



# COLOMBIA

## 2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



16 January 2026

### In support of the Colombian Red Cross Society



**31**

National Society branches



**209**

National Society local units



**2,900**

National Society staff



**20,220**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



**827,000**

Climate and environment



**110,000**

Health and wellbeing



**327,000**

Migration and displacement



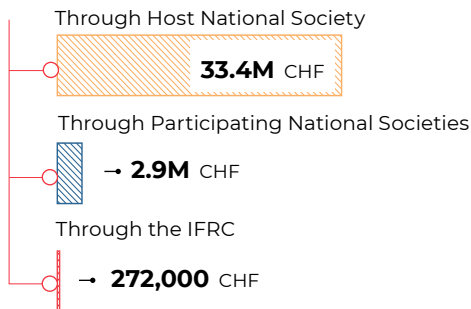
**2.2M**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

**2026**

**Total 36.6M CHF**



**2027**

**Total 3.2M CHF**

**2028**

**2.9M CHF**

*Projected funding requirements*

### Participating National Societies

- \_\_\_\_ American Red Cross
- \_\_\_\_ Canadian Red Cross
- \_\_\_\_ German Red Cross
- \_\_\_\_ Italian Red Cross
- \_\_\_\_ Norwegian Red Cross
- \_\_\_\_ Spanish Red Cross
- \_\_\_\_ Swedish Red Cross

### IFRC Appeal code

Longer-term needs:

**MAACO02**

## Hazards



Floods and cyclones



Earthquakes



Volcanic eruptions



Population movement



Disease outbreaks



Violence and conflict

### 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** **High**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **High**

**Human Development Index rank** **83**

**World Bank Population figure** **52.9M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **32%**



The Colombian Red Cross Society leads a diverse dialogue with Indigenous communities and partners to strengthen collaboration for the Amazon's future (Photo: Colombian Red Cross Society)

## Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027		2028	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
<b>Longer-term needs</b>						
Climate and environment	2.9M	83,000	605,000		605,000	
Disasters & crises				104,000		104,000
Health & wellbeing	975,000	11,000				
Migration & displacement	8.6M	69,000				
Values, power & inclusion	8.9M	94,000	43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	12M	15,000		64,000		64,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.4M</b>	<b>272,000</b>	<b>648,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>648,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>

### Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
American Red Cross	2026	375,000		375,000					-
	2027	300,000		300,000					
Canadian Red Cross Society	2026	34,000				34,000	-		
German Red Cross	2026	868,000		-	-	-	296,000	-	573,000
	2027	2M					246,000	1.7M	58,000
	2028	2M					246,000	1.7M	58,000
Italian Red Cross	2026	15,000				15,000			
Norwegian Red Cross	2026	948,000	948,000	-		-		-	-
Spanish Red Cross	2026	369,000	369,000		-	11,000	169,000	158,000	32,000
Swedish Red Cross	2026	300,000	300,000				300,000		

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

# 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 National Society offers key services including emergency response (disaster relief, first aid, search and rescue), health services (primary care, mobile clinics, psychosocial support, blood donation) and humanitarian aid (food and water, temporary shelters, support for migrants and displaced people). It also provides services related to education, human rights, [International Humanitarian Law](#) and [Restoring Family Links](#).

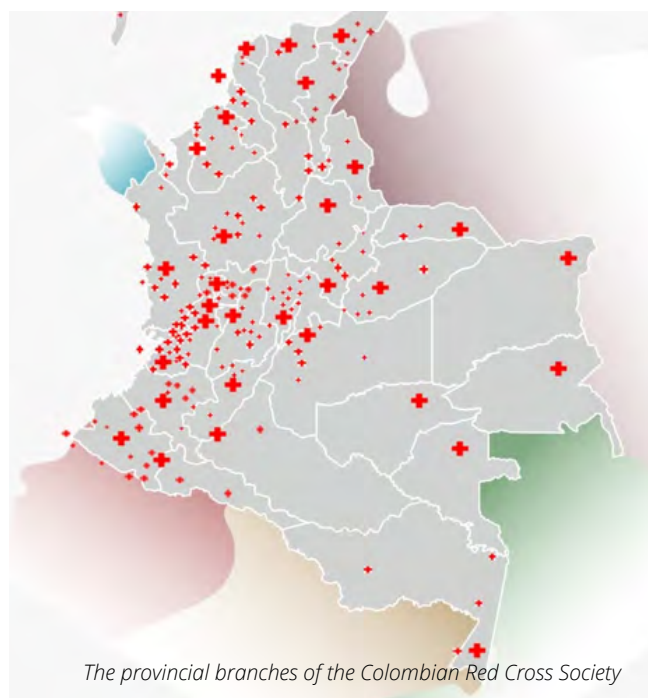
Operational priorities of the National Society include climate change adaptation, population movement, addressing the consequences of armed conflict and other situations of violence and [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#) and response. [Fundamental Principles](#), humanitarian diplomacy, community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

The Colombian Red Cross Society's [Strategic Plan for 2021–2025](#) set out its core objectives for humanitarian and social development. These included:

- Peacebuilding and upholding institutional doctrine
- Disaster risk management
- Comprehensive health management
- Education
- Volunteering
- Blood bank operations

Looking ahead, the National Society is preparing a Strategic Plan for 2026 - 2030. This new strategic plan is being developed collaboratively and brings together branches, Movement Partners and external allies through regional workshops, surveys and focus groups to ensure broad participation and a shared vision. Central to the Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030 is a commitment to proactive and forward-thinking planning, which will enable the National Society to address emerging challenges such as digital transformation, climate change and migration. Spanning five years, the plan is being designed to secure organizational stability while remaining agile in response to evolving national and global circumstances. Through this approach, the Colombian Red Cross Society aims to strengthen its advocacy and reinforce its leadership within the humanitarian sector.

