



GUATEMALA

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



9 December 2025

In support of the Guatemalan Red Cross



21

National Society branches



21

National Society local units



190

National Society staff



2,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



10,000

Climate and environment



8,000

Disasters and crises



70,000

Health and wellbeing



10,000

Migration and displacement



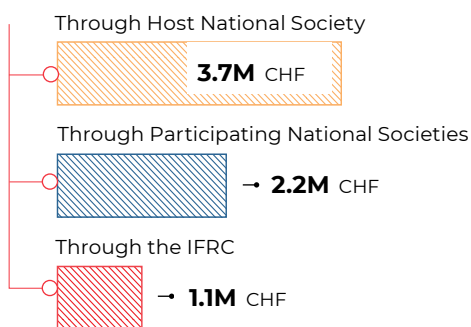
2,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 7.1M CHF



2027

Total 5.6M CHF

2028

Total 5.7M CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

German Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAGT003

Hazards



Population movement



Hurricanes and cyclones



Floods



Droughts



Disease outbreak



Poverty

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

137

World Bank Population figure

19.4M

World Bank Population below poverty line

0.56%



The Guatemalan Red Cross supported the recovery of bodies and care of the survivors of a bus accident that occurred in Zone 6 of Guatemala City, under the Belice Bridge. (Photo: The Guatemalan Red Cross)

Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027		2028	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
Longer-term needs						
Climate and environment	235,000	55,000	242,000	57,000	249,000	58,000
Disasters & crises	550,000	190,000	566,000	196,000	583,000	202,000
Health & wellbeing	2.2M	100,000	2.3M	103,000	2.3M	106,000
Migration & displacement	550,000	200,000	566,000	206,000	583,000	212,000
Values, power & inclusion	100,000	99,000	103,000	102,000	106,000	105,000
Enabling local actors	100,000	500,000	103,000	515,000	106,000	530,000
Total	3.7M	1.1M	3.8M	1.2M	3.7M	1.2M

Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Sector						
				Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	
American Red Cross	2026	1.1M		200,000	870,000					-
	2027	585,000		150,000	435,000					
	2028	544,000			544,000					
German Red Cross	2026			-	-	-				
Spanish Red Cross	2026	1.1M	1.1M	13,000		654,000	336,000	119,000		11,000
Swiss Red Cross	2026						-			-

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 2023, the Guatemalan Red Cross reached more than 7,960 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the National Society branches

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

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.

The country faces significant multidimensional poverty, which in 2023 affected 57.7 per cent of the population. This means that almost six out of ten Guatemalans experience shortages in areas such as education, health, informal employment, and sanitation. This situation is particularly acute in rural and indigenous communities, which have the highest levels of deprivation. Despite government efforts, high degree of informal labour, which affects about 80 per cent of the employed population, together with marked geographical and social disparities, continues to be the main barrier to sustainable development and poverty reduction in the country.

Guatemala has experienced greater climate variability in recent decades. Alterations in rainfall patterns have been recorded, such as the delay in the start of the rainy season and prolonged periods of drought, especially in the Dry Corridor. Temperatures have shown a trend of increase, with records indicating progressive warming in many regions of the country. In addition, the intensity and frequency of extreme events such as hurricanes, severe storms, and floods have increased, posing a significant threat to the population and livelihoods. Climate projections indicate an even more challenging future, with sustained increases in average annual temperature, increased risks of prolonged droughts, especially in the

southern and eastern regions, and potential sea level rise in coastal areas. In terms of environmental trends, the country is facing accelerated degradation processes, particularly in terms of deforestation, soil erosion, water pollution, and biodiversity loss.

These trends then feed in disasters, with more than a third of the Guatemalan municipalities prone to floods and landslides. In 2024, 1,965 of hydrometeorological events caused 29,273 people to be at risk.

In addition, there are several ongoing health and social crises. Chronic child malnutrition affects 47 per cent of the child population, reaching up to 90 per cent in poorer municipalities. In arboviruses, it ranks second in America for cases of dengue, with alarming increases in 2024 and 2025. Maternal mortality is concentrated in four departments, with high rates among Mayan women and adolescents. In 2025, more than 23,800 births to mothers between the ages of 10 and 19 were reported.

Migration has been a historical phenomenon in Guatemala that has evolved over time. Since January 2025, there has been a 95 per cent reduction in the volume of migratory flows from the south. This has impacted humanitarian operations, with an 80 per cent reduction in humanitarian space. As of July 2025, the number of Guatemalan returnees has dropped by 67 per cent compared to the previous year. This decrease is due to agreements between the governments of Guatemala and the United States, which have allowed for a more organized return process through the Return Home Plan.

Currently, internal displacement in Guatemala is a complex phenomenon driven by both violence and disasters. An estimated 573,000 people have been displaced by violence, including threats, extortion, and persecution, while 685,000 have been displaced by natural or man-made disasters.



