

## IN SUPPORT OF THE PARAGUAYAN RED CROSS



Cruz Roja  
Paraguaya



20

National Society  
branches



21

National Society  
local units



1,043

National Society  
volunteers



29

National Society  
staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Disasters  
and crises



1,020

Health and  
wellbeing



4,761

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement	905,000
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	Funding 531,000
		Expenditure 247,000
	Longer-term	Funding Requirement 905,000
		Funding 54,000
Participating National Societies	Expenditure 27,000	
	Funding 952,000	
	Expenditure 810,000	

### Paraguayan Red Cross

Overview

Funding	905,000
Expenditure	612,000





Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat	905,000
Participating National Societies	Not reported
HNS other funding sources	Not reported

Appeal number **MAAPY002**

In addition to: CHF 350,000 DREF Funding



## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Disasters and crises	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 1,000
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	80%
Health and wellbeing	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	 5,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 5,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	 2,000
Values, power and inclusion	Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

National Society development	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of their volunteers	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society have strengthened their integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Bilateral Support							Multilateral Support Through IFRC
	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	
National Society								
Argentine Red Cross								✓
British Red Cross								✓
Netherlands Red Cross								✓
Swiss Red Cross	2.5M							

Total Funding Reported **CHF 2.5M**

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

In 2023, Paraguay experienced a series of significant climatic events that affected various regions of the country. One of the most notable phenomena was the arrival of El Niño, a natural event that occurs every few years due to the warming of the Pacific Ocean. During 2023, El Niño developed rapidly in July and August, reaching moderate intensity in September. This phenomenon brought about changes in rainfall and temperature patterns, which in turn impacted agriculture, water availability, and other important areas.

Additionally, towards the end of winter, Paraguay experienced a heatwave, with temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius in much of the country, as well as in Brazil, Bolivia, and Argentina. This heatwave was exceptionally intense and is considered to have been exacerbated by climatic factors. In March 2023, the monthly Agrometeorological Bulletin reported heavy rains in the northern part of Paraguay's Eastern Region. These intense precipitations contributed to a rise in flooding, landslides, and impacts on agriculture and infrastructure.

Paraguay also faced an increase in dengue cases towards the end of the year. The rise in dengue cases represented an additional challenge for Paraguay's public health system, which had to deal with increased demand for medical care and take measures to control the spread of the disease. This included public awareness campaigns about the importance of eliminating mosquito breeding sites in homes and communities, as well as the implementation of vector control measures by health authorities.

## Key achievements

### Disasters and crises

In 2023, the Paraguayan Red Cross responded to multiple emergencies through the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) including two different instances of floods. It coordinated with government authorities and leveraged its branch network, intervention teams, and monitoring units. The National Society provided support across health, livelihoods, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), incorporating tools like multipurpose cash assistance. It also developed digital campaigns to promote dialogue on the climate crisis and its impacts, aiming to build resilience within communities and governmental systems.

### Health and wellbeing

The Paraguayan Red Cross collaborated with the Americas Regional Office (ARO) Health Department to develop a health policy addressing key healthcare challenges. This initiative aimed to enhance public health and improve the well-being of communities across Paraguay. Through its efforts, the Paraguayan Red Cross worked to strengthen healthcare systems and promote sustainable community health.

### Migration and displacement

The Paraguayan Red Cross participated in meetings with migration focal points from various countries, coordinated by the ICRC and the IFRC Delegation of the Andean Countries. These meetings aimed to enhance coordination among border National Societies on migration issues. Efforts focused on sharing tools, cross-checking border monitoring data, and fostering collaboration.

### Enabling local actors

In 2023, the Paraguayan Red Cross conducted a self-evaluation of its OCAC and developed an action plan to advance its development, which was monitored and shared with partners. It also updated its Statute and Regulation, which was approved by the National Assembly, and developed policies on volunteers, disaster risk management, and health. Efforts included the Volunteering Learning Programme's first meeting, where participants shared experiences alongside representatives from other National Societies. To enhance sustainability, the National Society created a Resource Mobilization Plan for 2025, devised business strategies, and conducted studies on market trends and the pandemic's societal impacts, including mental health and technology use. Furthermore, the National Society strengthened its digital transformation through investments in video conferencing systems and provided risk management training to its leadership in collaboration with the Southern Cone Delegation.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

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

1.