In [2024](#), the Colombian Red Cross Society reached about 188,000 people through its long term services and development programmes and about 32,000 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes.



*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. Despite the signature of the peace agreement between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the government in 2016, according to the International Committee

of the Red Cross (ICRC), there are currently [seven 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 [ICRC report](#), 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 [2.8 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 OCHA, approximately [9 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



## Climate and environment

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. Colombia's varied geography, ranging from tropical forests and extensive plains to mountains, moorlands and coastal areas, gives rise to a diverse climate with significant temperature variability. This geographic diversity also makes Colombia one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries.

According to the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies, an increase of between 1.4 degrees Celsius and 3.2 degrees Celsius 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. Water availability is projected to decline, affecting hydroelectric energy, urban and rural water supply and biodiversity, as many species may struggle to adapt to new climate conditions.

Environmental degradation compounds these challenges. MapBiomas Colombia reports the loss of approximately 6.5 million hectares of natural vegetation from 1985 to 2023, driven by deforestation, glacial and moorland reduction, soil degradation, and water pollution. These trends increase the risk of desertification, erosion and loss of soil fertility.

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 is also involved in the Early Warnings for All initiative (EW4All), which aims to ensure everyone on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027. In this

United Nations-led initiative, the IFRC is the lead of Pillar 4 on preparedness for response to warnings and is also actively engaged in Pillars 1 and 3 of Disaster Risk Knowledge and Warning Dissemination and Communication. The National Society, with IFRC support, will be working with national authorities to coordinate Pillar 4 and implement activities.

The National Society has been promoting initiatives related to climate change since 2004 and has been a signatory to the [Climate and Environment Charter for humanitarian organizations](#) 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 Society aims to continue to build on its climate resilience agenda in keeping with its Climate Change Strategy, developed in 2024. The National Society will align with national priorities to reduce climate risks, strengthen community resilience and foster sustainable ecosystem management. In 2025, significant progress was achieved through the advancement of the National Climate Change Programme, which focused on mitigation, adaptation and capacity-building in collaboration with local authorities, international partners, civil society and the private sector. Key initiatives included improving flood resilience, reinforcing disaster risk reduction measures for tropical cyclones and heat waves and supporting the National Disaster Risk Management System through eco-designed emergency kits and interventions in water, sanitation and hygiene. These efforts lay the foundation for continued action in 2026, with climate risk reduction and resilience remaining integral to its strategic objectives.

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## Planned activities in 2026

- Implement climate change adaptation and mitigation actions/programmes, [nature-based solutions](#), and disaster risk reduction programmes within the framework of [climate-smart programming](#)
- Integrate climate change management into its activities to reduce risks and promote ecosystem sustainability
- Implement actions to reduce carbon footprint
- Include climate-smart measures tailored to local needs and capacities
- Collaborate with the National Climate Change System, regional nodes, private sector and international organisations
- Commit to supporting and advocating for climate change mitigation and adaptation

- Drive the use of data technologies and geographic information systems for climate change management

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## 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 Platform](#), [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), and [Early Warnings for All](#) (EW4A) initiative. The IFRC will also assist the National Society in implementing measures to reduce the institutional carbon footprint and in promoting climate-smart actions tailored to the needs and capacities of different territories. It will facilitate collaboration with the National Climate Change System, regional Climate Change Nodes, private sector actors, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement components and international organizations present in the country. Support will also include strengthening Sectionals, Municipal Units and Support Groups to advance climate change initiatives, driving the adoption of data technologies and geographic information systems for climate change management and reinforcing advocacy and commitment towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. Additionally, the IFRC will continue to back the Colombian Red Cross Society in contributing to the Knowledge Systems of the Alliance for the Amazon, a dialogue platform that unites seven Amazonian National Societies, indigenous representatives and institutional actors to pool efforts, resources and knowledge for the protection and resilience of the Amazon, complemented by the partnership with The Nature Conservancy and guided by ancestral and traditional wisdom.

The **American Red Cross** will provide support to the National Society in climate change actions. This support will focus on climate-resilient cities, youth climate action and pre-action encompassing preparedness, response and sustainability. For 2026 and 2027, joint work will centre on the 'Cities for Climate Action' initiative, aimed at strengthening urban community resilience to climate impacts in the departments of Sucre and Huila.

The **German Red Cross** will provide the Colombian Red Cross Society with support for anticipatory actions in coordination with Colombia's National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) and Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), addressing multiple-impact events and the increase in climatic hazards. It will also contribute to preparedness for response through logistics, strategic warehousing, training, pre-positioning of humanitarian aid, telecommunications, contingency planning and coordination within the risk management system. Community-level preparations will be reinforced, particularly in integrated fire management in the Orinoquia Vichada region.