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.

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 most vulnerable populations and economic sectors are those most sensitive to changes in climatic conditions and those with the least capacity to establish effective adaptation strategies. Guatemala's vulnerability is determined, among other reasons, by the high dependence of the national economy on agricultural production and its linkages. It is an important sector as a source of income, employment, and food for 29 per cent of the economically active population.

This agricultural territory is made up of productive activities such as crops and cultivated pastures, where livestock production processes are carried out, especially cattle for the production of meat and milk and natural pastures.

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 managing the country's natural resources suffer from chronic underfunding, insufficient human resources for management and protection, and limited institutional capacity.

The country has taken significant actions since 1992 to fulfil its commitments under the Convention on Climate Change Country plan Guatemala (UNFCCC), including drafting a National Climate Change Policy, pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and signing the ratified Paris Agreement. Additionally, Article 119 (c) of the Political Constitution of the Republic implies a fundamental obligation of the State to adopt measures that ensure the conservation, development, and efficient use of natural resources. Article 97 further states that the State, municipalities, and inhabitants of the national territory are obliged to promote social, economic, and technological development that prevents pollution of the environment and maintains ecological balance.

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:

- Strengthen institutional and community capacities through technical training, local knowledge production, and promotion of nature-based solutions
- Develop anticipatory action in the face of extreme weather events, improving preparedness based on forecasts and risk data
- Strengthen its auxiliary role through active participation in inter-institutional coordination platforms

Planned activities in 2026

- Implement the Guatemalan Red Cross Climate Change Strategy, articulating adaptation, mitigation, and climate education actions
- Promote efficient early warning systems, from local to national level, to enable people to be prepared for climate-related risks

- Promote environmental protection actions with a focus on community resilience, in highly vulnerable regions such as the Dry Corridor and the Western Highlands
- Coordinate with Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the National Institute of Forests, the National Council of Protected Areas, the National Coordination Agency for Disaster Reduction and municipalities, to align humanitarian efforts and policies

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.

The **American Red Cross** will also provide financial support to the Guatemalan Red Cross with a focus on community resilience.

The **German Red Cross** will further assist the National Society with the integrated programme for resilience and anticipatory actions in Izabal. It will also aid the anticipatory action efforts at the national level.



Disasters and crises

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

Guatemala is subject to multiple risks and hazards. In 2025, the country faced [floods](#), [droughts](#), [Dengue epidemic](#), and [earthquake](#). Increasingly, disasters and crises are concentrated in complex contexts.

Guatemala also faces human-caused hazards, which include widespread violence perpetrated by non-state armed groups, social unrest, and political and economic crises. It is feared that over the next decade, [one in three](#) urban dwellers will live in informal settlements and suffer severe deprivation. In addition to traditional disaster and crisis triggers, the growing reliance on technology brings new risks and vulnerabilities, such as a sudden technological collapse, as well as unexpected [cyber and digital risks](#).

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.

There needs to be a broader, more people-centred approach to disaster risk. Disaster risk reduction practices must be

multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible to be efficient and effective.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen community resilience, with local governments and schools to identify, address, and reduce disaster risks
- Promote comprehensive risk management focused on people and their communities, through actions to reduce vulnerabilities, preparedness, and recovery from emergencies, disasters, and humanitarian crises
- Prioritize [the needs of the people](#) affected by crises and affected by disasters and protracted crises
- Respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters, and enhance their auxiliary role in emergency response through coordination with public and private authorities

Planned activities in 2026

- Promote early action and humanitarian response in emergency situations while maintaining its humanitarian mandate
- Strengthen the [livelihoods](#) and early recovery support of people affected by 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

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 2025, IFRC provided a DREF allocations for an emergency in Guatemala. The DREF allocation has been described below:

[IFRC-DREF Guatemala Earthquake](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 381,476 in July 2025 supported the Guatemalan Red Cross in

assisting more than 2,500 people affected by earthquake in Escuintla, Guatemala, and Sacatepequez. The National Society supported the targeted people over a four-month period with assistance such as multipurpose cash assistance, health interventions, WASH interventions, among others.

The **American Red Cross** and the **German Red Cross** cooperation is included in this strategy for the National Society's community resilience and disaster preparedness programmes. The American Red Cross will also strengthen capacities at the school level, through the MACP Project, focused on school response plans and equipping with didactic boxes for emergencies in the project communities.



As part of community feedback efforts, the Guatemalan Red Cross assessed the impact of hygiene kit distribution through home visits. (Photo: The Guatemalan Red Cross)



Health and wellbeing

According to the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#) (IPC) till May 2025, in total more than 341 thousand people in Guatemala (2 per cent of the population) are expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and more than 2.4 million (14 per cent of the population) are expected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Guatemala's [chronic child malnutrition](#) is among the ten highest in the world, sitting at 47 per cent. In several of the poorest municipalities, the proportion of households with stunted children under five is usually close to 90 per cent.

