

COLOMBIA



2025 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement CHF 42M

11 March 2025

In support of the Colombian Red Cross



31
National Society
branches



209
National Society
local units



2,900National Society



National Society

People to be reached



827,000 Climate and environment



110,000 Health and wellbeing



327,000Migration and displacement



Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and response
- Protection and assistance to migrants and displaced persons
 - Climate change adaptation
- · Community and emergency health and WASH

Capacity development

- Digital transformation
- Internal systems efficiency
- Financial sustainability and resource mobilization

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Human Development Index rank

World Bank Population figure

Very high

High

52.1M

World Bank Population below poverty line 36.6%

Funding requirements

2025

Total 42M CHF

Through the Host National Society



Through Participating National Socities



Through the IFRC



HNS Breakdown

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

Climate & environment

2.9M CHF

975,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

8.6M CHF

Migration & displacement

9.8M CHF

Values, power & inclusion

12M CHF

Enabling local actors

Longer term needs

185,074 CHF

Climate & environment

216,950 CHF

Disaster & Crises

46,413 CHF

Health & wellbeing

163,063 CHF

Migration & displacement

156,530 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

421,316 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross Society

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAACO002

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	450,000						
Canadian Red Cross Society	34,000						
German Red Cross	4M						
Italian Red Cross	15,000						
Norwegian Red Cross	1.3M						
Spanish Red Cross	747,000						
Swedish Red Cross	267,000						

Total Funding requirement **CHF 6.9M**

Hazards



Floods and cyclones



Earthquakes



Volcanic eruptions



Population movement



Disease outbreaks



Violence and conflict

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Colombian Red Cross Society was founded in 1915 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1922. It is officially recognized by the Colombian State as a legal entity and non-profit organization and as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field.

The Colombian Red Cross Society has nationwide coverage through its network of 31 branches allowing it to maintain an active presence in communities. The headquarters national directorate, located in Bogotá, is responsible for setting policies, strategies and providing administrative, technical, operational, and financial support to the branches.

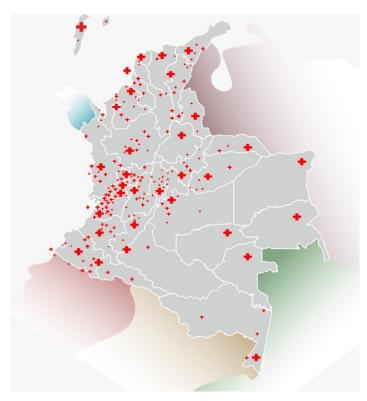
The Colombian Red Cross Society reached 4.7 million people in 2023 with assistance and services. Its activities, particularly those carried out during times of armed conflict or other emergency situations, include disaster risk management, the promotion of health and social welfare and the prevention of disease, encouraging voluntary work, and promoting and defending human rights, international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Colombian Red Cross Society's <u>Strategic Plan for 2021–2025</u> outlines the following objectives in relation to humanitarian and social development:

- Peacebuilding and institutional doctrine
- Disaster risk management
- Comprehensive health management
- Education
- Volunteering
- Blood banks

The strategic plan also defines priorities across organizational transformation, corporate governance, alliances, cooperation, and sustainability.

Operational priorities of the National Society include climate change adaptation, population movement, addressing the consequences of armed conflict and other situations of violence, and epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response. The fundamental principles, humanitarian diplomacy, community resilience in urban and rural communities, and sustainable development are all cross-cutting elements.



The provincial branches of the Colombian Red Cross Society

The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Located in the northwest of South America, at the level of the Equator, Colombia has a diverse geography. It is home to the Andean region, the Amazon region, an extensive plain shared with Venezuela, and both Caribbean and Pacific coasts and islands. This gives the country diverse weather conditions such as its tropical climate on the coast and eastern lowlands and cooler climate in the highlands and Andes. It shares borders with Venezuela and Brazil to the east, with Peru and Ecuador to the south, and with Panama to the west.

Ranked 29 by the 2024 INFORM Risk Index, Colombia is exposed to a broad range of natural hazards, hydrometeorological as well as geophysical. Climate change exacerbates weather-related hazards while impacting major economic sectors and human livelihoods. During the first half of 2024, the El Niño phenomenon represented a risk for 9.3 million people, as more than 2000 related adverse events were reported, including forest fires, droughts, and frosts among others, affecting livelihoods, ecosystems, and the development of life in the country.

