



COSTA RICA

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



9 January 2026

In support of the Costa Rican Red Cross



134

National Society branches



134

National Society local units



1,374

National Society staff



5,336

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



6,000

Climate and environment



500

Disasters and crises



28,000

Health and wellbeing



7,000

Migration and displacement



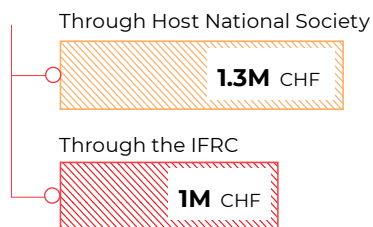
420

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 2.3M CHF



2027

Total 2.5M CHF

2028

Total 2.8M CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

Canadian Red Cross Society

German Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAACR002

Hazards



Population movement



Hurricanes & cyclones



Floods



Drought



Disease outbreaks



Violence



Road accidents

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 **Low**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **62**

World Bank Population figure **5.1M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **20%**



The Costa Rican Red Cross responded to the heavy rains in the country. (Photo: Costa Rican 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	155,000	50,000	200,000	55,000	205,000	60,000
Disasters & crises	355,000	165,000	350,000	182,000	375,000	200,000
Health & wellbeing	175,000	100,000	250,000	110,000	260,000	121,000
Migration & displacement	200,000	150,000	200,000	165,000	235,000	182,000
Values, power & inclusion	100,000	90,000	100,000	99,000	115,000	109,000
Enabling local actors	300,000	450,000	300,000	495,000	360,000	544,000
Total	1.3M	1M	1.4M	1.1M	1.6M	1.2M

Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Funding Allocation					
				Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Canadian Red Cross Society	2026						-	-	
	2027								
	2028								
German Red Cross	2026				-				
	2027								
	2028								
Swiss Red Cross	2026						-		

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Costa Rican Red Cross** was established in 1885 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1922. It serves as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, assisting them impartially and independently, and serving the most vulnerable people.

The National Society develops emergency responses to assist with disasters, pre-hospital care, community risk reduction, providing temporary shelters, and other avenues of humanitarian aid. According to the Costa Rican Red Cross' Strategic Plan 2021–2030, the National Society has three strategic axes: humanitarian, inclusive, and open and transparent. The main function of the Strategic Plan is to motivate and manage the institution to become a resilient and innovative humanitarian organization which provides an efficient and effective response to all populations, sectors, and communities.

The Humanitarian axis exists to save lives and provide recovery support after disasters and crises. It aims to build safe and resilient environments through risk management, emergency care, and attention to the most vulnerable populations, sectors,

and communities. The Inclusive axis seeks to promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace, through intersectoral and voluntary action in all regions, with respect for the human rights of all people. The Open and Transparent axis works to contribute to an open and transparent governance model with strategies aimed at favouring internal and external projection and preserving the National Society's strategic links for the fulfilment of its objectives and sustainability of operations.

The National Society's humanitarian services are carried out based on four Service Programmes that include multiple activities:

- Risk Management and Emergency Response
- Supporting elderly populations
- Encouraging youth
- Undertaking Humanitarian Diplomacy and Protection

In 2024, the Costa Rican Red Cross reached 22,912 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the Costa Rican Red Cross 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

Costa Rica is located in Central America, sharing land borders with Nicaragua to the north, the Caribbean Sea to the east, Panama to the southeast and the Pacific Ocean to the west. In terms of maritime borders, it is adjacent to Nicaragua, Colombia, Panama, and Ecuador. It is a sovereign state composed of 7 provinces.

Costa Rica has a mixed economy, which has undergone a strong evolution, going from being an eminently agricultural country to a service economy. Tourism is the fastest growing industry and since the early 2000s has generated more foreign exchange than any of the main agricultural export products. It is estimated to account for approximately 6.3 per cent of GDP, surpassing even other important industries such as information technology and certain agricultural crops.

