National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response

(PER) process and is at the Action and Accountability phase. The PER Approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps in its preparedness and response mechanism, and take necessary action to improve it.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increased cooperation and coordination with external partners to address the main challenges faced by communities
- Improve member coordination for efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian actions, and shift mindset towards a network-wide Federation
- Delivered on its priorities for Movement Coordination and Cooperation, as outlined at the 2019 Council of Delegates meeting
- Ensure effective coordination of the refugee cluster with partners inside and outside the network and take on a greater role in coordinating the refugee cluster

- Effectively increase its financial resources, both through domestic fundraising and by providing increased international support to National Societies

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to ensure participation in national, regional, and global coordination mechanisms and platforms such as the Global Task Force, Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC), and National Disaster Risk Management Systems. Additionally, it will work to ensure the National Society's participation in inter-agency platforms such as the humanitarian country team and thematic groups. It will also represent the Guatemalan Red Cross at key inter-agency meetings at the national and regional levels.



The Guatemalan Red Cross had comprehensive intervention through the response teams during an earthquake, 14 April 2021. (Photo: The Guatemalan Red Cross)



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Serve as a network of relevant local organisations that are the trusted partners of choice for local humanitarian action with the capacity to act in the global network
- Prioritise the development of youth volunteerism and action as critical catalysts for behaviour change and local action, ensuring access and building trust in all contexts

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the National Society in following up on the action plan resulting from the Organization Capacity Assessment and Certification [OCAC](#) exercise. It will also support the initiatives of the National Society aimed at strengthening business models and diversifying its sources of income.

Through the [DG ECHO-IFRC PPP](#), the Guatemalan Red Cross has significantly increased its capabilities to prepare for disasters or crises in epidemics and pandemics. The technical teams and volunteers have been trained in WASH, mental health and psychosocial support, and health in emergencies to form first-response teams.

The **American Red Cross** will support the National Society in strengthening the network of local volunteer and youth coordinators. It will also assist in the development of training workshops for volunteering and youth focal points of the delegations on the volunteering management cycle and the respective manuals. In addition, it will aid recruitment activities in educational establishments (secondary education and university), organized groups, communities, and institutions.

The **German Red Cross** and **Spanish Red Cross** will aid the National Society with the development of a Digital Platform of volunteer data (database) that allows the registration of the personal data of volunteers, link to the card and generate reports of volunteering, volunteer hours, training and training, sanctions, promotions, assignment of emergency response operations, and shifts.

The **Italian Red Cross** will assist the National Society with psychosocial support from volunteering for the management of post-traumatic stress, sexual abuse, vicarious trauma, and burnout syndrome.

The **ICRC** will support the National Society with workshops for [safer access](#) focal points (local volunteer coordinators), preparation of the safer access manual, and purchasing clothing for volunteers.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Promote its image and advocate for change, influence public behaviour, policies, and decisions at national, regional, and global levels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the National Society to follow up and support the main initiatives in the development of policies and mechanisms in [humanitarian diplomacy](#) on an ongoing basis. It will also assist by creating a culture of humanitarian diplomacy across all National Societies.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Operate as a responsible global network
- Undergoes a [digital transformation](#)
- Use innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate, adapt to, and change complex challenges and opportunities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the National Society in the establishment of systems and facilitate the collection of data at the national level on the implementation of the unified plan. It will also aid the preparation of standard reports and reports based on programmatic and operational commitments. It will provide technical support for the strengthening and implementation of the National Society's Digital Transformation Plan.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC is represented by the cluster delegation for Central American countries in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and operates with a large team of specialists in different areas, in all Central American countries. This allows for close support, coordination and constant communication with the National Societies of Central America and the participating National Societies that support them. IFRC's support focuses on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

The IFRC's annual programme consists of supporting the Guatemalan Red Cross in National Society development, disaster risk management and preparedness, health, WASH, migration and displacement, cash and voucher assistance, protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Guatemalan Red Cross through numerous Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#) in relation to a Dengue epidemic, droughts, floods, and civil unrest.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging, and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development assistance, and contribute to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Guatemalan Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the DG ECHO and IFRC, and as such, is receiving the implementation support of the Spanish Red Cross as lead EU National Society and the German Red Cross, with coordination support of IFRC, in reference to its efforts in disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, humanitarian assistance and protection for people on the move, cash and voucher assistance, and community engagement and accountability.

This partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with the potential for greater, longer-term impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the world's biggest international donor for humanitarian assistance. The partnership is scheduled to end in mid-2025.

The following participating National Societies provide support to the Guatemalan Red Cross:

The **American Red Cross** is supporting the Guatemalan Red Cross to address the most urgent water, and hygiene needs of the population of the communities in the municipalities of Morales and Gualán. At the same time, it is supporting the incorporation of protection, gender, and inclusion principles in educational talks.

The **German Red Cross** currently collaborates with the Guatemalan Red Cross at the national level, in the adaptation and implementation of Anticipatory Action mechanisms in the face of crises and disasters. Among the programmatic actions to be developed, the German Red Cross is strengthening management capacities. The German Red Cross has a permanent regional office in Honduras, with specialized staff that accompany the National Societies in capacity building and advising on all initiatives of shared interest. It has also accompanied humanitarian response operations during the Eta and Iota hurricane response in 2020, assisted in epidemic and pandemic response, and the migration crisis of 2022.

The cooperation between the **Spanish Red Cross** and the Guatemalan Red Cross began in the context of the 1976 earthquake with humanitarian aid actions. Later, a delegation was established in the country in 1998 in the context of Hurricane Mitch, which was a turning point in terms of disaster preparedness strategies and clearer goals to save lives, homes, infrastructure, as well as livelihoods and the environment. Currently, the National Society, with the support of the Spanish Red Cross, has developed various development projects focused on the sectors of health, food and nutrition security, livelihoods, social inclusion, and migration.

Movement coordination

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

The ICRC contributes to the National Society's work in protection, including minimum standards, restoring family links, self-care messages for migrants, health and first aid, and supporting the National Society in humanitarian diplomacy. The ICRC also specifically supports the Guatemalan Red Cross in health, WASH, and education.

Coordination with other actors

The Guatemalan Red Cross is part of the Humanitarian Country Team and participates in different clusters to implement a harmonized response to emergencies, including health, WASH, nutrition, protection, and food security. It works closely with United Nations agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme, and with civil society organizations such as Médecins du Monde, Save the Children, and Oxfam. The National Society has a permanent focal point to coordinate with other humanitarian

actors, establish new spaces for coordination and provide complementary spaces for collaboration to take advantage of synergies and learn from experiences. The National Society has positioned itself as a key player in the national protection sector, taking on leadership roles in cluster coordination and reaching collaboration agreements with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.



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 16 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.

About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2025 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 for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2025 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

Contact information

Guatemalan Red Cross

www.cruzroja.gt

Diana Oviedo

Acting Head of Delegation for
Central America

T +504 93007044

marjorie.sotofranco@ifrc.org

Monica Portilla

Head of Strategic Partnerships
& Resource Mobilization
IFRC Regional Office for Americas,
Panama

T +502 586 57619

monica.portilla@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

Lead
IFRC Global Strategic Planning
& Reporting Centre
New Delhi

sumitha.martin@ifrc.org