[Dengue](#) and other arboviruses are also a public health challenge in Guatemala, which currently ranks second in the Americas in number of cases. In 2024, a peak of 55,303 cumulative cases

was recorded, although this figure has decreased significantly to 16,481 cases in the same period of 2025. Projected changes in climate, with a temperature increase of 1 to 4 degrees Celsius, threaten to expand the distribution of dengue vectors and, therefore, an increase in cases of the disease. In addition, the incidence of leishmaniasis is expected to double in the country.

Mental health care in Guatemala is still insufficient, reflecting a [significant gap in access to mental health services](#). According to the World Health Organization, only 2 per cent of the national public health budget is allocated to mental health. Exposure to adverse situations is closely linked to the development of mental disorders. Data from the Ministry of Public Health and

Social Assistance reveal that, between January and July 2023, 34,178 Guatemalans were diagnosed with mental disorders. Of these, almost 40 per cent were under 19 years of age, highlighting that adolescents and young people between 15 and 19 years of age had the highest incidence rates, reaching 8 per cent.

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. By 2025, the national rate of waterborne and foodborne diseases was 1,319 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. Infants under one year were the most affected group.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Guatemalan Red Cross strives to contribute to the physical, mental, and social well-being of the population, through health care, as well as community mobilization actions for the promotion, prevention, and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases. It aims to achieve these objectives through:

- Provide medical services in affected areas, prioritizing assistance to those with limited access to health care
- Improve preparedness and response to epidemics and pandemics by collaborating with local actors, community networks and volunteers as the first line of response
- Strengthen disease surveillance, early detection, and timely reaction to outbreaks of diseases and other health risks
- 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

Planned activities in 2026

- Promote and manage voluntary blood donation, a vital source of support for hospitals and clinics
- Embolden pre-hospital care and patient transfer through ambulance and first aid services, carrying out patient transfers
- 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)
- Develop participatory community analyses and plans at community and municipal levels, the formation of community teams, community surveillance, epidemic control, and training in community first aid, among other actions, will be promoted

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support to the National Society for the establishment of feedback systems to monitor and act on community perceptions, concerns, rumours, and misinformation of a specific disease. With the support of the IFRC-ICRC Empress Shôken Fund, the Guatemalan Red Cross will mobilize its volunteers for active action against dengue, promoting community participation in prevention.

The **American Red Cross** will support the National Society during its exploration of initiatives in Community Health and Food Security. It will also support the new initiatives of Anticipatory Action and Health, with emphasis on arboviruses.

The **German Red Cross** will assist the National Society through its support for to the regional WASH HUB to strengthen capacities. It will also support the Anticipatory Action and Health initiatives.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will continue to assist the Guatemalan Red Cross in its fight against dengue through building local resilience. It will also support the National Society with the promotion of food safety from environmental sustainability.



Guatemala is a country of origin, transit, and return. 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.

Regarding the flow of returnees, during the first half of the year the IGM reported 67 per cent fewer returns to the country, compared to 2024. The dissonance between what was forecast at the beginning of 2025 with the current dynamics highlights the need for greater actions in terms of scenario-based planning, considering that the trend in both return and transit is highly variable.

Migrants with a vocation to remain in Guatemala can be described in two large groups: those who are in the process of regularization and those who do not wish to regularize. As for the first group, the trend of regularization (applications for temporary residence, applications for refuge, etc.) has been increasing.

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.

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, LGBTQI+ people, and people with protection needs.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

- Improving reintegration processes and livelihoods for returnees in communities of origin
- Protect vulnerable populations, with an emphasis on safeguarding children and internal displacement

- 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
- Develop and strengthen the capacities of staff and volunteers in migration, pre-hospital and psychosocial care, protection, and Restoring Family Links (RFL), among others

Planned activities in 2026

- Strengthen the capacity for humanitarian response at strategic points (delegations or HSPs on routes), for pre-hospital and psychosocial care
- Promote an integrated response and inter-institutional strengthening
- Strengthen capacity in Restoring Family Links, ensuring a better deployment in the response to migration emergencies

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 capacity building and development of activities.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will support the National Society through its contributing to the restitution of the rights of the migrant and displaced population in Central America and Mexico.

The **Swiss Red Cross**, as part of the Migration Programme, linked to the Directorate of Programmes and Organizational Development, will assist the Guatemalan Red Cross in strategic and operational strengthening for an effective response in human mobility.

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



Values, power and inclusion

Guatemala has made significant progress in the fight against gender inequality. The [World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2024](#) highlighted that Guatemala climbed 24 positions in one year, ranking 93rd. This is due to improvements in women's economic participation, education, health, and political empowerment.

