



ECUADOR

2026 IFRC network country plan



5 March 2026

In support of the Ecuadorian Red Cross



24

National Society branches



200

National Society local units



829

National Society staff



7,721

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



30,000

Ongoing emergency operations



500

Climate and environment



50,000

Disasters and crises



100,000

Health and wellbeing



7,000

Migration and displacement



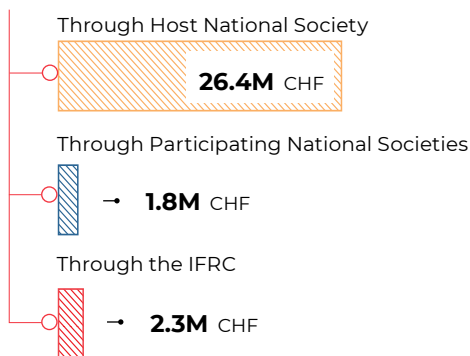
5,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 30.5M CHF



Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

Canadian Red Cross

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*

The Netherlands Red Cross*

IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

MDREC027

Ecuador Floods and Environmental Contamination

Longer-term needs:

MAAEC003

*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in 2025.

Hazards



Earthquakes



Floods



Landslides



Migration

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Floods and environmental contamination

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

Medium

Human Development Index rank

88

World Bank Population figure

18.1M

World Bank Population below poverty line

28%



Ecuadorian Red Cross aids flood-hit communities in Imbabura amid ongoing heavy rains and widespread damage (Photo: Ecuadorian Red Cross)

Detailed funding requirements

2026

	Host National Society	IFRC
Ongoing emergencies		504,000
Longer-term needs		
Climate and environment		141,000
Disasters & crises		466,000
Health & wellbeing		29,000
Migration & displacement		32,000
Values, power & inclusion		
Enabling local actors	26.4M	1.1M
Total	26.4M	2.3M

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
Canadian Red Cross Society	2026	11,000		-	-				11,000
German Red Cross	2026	190,000			-	121,000			69,000
Italian Red Cross	2026	124,000		56,000	-		69,000		
Norwegian Red Cross	2026	472,000	472,000			-			-
Spanish Red Cross	2026	986,000	986,000		-	748,000	132,000		106,000

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Ecuadorian Red Cross** was founded and ratified by Congress in 1910 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1923. It is governed by the law that established it, by international agreements and treaties approved by Ecuador and by its own Statutes. As a humanitarian organization, it works to alleviate and prevent human suffering and to promote resilient communities. It is guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and is oriented by the concepts of sustainable development, wellbeing, dignity and diversity.

The National Society's four programmatic areas are disaster risk management, health and community development, promotion of the Fundamental Principles and values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and programmes for young people. The Ecuadorian Red Cross headquarters is located in the capital, Quito, with coverage throughout the country and is supported by its 24 local, provincial branches. The National Society also has local 'cantonal' boards and community volunteers in working through parish and neighbourhood brigades. It also operates associated components, such as a blood bank and hosts the only hemo centre in the country that allows blood-processing to obtain hemo components. In its role as an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Ecuadorian Red Cross provides crucial assistance in crises and emergencies and is actively involved in promoting community development.

Under its 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, the National Society reaffirms its mission to alleviate and prevent human suffering while fostering resilient communities and sustainable

development. The plan is structured around four core areas of action:

- **Health and Community Development:** This programme promotes healthy and safe communities by preventing communicable and noncommunicable diseases, promoting physical and mental health and caring for vulnerable populations
- **Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values:** The National Coordination promotes institutional doctrine and disseminates humanitarian principles at the national level, both among personnel and in society. Special emphasis is placed on Human Mobility and the Protection of Gender and Inclusion, promoting non-discrimination and community participation
- **Youth:** This programme trains young people as agents of change in the construction of an inclusive and equitable society. Through peer education and a holistic approach, it promotes Social Innovation, the Culture of Peace and Environmental Care, involving young people in reducing the impact of climate change in their communities

The Ecuadorian Red Cross will prioritize communities facing heightened vulnerability, particularly those in rural areas and populations affected by emergencies, disasters or humanitarian crises. Its approach aims to ensure comprehensive, effective and principled humanitarian action.

In 2024, the National Society reached about 44,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of Ecuadorian 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

Ecuador, located in northwestern South America, spans 24 provinces across 256,370 square kilometres, bordered by Colombia, Peru and the Pacific Ocean, with the Galapagos Islands lying 972 km offshore. The Andes divide the country into the Coast, Sierra, Amazon and the insular region. By 2026, the population is projected to reach 18.5 million, with nearly two-thirds living in urban areas. The political landscape remains volatile following the [2025 elections](#), with polarization and weak consensus expected to prolong instability and hinder key reforms.

The economic and social context reflects persistent structural challenges. Although classified as an [upper-middle-income country](#), poverty and inequality remain high, with income poverty at 24 per cent and multidimensional poverty at [36.9 per cent](#). Unemployment stands at 4.1 per cent and adequate employment reaches just 35.5 per cent. A widening fiscal deficit, surpassing USD 1.3 billion by mid-2025 and projected to exceed USD 6.2 billion, contributes to recessionary pressures and limits access to essential services. These trends compound long-standing vulnerabilities stemming from periods of economic dependence on raw-material exports and past crises that triggered mass emigration.