Also of significance are traditional agricultural exports of bananas, sugar, cocoa and pineapples, as well as flowers and mini vegetables in recent years. The production of high-quality Costa Rican coffee and its export to the U.S. market stands out. The production of medical and surgical supplies, high-tech and electronic components, software development, financial services, customer services, and outsourcing operations are increasingly contributing to the economy. Costa Rica's

Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is used to calculate inflation in the country, had a monthly variation of -0.32% in March 2025. The level of the general index was 109,101 in the month of March, while in the previous month it was 109,445.

On issues such as migration, since 2018, Costa Rica has been the primary country hosting forcibly displaced persons from Nicaragua. As of June 2024, 87 per cent of the 206,700 asylum-seekers and 60 per cent of the 27,600 refugees in the country were Nicaraguans. Costa Rica also hosts people from Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia and Haiti, bringing the country's forcibly displaced population to approximately 5 per cent of its total population, one of the highest rates among the regions.

Notably, 10 per cent of Costa Rica's population comprises migrants, one of the highest rates in Latin America. The country hosts economic immigrants and political refugees. Currently, the largest foreign communities are those from Nicaragua, Colombia, and the United States of America.

In terms of poverty, according to estimates, monetary poverty affected 20.3 per cent of the population in 2024, while extreme poverty stood at around 1.3 per cent. Although these figures show a reduction compared to the peaks observed in 2020 (when they reached 30 per cent), significant gaps persist in rural areas and vulnerable sectors of the population.



Climate and environment

Climate change and extreme weather-related events in Central America have become a significant threat to health conditions, food security, access to safe water and environmental security of people, especially for the most vulnerable and remote communities with low response, coping and recovery capacities.

Costa Rica has a diverse tropical climate due to its geographic location in Central America and mountainous topography. It has a variety of climates, from tropical on the coasts to temperate in the highlands and transition zones in the intermediate areas. The country experiences two main seasons: the dry season, from December to April, and the rainy season, from May to November; it is also affected by weather phenomena such as El Niño and La Niña, which can alter weather patterns and rainy seasons.

Greenhouse gas emissions in Costa Rica are on the rise. It has been estimated that, if no action is taken, Costa Rica's emissions will increase by 2.4 per cent per year, growing 60 per cent between 2015 and 2030, and up to 132 per cent by 2050.

Costa Rica is already experiencing a number of climate impacts including rising temperatures leading to more frequent and prolonged heat waves, climate variability leading to change in rainfall patterns, increase in extreme weather events such as tropical storms and hurricanes, loss of biodiversity, risk to agriculture, and negative impact on tourism.

To address these challenges, Costa Rica has implemented several significant government policies, plans, and legal frameworks on climate and environmental issues. These efforts are aligned with the country's commitment to conserve its biodiversity and be carbon neutral by 2050.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Costa Rican 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 National Society leads locally owned actions to support communities and authorities in their efforts to adapt to climate change and build resilience to extreme weather events. Its objectives include:

- Adopting improved environmental management measures and climate-related risks through adaptation and mitigation actions
- Encouraging communities, staff, and volunteers to take urgent action to adapt to the growing and changing risks of the climate and environmental crises

Planned activities in 2026

- Align goals with national commitments on climate change and sustainability such as the Adaptation to Climate Change 2018–2030, the National Decarbonization Plan 2019–2050 and the Resilient Cantons strategy
- Contribute to the strengthening of local capacities, the protection of natural resources, and the reduction of vulnerabilities to extreme weather events
- Complement the efforts of the State and promote community resilience and environmental sustainability in a coordinated and effective way
- Develop environmental policies and climate change adaptation strategies based on evidence and thorough mapping and risk scenarios

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Costa Rican Red Cross to promote community-led solutions to address challenges, improve behaviours, and promote climate action. It will assist the National Society in collecting and analysing specific socio-behavioural data, community perceptions, and concerns about climate issues for programme and/or project adaptation.



Disasters and crises

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

Costa Rica is a [country with high seismic activity](#) and is generally affected by the downpours associated with tropical storms, which cause total and partial damage to homes, flooding, landslides, overflowing rivers, blocked roads, and the need to set up temporary shelters in communities. Due to its location along the Pacific Ring of Fire, earthquakes are relatively common in the country with varying degrees of severity. In November 2024, the country faced [heavy rains](#) that caused road damage, river floods, and damage to homes, limiting access to basic services and assistance.