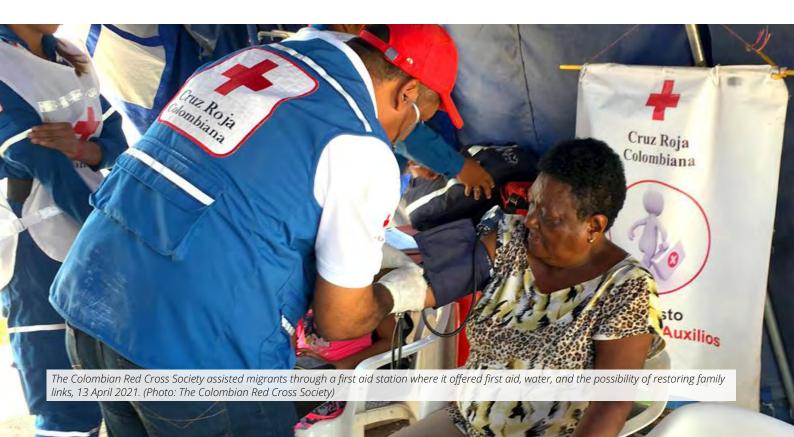
More than half of the people affected by natural hazards are also affected by the presence of armed groups and violence. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), there are currently eight active armed conflicts in Colombia, three between the Government of Colombia and

non-state armed groups and four between non-state armed groups. According to an <u>ICRC report</u>, between January and May 2024 alone, more than 30,000 people were confined, 26,000 were displaced, 222 cases of missing persons were recorded, 194 events associated with accidents due to explosive devices occurred, and more than 20 massacres were recorded.

Colombia is also hosting significant numbers of migrants, due to the ongoing migration crisis in the Americas, and at least 2.5 million Venezuelans are present in the country. Colombia has seen an increase in the migratory flow transiting through the centre and north of the region, particularly through the hostile jungle terrain of the Darien Gap, where the presence of armed groups and criminal gangs make mobility and humanitarian assistance difficult.

The socio-economic consequences of disasters and conflict in Colombia represent a major challenge for the country and for the sustainability of development. The municipalities most affected are those with the lowest levels of development and governance and, despite progress in delivering social protection systems, the population continues to face significant challenges in access to health services, especially in rural areas, access to education, social equality, and protection from gender-based violence.

According to the <u>OCHA Response Plan for 2025</u> which targets 9.1 million people (more than half of them women and a quarter belonging to ethnic minorities) will face humanitarian needs in Colombia by 2025.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



The country's location in an inter-tropical convergence zone causes intense annual rainy and drought seasons, which have been exacerbated by the regular El Niño and La Niña phenomena. Variations in climate behaviour have altered the start and end dates of both rainy and dry seasons, bringing on more intense rainfall or droughts, exacerbated weather events with more intense winds, hurricanes, and storms, and leading to increased heat, sea levels and erosion. The impacts of climate change will affect the lives and well-being of communities, human livelihoods, ecosystems, and economies.

According to the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies, an increase of between 1.4°C and 3.2°C is expected in Colombia by the end of the century. The effects generated by the increased temperatures are already visible with 92 per cent of Colombia's glacial area already lost. Sea level rise is expected to generate erosion, particularly of mangroves, flooding and salinization of soil and water, leaving coastal communities vulnerable along its extensive Pacific and Caribbean coastlines.

Increased temperatures and extreme weather events are affecting the agricultural industry, with livestock and up to 80 per cent of high value crops vulnerable to hydrometeorological events, particularly for smallholder farmers. It is estimated that 60 per cent of land suitable for irrigated rice production could be lost by the 2050s. These climatic risks will disrupt food systems, cause rises in food prices and threaten household incomes and livelihoods. Coastal erosion and rising sea levels will also affect the fishing industry and coastal tourism, impacting the livelihoods, food security and poverty levels of coastal communities. Illegal mining and crops further undermine environmental protection and related livelihoods.

Climate change is also projected to significantly impact the health of the population, with increases in morbidity and mortality from both communicable, including vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, leishmaniasis, and leptospirosis, and non-communicable diseases, including acute respiratory and skin diseases from air pollution and flooding. In particular, water-borne diseases such as cholera and acute watery diarrhoea are expected to increase.

Colombia's National Climate Change Policy, issued by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, addresses comprehensively climate change mitigation and adaptation, and climate risk. Municipal and departmental disaster risk management plans must incorporate climate change adaptation. The country's National Planning Department has also been working on the generation of a municipal disaster risk index adjusted by capacities, to

better understand exposure and vulnerability to the different hydrometeorological events and the capacities to manage risk. Likewise, the long-term climate strategy of Colombia 2050 and the 2021 study of risk from climate change present the possible losses likely to be caused by different events, including floods, hurricanes, landslides, forest fires, and droughts. The updated 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) establishes the country's commitment to reduce greenhouse emissions by 51 per cent compared to the 2030 baseline scenario and adapt to new changing climate conditions.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

The National Society has been promoting initiatives related to climate change since 2004 and has been a signatory to the <u>Climate and Environment Charter for humanitarian organisations</u> since 2021. It is one of the five National Societies of the Americas joining the IFRC group of global champions of resilience and climate change and participated in the elaboration of the group's action plan.

The Colombian Red Cross will continue to implement its Institutional Climate Change Policy, adopted in 2024, to contribute to climate-resilient development, low carbon footprint and reduced risks linked to climate change, which will provide strategic guidelines for the coming years and will contribute to progress on climate-resilient development, low carbon footprint and reduced risks linked to climate change. The National Society is also developing its operational climate change programme to guide all programmes and branches in their climate change and environmental protection efforts and has already put in place its structural baseline.