The country faces [overlapping risks](#) from natural hazards, insecurity, and deepening socioeconomic fragility. As part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, Ecuador is exposed to seismic and volcanic threats, with ongoing eruptions from Sangay and recent activity at Cotopaxi illustrating persistent danger. Extreme weather events, such as the severe 2025 winter linked to La Niña Modoki, displaced nearly 80,000 people. Insecurity has escalated dramatically due to organized criminal groups, with 4,619 homicides recorded in the first half of 2025 alone, a 47 per cent increase, heavily affecting cities such as Guayaquil, Durán, Esmeraldas, and Los Ríos. Access to quality health care, food security, and basic services remains uneven, particularly in rural and highly vulnerable areas, while human mobility continues to shape the national landscape as the country functions simultaneously as a destination, transit hub, and place of origin.

Current and projected trends indicate compounded crises with far-reaching humanitarian implications. The security emergency is expected to intensify through 2026, potentially causing internal displacement and constraining aid delivery. Following the 2025 winter, a drought is anticipated in early 2026, threatening agricultural production and energy supply. Persistent fiscal strain, job insecurity and entrenched inequality will continue to erode household resilience. Migration pressures, both inbound and outbound, are likely to increase amid rising instability. Navigating these interconnected and mutually reinforcing crises will demand sustained, coordinated action to address the country's prolonged state of fragility.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency Appeal name	Ecuador Floods and Environmental Contamination
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDREC027
People affected	500,000 people
People to be assisted	176,200 people
Duration	12 months (23 March 2025 to 31 March 2026)
Funding requirements	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 4 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 4.5 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Ecuador Floods and Environmental Contamination
Link to Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Link to Operational Update	Operational Update No. 3

Since January 2025, Ecuador has faced a worsening emergency caused by prolonged heavy rains triggering floods and landslides across 23 provinces and a major oil spill in Esmeraldas Province. By mid-March, over 111,000 people had been affected, more than 14,000 displaced and over 31,500 homes damaged or destroyed, with significant crop and livestock losses severely impacting small-scale farming in Manabí, Guayas, El Oro and Los Ríos. Damaged water systems, poor drainage and stagnant water have fuelled over 9,500 dengue cases, while displacement and isolation have heightened psychosocial risks. The 13 March rupture of the Trans-Ecuadorian Oil Pipeline contaminated the Cagle, Viche and Esmeraldas rivers, jeopardizing safe water access for around 300,000 people and directly affecting more than 8,700 through water loss, soil contamination and crop destruction, alongside severe ecological damage to mangrove reserves. Cleanup has been hindered by rains, poor access and limited technical capacity, leaving 95 per cent of potable water service disrupted in the immediate region.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to assist 176,200 people affected by flooding and the oil spill across 14 provinces, focusing on shelter, livelihoods, health, water, sanitation and hygiene and Disaster Risk Reduction, with Protection, Gender and Inclusion and Community Engagement and Accountability integrated throughout to ensure a safe, inclusive and people-centred response. The operation will combine cash assistance, shelter support, medical services, safe water provision and protection activities, prioritizing vulnerable groups including those with limited economic resources, single-parent households, persons with disabilities, Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian communities and others at heightened risk. Preparedness measures will address anticipated climate variability and extreme weather risks through early warning systems, contingency planning, volunteer training and climate-smart practices to strengthen community resilience. The highlights of the assistance are:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Debris removal tools are distributed along with shelter toolkits, tarpaulins, blankets and kitchen kits. Educational sessions focused on emergency shelter are conducted with affected communities.

Livelihoods

Food kits are distributed to targeted population along with cash transfers. Training in topics such as business risk management, business modelling, and sustainable agricultural practices is provided to the recipients of cash transfers.

Multi-purpose cash

Affected communities are given safe access to cash assistance and multi-purpose cash transfers are made.

Health and care, including water, sanitation and hygiene

Mental health and psychosocial support services are provided, along with community health toolkits and mosquito nets. Clean-up campaigns and fogging campaigns are conducted to eliminate vector breeding sites in affected areas, alongside the distribution of clean-up kits. Voluntary blood donation drives are conducted. Affected households are provided with hygiene kits, cleaning kits and safe drinking water through the installation of water points and distribution of household water disinfectants.

Cross-cutting approaches

The operational strategy integrates **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)** and **Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)** as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities include the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms.



Climate and environment

According to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, the main climate change impacts in Ecuador are the intensification of extreme weather events, such as those caused by the [La Niña and El Niño](#) phenomena, sea level rise, glacier retreat, decreased annual runoff, increased transmission of vector-borne and other diseases, expansion of invasive species in Galapagos and in other sensitive ecosystems of continental Ecuador and species extinction.