<b>Emergency Operation</b>	Paraguay: Floods - March 2023
<b>Appeal number</b>	MDRPY022
<b>People to be assisted</b>	3,450
<b>Duration</b>	4 months (16 March 2023 to 31 July 2023)
<b>Funding requirement</b>	CHF 204,378
<b>Latest Operations Update</b>	<a href="#">DREF Operation Final Report</a>

Through this IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 204,378 in March 2023, the Paraguayan Red Cross supported 3,450 people affected by floods in the communities of Fátima, San Miguel (Calaverita) and San José Olero, department of Concepción. It provided humanitarian assistance through the implementation of activities in the areas of health, water, hygiene and sanitation, and multipurpose cash.

2.

<b>Emergency Operation</b>	Paraguay: Floods – November 2023
<b>Appeal number</b>	MDRPY023
<b>People to be assisted</b>	4,500
<b>Duration</b>	4 months (10 November 2023 to 31 March 2024)
<b>Funding requirement</b>	CHF 350,199
<b>Latest Operations Update</b>	<a href="#">DREF Operation</a>

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 350,199 in November 2023 supported the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) to provide humanitarian assistance to families affected by the floods in the departments of Alto Paraná, Misiones, Itapúa and Ñeembucú. The National Society intends to assist 4,500 people who were directly affected by floods through the implementation in the areas of health, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH), and multipurpose cash.

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

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Paraguayan Red Cross responded to two flood emergencies. It coordinated with government authorities through the territorial network of its branches, national intervention teams, and monitoring teams. The National

Society provided a comprehensive response in areas such as health, livelihoods, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH), protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), shelter, and used tools such as multipurpose cash.

As part of the current operations in Paraguay, the National Society developed digital content and campaigns to encourage dialogue about the IFRC's actions to address the climate crisis and its impact on livelihoods, communities, and ecosystems. The Paraguayan Red Cross will continue to use the content for work in community and governmental contexts to build resilience.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the Paraguayan Red Cross through the Empress Shôken fund which aided the National Society in implementing early warning systems in communities near watersheds or rivers. This project will be complemented by a new initiative undertaken in Paraguay in 2024, linked to climate resilience, early warnings, and community preparedness.

*National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters, and leverage their auxiliary role in emergency response*

### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

The Paraguayan Red Cross worked to develop its risk management policies, the process was supported by the Argentine Red Cross and the Southern Cone Delegation.

In March 2023, the IFRC held the Movement Induction Course (MIC) in Panama City. The course was conducted in Spanish and attended by twenty-three participants, including Presidents and directors of the Red Cross' National Societies from North America, Central America, the Latin Caribbean, the Andean Community, and the Southern Cone. The auxiliary role session was finished with support requests from the Paraguayan Red Cross's National President to develop an auxiliary role study.

Additionally, following the appointment of the new Southern Cone Head of Cluster, a briefing on the Disaster Law was made to showcase the 10 case studies, reports, and research documents such as IDRL Country Document: International Disaster Response Laws in Paraguay, Study for the Strengthening of the Auxiliary Role of the Southern Cone National Red Cross Societies, and IDRL/Humanitarian Hub Draft Law.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC supported the National Society by reviewing its funding options through the Capacity Building Fund (CBF). The next steps are to confirm the availability of funds with the National Societies and organize the requested support.



## **Health and wellbeing**

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*National Societies capitalize on their auxiliary role to ensure their position on relevant country-level public health strategies, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms*

### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

The Paraguayan Red Cross demonstrated its commitment to advancing public health initiatives by collaborating with the Americas Regional Office (ARO) Health Department in the development of a health policy. This aimed to address key healthcare challenges and improve the overall well-being of communities in Paraguay.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the National Society through technical assistance.



## Migration and displacement

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

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In coordination with the ICRC and the IFRC Delegation of the Andean Countries, meetings were held with the migration focal points of several countries, including Paraguay, to improve coordination between border National Societies on migration issues, to share tools and cross-check border monitoring data.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Paraguayan Red Cross with technical assistance.

The ICRC provided technical support to the National Society in its restoring family links (RFL) efforts.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

### IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The **Swiss Red Cross** has a strong presence in Paraguay. It assists the Paraguayan Red Cross across all five vertices of climate and environment, disasters and crises, health and wellbeing, migration and displacement, and values, power and inclusion.