The Colombian Red Cross Society aims to increase its involvement in climate change and risk management bodies within the network of the National Climate Change System and the National Disaster Risk Management System. The National Society seeks to focus on risk-management initiatives in the

most vulnerable departments and municipalities, and work on the social factors that amplify climate risk.

The two main objectives of the National Society include:

- 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 climate change adaptation and mitigation actions/programmes, nature-based solutions, and disaster risk reduction programmes within the framework of climate-smart programming
- Create risk management plans in areas vulnerable to increased natural events due to climate change
- Strengthen the network of key actors for climate change actions and participate in the exchange of experiences with other parts of the Red Cross movement, external partners, and donors
- Develop training activities in actions for climate change mitigation/adaptation for National Society staff and volunteers, strengthening their knowledge of climate change and the environment
- Create a climate change education toolkit that includes a battery of indicators
- Implement actions to reduce the carbon footprint of the National Society within the framework of the carbon footprint measurement strategy of the National Directorate

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Colombian Red Cross Society by expanding its initiatives, programmes, and training in climate change adaptation and environmental protection. It will facilitate connections with the government and external partners, leveraging tools such as the IFRC's Climate Resilience <u>Platform</u> and <u>Global Climate Resilience Programme</u>. The IFRC will also guide the Colombian Red Cross Society in its participation in the strategic IFRC global climate champions group. It will also support the National Society to have a meaningful participation in COP30 in Brazil, building on their experience from COP16 and capitalizing on their experience, programming, and advocacy developed in 2024.

The American Red Cross will support the Colombian Red Cross Society's climate change adaptation initiatives by strengthening field capacities, especially amongst young people and by promoting a climate change action plan in line with the needs and capacities of the branches.

The Canadian Red Cross will assist the National Society in the development of the institutional climate change policy, helping define the areas of work, and updating training for staff and volunteers.

The German Red Cross will support the Colombian Red Cross Society in the areas of preparedness, prevention, and anticipatory action for extreme events, and in particular for early action protocols (EAPs) for floods and droughts.

The Spanish Red Cross will support the National Society through the initiation of a pilot of the revision and improvement of the Guide for Strengthening Livelihood Response Capacities. The Colombian Red Cross Society will be part of the process to assess its capacity in this area and to define the key elements of the action plan for the strengthening of the National Society. For real-time information on emergencies, see the IFRC GO page: <u>Colombia</u>.

Colombia is categorized as a high-risk country. It ranks 9th in complex crises according to the INFORM Risk Index, and it is also one of the highest ranking for disaster or humanitarian crises amongst 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Conflict and violence play a significant role in terms of current and projected risk (see also under the values, power, and inclusion section). In total, 86 per cent of the population is recorded as exposed to a high or medium seismic threat, 28 per cent to a high risk of flooding, and 31 per cent to a high or medium risk of mass movements of people. Colombia has 21 active volcanoes which are constantly monitored by the Colombian Geological Service. Periodic volcanic eruptions produce toxic ash that can compromise human health, kill livestock, and destroy crops. The activity level of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano currently remains of concern, with almost 60,000 people at risk.

Despite efforts to strengthen environmental planning and protection processes, urbanization has generated ecological problems. The problems include the drying up of wetlands and swamps, loss of forests and vegetation cover, erosion, and increased runoff. All such developments affect water sources and ground stability, causing more floods and landslides. The urban population in Colombia has increased from 4.4 to 34.7 million inhabitants in the last 60 years.

Disasters of man-made origin and those aggravated by climate change and variability further contribute significantly to humanitarian emergencies. In Colombia, at least 72 per cent of disaster emergencies take place in municipalities affected by armed conflict. Factors such as deficiencies in knowledge, lack the incorporation of environmental constraints and risk conditions in urban and regional planning, and decreased capacity to meet housing needs generate an increase in settlements in unsuitable areas and the growth of informal neighbourhoods associated with deficient infrastructure. These risk conditions are closely linked to poverty conditions.

The government adopted the National Disaster Risk Management Policy in 2012 and subsequently established the National Disaster Risk Management System and the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management. Work is being done to address gaps in knowledge on environmental constraints and risk conditions in urban and regional planning and management processes.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Colombian Red Cross Society is part of the National Disaster Risk Management System and continues to successfully respond to crises and disasters, through its human resource capacity and trained response teams deployed across the country. It maintains close coordination with scientific and forecasting agencies, hydrometeorological and geophysical bodies, such as the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies and the Colombian Geological Service. The Colombian Red Cross Society adopted its <u>Disaster Risk Management Policy in 2018</u>, which it aligned with the National Disaster Risk Management Policy, adapting its internal structure to give greater scope to its assistance role in emergencies. The National Society also makes teams available for international-level response operations.