In recent years, there has been evidence of more than [40 per cent loss of glacier cover](#) on the Antisana, Carihuayrazo, Cotopaxi and Chimborazo volcanoes. In Ecuador, agricultural industry is highly vulnerable to temperature increases and extreme weather events. Changing precipitation patterns are affecting soil and water availability and higher temperatures are becoming unfavourable for certain crops. The incidence of floods and landslides is projected to increase, resulting in more frequent soil erosion that will lead to reduced yields, damaged crops and livestock and, eventually, increased food insecurity. Intense droughts are already affecting approximately 70 per cent of agricultural areas and more than half of livestock areas, while extreme rains are increasing floodable areas where nearly half of the country's population is located. Some vulnerable populations are needing to move to higher altitudes to survive, while the extensive coastline leaves communities vulnerable to rising sea levels. In 2026, Ecuador will continue to face high climate vulnerability. Although the country's global emissions are still minimal (0.15 per cent), its geographical position exposes it to disproportionately severe impacts. The intensification of extreme weather events is expected to continue, especially with an increase in the frequency and severity of the 'El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)' phenomenon, which aggravates the situation in the productive sector and public health.

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador developed the [National Climate Change Strategy \(2021-2025\)](#) to guide the actions and measures that the country needs to prepare for extreme climate events, from the strategic lines of mitigation and adaptation. Likewise, Ecuador's [National Climate Change Adaptation Plan \(2023-2027\)](#) is a key instrument to reduce climate risk, increase resilience and adaptive capacity. Ecuador contributes [0.15 per cent](#) of global greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. The emissions are distributed through the following anthropogenic activities: energy, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, waste, forestry and other land uses.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is part of the IFRC's [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; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to strengthen climate resilience nationwide by focusing on adaptation, community preparedness and environmentally sustainable practices. It seeks to protect health, livelihoods and biodiversity by transferring knowledge, promoting innovation and enhancing the country's ability to anticipate and withstand extreme events.

The National Society will focus on developing evidence-based planning and decision-making by addressing gaps in meteorological data and improving climate information systems. It plans to deepen collaboration with national authorities, strategic partners and international agencies to secure technical expertise and resources essential for effective climate action.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to reinforce community empowerment through inclusive engagement, capacity building and locally driven climate solutions. It seeks to consolidate its leadership in climate risk management by expanding work in high-risk areas, embedding resilience approaches across programmes and supporting long-term adaptive development.

Planned activities in 2026

- Establish community run monitoring networks to gather local data on rainfall, droughts and frosts
- Strengthen volunteer and community leader capacities through specialised training in risk management and post disaster recovery

- Promote circular economy practices in agriculture, including bio inputs, sustainable waste use and biogas plants
- Expand early recovery actions, prioritising support for small farmers and older people
- Enhance early warning systems for floods and landslides in coordination with the National Secretariat of Risk Management
- Intensify climate risk management in areas of high vulnerability through targeted interventions

by strengthening the ability of vulnerable communities to anticipate, absorb and recover from climate risks.

In addition, IFRC will contribute technical expertise, resource mobilization and coordinated guidance to ensure that locally driven adaptation efforts meet the specific needs of high-risk areas. Support will include sustained collaboration with national authorities and partners to strengthen early warning systems, risk analysis and environmentally responsible programming. The IFRC will also reinforce the National Society's ability to scale up climate-smart solutions, broaden community engagement and advance environmentally sustainable practices that reduce long-term vulnerability.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical support as required to the Ecuadorian Red Cross for climate and environmental adaptation, with special emphasis on reducing the ecological footprint and reducing climate risks in vulnerable communities. It will continue to provide technical and financial support to the Ecuadorian Red Cross, prioritizing climate adaptation and the reduction of ecological impact in alignment with the 2030 Agenda. This support aims to reinforce national resilience

The **Canadian Red Cross** will continue to support the National Society for climate change adaptation efforts in Zamora Chinchipe, strengthening local capacities through sustainable measures that promote environmental resilience in affected communities.

The **Italian Red Cross** will support the National Society in enhancing risk and disaster management capacities in Amazonian provinces, a critical region for biodiversity protection and community resilience.



Disasters and crises

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

Ecuador spans three geographically diverse zones: the Andean mountains, the Amazon rainforest and the arid coastal areas. Each zone presents its unique hazards and the country is affected by multiple disasters. It is located at the convergence of the Nazca and South American tectonic plates and is part of the 'Pacific Ring of Fire' which entails a permanent seismic and volcanic risk. In the continental and insular territory there are 84 identified volcanic centres, of which 27 are potentially active and seven are part of the ranking of high and very high threat. Ecuador is also exposed to hurricanes and tropical storms, with people in coastal areas also in danger of tsunamis.

Ecuador faces a high and complex disaster risk profile which cause widespread humanitarian and environmental impacts. Human mobility, driven by migration from Venezuela and Colombia, adds pressure on shelter, food and health systems, while recurrent epidemics such as dengue, zika and malaria have exposed weaknesses in public health. These hazards result in loss of life, displacement, infrastructure destruction, environmental degradation, food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, disruption of services and rising poverty and inequality. In 2023 alone, a total of 3,181 events linked to meteorological phenomena were recorded, mainly floods with 41 per cent recurrence and landslides with 33 per cent, which left 140,696

people affected and 7,559 affected in 205 cantons. A landslide was reported in the Province of Chimborazo, which caused loss of life and infrastructure and left an area of 24.3 hectares and more than 1,650 people directly affected in the impact zone. At the same time, heavy rainfall caused seven rivers in the Province of Esmeraldas to overflow their banks, leaving 3,500 people affected by flooding.