## Disasters and crises

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

According to the INFORM Risk Index, during the first half of 2025, Colombia was among the 20 per cent of countries in the world with the highest exposure to risk, with a [high risk profile](#) in the face of natural events such as earthquakes and floods, as well as with a high vulnerability derived from socioeconomic and governance factors as well as a certain lack of subnational response capacity. These ratings reflect trends of increased risk associated with climate change and human factors that increase risk exposure.

Since 2023, Colombia has experienced high-magnitude events such as major rainy and flood seasons, drought and wildfire scenarios in arid areas and even in the country's capital, and a pattern of extreme weather events that increased humanitarian demand. According to the [National Disaster Risk Management Unit](#), in 2024 there were about 9 thousand events of natural origin in the country.

Among the emergencies of natural origin that generate the greatest frequency and impact are floods and landslides associated with intense rainfall, El Niño and La Niña events that frequently affect the Andean, Caribbean and Pacific region, droughts and heat waves that especially impact the northeastern region and La Guajira, with consequences on water availability and agricultural production, extreme hydrometeorological phenomena such as sudden floods of rivers and storms that affect infrastructure and connectivity and increase in the strength of tropical cyclones that affect the Caribbean and island region.

The documented impacts add up to a total of 2,829,599 impacts (UNGRD, EXCEL 2024), which include loss of life, damage to homes and infrastructure, effects on livelihoods and effects on basic services (water, sanitation, health and education). Recent events have led to secondary impacts such as the reduction of production due to droughts, simultaneously, flood episodes have destroyed crops in other subregions, in addition to the fact that the greatest effects are concentrated in municipalities with low technical and economic capacity for the response.

However, emergencies and disasters of natural and man-made origin are not the only crises that affect the country, since situations of violence and armed conflicts also persist, with high levels of confirmation and internal displacement, which favor the convergence of multi-affected crises. During the first half of 2025, a sustained increase in the number of victims of conflict-related violence in Colombia was consolidated, with

almost [1,450,000 people](#) affected. This represents an increase of [333 per cent](#) compared to the first half of 2024.

Humanitarian access in remote areas is limited by the country's complex topography, precarious roads and adverse weather conditions, especially in jungle and coastal areas. Added to this is the insecurity resulting from the presence of non-state armed actors, which conditions the security of humanitarian personnel necessary for the deployment of assistance. In addition, logistical constraints, such as disaster-affected infrastructure and the absence of pre-positioned resources, make it difficult to deliver aid in a timely manner.

### 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 [Disaster Risk Management Policy](#) in 2018, 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, water, sanitation and hygiene and Restoring Family Links services. Some of the National Society's multi-year objectives are to:

- Increase resilience capacity and foster the sustainable development of communities and individuals, through the implementation of risk awareness, risk reduction and disaster management processes

- Participate in humanitarian disaster management actions abroad
- Promote education and training in Disaster Risk Management, with emphasis on community processes
- Strengthen branches and volunteers and promote the formation of specialized teams for disaster management, including in search and rescue.
- 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 multipurpose cash grants
- Expand leadership in the field of disaster law and enhance the official/legal recognition of their auxiliary role

- Provide technical advice for rental assistance as an alternative to temporary shelter in emergencies
- Increase cash preparedness through a self-assessment, simulation of a self-registration tool and feasibility studies

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Colombian Red Cross Society in the implementation of the action plan resulting from the preparedness 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.