The National Society's longer-term focus includes disaster risk knowledge, disaster risk reduction, and disaster and crisis management processes to improve its readiness. The Colombian Red Cross Society works with the IFRC's Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, to strengthen its preparedness and reinforce its forecast-based financing and anticipatory work. It has also established contingency plans for various hazards, including potential volcanic eruptions. The defined lines of intervention that could be activated include population evacuation support, search and rescue, dignified management of the dead, pre-hospital care and psychosocial support, rapid needs assessments support, humanitarian assistance including shelter, WASH and restoring of family links. Some of the National Society's multi-year objectives are to:

- Support communities in taking steps to increase their resilience to multiple impacts and evolving hazards
- Meet the needs of people affected by crises and disasters through access to in-kind assistance and support that is timely, adequate, and flexible and strengthens their agency
- Meet the needs of people affected by crises and disasters through access to in-kind assistance and support and <u>multipurpose cash grants</u>
- Provide <u>shelter assistance</u> to those affected by crises and disasters
- Support <u>food security and livelihoods</u> of people affected by crises and disasters by fulfilling their food needs and improving sources of income
- Be prepared to respond effectively to the wide range of evolving crises and disasters, and leverage its auxiliary role during emergency response
- Expand leadership in the field of <u>disaster law</u> and enhance the official/legal recognition of their auxiliary role

Planned activities in 2025

• Establish community <u>early warning systems</u> to strengthen the capacity to anticipate a catastrophic event through monitoring, follow-up, and timely information

- Update the contingency plans for events related to the El Niño phenomenon, dry season, rainy season, tropical cyclone season, end and beginning of the year season, social mobilizations, and internal crisis among others
- Form and support community emergency response teams with their respective community plans
- Provide emergency humanitarian aid in the form of <u>food</u> <u>assistance</u> and <u>cash and voucher assistance</u> (CVA) where markets allow
- Implement actions supporting water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) such as mobilizing water treatment plants and delivery of water filters
- Support the early recovery of livelihoods of those affected by natural disasters in vulnerable communities through technical assistance, training, and seed capital
- Provide technical advice for <u>rental assistance</u> as an alternative to temporary shelter in emergencies
- Increase cash preparedness through a self-assessment, simulation of a self-registration tool, and feasibility studies
- Update the Disaster Legislation Toolkit and capacity build to strengthen policies focused on disaster law from a risk reduction and the climate change approach

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC mechanisms such as the <u>Disaster Response Emergency Fund</u> (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2024, the IFRC provided DREF allocations in support of the National Society's response to a volcanic eruption, droughts, and floods.

Special attention will be paid to the implementation of the action plan which resulted from the preparedness for effective response (PER) carried out in 2024 for effective response (PER). The IFRC will also contribute its technical expertise to the development of anticipatory methodologies, through the development of early action plans. The **German Red Cross** will provide overall support to crisis preparedness and readiness, and, together with the **American Red Cross** and **Spanish Red Cross** will aid the National Society with technical support and funding for community resilience and emergency response plans.

The ICRC will support the National Society in drawing up a joint document to standardize the request for the ad hoc emergency fund to carry out protection and humanitarian assistance actions for people affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



Health and wellbeing

In Colombia, the health system is composed of a large social security sector and a decreasing, but exclusive private sector. Its central pillar is the general social security health system with its contributory regime for all salaried workers, pensioners, and self-employed workers with incomes equal to or greater than one minimum wage and the subsidiary regime for people without the capacity to pay.

It is estimated that 2.3 million people face barriers to accessing health care and there are six million people with unmet health needs due to a lack of universal health coverage. These barriers are worst in rural areas and often the regions with the greatest need for health services are those with the <u>lowest availability</u> of service providers. Increased attacks on Misión Medica (According to the term in spanish) have further weakened access to services in conflict-affected regions. Health care represents a challenge for people who are confined or have been displaced due to conflict, for transcontinental migrants, returnees, and host communities.

In <u>20 per cent</u> of the country's municipalities, more than half of the population must travel 5 km or more to access a health post, which may have limitations in the availability of essential resources for the service. Additionally, 27 per cent of

the country's municipalities have been categorized in severity four, due to their operational needs in the health sector.

Colombia has struggled to respond to epidemics due to a lack of capacity to detect disease outbreaks, especially in dispersed <u>rural territories</u> with indigenous or Afro-descendant majority populations. Climate-driven water shortages and extreme rainfall are both likely to damage the water distribution infrastructure and see increasing water contamination from human waste, increasing the incidence of communicable and water-borne diseases, such as malaria, dengue fever, chikungunya, zika, leishmaniasis and leptospirosis, cholera, and diarrhoeal diseases. In the second half of 2024, the National Institute of Health reported an outbreak of malaria as it reported an annual cumulative of 78,315 cases. Likewise, the institute also reported an increase in accumulated cases of dengue at the national level, of which 76.3 per cent come from the departments of Valle del Cauca, Cali, Santander, Tolima, Huila, Cundinamarca, Antioquia, Cauca, and Norte de Santander.