It is projected that Ecuador will face heightened seismic and volcanic risks due to its location on the Nazca and South American tectonic plates within the Pacific Ring of Fire. Climate impacts will intensify with more frequent and severe extreme events including torrential rains, prolonged droughts, river overflows, accelerated erosion, landslides, strong waves, thunderstorms and recurrent El Niño and La Niña phenomena. These hazards will be compounded by deforestation, pollution linked to industrial, oil and agricultural activity, and unplanned urban expansion that increases exposure in marginal urban and rural areas. Social factors such as organized crime, violence, human trafficking and forced mobility will deepen vulnerability, especially where poverty limits access to essential services. Floods, volcanic activity, earthquakes, mass movements, droughts, wildfires, industrial accidents, environmental spills and disease outbreaks will continue to strain health systems and undermine the resilience of communities.

Highly populated urban areas, poor land-use, environmental degradation and weak building codes that do not sufficiently address potential risks, all contribute to the country's vulnerability. More than 60 per cent of the population live in areas that are exposed to multiple hazards. Populations living in poverty and extreme poverty tend to be those most at risk from natural hazards, since they are located on the banks of rivers that overflow, on the slopes of active volcanoes, in areas with low productivity and exposed to cycles of drought and floods, on steep slopes prone to landslides and informal urban settlements. In these areas, the supply of public and social services is usually limited and disasters have severe impacts on their resilience. The combined effects of these hazards will lead to deaths, injuries, psychological distress and large-scale displacement, while also damaging infrastructure such as homes, roads, health centres, schools and water systems. Livelihoods in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and commerce will suffer losses that heighten food insecurity and poverty, and environmental degradation will weaken essential ecosystem services. Interruptions in water, health, education and energy will widen inequality for groups already facing marginalisation.

Ecuador's Secretariat of Risk Management identifies other emergencies in the country, derived from:

- Human action (anthropogenic): soil erosion, deforestation, water, soil and air pollution from industrial processes and petroleum derivatives, among others
- Social practices: fires, spread of diseases, crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking and corruption or violence by armed groups, psychosocial and cultural violence, human mobility, among others

The National Secretariat for Risk Management is the public body responsible for guaranteeing the protection of people and communities from the negative effects of natural and anthropic disasters. Through the Public Policy on Disaster Risk Management, the National Decentralized Risk Management System has been established, which is composed of the risk management units of all public and private institutions.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to strengthen national preparedness for volcanic, seismic and climate related hazards by deepening its collaboration with technical and scientific institutions and aligning its humanitarian approach with the National Decentralized Risk Management System. It seeks to ensure that vulnerable populations receive timely and dignified protection through actions rooted in the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The National Society will focus on reinforcing its operational readiness by modernizing emergency infrastructure, expanding monitoring capacities and improving coordination with Emergency Operations Committees, Technical Working

Groups and national authorities. It plans to prioritize the protection of children, older people, persons with disabilities and indigenous communities, ensuring their specific needs are integrated within preparedness and response frameworks.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross seeks to strengthen long term community resilience by promoting recovery pathways that restore livelihoods, rehabilitate essential services and support adaptation to recurrent hazards. It aims to advance innovation and evidence based decision making through the use of technology, improved data systems and continued investment in institutional sustainability.

Planned activities in 2026

- Strengthen community preparedness through training, awareness promotion and support for contingency planning
- Mobilize specialized teams for rapid intervention that provide medical care, basic supplies and psychosocial support
- Prioritize assistance for vulnerable groups including children, older people, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities
- Coordinate actions with national authorities, humanitarian partners and international agencies to optimize resources
- Promote recovery and reconstruction that restore livelihoods and rehabilitate essential infrastructure in affected areas
- Expand the communications and monitoring network to ensure real time risk information and stronger emergency coordination
- Enhance specialized response capabilities in volcanic emergencies, WASH and health through ongoing technical training

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide sustained technical and financial support to strengthen national capacities for managing volcanic emergencies. This support will prioritise preparedness for eruptive activity from major active volcanoes and will reinforce coordination across institutions through regular exercises, simulations and joint drills. The IFRC will help refine the mechanisms necessary for timely activation of temporary shelters and for the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to communities affected by ashfall, pyroclastic activity and associated hazards. In addition, the IFRC will promote the adoption of international standards and practices so that national systems remain capable of addressing large-scale emergencies while incorporating principles of sustainability, social inclusion and adaptation to climate impacts in line with the 2030 Agenda.