Costa Rica has several active volcanoes, including Arenal, Poas, and Turrialba. While volcanic eruptions are infrequent, they pose risks to nearby communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems. The National Seismological Network (RSN) and the National Emergency Commission (CNE) monitor volcanic activity and provide early warnings to affected areas.

The Costa Rican government, through agencies like the National Emergency Commission (CNE) and various scientific institutions, invests in disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation measures. These efforts include early warning systems, evacuation plans, infrastructure reinforcement, and community resilience programmes.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Costa Rican Red Cross, in its auxiliary role, aims to intervene effectively in the face of a wide variety of evolving crises and disasters, working closely with communities to adopt measures to increase resilience.

Another strategic priority for the National Society is related to Search and Rescue missions. These include land, water, urban, and canine search and rescue units, with personnel trained technically and operationally to support and strengthen response and capabilities. The National Society aims to:

- Meet the needs of people affected by crises and disasters through access to [in-kind assistance](#) and support that is timely, adequate, flexible and strengthens their agency
- Responding effectively to the wide range of evolving crises and disasters and leveraging their auxiliary role in emergency response
- Contribute to the construction of a safer, more resilient, and inclusive country in the face of crises and catastrophes

Planned activities in 2026

- Enhance community resilience through the coordination of national, regional, and local efforts, applying the Resilience Pathway and its indicators
- Strengthen the implementation of the National Risk Management Policy 2016–2030 and the National Risk Management Plan, contributing to the reduction of vulnerabilities in communities exposed to disasters
- Promote [anticipatory action](#) and the consolidation of local response capacities
- Coordinate meetings to establish early actions at regional, local and community levels
- Strengthen the technical capabilities of search and rescue teams through specialized training and international certifications
- Ensure the provision, maintenance, and upgrades of specialized equipment necessary for safe and effective operations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society with 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. Previously, the IFRC provided DREF allocations for Early Action Protocols for floods and [volcanic ash](#), as described below:

[IFRC-DREF Early Action Protocol Costa Rica Floods](#): The DREF allocation of CHF 80,000 in September 2025 supported the Costa Rican Red Cross in assisting regions of Alajuela, Cartago, Heredia, Limon, and San Jose during above-normal rainfall periods. The National Society supported the targeted people with assistance through disaster-risk reduction, meeting livelihood and basic needs, and community engagement and accountability mechanisms (CEA).

[IFRC-DREF Early Action Protocol Costa Rica Volcanic Ash](#): The DREF allocation of CHF 528,641 to support anticipatory actions aimed at reducing and mitigating the impact of floods caused by tropical cyclones in Costa Rica. This allocation is divided into CHF 181,792 for annual readiness activities and prepositioning supplies, and CHF 346,849 for early actions that will be implemented only if the triggers established are met. The aid would include multi-purpose cash assistance.



The Costa Rican Red Cross responded to an alert about an aircraft with six passengers that lost contact in the area of Cerro Pico Blanco. (Photo: Costa Rican Red Cross)



Health and wellbeing

Costa Rica's [Human Development Index](#) value of 0.81 is, to a great extent, a product of the rural and community health programmes. Life expectancy in the country is high, exceeding 80 years. Costa Rica has a universal public health system known as the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), which provides medical care to the majority of the population. The healthcare infrastructure in Costa Rica includes a network of hospitals, health centres, and clinics distributed throughout the country. The healthcare system is decentralized, with healthcare services provided at both the national and local levels.

As in many parts of the world, non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer, are a major concern in Costa Rica due to lifestyle changes and an ageing population. Besides this, the country also faces [occasional outbreaks](#) of dengue, a mosquito-borne disease.