Making mental health visible is one of the priorities of the guidelines for the country's health sector. According to the

Integrated Social Protection Information System, the National Observatory of Coexistence and Mental Health and the Public Health Surveillance System, the incidence rate of suicide attempts in 2021 was 58.4 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Colombian Red Cross Society manages six blood banks and has a network of institutions providing health services, health assistance and transportation, mobile health units, pharmacies, and targeted user care strategies. Its health programmes cover health services, public health promotion, mental health promotion and psychosocial care, and medical missions.

The Colombian Red Cross Society adopted its integrated health management policy in 2021, to guide the formulation, adoption, planning and execution of health actions, to strengthen the health capacities of the branches, and to facilitate the management of programmes for primary health care, which contribute to the management of mortality, morbidity and disability in humanitarian situations. The Colombian Red Cross Society seeks to expand epidemic and pandemic preparation and response, which includes strengthening <u>community surveillance</u> for outbreaks, improving information management, training specialized teams on field epidemiology and adaptation, and implementing a national humanitarian health liaison centre to support sectorial and inter-sectorial coordination and response for public health emergencies of international concern.

Some of the National Society's multi-year objectives are to:

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

Planned activities in 2025

- Conduct training workshops for volunteers in first aid, epidemic control, mental health, and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) promotion
- Train specialized cell Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) through regional workshops

- Form and equip community health teams in addition to forming committees, staffing, and training health system officials to promote joint work
- Develop campaigns to collect unusable waste, eliminate breeding sites, and protect water tanks
- Provide sexual and reproductive health counselling and access to family planning methods
- Create educational material in other languages spoken in Colombian territory (Wayunaiky, Nasa, French, and Creole) and for people who do not read or write to serve Indigenous populations and transcontinental migrants
- Conduct a National Sexual and Reproductive Health Workshop
- Deliver tarpaulins, community hygiene kits, and personal protection elements
- Implement microprojects for access to safe water through durable solutions in communities with difficulty accessing public services

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical expertise on its integrated health management approach in line with the IFRC Health and Care Framework 2030, identifying areas such as climate, migration, and protection and inclusion (PGI) where health dimensions need to be included. It will also support the implementation of the emergency medical team strategy, considering the process of certification by the Colombian Red Cross in IFRC's Emergency Response Unit (ERU) model and capacity building and participation in health events, including through regional and global channels.

The German Red Cross will support the provision of healthcare services and protection to migrant and host populations. It will further aid health services in conflict zones, rural, and dispersed rural areas. It will support the strengthening of community and institutional health capacity, including in preparedness for epidemics and pandemics and epidemic control, for emergency health and public health in emergencies, for infection and prevention control (IPC), and for sexual and reproductive health.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** is working with the National Society on community and institutional capacity strengthening in health, supporting rapid health teams, and preparedness for epidemics and pandemics. It is also providing support for the "Misión Médica" programme.

The Spanish Red Cross is involved in the provision of health services in conflict zones and in rural and dispersed rural areas.



Colombia has historically been characterized by high levels of population movement as a host and transit country. Transcontinental migration towards the central and northern parts of the continent, particularly via the dangerous Darien jungle crossing between Colombia and Panama, has increased in the last few years. According to the Colombian Ombudsman's Office, more than <u>520,000 migrants</u> crossed the Darien jungle in 2023 and more than 185,000 people transited through the route as of June 2024. The increase in flow through this risky route also includes Haitian migrants and other nationalities beyond the American continent.

Colombia hosts the largest population of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, amounting to approximately 2.5 million people. Since 2021, the <u>Temporary Statute of Protection</u> <u>for Venezuelan Migrants</u> has authorized Venezuelan migrants to remain in Colombia under special migratory regularity conditions, which allows them to exercise legal activities and have a right to employment labour contracts. Challenges remain in terms of basic needs and social and economic integration, such as xenophobia, access to employment and income, food, education and training, and health services. Over 80 per cent of refugees and migrants are in need of some level of assistance and protection, particularly women and girls. High levels of poverty in the border areas also make it difficult for host communities and increase the pressure on limited public service coverage.

Armed conflict is one of the main causes of forced displacement in the country, with persistent violence leading to the temporary or permanent internal displacement of Colombian people. The situation continues despite the signing of the peace agreements in 2016. Departmental capitals, such as Bogotá, Medellin, Cali, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, and Cartagena, host the majority of internally displaced persons from armed conflict. More than 8.2 million people were forcibly displaced between 1985 to 2021 and around 5.2 million people are maintaining their status as internally displaced.

Internal displacement is also happening as a result of climate change and disasters, particularly due to hydrometeorological hazards. Around 41,000 people, mostly in the low-lying Caribbean region, were displaced by water-related disasters in 2022. The projected increase in average temperatures and changing climate patterns will place these rural communities under even greater pressure, increasing rural to urban migration as a result, adding to uncontrolled urban growth and limited infrastructure and services.