The IFRC will also support the continued development and implementation of the Ash and Frost [Early Action Plan](#), which is carried out jointly with Swiss Development Corporation. This plan reinforces national anticipatory systems and enables earlier and more predictable action ahead of volcanic events. Its activation phases will be maintained and adjusted according to the evolving volcanic situation of the country.

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.



Volunteers of the Ecuadorian Red Cross train community health brigades on epidemiological alerts in partnership with the local health centre, enhancing emergency response as part of the Strengthening Border Zones project (Photo: Ecuadorian Red Cross)



Health and wellbeing

Ecuador's [health landscape](#) reflects a clear epidemiological transition in which noncommunicable diseases, including cardiovascular conditions, cancer and diabetes, now account for the highest proportion of morbidity and mortality, surpassing communicable diseases (PAHO, 2024). Although life expectancy has improved, overweight and obesity remain major public-health concerns that affect both adults and children. Access to health care is recognised as a constitutional right and supported by the Organic Law of the National Health System, yet substantial disparities persist. Rural, indigenous and migrant populations continue to face financial, geographic and infrastructural barriers, which are further exacerbated when crises such as earthquakes or floods disrupt health-service availability.

The country's vulnerability to epidemics remains significant. Historic outbreaks of dengue, cholera and influenza, along with the impact of COVID-19, have highlighted systemic weaknesses. Despite eliminating polio and measles, challenges continue around achieving full [vaccination coverage](#), particularly among children. Diseases such as yellow fever, while endemic to jungle regions, present an ongoing risk of reintroduction into urban centres. To strengthen monitoring and certification, a digital vaccination registry has been established, although it currently records only vaccines administered through public facilities.

Access to safe water and sanitation remains uneven, with persistent deficiencies in rural areas and the Amazon region. Water sources often show contamination, and basic sanitation infrastructure is limited. These conditions heighten the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks, especially when combined with

the impacts of disasters and climate change. Climate-related risks further threaten public health by increasing the incidence of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, intensifying malnutrition through disruptions to food production and exposing vulnerable groups to heat-related illness (Lancet Countdown, 2024). Extreme weather events continue to cause injury, displacement and loss of life, underscoring the structural fragilities in health and environmental systems.

Ecuador's legal and policy framework for health, anchored in the Constitution, the [Organic Health Law](#) and the National Health Plan, is designed to guarantee equitable access to services. However, coordination across public, private and humanitarian actors remains insufficient for effective health-emergency management. Strengthening these mechanisms is essential to ensure a coherent, multisectoral response that can adapt to the increasing convergence of climatic, epidemiological and socioeconomic pressures.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to consolidate a strong and adaptable national humanitarian network that strengthens [anticipatory action](#), community preparedness and risk reduction, ensuring that responses to crises, emergencies and disasters remain timely and effective. It seeks to reinforce its humanitarian mandate through approaches that address the evolving health and protection needs of the population.

The National Society will focus on expanding its volunteer base and institutional capacities, promoting multisectoral coordination and embedding the [Fundamental Principles](#) across all levels of action. It plans to enhance strategic collaboration with public authorities and technical actors to strengthen readiness for health challenges and shocks affecting vulnerable communities.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross seeks to promote sustainable and community-centred approaches that improve wellbeing, reduce exposure to preventable risks and support long-term recovery. It aims to integrate climate-sensitive health measures, inclusive protection strategies and strengthened mental health and psychosocial support within its broader humanitarian framework.

Planned activities in 2026

- Address health challenges through programmes that improve access to health centres
- Train community brigades in [First Aid](#) and pre-hospital care
- Implement awareness strategies on communicable diseases and maternal and child health
- Reinforce safe [water, sanitation and hygiene](#) practices using water treatment and sanitation methodologies
- Strengthen training in mental health and psychosocial support
- Lead the formation of the National Suicide Prevention Team in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide technical, programmatic and financial support to the Ecuadorian Red Cross to reinforce collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and facilitate exchanges with other National Societies on blood-bank management, ensuring coherent and standards-aligned humanitarian action.

The IFRC will strengthen health emergency readiness by supporting the enhancement of protocols and contribute to community preparedness by supporting initiatives that reinforce readiness at community and health-centre levels in provinces facing recurring shocks.

In addition, the IFRC will help extend efforts in [WASH programming](#) and rural institutional capacity building, supporting actions that improve living conditions and strengthen resilience in areas highly exposed to health, environmental and climatic pressures.

In 2025, the IFRC provided the National Society with a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) allocation for yellow fever epidemic.

[IFRC-DREF Ecuador Yellow Fever](#): The [IFRC-DREF](#) allocation of CHF 137,064 in May 2025 supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross in assisting about 5,440 people affected by a yellow fever outbreak in the regions of Morona Santiago, Pastaza, Zamora Chinchipe and Sucumbios. The National Society supported the targeted people over a four-month period with assistance including vector control kits and psychosocial support. Support also included the promotion of immunization campaigns in affected communities.