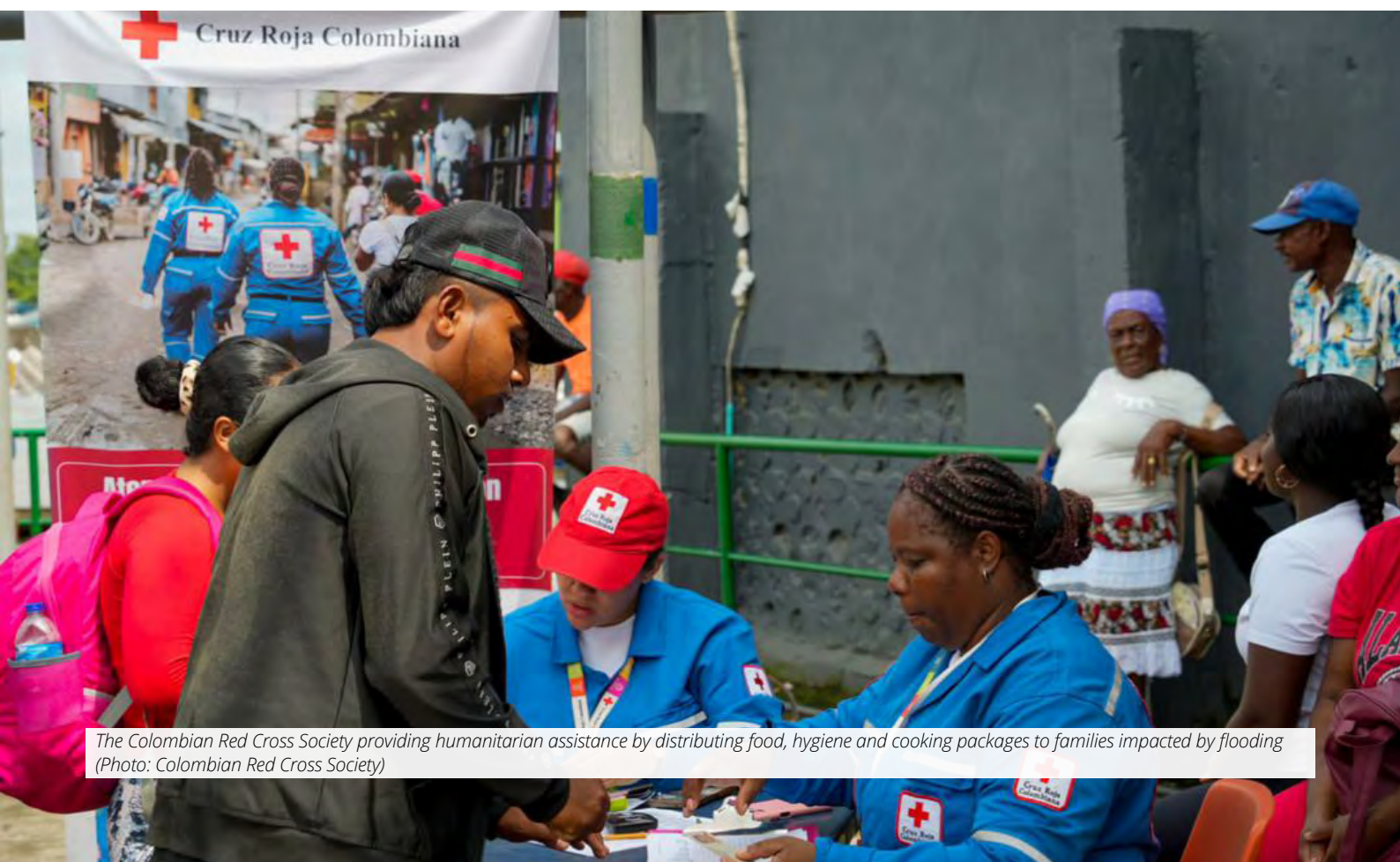
IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2024, the IFRC provided DREF allocations in support of the National Society's response to a volcanic eruption, droughts, and floods. In 2025, IFRC provided DREF allocations for a flood emergency in Colombia.

IFRC-DREF Colombia Floods: The DREF allocation of CHF 339,570 in July 2025 supported the Colombian Red Cross Society to assist 407,957 people impacted by flooding Arauca, Caqueta, Choco, Putumayo and Vichada. The National Society supported the targeted people over a five-month period through interventions such as the distribution of food kits and cash support. Support also included the deployment of water treatment plants, distribution of drinking water and storage containers and hygiene kits to affected people.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Establish community early warning systems to strengthen the capacity to anticipate a catastrophic event through monitoring, follow-up, and timely information
- Form and support community emergency response teams with their respective community plans
- Provide emergency humanitarian aid in the form of food assistance and cash and voucher assistance (CVA)
- Implement actions supporting water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) such as mobilizing water treatment plants and delivery of water filters



The Colombian Red Cross Society providing humanitarian assistance by distributing food, hygiene and cooking packages to families impacted by flooding (Photo: Colombian Red Cross Society)



According to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Colombia, by [February 2025](#) the coverage of affiliation to the health system fell by 102,567 people, compared to December 2024. The Government also reported that between 2022 and 2025, progress was made in public health, such as the reduction of infant mortality of children under 1 year of age by [11.1 per cent](#), of children under 5 years of age by [10 per cent](#) and perinatal mortality by [12.3 per cent](#). However, some reports indicate that, although there have been improvements, [territorial gaps](#) still persist.

In terms of non-communicable diseases, [PAHO's 2025 Scorecard](#) highlighted that Colombia still has elements of improvement regarding preventive policies for the harmful consumption of alcohol and to a lesser extent tobacco, while progress is highlighted in terms of healthy eating. Another challenge arises in rural and remote areas of the country, where there is still a shortage of infrastructure, health personnel and difficulties in access both due to the condition of transport routes and the presence of armed conflict. In relation to this issue, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection reported that, throughout recent history, approximately 95 per cent of municipalities have experienced armed conflict. This ongoing situation has had detrimental impacts on the delivery of health services and has led to significant changes in the demographic structure of these areas. Regarding mental health, the general trend shows an increase in suicide in both sexes, with a rate of 5.98 per 100,000 inhabitants, mainly in Risaralda, Vaupés and Norte de Santander.

In the context of climate change, mortality attributable to fine particulate matter has increased, and exposure to [extreme heat has increased significantly](#), especially for children under 1 year of age and adults over 65 years of age. Exposure to these temperatures causes heat-related diseases and even death, in addition, increased rainfall and water stagnation favor the reproduction of mosquitoes. Additionally, in 2025 Colombia declared a health emergency due to an outbreak of yellow fever, with a lethality rate of more than 45 per cent, mainly in departments such as Tolima, Putumayo and Nariño. Food intake remains insufficient for 41 per cent of residents in Vichada, with indigenous groups and migrants particularly impacted. In departments such as La Guajira and Chocó, local vulnerabilities continue to worsen the situation, resulting in high rates of child malnutrition.