Costa Rica is committed to ensuring universal access to quality health services for its entire population. This commitment includes robust vaccination programmes, reducing inequalities in access to health care, and protecting the environment. The Ministry of Health has been a fundamental pillar of the economic and social development of the country. Decade after decade, actions have been implemented to build the health system that characterizes Costa Rica today. Rural and Community Health Programmes have been developed

in order to reach populations in the most remote areas, providing primary health care services such as vaccinating and deworming children and the elderly and providing prenatal care, among other activities.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Costa Rican Red Cross is one of the largest providers of pre-hospital emergency care services in the country. This includes responding to traffic and workplace accidents, social violence, and medical issues.

With regard to out-of-hospital care, the National Society maintains and strengthens its institutional capacities in disaster and crisis preparedness and response. It also tends to the management of daily out-of-hospital operations, serving the most vulnerable communities under an efficient and effective emergency care system. Its objectives include:

- Leveraging its auxiliary role to secure its position in relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy, and policy platforms and mechanisms
- Promote a healthy and safe life through the Community Health approach through inclusive processes of consultation and participation

- Maintaining the health and dignity of communities in emergencies and disease outbreaks by providing access to appropriate health services

- Promoting community health during emergencies and complex environments for the Costa Rican Red Cross personnel and the communities they serve
- Ensure that health interventions are inclusive, tailored to local needs, and sustainable in the long term
- Evaluating the implementation of community health, health care, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programmes to meet the needs of the most vulnerable or marginalized people

Planned activities in 2026

- Develop ongoing and continuous training programmes in emergency care, trauma, and life support
- Renew and maintain the vehicle fleet, ensuring adequate response times, and operational safety
- Strengthen operational capacity through the expansion of coverage and the increase of technical and human resources
- Contribute to the implementation of national policies such as the National Community Health Policy, the National Mental Health Policy 2024–2034, and the Strengthening Primary Care and equitable access to health services programmes

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Costa Rican Red Cross with strengthening capacities in health through technical support, use of specialized materials, and training processes that improve tools, approaches, and skills of staff and volunteers, ensuring an effective response both in emergencies and in the daily care of communities.



Migration and displacement

Costa Rica experiences large-scale mixed-migration due to its open-door migration policy. It has policies aimed at protecting the rights of migrants, including access to health services and education making it a destination country for nationals from Latin American countries, but also a transit country for those arriving from the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. Costa Rica hosts a large refugee and asylum seeker population who have fled armed conflict and socio-political crises in their home countries.

The most common countries of origin include Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. Reasons for immigration vary and may include seeking employment, family reunification, fleeing conflict or persecution, and seeking better living conditions. In terms of emigration, some common destinations for Costa Ricans include the United States and Canada, where they go in search of economic and educational opportunities.

Despite protective laws and policies, migrants in Costa Rica face challenges related to discrimination, limited access to services, and labour exploitation. Refugees and asylum seekers face subtle barriers to integration that prevent them from attending higher levels of education and being employed in lucrative professions. Costa Rica is also working to fight human trafficking which run rampant since the country is a transit point for people moving to North America.

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 across Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

In addition, Costa Rica has three national systems that interact with each other and in which the Costa Rican Red Cross is a key player. The National Society is part of National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGR) where it participates in preparedness, response, and recovery from crises and emergencies, including those of a migratory nature. It is also part of the National System of Medical and Traumatic Emergencies (SINAEMET) where the Costa Rican Red Cross provides its pre-hospital response capacity and support in situations of human mobility. Additionally, as part of the National Emergency System 9-1-1 system, the National Society functions as a first responder in cases of medical emergencies, accidents and care related to the population in transit.

For the coming years, the National Society's objectives include:

- Ensuring the provision of essential services, protection and dignified humane treatment to all people without distinction of nationality, religion, social status or political creed
- Access humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migration routes, as well as access to durable solutions where appropriate
- Engage with migrants, displaced people and host communities to assess, understand and respond more effectively to their priority needs
- Working to protect migrants, refugees, and preventing risks such as human trafficking and smuggling

Planned activities in 2026

- Develop Migration Scenarios 2025–2026 which allow the anticipation of trends, hypotheses, and possible humanitarian needs
 - Ensure evaluations support institutional planning, influence monitoring systems, and promote inter-institutional preparedness
 - Ensure the provision of essential services such as health, protection, WASH, and [Restoring Family Links](#) (RFL) at the main transit and care points
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the National Society's efforts to protect people on the move along migratory routes. It will provide strong technical support to strengthen its response capacity in the field of human mobility.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will support the National Society through its regional migration programme for Central America, running from March 2024 to December 2026, in coordination with the IFCR and the ICRC. The programme seeks to strengthen the preparedness and response. 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 programme fosters regional cooperation, mutual learning, and alignment with the Global Route-Based Migration Programme and the Migration Action Plan for the Americas.