Ecuador has become a pivotal country in regional migration and displacement dynamics, shifting from a nation of origin to one of destination and transit as mixed flows increase, driven largely by socioeconomic and political instability in Venezuela and by violence in Colombia. In 2026 an estimated 140,000 migrants are expected to enter the country, mainly from Venezuela, Colombia and Haiti, while the Venezuelan population residing in Ecuador could reach 560,000 people, many living in acute vulnerability. At the same time approximately 220,000 Ecuadorians are projected to migrate irregularly through dangerous routes such as the Darién, pushed by insecurity, unemployment and limited opportunities.

The main groups on the move include large numbers of Venezuelan migrants and refugees who require regularisation, access to basic services such as health and education and protection from exploitation and gender-based violence. Among them are unaccompanied children, older adults and persons with disabilities. Colombian refugees and asylum seekers, though smaller in number than in previous years, continue to need legal protection and integration support. There is also a returning Ecuadorian population confronting reintegration challenges that span social, economic and protection dimensions.

The factors driving these movements are rooted in economic insecurity, violence and political instability. Current trends point to continued displacement and greater demand for humanitarian assistance and protection along transit routes, particularly in northern provinces such as Carchi, Imbabura, Sucumbíos and Esmeraldas. Increasing flows heighten pressure on already limited local services and expose migrants and host communities alike to heightened risks across health, safety and livelihoods.

Ecuador has established a legal framework for mobility through the Organic Law on Human Mobility, but implementation capacity remains uneven, and institutional systems face difficulties in meeting needs at scale. Coordinated action with international agencies and NGOs remains essential to address gaps in protection, assistance and integration. The growing complexity and volume of mixed movements will require sustained, collaborative efforts to safeguard rights, support host-community resilience and respond to evolving humanitarian pressures.

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 and 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.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to adopt a comprehensive approach that supports people in situations of mobility across the entire continuum from emergency response to long-term integration. The National Society seeks to ensure that its humanitarian action remains grounded in dignity, protection and equitable access to essential services for all groups on the move, including those in transit, in destination and in return.

The National Society will focus on strengthening legal protection and access to rights by promoting pathways for migratory regularisation and safeguarding those exposed to heightened risks, particularly unaccompanied children, older adults and persons with disabilities. It plans to advance community integration by fostering social cohesion and improving opportunities for socio-economic inclusion in host communities.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross seeks to enhance its internal capacity to respond effectively to mobility-related needs by expanding the skills of volunteers and staff and by improving management and monitoring systems. It aims to embed a long-term vision that links assistance, protection and integration within a coherent humanitarian framework that aligns with the strategic priorities of the 2026 to 2030 period.

Planned activities in 2026

- Provide humanitarian assistance such as food, hygiene kits, primary health services and psychosocial support
 - Offer legal guidance and accompaniment for migratory regularisation and access to rights
 - Support refugees, migrants and returnees with tailored protection actions for the most vulnerable groups
 - Provide Restoring Family Links (RFL) services
 - Strengthen volunteer and staff capacities to address mobility-related needs
 - Improve management and monitoring systems linked to mobility and protection programmes
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support and funding to the Ecuadorian Red Cross to give continuity to community processes that promote the integration of migrant populations



Values, power and inclusion

Ecuador faces a complex social landscape in which persistent human rights violations continue to affect a wide range of population groups. Structural gender inequality and gender-based violence remain major concerns, with women and girls experiencing significant physical and psychological harm, and persons with disabilities facing an even greater risk because of barriers to accessing reporting and protection services. [Discrimination and xenophobia](#) also remain recurrent challenges, particularly affecting migrants and refugees who continue to experience stigma, including Venezuelan nationals and members of the LGBTIQ+ community, despite ongoing efforts to counter exclusion.

Children and adolescents remain highly exposed to violence in family, school and digital environments, which directly influences their wellbeing and development. These patterns are unfolding within a broader context of weakened social cohesion, shaped by insecurity, economic inequality and rising poverty. The erosion of community trust and solidarity has made collective problem-solving more difficult, magnifying social divisions and reducing resilience in the face of recurrent crises. Rebuilding a culture of peace anchored in dialogue, inclusion and nonviolence is increasingly recognised as essential to strengthening the social fabric.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ecuadorian Red Cross sees [Protection, Gender and Inclusion \(PGI\)](#) and [Community Engagement and Accountability \(CEA\)](#) as key cross-cutting approaches that need to be integrated in all its programmes and operations. It aims to ensure that staff and volunteers are aware of the IFRC PGI [minimum standards](#) in emergencies and of the CEA [Movement-wide commitments](#) while developing specific actions and tools to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups and populations. The National Society has made inter-institutional coordination efforts to promote CEA approach to government bodies.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to promote transparent, people-centred approaches that reinforce trust, legitimacy and relevance in humanitarian action. The National Society will focus on expanding inclusive participation in diverse contexts, particularly in rural and culturally rich areas, by

and host communities in Ecuador. The main objective of these initiatives is to promote encounter and dialogue between both populations, creating spaces for positive and constructive interaction.

integrating gender, age, disability and interculturality-sensitive approaches. It plans to reinforce social cohesion by promoting dialogue, inclusion and peaceful conflict resolution, recognizing that rising insecurity and inequality continue to strain community resilience.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross seeks to adapt to the challenges of an evolving digital environment by improving community digital literacy, strengthening reliable communication channels and safeguarding privacy and security. It aims to promote ethical use of technology and embed accountability frameworks that enhance community resilience and institutional credibility as the 2026 cycle advances.