Migrants encounter significant [barriers when trying to access the health system](#), often due to their irregular migratory status and limited awareness of their rights or available services. These obstacles lead to compounded vulnerabilities in both

protection and health, which are frequently exacerbated during natural emergencies and crises.

The Centre for Economic Studies of the National Association of Financial Institutions also highlights that Colombia's health system is under financial strain, driven by factors such as an aging population and a growing demand for health services.

### 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 [community surveillance](#) 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.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Create clinical Emergency Response Unit aligned with international health care standards
- Ensure rapid and effective response in national and international emergencies
- Implement clinical care, logistical and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) intervention protocols
- Conduct community training and mobilization for emergency health response
- Manage resources to guarantee minimum quality standards for health services
- Align health care interventions with global Emergency Medical Team initiative and IFRC classification

- Plan and standardize public health care and emergency health care
- 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 training workshops for volunteers in [first aid](#), [epidemic control](#), [mental health](#), and water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) promotion
- Train specialized cell Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) through regional workshops

people with access to information and training, including health promoters and professionals. The IFRC will also support the development of reference routes between communities and service providers, promote the creation of local health committees and enhance coordination between communities to ensure a more effective response to health emergencies. These efforts will be complemented by community campaigns, capacity building and the establishment of protocols and coordination mechanisms with participating communities.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** will continue supporting the National Society in the implementation of Rapid Response Medical Teams in Nariño and Córdoba to strengthen access to health services and protection for communities affected by armed conflict and confinement. This initiative seeks to serve 3,011 beneficiaries, prioritizing primary health actions, emergency care and psychosocial support, while improving coverage and local capacities in hard-to-reach areas. In addition, Norwegian Red Cross will support the Colombian Red Cross Society's 'Protection and Access to Health Services' programme, operational till 2029, in Cauca, Caquetá, Nariño and Chocó. This long-term initiative aims to guarantee health and protection for vulnerable populations through comprehensive care strategies, institutional strengthening and community accompaniment.

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Colombian Red Cross Society to strengthen community health capacities in areas affected by conflict and migration, focusing on health promotion and disease prevention. This includes improving community health care with emphasis on sexual and reproductive health, mental health and nutrition and increasing the number of



## Migration and displacement

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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 [520,000 migrants](#) 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.

In 2025, migration in Colombia was shaped by significant regional and international developments, most notably the tightening of [United States immigration policies](#). Measures such as the cancellation of appointments in the [CBP One application](#), expedited deportations and the outsourcing of immigration control to transit countries such as Mexico, Panama, and Costa Rica have produced a reverse migration phenomenon. Thousands of migrants, primarily from

Colombia, Venezuela and Central America, have been forcibly returned to their countries of origin, placing additional strain on domestic humanitarian and social support systems.

Migratory routes connecting South and Central America continue to pose severe risks, exemplified by critical zones such as the [Darien Gap](#) between Panama and Colombia, which accounts for approximately 73 per cent of reported returns. Migrants traversing these routes face exposure to criminal networks, human trafficking, sexual violence, extortion and abandonment, particularly in areas with minimal state presence. Women, children and LGBTIQ+ individuals remain disproportionately vulnerable, necessitating targeted protection mechanisms.

At the regional level, efforts to support refugees and migrants have been hampered by insufficient funding. In 2025, the [Regional Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants \(RMRP\)](#) met only 14.2 per cent of its funding requirements, leading to a reduction in humanitarian assistance coverage from 5.6 million to 1.9 million individuals.

This shortfall has significantly constrained the capacity to address the needs of migrant populations.

Colombia has experienced direct consequences from these dynamics. The first half of 2025 saw a marked decrease in northward transit, with a 98 per cent reduction in crossings through the Darien Gap and approximately 9,000 migrants returning from Panama, Mexico and Costa Rica. A significant portion, about 84 per cent, entered via Capurganá, continuing onward to Necoclí. Notably, 43 per cent of this flow comprised women, children and adolescents, who present specific protection needs. Juradó, Bahía Solano, Capurganá and Necoclí have faced heightened demand for basic services amid insufficient infrastructure and complex security challenges due to illegal armed groups controlling migration routes.

Irregular migratory transit along Colombia's southern border has intensified, with a significant increase recorded from the previous year. Weekly, 2,500 to 3,000 individuals cross the Rumichaca international bridge, with 80 per cent continuing to destinations such as Peru, Chile or Argentina, positioning Colombia as both a transit and return country.

Involuntary returns from the United States also surged in 2025, with humanitarian flights repatriating thousands of deported Colombians. By June, Colombia ranked fifth among nationalities subject to deportation court orders (23,045 cases), trailing Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and Venezuela.

Currently, Colombia hosts over 2.8 million Venezuelan migrants, with 69.3 per cent in regular status and 16.1 per cent in irregular situations. The majority reside in Bogotá, Antioquia and border regions such as Norte de Santander and La Guajira, where integration and access to basic services remain significant challenges. Migrants seeking permanent residence require urgent support in employment, livelihoods, housing, legal advice, education, degree validation and protection from exploitation or violence. For those in transit, immediate humanitarian priorities include health, protection, water and sanitation, temporary shelter, transportation, food and hygiene supplies.