However, more progress is yet to be made. Between January and April 2024 alone, 19,684 cases of violence against women, children, and adolescents were registered. Of these, 68.9 per cent were against women. In 2025, Guatemala has registered a significant increase in the number of teenage and girl pregnancies. Between January and May, [23,800](#) births were registered to mothers between the ages of 10 and 19, underscoring the urgent need for protection and care for this vulnerable population. This data underscores the need to strengthen protective environments, such as the family and the community.

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](#).

Disability is another area of vulnerability. It is estimated that there are 1.4 million people with some disability, of which most are women and belong to the Ladino population, followed by the Mayan population.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue to develop protocols that improve protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) actions both inside and outside the Guatemalan Red Cross
- Systematically include the participation of community leaders, including young people, the elderly, and women

in the different advisory committees for the minimum actions of community engagement and accountability (CEA) in programmes and projects

- Integrate multichannel community communication strategies such as local radio, social networks, megaphones, printed materials, among others to disseminate contextualized information to each community

Planned activities in 2026

- Conduct awareness sessions, home visits, and information sessions to educate the community on protection, gender, and inclusion
- Establish and reinforce permanent unified community feedback mechanisms in all programmes and projects (mailboxes, surveys, focus groups, hotlines, and any other that may be necessary), as well as in evidence-based decision-making, ensuring active and constant listening to community voices
- Prioritise safety and well-being to create safe spaces and respect the confidentiality of personal data
- Ensure that all interventions include community engagement and accountability plans, with accessible reports, feedback meetings, and public feedback meetings
- Update approaches and methodologies in volunteer management, and promote innovation in [youth participation](#)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society with the 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. Continuous training in CEA for technical staff and volunteers at the national level will also be provided.

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.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategy
- Health, accident and death compensation for volunteers
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- PSEA Action Plan
- Digital transformation roadmap
- Data management system



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen capacity for internal and external coordination to address the main challenges faced by communities
- Align its operations with strategic plans and improving communication between delegations, headquarters, and partners to establish a more agile and data-driven decision-making system, ensuring that the humanitarian response is coherent and efficient across the country
- 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 Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), 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.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Establish itself as a sustainable and resilient organization through strengthening management, governance, and fundraising capacities to ensure the long-term financial sustainability
- Review and update statutory and legal frameworks to ensure governance and operations structure is governed by domestic and international regulations
- Develop resource mobilization strategies and more efficient financial systems
- 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 the Guatemalan Red Cross support for leadership training, volunteer management, and institutional capacity building. Its Reference Centres will provide tools and methodologies for organizational strengthening.

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.



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
- Institutionalize [Humanitarian Diplomacy](#) to integrate its functions in a transversal way into National Society's programmes, projects, and humanitarian responses
- Strengthen internal articulation between the operational, technical, and advocacy areas, as well as improve the coherence of the institutional message towards society

- Embolden links with volunteers through the provision of tools, materials, and spaces for participation that strengthen their role as spokespersons for humanitarian work in their communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide the National Society financial and technical assistance for the review of technical proposals for the design of humanitarian diplomacy strategies, including the development and implementation of paid campaigns, digital platforms, and communication alliances.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Improve internal controls and financial risk management, including regular internal audits, risk assessment, and anti-corruption mechanisms
- Strengthen staff capacities through continuous training in financial management, use of resource planning systems, and compliance with international standards
- Strengthen management of fundamental principles and values to ensure transparency and trust in the management of resources
- Undergo a digital transformation

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 floods, droughts, Dengue, epidemic, and an earthquake.

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 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.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the National Society through the ongoing regional migration programme for Central America. Between March 2024 to December 2026, the programme seeks to strengthen the preparedness and response of National Societies in migration contexts, in coordination with the IFRC and the ICRC. With a bilateral and multilateral approach, it promotes institutional development, the provision of humanitarian services and information along migration routes, and evidence-based humanitarian diplomacy.



The Guatemalan Red Cross provided medical care, psychosocial support, patients transportation, and damage accessing alongside in communities affected by earthquakes in Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, and Escuintla. (Photo: The Guatemalan Red Cross)

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 maintains strategic and operational coordination with a wide network of organizations to offer a comprehensive response to people in vulnerable contexts. This coordination not only support project indicators but also ensures a harmonized and effective humanitarian response.

The National Society coordinates with the public and private institutions such as the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), the Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM) and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS). It also works with civil society organizations such as Médecins du Monde, Save the Children, and Oxfam. Community leaders such also prioritised to establish partnerships with at

the local level to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches those who need it most.

In addition to this coordination, the National Society is an active member of the Humanitarian Country Team and participates in various emergency clusters, including health, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), nutrition, protection, and food security. 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 2026 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 network databank](#)
- 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 2026 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 network databank](#)
- 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 bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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