Planned activities in 2026

- Develop and use recreational tools to conduct community activities addressing issues such as gender-based violence and xenophobia
- Promote inclusive feedback spaces that enable communities to participate in planning, implementation and evaluation
- Strengthen mechanisms for transparency, active listening and culturally adapted communication
- Integrate accountability commitments into development and emergency interventions
- Enhance the ethical use of technology, protecting community privacy and security

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue supporting the Ecuadorian Red Cross to institutionalize Protection, Gender and Inclusion and Community Engagement and Accountability. Support includes the development of a community feedback strategy, based on identified steps and further integration of CEA in emergency response. The IFRC will encourage the National Society to expand its humanitarian education, through training opportunities covering the humanitarian values and Fundamental Principles. It will also support peer-to-peer collaboration between National Societies.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Ecuadorian Red Cross carried out its first self-assessment part of the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2017. The self-assessment part of the process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of a National Society as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. In February 2023, the National Society conducted a new OCAC preliminary exercise with the IFRC to update its capacity mapping. In March 2023, the eighty-five OCAC attributes were analyzed with the management team of the institution and a roadmap defined.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is also committed to the IFRC's Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is currently at the assessment phase. The approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps in their preparedness and response mechanisms and take the necessary action to improve them.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategies
- 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 proactive coordination with state institutions, NGOs and civil society through anticipatory planning and territorial approaches
- Implement a national early humanitarian response mechanism based on early warnings and multisectoral coordination
- Deepen cooperation with the government to reinforce primary health care, community mental health and intercultural health promotion

- Maintain leadership in Technical Working Groups on safe water and sanitation, health and prehospital care, temporary shelter and search and rescue

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society's external engagements through the various programmes they support, including climate change adaptation and migration. The IFRC network will also ensure strong coordination amongst partners, in alignment with the Ecuadorian Red Cross priorities.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Update and adapt statutory and legal frameworks to strengthen institutional development

- Expand and consolidate branches to ensure consistent national coverage
- Develop leadership capacities to strengthen strategic and operational management
- Diversify and expand financial resources through alliances and innovative funding mechanisms

- Update territorial training systems with hybrid methodologies and standardised induction and accreditation for volunteers and technical staff across all provinces
- Advance blood centre regulation and pilot plasma industrialization while increasing national safe blood coverage through mobile donation campaigns

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support efforts to strengthen institutional development by accompanying the transition toward a more resilient, people-centred and adaptive organizational model. This includes reinforcing governance, sustainability, volunteer management and territorial capacity, as well as promoting leadership that is ethical, participatory and capable of addressing contemporary humanitarian challenges.

The IFRC will help the National Society in enhancing volunteer strengthening by supporting diversification, protection, inclusion and continuous training, helping ensure safe environments and greater engagement of volunteers in community needs. It will also reinforce partnerships with Movement actors and external sectors, expanding opportunities for advocacy and resource mobilization and ensuring that international cooperation remains aligned with the priorities established in the Development Strategy of the National Society.

Additionally, the IFRC will continue providing support through ongoing grants such as the [IFRC Capacity Building Fund \(CBF\)](#), [IFRC/ICRC National Society Investment Alliance \(NSIA\)](#) and the Empress Shoken Fund. The National Society received support through the CBF with two grants during 2024–2025, aimed at strengthening volunteering systems and modernizing digital management processes.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen relationships with ministries, state institutions, the National Assembly and the private sector to advocate for humanitarian policies
- Engage in inter institutional platforms and working groups at national level
- Leverage regional and global cooperation to mobilise support, share experiences and highlight humanitarian challenges in international forums
- Increase advocacy capacity to influence public policies on migration, health and disaster management
- Develop and implement a strategic communication approach to reinforce public trust and national visibility
- Consolidate partnerships with government, private sector and civil society to facilitate operations and strengthen financial sustainability
- Promote humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence to ensure access and protection for vulnerable populations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in humanitarian diplomacy and communication by providing targeted technical assistance, training and tools that strengthen the capacity to negotiate, advocate and engage effectively with public institutions, private actors and international platforms. It will facilitate coordinated engagement with other National Societies to support experience sharing and resource mobilisation linked to strategic priorities such as migration, health and disaster management, while also amplifying humanitarian concerns in global forums to increase visibility and access to potential partners and donors.

Additionally, the IFRC will support the Ecuadorian Red Cross in the development of comprehensive communication approaches that enhance credibility, expand public trust and ensure consistent promotion of humanitarian principles, contributing to stronger access and safer operating conditions for vulnerable communities



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Safeguard the physical and emotional integrity of volunteer and humanitarian personnel through the socialization of protocols and guidelines
- Implement an Enterprise Resource Planning and Management System (ERP)
- Develop a data protection policy for the Ecuadorian Red Cross in line with Ecuador's new data protection law

- Standardize and regulate data collection and processing through technological solutions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the digital transformation of the National Society and provide technical advice for the application of the data protection policy and the use of technological tools for data collection.