The government articulates its priority lines of action on border security and control, solidarity, and protection of human rights for migrants and returnees, and economic development and assistance. Migración Colombia is the national immigration authority responsible for the surveillance and immigration

control of nationals and foreigners in the national territory. It also supports the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other state institutions in the formulation and implementation of Colombia's comprehensive migration policy, which addresses the needs related to migration to and from Colombia, as well as the development dimensions of the migrant population. The government has also established policies aimed at the care, protection and socio-economic stabilization of people affected by internal displacement.

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.

The National Society delivers actions to support migrants and refugees in the areas of health, protection, basic needs, economic, social, and cultural integration, and through advocacy. Through its <u>humanitarian service points</u> across the country, it provides humanitarian assistance, roadside health care, access to clean water and sanitation, access to information, case management, and other services.

The Colombian Red Cross Society's human mobility strategy articulates identification and response to the humanitarian needs of all migrants or refugees in vulnerable conditions, whether in a situation of permanence, transit, or pendulum. The strategy also foresees attention to binational Indigenous peoples, host communities that have been impacted by the migratory phenomenon, and victims of internal displacement due to disasters and conflict. The National Society actively participates in the coordination of migrant services through the Inter-Agency Group on Mixed Migratory Flows and through sub-groups for both trans-national and trans-continental migration.

The Colombian Red Cross Society's multi-year objectives are to:

- Facilitate migrants and displaced persons' access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migration routes, as well as access to durable solutions where appropriate
- Engage with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to assess, understand, and respond more effectively to their priority needs

Planned activities in 2025

- Provide transitory, safe, and dignified housing for families and individuals migrating alone, affected by natural disasters, or are victims of forced displacement
- Provide general medicine, oral health, and nursing consultations for communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Provide mental health and psychosocial support focusing on crisis assistance to improve the emotional well-being of children and adults affected by migratory phenomena or internal displacement due to armed conflict and/or migration due to climate change
- Provide information to migrants, immigrants, and the host community to prevent recruitment by criminal gangs, smuggling, trafficking in persons, international protection mechanisms and other issues associated with protection risks through communication pieces
- Strengthen the capacities of communities involved in the protection response to prevent or mitigate the risks and impacts of gender-based violence and other protection risks in collaboration with local governments
- Deliver multipurpose cash transfers under the "Cash for Work" modality to people in vulnerable situations with

capacities to build these initiatives and to support their livelihoods

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical and financial support to the institutional priorities of the National Society in the response to migration. It will support the National Society to expand its reach through better collaboration with external strategic partners and in connection with the Global Route-Based Migration Programme. The IFRC will also support the participation of the National Society in different IFRC and Movement platforms, such as the Global Leadership Group on Migration, the Global Migration Task Force and the Regional Migration Network, ensuring its strategic participation in the implementation of the Movement Migration Strategy adopted in the last Council of Delegates in 2024.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will support the National Society's response to population movement and integration, inclusion, and protection in host communities.

The **German Red Cross** will support the National Society to provide health and protection services to migrant populations and host communities, as well as WASH services, shelter, food kit distribution and nutrition support.



Values, power and inclusion

The armed conflict in Colombia has been going on for more than seven decades. It affects the civilian population and specific ethnic groups, children, and other vulnerable groups. The armed conflict has generated different protection risks, including weapons contamination (with an increase in the use of anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance by armed groups), murder and assassinations, confinement, limited participation in decision-making, and ruptures in the social fabric of communities.

Despite significant efforts to consolidate peace and development across the country in the last decade, armed organizations and criminal gangs have emerged in different parts of the country, having a serious humanitarian impact on communities in those areas. According to the ICRC's humanitarian balance report, during 2023, there were eight non-international armed conflicts in Colombia, which contributed significantly to humanitarian emergencies and needs. More than 50,000 people were affected by mass displacement, 145,000 people were affected by individual displacements, and 47,000 were affected by confinements. In addition, there were 380 victims of explosive devices during this same year, of which more than half corresponded to civilians. In addition, the past few years have seen high levels of conflict-related sexual

violence and increased recruitment and use of children and adolescents in the conflict.

The country is also in a period of recovery and slow economic growth, with a reduction in the unemployment rate of 10.7 per cent and GDP growth of 12.6 per cent in 2022. Some communities in Colombia face high levels of inequality and gaps in accessing basic goods and services. Access to primary health and mental health care are particularly difficult and there are limitations in the level of social protection services.

In recent years, <u>human trafficking</u> has increased due to economic vulnerability, the pandemic, and displacement. Within Colombia, human trafficking is related to sexual trafficking in tourist areas and extractive industry zones, forced labour in coal, gold, and emerald mining and agricultural activities, and forced labour in domestic service, begging, and informal sales in urban areas. Cases of servile marriage were also identified. In areas controlled by armed groups, there is also recruitment of minors as combatants, informants, workers in illicit crop cultivation, and for sexual trafficking, and exploitation of local communities, among which migrants and displaced people from Venezuela, the LGTBIQ+ community, internally displaced persons, indigenous people, people with disabilities are

particularly exposed. In the last year, the Colombian government warned of human trafficking networks related to a boom in the Webcam industry and its special concern for women and girls from Venezuela.