### 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 humanitarian service points 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 also plans to respond promptly to the protection needs of the migrant population by incorporating actions for risk prevention and identification, offering attention to individuals facing heightened protection risks and fostering inter-institutional coordination to mitigate the impacts caused by migration. This approach will strengthen humanitarian coordination and ensure that vulnerable groups receive timely and appropriate support.

The Colombian Red Cross Society will focus on promoting the economic, social and cultural integration of the migrant population to facilitate their inclusion in host communities. It aims to create spaces for development and strengthen community networks, enabling migrants to build sustainable connections and contribute positively to their new environments.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- 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](#)

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Colombian Red Cross Society to strengthen advocacy for the rights and dignity of migrants through the continuation and expansion of the ‘Advocacy for the Rights and Dignity of Migrants’ project. This support aims to consolidate and grow a regional network that promotes protection and the application of international humanitarian and human rights law. The IFRC seeks to enhance coordination and participation among members, formalize commitments and foster strategic alliances with local and regional organizations to increase advocacy efforts. It plans to build on progress made in creating coordination spaces with migrant organizations and identifying key actors working to protect rights during transit, stay and return.

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 2025, IFRC provided DREF allocations for two population movement emergencies and one simplified Early Action Protocol.

- [IFRC-DREF Colombia Population Movement \(Internal Displacement\)](#): The [DREF](#) allocation of CHF 222,064 in March 2025 supported the Colombian Red Cross Society to assist 12,000 people internally displaced by clashes between non-state armed groups in Cauca, Chocó and Norte de Santander. The National Society supported the targeted people over a six-month period through interventions such as the distribution of kitchen kits, shelter and essential items. Support also included the provision of physical and psychological first aid along with the distribution hygiene kits to displaced communities.
- [IFRC-DREF Colombia Population Movement \(Returnees\)](#): The [DREF](#) allocation of CHF 76,878 in March 2025 supported the Colombian Red Cross Society to assist 2,500 people affected by changes in immigration policy in the United States leading to mass deportations. The National Society supported the targeted people over

a six-month period through interventions such as the provision of accommodation to returnees along with snack kits and cash vouchers. The returnees were also supported with physical first aid, psychological first aid and hygiene kits.

The IFRC also approved [DREF Forced Displacement simplified Early Action Protocol](#) in 2025, in support of the Colombian Red Cross Society. This will enable the National Society to utilize an immediate allocation of CHF 202,616 to implement early actions once triggers are met. The actions which include readiness and prepositioning of stocks are meant to support up to 2,000 people during an early action timeframe of four months. The protocol is meant to be in place for two years

The **German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross** and **Swiss Red Cross** will provide complementary technical and financial support to the National Society for regional initiatives, contributing to the consolidation of a coordinated response and the enhancement of local capacities in migration.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will continue to support the National Society in the harmonization of humanitarian care and protection actions for migrants and local populations along the Darien border. This includes implementing a project that responds to assistance and protection needs through three lines of action. The first focuses on protection en route, encompassing the re-establishment of family contacts, identification and referral of gender-based violence and child protection cases, provision of safe spaces and family reunification initiatives. The second addresses health response in emergencies by strengthening health services, epidemiological surveillance and forming community committees to promote healthy lifestyles. The third line concentrates on water, sanitation and hygiene, ensuring access to safe water, promoting hygiene and sanitation practices and implementing waste management solutions along the Darien migratory route.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will continue to support the National Society by contributing to the strengthening of the regional network through technical and financial support for initiatives that advance the protection and promotion of migrant rights, reinforcing coordination and advocacy efforts in line with international standards.

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Under wider Movement support, **the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** will support the Colombian Red Cross Society in providing Restoring Family Links services to migrant population.



## 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.

During the first half of 2025, the security context in Colombia went through one of the most critical periods in recent years. Clashes between illegal armed groups for control of strategic territories, particularly in rural areas with weak institutional presence, intensified the humanitarian crisis in large regions of the country. This deterioration is reflected in the increase in victims of the armed conflict, which tripled compared to the same period in 2024, reaching more than 246,000 people affected nationwide.

The main humanitarian consequences derived from this situation include the confinement and massive forced displacement of rural communities, the selective assassinations of social leaders and people in the process of reintegration, as well as the increase in massacres and forced disappearances. The forced recruitment of children and adolescents (NNA) has resurfaced as a critical pattern of violence, mainly affecting ethnic communities. At the same time, the installation of anti-personnel mines and improvised explosive devices in rural areas and near rural schools has increased, restricting the mobility of the population and generating widespread fear. In urban areas, high levels of extortion, kidnapping and targeted homicides persist. There has also been an increase in armed attacks and harassment against military bases and police stations, characterized by the use of drones to launch improvised explosive devices, evidencing a growing technological sophistication of armed groups.

Between January and June 2025, 228 events affecting humanitarian access were recorded, including 204 restrictions and 45 documented incidents, representing a 93 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2024.