The **Canadian Red Cross Society** will support the Costa Rican Red Cross with the humanitarian assistance project focused on people in conditions of human mobility. It is a regional project that is being developed in Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador, ending in 2027. The project has two main lines of work: Prevention of gender-based violence and promotion of sexual health.



Values, power and inclusion

Costa Rica, like many other countries, faces challenges related to violence, discrimination, and exclusion of certain groups. In Costa Rica, Decree No. 40955 of 2018 establishes inclusion and accessibility in the education system for all, including people with disabilities, without any type of discrimination.

However, gender-based violence, which includes domestic violence and sexual violence, is a significant problem in Costa Rica. Despite efforts to address this issue, rates of gender-based violence and femicide remain concerning. Laws and programmes have been implemented to prevent and address this violence, but challenges remain in raising awareness and reporting.

Although Costa Rica is known for its ethnic diversity, people of African descent and indigenous people often face discrimination and social exclusion. Problems include lack of access to basic services, economic inequality, and cultural marginalization. The marginalization sometimes also extends to migrants and refugees.

While there have been significant advances in terms of rights for the LGBTQ+ community in Costa Rica, such as the legalization of same-sex marriage in 2020, there is still discrimination and prejudice towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people. People with disabilities often also face barriers in accessing education, employment, and health services. Policies have been put in place to promote inclusivity and accessibility, but challenges remain in eliminating discrimination.

Youth violence and the presence of gangs in some urban areas are also concerns in Costa Rica. Social exclusion and lack of opportunities can contribute to the involvement of young people in criminal activities.

The Government of Costa Rica, together with civil society organizations and the international community, works to promote equality, non-discrimination, and the fight against violence in all its forms. Policies and laws have been put in place to address these issues, but there is still work to be done to achieve a more inclusive and just society.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society is engaged in the new RED Education flagship initiative of the IFRC network to make education communities and facilities safer, more inclusive and resilient. This global effort seeks by 2030 to support 40 million children and youth, 1 million teachers and education personnel, in 100,000 schools and learning spaces, across 100 countries. It focuses on a three-fold approach:

- “Education Ready” for school-based anticipatory action and preparedness interventions (e.g., cash and in-kind assistance, comprehensive risk management, teachers’ training)

- “Education First” for immediate relief assistance to affected education communities (e.g., education kits’ distribution, set-up and running of temporary spaces, psychosocial support)
- “Education Forward” for recovery measures and longer-term development activities (e.g., schools’ reconstruction, retrofitting and greening; cash and in-kind assistance for education access and continuity; set-up and running of RED education facilities and clubs)

Some of the objectives of the National Society include:

- Increasing understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values
- Continue to work as a safe and inclusive network, ensuring the Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) of people of all identities

Planned activities in 2026

- Support the implementation of the National Policy on Gender Equality, the General Law on Young Persons, and the programmes for Strengthening Education in Values and Human Rights
- Ensure the actions of the National Society complement and amplify government efforts to build a more inclusive, equitable, and respectful society of humanitarian principles
- Promoting the recognition of human rights in the institutional actions of persons in vulnerable conditions, without any discrimination, direct or indirect
- Promoting equity throughout the National Society taking into account a gendered approach
- Developing training on the community engagement and accountability (CEA) approach within the National Society and the communities
- Strengthen training processes in leadership, humanitarian action, and community management
- Encourage youth participation in health, environment, inclusion, and disaster risk reduction projects

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support with integration of the Movement’s commitments into key policy documents, guidance, tools and plans, and programmatic operating procedures including national, thematic, and regional operational plans. It will also train protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) staff and volunteers on approaches to community engagement and accountability.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Costa Rican Red Cross is an [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification](#) (OCAC) Certified National Society—one of only five globally. The National Society renewed its recertification in December 2023. These efforts reflect a strong commitment to continuous improvement and a robust, efficient organizational structure.