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Colombian Red Cross Society maintains an inclusive approach in all actions, in accordance with the IFRC's protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) policy. It adopted a peacebuilding Policy in 2018, aimed at strengthening the National Society's humanitarian response in relation to the mitigation of armed conflict and other situations of violence, the promotion of respect for human rights, and the non-violent transformation of conflicts. The National Society's gender and diversity policy of 2019 articulates a cross-cutting approach that promotes gender equity, social inclusion, and diversity across all humanitarian and development actions.

The National Society's multi-year objectives include to:

- Increase 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
- Promote and support safe, equitable, and continuous access to quality education for all, especially children
- Ensure 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 rely on the IFRC network to serve their best interests

Planned activities in 2025

- Develop workshops, pedagogical tools, and campaigns to strengthen community capacities in the protection and promotion of human rights, transformation of gender relations, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding
- Offer socio-emotional support sessions for officials and first responders in the event of armed conflict and/or other situations of violence
- Provide technical and operational strengthening to local actors to support the response to protection risks, promotion of human rights, international humanitarian law, and conflict transformation mechanisms
- Develop context monitoring through alert updates, event mapping, logging tools, and information analysis
- Develop capacity-building activities in protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in emergencies and provide technical accompaniment

- Strengthen initiatives for the social integration or reintegration processes
- Follow up on cases of people with protection needs from the previous year and manage cases of people with protection needs such as community leaders, human rights defenders, reincorporated population, people with protection risks, and others
- Provide comprehensive accompaniment to survivors of gender-based violence, sexual violence, or human trafficking with lodging, food, transportation, access to medical services, cash transfers, and psychological care (individual and family)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical and financial support to the Colombian Red Cross Society in the areas of child protection, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and education in emergencies (EiE) through the Protection of Children in Armed Conflict project funded by the Norwegian government. Support will also be provided for the institutionalization of the policy for the protection of children and adolescents, and with the implementation of the policy for the Prevention and Response to Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSEA).

The **Spanish Red Cross** will support the National Society's assistance and protection activities for victims of armed conflict and weapons contamination. It will work on the promotion of gender equality, and prevention and care for those affected by gender-based violence.

The German Red Cross will work with the National Society to assist victims of armed conflict and weapons contamination, and on the protection of the medical mission, case management, protection and restoring family links.

The Norwegian Red Cross will support the National Society to protect the medical mission and will contribute to the assistance of victims of armed conflict.

Within the wider Movement, the ICRC will support the National Society with multiple activities addressing conflict and violence, including the <u>Safer Access</u> approach, local community initiatives and economic security, health initiatives, including MHPSS, protection of the medical mission, community first aid, water and sanitation, operational and public communications, restoration of family links, protection and education in urban environments, prevention of sexual violence, International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and organizational strengthening.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Colombian Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening, in line with the priorities identified in its <u>Strategic Plan 2021-2025</u>. The implementation of the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (<u>OCAC</u>) process is an integral part of the enabling priorities of the National Society, and it seeks to reach the certification level.

The OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. This certification process was completed by the Colombian Red Cross Society in 2024.

The Colombian Red Cross Society is also committed to the IFRC's <u>Preparedness for Effective Response</u> (PER) process.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase cooperation and coordination with external partners to address the main challenges faced by communities
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions through coordination with members and changing the mindset towards a full-fledged Federation to harbour greater trust within the network
- Deliver on its priorities for Movement Coordination and Cooperation, as outlined at the Council of Delegates meeting in 2019
- Ensure effective coordination of hosting clusters with partners inside and outside the network and take on a greater role in the coordination of accommodation groups
- Effectively increase its financial resources, both through domestic fund-raising and by providing greater international support to National Societies

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to facilitate the participation of the Colombian Red Cross Society in coordination spaces, such as the Country Humanitarian Team, and facilitate strategic engagement with relevant international actors. IFRC together with ICRC, will support the development and signature of a Movement Coordination Agreement aligned with Seville Agreement 2.0.

The American Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and Spanish Red Cross will also provide technical and financial support to the Colombian Red Cross Society.

The **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** and the Colombian Red Cross Society will support each other in strengthening institutional capacities in bilingualism and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).





Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

- Continue to work 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 provide support to the National Society in the institutional development processes and those processes identified in the Organisational Capacity Assessment Certification (OCAC) and Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) self-assessment processes. In 2025, support will be provided in the areas of financial sustainability, sectional development, volunteering, resource mobilization, and education through specialized personnel. The IFRC will also continue to facilitate access to funds dedicated to National Society development, such as the IFRC's Capacity Building Fund (CBF) and the IFRC and ICRC's joint National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA), which both support branch development, institutional effectiveness and sustainability, and innovation.