*The Paraguayan Red Cross supported people affected by flash floods in the departments of Concepción, Alto Paraguay and Amambay through health, livelihoods, and WASH activities, 21 August 2023. (Photo: Paraguayan Red Cross)*

## Movement coordination

The Paraguayan Red Cross ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) 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** fosters income generation and enhanced nutrition in communities affected by violence and works towards providing essential services such as water. It also delivers first aid training and provides psychosocial support to these communities. The local ICRC staff visit prisoners to ensure that they are treated with dignity and foster implementation of IHL and IHRL by the civilian and military authorities and national security forces. The ICRC also collaborates with the Paraguayan Red Cross and the IFRC to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of victims affected by violence or other emergencies.

## External coordination

In line with their auxiliary roles, the four National Societies work closely with the national authorities in their respective countries, particularly in disaster management and response. The IFRC has productive and encouraging relationships with government-related advocacy groups focused on humanitarian objectives that are part of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR). These partnerships are especially productive in international humanitarian law, civil-military coordination and disaster law.

The IFRC has a long and positive history of cooperation with UN partners in the region. The IFRC head of delegation is one of the permanent secretaries of the International Humanitarian Network for Argentina (Red Humanitarian Internacional de Argentina – RHIA), which is equivalent to a humanitarian country team and is led by the UN coordinator in Argentina. The IFRC has facilitated programmatic funding and coordination with the International Organization for Migration, UNHCR and UNICEF, for the Argentine Red Cross.

In the corporate sector, the National Societies of Argentina and Brazil benefitted from an IFRC partnership with Airbnb in 2021 and 2022. In this arrangement, Airbnb granted National Societies access to up to US\$30,000 in accommodation credit, to strengthen their responses to emergencies and increase resilience in the wake of humanitarian crises.



## National Society development

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In July 2023, the Paraguayan Red Cross conducted a self-evaluation of the [OCAC](#). An action plan was also prepared for the development of the National Society, which was monitored and shared with the National Society partners.

The National Society also underwent the process of updating the Statute and Regulation in April 2023, with the approval of its National Assembly. The policies on volunteers, risk and disaster management, and health were developed. As part of the Volunteering Learning Programme, the National Society held its first meeting to report on the progress made by the participants who also had the opportunity to share their experiences and results. Members from the National Societies of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Venezuela, and Jamaica were also present.

The National Society also developed strategies for its business units and drew up an operational plan for the sale of services, a market study, and a perception study. These were later carried out to mobilize resources and design a business strategy for the National Society, allowing an analysis of the situation and trends in politics, economics, society, and technology. In collaboration with the Communications and Sustainability Direction, the Resource Mobilization Plan was developed for 2025, focusing on individual donors, business units, and capabilities of the branches.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** supported the National Society with technical support during the development of policies on volunteers, risk and disaster management, and health. The IFRC also assisted the National Society through the [Capacity Building Fund](#) (CBF) in 2022/2023 and 2023. The fund supported the Paraguayan Red Cross by strengthening its business units and developing new ones in five branches. It also supported the National Society through the approval of the [Empress Shôken fund](#) for the development of flood early warning tools.

The Swiss Red Cross provided financial support to the Paraguayan Red Cross in conducting a self-evaluation of the OCAC.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In order to identify and systematize the lessons learned by different sectors of society from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Paraguayan Red Cross identified the main problems and consequences generated in each sector by the pandemic. It also retrospectively analyzed the experiences of each sector or industry participating in the research followed by the comparison of the overall results. The analysis also included a study of the impact of the pandemic on the use of technology and social solidarity in each sector. Assess the impact of the pandemic on the mental health of the surveyed individuals.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical assistance.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

As part of the IFRC global deployment of the IFRC Risk Management policy, the Paraguayan Red Cross conducted several trainings regarding risk management with Southern Cone Delegation. In addition, ad-hoc support was provided to National Societies within the cluster which included Risk Management training to Paraguay Red Cross leadership in the context of MIC.

The Paraguayan Red Cross, through the National Society's Digital Engagement Capacity Building Project, invested in its video conferencing systems, equipment, and internet services. This was done to reduce the digital bridge and strengthen capacities for digital participation.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society through technical assistance. In addition, it provided a Welcome Security Briefing to all IFRC & National Society personnel before travelling to any of the Southern Cone Cluster countries, participating in Weekly Regional Security meetings and sharing Cluster Security Updates report.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

## DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

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

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Paraguay 2023 Financial Report](#)

**Note:** For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRPY022](#), [MDRPY023](#).

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

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