In parallel, the Costa Rican Red Cross remains committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) (PER) process and is currently in the action and accountability phase. PER is a dynamic and ongoing approach that enables National Societies to identify, assess, and strengthen their preparedness and response capacities through a comprehensive analysis of strengths and gaps, ultimately implementing concrete and sustainable improvements in operational mechanisms



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



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Promote active coordination of inter-institutional relations through strategic meetings with representatives of the public, business, diplomatic sectors and civil and trade organizations, which allows visibility to the National Society's services
- Build alliances that strengthen technical and operational capacities, both nationally and internationally, consolidating the National Society's role as an effective bridge between institutional and community needs and the different actors in the environment
- Strengthen the mobilization of national and international resources in coordination with partners

- Establish a process of continuous linkage that allows for improved dialogue and participation to address the challenges of the sustainability articulated in development, international cooperation, and resource mobilization agendas

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in building alliances that strengthen its technical and operational capacities, both nationally and internationally, consolidating its role as an effective bridge between institutional and community needs and the different actors in the environment. It will also support the Costa Rican Red Cross with fundraising and technical assistance needed to advance the institution's multi-year priorities and ambitions, ensuring the sustainability of its programmes and operations.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen the management system to contribute a solid and sustainable institutional development, through a management system aligned with the highest standards and supported by clear statutory and legal frameworks
- Establish a control, monitoring, and evaluation system to measure progress and results of the quality of processes and organizational management
- Increase capacities in management, development, and permanence of volunteering in the National Society with a rethinking of the service and a more flexible, inclusive, and participatory approach

- Strengthen the sustainability of the institution through actions and strategies to contain expenditure, optimize the use of resources, and provide strategic support to the National Society

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Costa Rican Red Cross with the monthly exchange sessions with the National Society development focal points. These meetings will promote mutual learning, the improvement of good practices and regional coordination to strengthen the operational and management capacity of the Costa Rican Red Cross.



The Costa Rican Red Cross distributed drinking water to communities in the southern region affected by the heavy rains. (Photo: Costa Rican Red Cross)



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Protect and promote a system of values and doctrine with inclusive, participatory and diverse initiatives based on [fundamental principles](#)
- Expand its coverage and implement advocacy and [humanitarian diplomacy](#) actions within its auxiliary role
- Raise awareness among decision-makers and front-line personnel about the importance of establishing lines of communication with internal and external actors to strengthen protection activities for people on the move
- Broaden the understanding and appropriation of the auxiliary role of National Societies through training processes, strengthen internal institutional understanding on humanitarian diplomacy in migration contexts, and prepare key inputs, tools, and messages that can be adapted for external replication

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support for the development and updating of an advocacy strategy.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will support the National Society with the project on Auxiliary Role and Humanitarian Diplomacy in the Context of Migration. As part of this initiative, the Workshop on Auxiliary Role and Humanitarian Diplomacy in the Context of Migration was held at the facilities of the operational headquarters of the Costa Rican Red Cross, aimed at decision-makers and staff of border committees.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen the management system so that it contributes to institutional development with standards of the highest level
- Integrate and assimilate [digital transformation](#) with the promotion of knowledge about data and digital media for decision-making internally and with our strategic partners
- Generate strategic communication actions to favour internal and external projection through the foundation of our auxiliary role in humanitarian work and accountability to strategic partners

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Costa Rican Red Cross with the promotion of digital transformation as a transversal axis to expand the scale, efficiency, and inclusiveness of humanitarian services. It will aid the incorporation of technological infrastructure, data protection, and sustainable digital capabilities, aligned with the IFRC's strategy.

In addition, the IFRC will assist the National Society through the [IFRC-Capacity Building Fund](#) aided Digital Transformation project, focused on modernizing web security and digitizing key institutional documentation. Innovation is promoted as a driver of change, fostering transformative leadership, local solutions and strategic alliances that strengthen our auxiliary role in humanitarian action.