The American Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and Spanish Red Cross will assist the National Society with technical and financial support. Alongside the IFRC, they will also continue to guide future requests from the National Society to the CBF and NSIA, providing technical advice when necessary and will support the National Society in areas of financial sustainability, income generation and volunteer development.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

Promote change and affect public behaviour, policies, and decisions at the national, regional, and global levels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support and positioning at the national, regional, and global levels, in the implementation of humanitarian advocacy. This includes reinforcing the position of the National Society on issues such as climate change, migration, and health. The IFRC will also identify opportunities to support the National Society's participation in regional and global processes and platforms, such as the Global Refugee Forum and the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

In 2025 and 2026, the Swedish Red Cross will continue to support the strengthening of technical capacities of the

National Society in humanitarian diplomacy for migrants, in which the Colombian Red Cross Society will lead the development of training material for the region and undertake advocacy and advocacy actions.

The IFRC, together with the ICRC will continue to support the Colombian Red Cross in their humanitarian diplomacy efforts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as follow-up to the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent adopted resolutions and pledges. In addition, the National Society will receive advocacy support to engage with governments, international organizations and other key actors in processes and platforms of areas of interest (i.e. climate, migration, child protection). The ICRC, together with IFRC will work with the Colombian Red Cross to promote understanding and respect of IHL.



Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

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

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to work with the Colombian Red Cross Society to develop its efforts in accountability, use digital transformation and innovation to be a leading organisation on humanitarian services in the country and share best practices and technologies with the IFRC network. The IFRC will also provide technical support on community engagement and accountability (CEA) issues.

The American Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and Spanish Red Cross will assist the National Society with activities related to the CEA, especially its incorporation in the formulation of projects.

The ICRC will also assist the National Society with the implementation of the minimum standards for the CEA activities.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has supported the Colombian Red Cross Society through its Andean Country Cluster Delegation, based in Lima (Peru) since 2016. The IFRC does not have a headquarters agreement with the Government of Colombia but turned its project office into an IFRC country delegation in May 2023, separate from the Andean country cluster. The office includes a head of delegation and four local staff covering programmes, National Society development, finance, and administration. The IFRC supports the Colombian Red Cross Society across areas of strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, strengthening its auxiliary role and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports the National Society to work on cross-cutting themes, such as accountability, innovation, and digitalisation. The IFRC will use the new country delegation to support the extension of the Colombian Red Cross Society's work across relevant thematic initiatives, providing technical knowledge and tools and strengthening capacities. This will be based on lessons learned from previous operations and programmes.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In recent years, the IFRC provided DREF allocations for separate DREFs and Emergency Appeal funded operations in response to population movement, floods, mudslides, avalanches, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, disease outbreaks, civil unrest, and for election preparedness. It also supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response through the IFRC Global Emergency Appeal. In 2023, two emergency responses of the Colombian Red Cross Society received funding support from the IFRC-DREF (volcanic eruption and floods), and as of February 2024, an additional allocation was granted for droughts.

The IFRC also supported the Colombian Red Cross Society's access to pool funds dedicated to National Society development, including IFRC's Capacity Building Fund and the IFRC and ICRC's joint National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA).

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

A number of sister National Societies also have longer-term partnerships with the Colombian Red Cross Society:

The American Red Cross has had a delegation in the country since 2010, supporting the Colombian Red Cross Society to strengthen health and risk management, particularly in relation to climate change.

The German Red Cross has also had a delegation since 2010 and works with the Colombian Red Cross Society in the areas of health, disaster risk management, volunteering, and

migration. It is working in a consortium with the Spanish Red Cross on the ECHO humanitarian implementation plan for the care of migrants and victims of conflict. Other projects included institutional strengthening and volunteering, primary health care and shelter for victims of armed conflict and migration crises, strengthening local capacities through disaster preparedness, strengthening health response, improving sexual and reproductive health, caring for vulnerable populations, and emergency response to floods. The German Red Cross is also supporting the Colombian Red Cross Society in anticipatory action.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** has been present in the country since 2011, supporting the Colombian Red Cross Society to deliver projects in the Pacific region, including mobile health care units, protection of the medical mission, community resilience and health care, prevention of urban and gender-based violence, and strengthening employability for people being (re)integrated into Colombia. In other parts of the country, it is supporting the National Society to deliver peacebuilding missions. The Norwegian Red Cross also supports the National Society to strengthen institutional areas, such as volunteer exchange, gender, and diversity, and PMER.

The Spanish Red Cross has been present in Colombia since 2010, supporting the National Society on livelihoods, peacebuilding, and health projects in support of migrant populations and the victims of conflict. It is currently working in a consortium with the German Red Cross. During 2022, the Spanish Red Cross also developed new projects to support public health systems, recovery, livelihoods, and care for vulnerable populations, including those affected by COVID-19.

Movement coordination

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

In Colombia, the ICRC carries out actions to support the victims of conflict and other situations of violence, and those affected by migration. Its cooperation with the National Society includes programmes in safer access, public and operational communications, economic security, health, WASH, restoring family links, protection, and education in urban environments, IHL, prevention of and response to sexual violence, and institutional strengthening.

Coordination with other actors

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

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

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

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



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

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