Teams from the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the IFRC unite for the 3rd Alliance for the Amazon knowledge dialogue (Photo: Ecuadorian Red Cross)

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has supported the National Society through its Andean Country Cluster Delegation based in Lima, Peru, since 2016. The IFRC has also maintained a permanent office in Ecuador since 2016, following the response to the Manabí earthquake. The IFRC supports the National Society in its strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy and in

strengthening its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Society through several DREF operations in response flood emergencies, yellow fever epidemic and security crises as well as an Emergency Appeal for a floods.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to analyze the humanitarian context, assess humanitarian situations and needs, agree common priorities, co-develop strategies to obtain greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilize funding and other resources, clarify consistent public messaging and monitor progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clear humanitarian actions and development assistance and reinforce the auxiliary role of the National Societies in their respective countries.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is part of multiple coordination spaces organized by the IFRC in the region and globally, including the IFRC regional PGI network, livelihoods working group, Americas innovators network, youth network of the Americas and Caribbean and the IFRC global migration Task Force.

Participating National Societies that have longer-term partnerships with the Ecuadorian Red Cross include:

The **German Red Cross** has a close and longstanding relationship with the Ecuadorian Red Cross, which was established in 1989–1990, when the German Red Cross supported the National Society to set up its blood bank. In 1994, the German Red Cross partnered with the American Red Cross to support the development of disaster management structures within the National Society and ten years later on disaster risk reduction. From 2019, the German Red Cross has worked with the Ecuadorian Red Cross on forecast-based

financing and anticipatory action. In cooperation with the IFRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the German Red Cross is hosting the Anticipation Hub, a platform to facilitate knowledge exchange, learning, guidance and advocacy around anticipatory action.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross since 1980 and has had a presence in the country through an established delegation in Quito since 2000. The Spanish Red Cross supports the National Society in Ecuador to deliver humanitarian, emergency and development interventions. Since 2016, the two National Societies have worked together on more than 40 projects across humanitarian assistance and emergency response, as well as in development, enabling the Ecuadorian Red Cross to increase its expertise and capacity in disaster risk reduction management and early response to emergencies, population movement, physical and mental health, cash transfer, economic recovery and livelihoods, water and sanitation and protection. The Spanish Red Cross also supports the Ecuadorian Red Cross's institutional strengthening in particular related to care and well-being of volunteers, psychological first aid, mental health and psychosocial support and dealing with isolation in temporary shelters and infrastructures.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** has been supporting the Ecuadorian Red Cross in the Health Worker Protection Project, integrating mobile health units and safety protocols for public health emergencies.

Movement coordination

The Ecuadorian 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 is concerned about the humanitarian consequences derived from armed violence in Ecuador. For decades, the ICRC

has carried out activities to promote respect and dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), visits people deprived of liberty and maintains a close relationship of cooperation and coordination with the Ecuadorian Red Cross. The ICRC provides support to the National Society through its regional delegation in Lima, Peru, on [safer access](#), restoring family links services, promotion of the fundamental principles and respect for the emblem, dissemination of international humanitarian law and crisis communication.

Coordination with other actors

The Ecuadorian Red Cross, in line with its auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, coordinates at the highest level with the state institutions in charge of the country's public policy and non-governmental and

civil society organizations. In 2026 it will continue aligning its work with national policies on protection, education, health, risk management and volunteering. According to the updated Emergency Operations Committee (COE) Manual

in force for 2026, the Ecuadorian Red Cross remains part of several technical coordination mechanisms, including the Technical Working Tables on safe water, sanitation and waste management; health and prehospital care; and temporary accommodations and humanitarian assistance, as well as the inter agency Search, Rescue and Recovery Working Group.

The National Society also maintains a central role within the Humanitarian Country Team, participating across clusters related to WASH, health, livelihoods, food security and shelter. Coordination was further strengthened during recent responses such as the 2025–2026 El Niño operation, particularly through the Technical Committee on Human Mobility, which brought together agencies including UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, HIAS, Plan International and local partners. This collaboration supported the Programmatic Alliance Project, helping avoid duplication and reinforcing inter agency action.

In the fields of education and protection, the National Society continues supporting the Ministry of Education in

implementing the National Program for Safe and Protective Educational Communities, focusing on a Culture of Peace, comprehensive protection and school resilience, especially in high risk school environments. It also maintains a Technical Cooperation Agreement with the Ombudsman's Office to promote human rights initiatives, community training, anti discrimination efforts and improved access to essential services for vulnerable populations.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross remains an active member of the Ecuadorian Volunteer Network (REV). After contributing to the design of the 2025 Organic Law on Voluntary Action, it continues supporting implementation of the General Regulations led by the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion. In 2026, the National Society will promote technical dialogue on the professionalization of volunteering, including the validation of training pathways, safety protocols, recognition mechanisms and ethical frameworks, providing more than 7,000 registered volunteers with tools aligned with international standards.



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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