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 Regional Office for the Americas and the regional logistics unit are located in Panama. El Salvador hosts the Disaster Preparedness Reference Centre (CREPD), whose national focal points provide direct support to the five National Societies. Communication and coordination channels across the region are available and open for the exchange of information on operational activities and different contextual analyses, with meetings held on a regular basis.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Costa Rican Red Cross through numerous Emergency Appeals and [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) operations in relation to Volcanic Ash, floods, and volcanic ash and floods.

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 contributing to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The **Canadian Red Cross Society** is supporting the National Society with a humanitarian assistance project in conditions of human mobility. It is a regional project that is being developed in Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador, it ends in 2027, it has two main lines of work which include the prevention of gender-based violence and the promotion of sexual health. The Canadian Red Cross Society has also carried out activities of psychosocial support, soft skills workshops, community awareness, prevention of gender-based violence, non-violent masculinities, culture of peace, among others.

The **German Red Cross** is supporting the Costa Rican Red Cross with the FOCARE Project (Integrated Program for the Strengthening of Community DRR and the Preparation of National Societies in Central America). The focus of the project is established in the work with the beneficiary communities. Work is also being done with communities in the province of Alajuela, cantons of Upala, San Carlos, Guatuso, and Río Cuarto.

The **Swiss Red Cross** is assisting the National Society with a regional migration programme for Central America, running from March 2024 to December 2026. It seeks to strengthen the preparedness and response of five National Societies (Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala) 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 programme fosters regional cooperation, mutual learning, and alignment with the Global Route-Based Migration Program and the Migration Action Plan for the Americas.

Movement coordination

The **Costa Rican 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

support in humanitarian diplomacy. Although the ICRC does not have a physical office in Costa Rica, it supports the National Society through closely working with the Costa Rican State to promote the implementation and development of International Humanitarian Law and to ensure that it is respected. Accompaniment is provided to the Costa Rican Commission on the national implementation of this normative framework in the country, as well as participation in round tables on the role of IHL as an instrument of peace and stability. The ICRC also maintains relations with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, headquartered in San José.

Coordination with other actors

The Costa Rican Red Cross plays a fundamental role as an auxiliary to the public authorities in risk management and emergency response in Costa Rica. Its active participation in national and subnational coordination mechanisms reinforces its auxiliary role and commitment to the community.

It is part of the Costa Rican Commission on International Humanitarian Law (CCDIH), an inter-institutional body chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, responsible for promoting the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and its incorporation into national legislation. The Costa Rican Red Cross actively collaborates in these tasks, raising awareness among the population, protecting vulnerable people and supporting the formulation of State policies and regulations.

The Costa Rican Red Cross is also a member of the National Risk Management System, actively participating in coordination bodies at the national, regional, and local levels. In the event of an emergency, the country has a command, attention, and coordination structure that allows it to respond to the diverse needs of the population. This work is carried out through the joint collaboration of multiple public institutions, as well as the participation of private enterprise and civil society. The National Society contributes especially to areas such as

emergency care, risk management, community resilience and assistance to populations in human mobility, among others.

Costa Rica's Medical Emergency System (SEM) is the response service for medical and other emergencies, which is activated by calling 9-1-1. The Costa Rican Red Cross is a voluntary humanitarian institution that functions as an auxiliary to the public authorities and is one of the key actors within this system, providing pre-hospital care and emergency support services through its vast network of committees and ambulances. Both entities collaborate closely, through agreements, to improve emergency care and service in the country.

The Costa Rican Red Cross also maintains strategic partnerships with various ministries and government entities, focusing on awareness programmes, first aid training, and promotion of a culture of prevention in vulnerable communities, among other initiatives.

At the national and local levels, the Costa Rican Red Cross works with non-governmental organizations, universities and the private sector, promoting the training of volunteers and the development of educational programs in communities. It also cooperates with private companies through social responsibility initiatives, including donation campaigns and logistical support during emergency situations.



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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