In terms of homicides by population rate, the most critical departments were Guaviare, Valle del Cauca, Norte de Santander, Cauca, Meta, Chocó and Antioquia. This situation is explained by the internal fragmentation of organized armed groups, the constant changes in their command structures and the dispute over illicit economies, which generates highly volatile environments of insecurity. This instability limits the development of humanitarian interventions and affects the daily life of communities, impeding their organization and social participation.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, between January and May 2025, 524 people were injured or killed by explosive devices, representing an increase of 145 per cent compared to the same period in 2024. These figures reflect the indiscriminate impact of the use of explosive devices on the civilian population, especially in rural communities. During this same period of time, the confinement affected 85,760 people in 13 departments, which represents an increase of 169 per cent compared to the same period of the previous year. In the same period, 58,160 people were displaced in 10 departments, an increase of 117 per cent compared to 2024 (OCHA, 2025). Currently, it is estimated that Colombia is home to more than 7 million people internally displaced by violence, poverty or natural disasters, ranking among the five countries with the highest number of internally displaced people globally.

Communities affected by the armed conflict face multiple needs for protection and assistance, derived from the restrictions imposed by armed actors and the persistent lack of security. Among the most relevant are the limitation of mobility and prolonged confinement, which prevents access to livelihoods, education and health services, the risk of food insecurity, due to the abandonment of crops and the interruption of supply chains, the deficit of immediate humanitarian assistance, aggravated by the reduction of resources and the difficulty of access and limited access to essential basic services, such as education, health and drinking water. These conditions have a special impact on children and adolescents and on indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities, who suffer greater levels of exclusion and vulnerability.

### 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 Colombian Red Cross Society aims to address the humanitarian challenges arising from the armed conflict and other forms of violence, which include restrictions on access imposed by armed actors, the reduction of international cooperation resources affecting programme.

continuity and the increase in human rights violations due to the complexity of the conflict and fragmentation of territorial control. It seeks to contribute to the limitation and mitigation of the impact of the armed conflict and its most direct consequences, acting within the framework of the rules and principles of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. It plans to uphold these principles while ensuring that assistance reaches the most vulnerable populations.

The National Society will focus on addressing the root causes that generate different forms of violence and on disaster risk management, promoting respect for and the exercise of human rights. This approach aims to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerabilities in affected communities. It also aims to contribute to the non-violent transformation of conflicts, fostering dialogue and peaceful solutions that support stability and long-term humanitarian outcomes.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Increase understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of the [fundamental principles](#) and humanitarian values
- 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
- 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
- Develop capacity-building activities in [Protection, Gender and Inclusion](#) (PGI) in emergencies and provide technical accompaniment
- Follow up on cases of people with protection needs from the previous years and manage cases of people with protection needs such as community leaders, human rights defenders, reincorporated population, people with protection risks, and others
- Provide survivors of gender-based violence, sexual violence or human trafficking with lodging, food, transportation, access to medical services, cash transfers and psychological care

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### 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 IFRC will continue to support the positioning of the National Society in inter-agency coordination mechanisms and in high-level events such as the World Ministerial Conference to End Violence against Children.

The IFRC will continue supporting the Colombian Red Cross Society in addressing the humanitarian consequences of the armed conflict through a comprehensive approach. This includes the implementation of the Early Action Protocols for multi-impact crises, which focuses on mitigating the effects of the conflict through early actions, preparedness and pre-positioning. Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society in the implementation of a project aimed at protecting children and adolescents affected by armed conflict and disasters in the departments of Cauca and Nariño. This initiative seeks to strengthen protection mechanisms and ensure access to safe and inclusive environments that promote well-being and the enjoyment of rights for children and adolescents of diverse genders and origins.

The **German Red Cross** will continue to collaborate with the National Society on comprehensive humanitarian assistance, health and protection operations targeting populations affected by conflict, including Afro-descendant and indigenous communities in Chocó, Cauca and Norte de Santander.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will support the Colombian Red Cross Society's initiatives to strengthen women's leadership in governance within PDET municipalities, particularly in Montes de María, Bolívar and Caldone, Cauca. This effort aims to promote women's participation in local decision-making, enhances leadership capacities, and fosters livelihoods to contribute to autonomy and economic empowerment. It also supports the socioeconomic development of Civil Society Organisations composed of women in Cauca, reinforcing their role in peacebuilding and development.

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Under wider Movement support, **the ICRC** will support the Colombian Red Cross Society by maintaining an operational presence in areas with intensified armed conflict such as Catatumbo, Magdalena Medio, Cauca, Putumayo, Chocó, Southern Bolívar, Urabá and Bajo Cauca in Antioquia. Its support will cover key humanitarian priorities including Safer Access, mental health and psychosocial support, medical missions, community first aid, economic security, water and sanitation, telematics, sexual violence prevention, protection and education in urban environments, dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and organizational strengthening of the National Society.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Colombian Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process in 2024. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Colombian Red Cross Society is also committed to the IFRC's [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) process and is currently working on the orientation phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take the 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 internal and external coordination mechanisms with all Movement components to ensure effective articulation of humanitarian actions
- Promote participation in the country's humanitarian coordination architecture and build strategic partnerships with public, private and international actors
- Diversify funding sources through thematic consortia, public-private models and digital resource mobilization campaigns while optimising internal services for sustainability
- Reinforce collaboration and complementarity within the Movement and increase financial resources through national collection and international cooperation

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Colombian Red Cross Society in strengthening its positioning within national and international coordination spaces and facilitate strategic relations with key international actors. This support will include actions

to enhance the visibility and influence of the Colombian Red Cross Society in decision-making fora, ensuring effective dialogue with humanitarian partners and promoting its role as a relevant and participatory actor. The IFRC will also contribute to improving information management systems and coordination mechanisms that enable evidence-based decisions and operational efficiency, reinforcing the Colombian Red Cross Society as a sustainable institution capable of responding to humanitarian challenges at national, regional and local levels.

The **American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross** and **Spanish Red Cross** will contribute to advancing coordination and cooperation priorities led by the Colombian Red Cross Society, strengthening multilateral and bilateral commitments through programmes, projects and technical assistance. Their support will focus on strengthening collaboration frameworks, complementarity of actions and resource mobilization to ensure effective humanitarian response.



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

- Modernize institutional structure to ensure agile and efficient operations
- Strengthen its branches through robust territorial capacities and promote financial sustainability with diversified income sources and transparent resource use
- Improve governance, internal control, operational management, administration and finance systems to adapt to complex humanitarian contexts
- Establish itself as the main actor in health service provision and programmes in its auxiliary role to public authorities
- Contribute to transforming vulnerable communities through integrated social and humanitarian development actions
- Become the humanitarian institution with the largest volunteer network nationwide ensuring permanence well-being and growth
- Prioritize the development of youth volunteerism and action as critical catalysts for behaviour change and local action, ensuring access and building trust in all contexts

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the Colombian Red Cross Society in strengthening volunteerism through comprehensive training processes. This includes structured training courses and local initiatives that encourage practical learning and active participation in projects addressing humanitarian needs within communities. The IFRC will also support the National Society in conducting bilingualism programmes that expand opportunities for international exchange and collaboration. Additionally, the IFRC will promote inclusive governance by supporting the participation of volunteers in the Governing Board, contributing to a more representative and participatory institutional structure.

In 2024, the Colombian Red Cross Society received the [IFRC Capacity Building Fund \(CBF\)](#). This grant supported the National Society in strengthening its reach, quality, efficiency and sustainability of its humanitarian services. Through the CBF Colombian Red Cross Society received support in the enhancement of its core organizational capabilities namely: financial sustainability; integrity, transparency and accountability; systems development and digital transformation; branch development; volunteering, youth engagement and development, and protection, gender and inclusion. Additionally, with the support of an [IFRC/ICRC National Society Investment Alliance \(NSIA\) Accelerator](#) grant in 2023, the Colombian Red Cross Society strengthened its capacity to generate its own funds, deepen account ability and expand digital engagement with communities.



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

- Maintain comprehensive and regional interventions in scenarios of high vulnerability through coordination with the International Movement
- Participate in dialogue spaces on humanitarian action
- Implement a humanitarian advocacy strategy at national and regional levels for the application of Policies Agreements and Resolutions adopted at statutory meetings of the Movement
- Promote effective coordination and collaboration with partners to ensure timely and principled humanitarian response

- 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 support the Colombian Red Cross Society's coordination efforts with governments, international organisations and other key actors to promote understanding and respect for humanitarian principles in Colombia and globally. This support will focus on fostering international cooperation and joint action to address humanitarian challenges, ensuring that the Colombian Red Cross Society is positioned as a relevant and influential actor in these spaces. The IFRC will also contribute to strengthening mechanisms that enable effective engagement in dialogue platforms and

coordination frameworks, reinforcing principled humanitarian action and collaboration across sectors.

governments, international organizations and other key actors and to promote understanding and respect for the humanitarian principles in Colombia and the world.

Under wider Movement support, **the ICRC** will also support the Colombian Red Cross Society in coordinating with



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Guarantee transparency honesty and ethics in all operations ensuring confidentiality and responsible handling of information
- Integrate accountability through planning reports lessons learned workshops multilateral executive committees field visits and financial reporting to partners
- Foster accountability trust and institutional integrity through responsible decision making and reporting of any suspicion or misconduct
- Apply tools for prevention of fraud corruption and strengthen internal control ensuring austere transparent and efficient use of resources
- Promote a safe inclusive and discrimination free environment that respects cultural and social diversity and prevents stereotypes or exclusion

- Ensure detection and timely reporting of illicit operations under the SARLAFT FPDAM risk management system and compliance with humanitarian principles to safeguard personnel in high-risk contexts
- Implement structural transformation to develop agile collaborative and efficient organizational capacities strengthening administrative and financial management of branches

### 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 in mainstreaming the [Community Engagement and Accountability \(CEA\)](#) approach.



*The Colombian Red Cross Society conducting a Knowledge Systems Dialogue in Leticia in collaboration with indigenous communities and key organizations to address Amazon humanitarian needs (Photo: Colombian Red Cross Society)*

# 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. In 2025, the Colombian Red Cross Society received funding support from the IFRC-DREF for a [flood emergency](#) and a [population movement](#) emergencies.

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 \(NSIA\)](#).

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## 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 National Societies 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. 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. 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 planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (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.

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## 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, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Restoring Family Links, protection and education in urban environments, International Humanitarian Law, prevention of and response to sexual violence and institutional strengthening.

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## 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), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (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 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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