



BOLIVIA

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



19 May 2026

In support of the Bolivian Red Cross



9

National Society branches



17

National Society local units



17

National Society staff



1,089

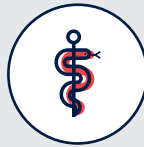
National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



10,000

Disasters and crises



500

Health and wellbeing



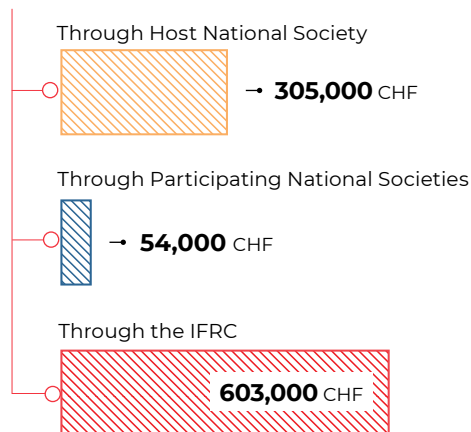
10,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 963,000 CHF



Participating National Societies

Italian Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAABO002

Hazards



Fires



Floods and Landslides



Migration



Disease Outbreaks



Violence



Volcano eruptions

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Climate change adaptation
- Disaster risk reduction and response
- Protection and assistance to migrants
 - Climate change adaptation
- Community and emergency health and WASH

Capacity development

- Financial sustainability and resource mobilization
 - Branch Development
- Development of policies and revision of statutes
 - Internal systems efficiency
 - Volunteering and youth

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating **Medium**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Medium**

Human Development Index rank **108**

World Bank Population figure **12.4M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **36%**



The Bolivian Red Cross responding to fires to support people in the departments of Santa Cruz and Beni with first aid service and cash assistance (Photo: Bolivian Red Cross)

Detailed funding requirements

2026

	Host National Society	IFRC
Longer-term needs		
Climate and environment		530,000
Enabling local actors	305,000	73,000
Total	305,000	603,000

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
Italian Red Cross	2026	54,000		-	55,000				
Norwegian Red Cross	2026								-
Swiss Red Cross	2026				-	-			-

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Bolivian Red Cross** was established in 1917 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1923. It acts as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, contributing to the protection of the life, health, and dignity of people in vulnerable situations in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Its actions are governed by the seven Fundamental Principles of the Movement and are carried out in coordination with national and local authorities, as well as with strategic allies and humanitarian actors.

The National Society has a National Headquarters located in La Paz and multiple departmental and municipal branches. It promotes humanitarian actions with an emphasis on community health, including first aid, health care in emergencies and psychosocial support, as well as disaster risk management, highlighting preparedness and response to natural and anthropogenic events.

Since 2025, the Bolivian Red Cross has been developing a process of modernization and institutional strengthening guided by the National Board of Directors and the Executive Directorate, aimed at consolidating a more strategic, efficient, and results-based management. The National Society is moving towards the formulation of the Strategic Development Plan 2026–2030, which will consolidate its institutional priorities and

guide its positioning as a relevant humanitarian actor at the national level.

In 2024, the Bolivian Red Cross reached 53,000 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes as well as 2028 people through long-term services and development programmes.



Map of National Society branches

The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Plurinational State of Bolivia is located in central South America. Its diverse geography encompasses large regions of the Altiplano, the Andean Valleys, and the Amazonian and Chaco Plains. There are 36 recognised indigenous nations coexisting with intercultural and Afro-Bolivian communities, integrating the entire population under a single plurinational identity. These diversities make up different social and economic realities, becoming increasingly influenced by repeated climate risks and a growing gap in public services.

The country is experiencing urbanisation at a rapid pace. In 2024, 69 per cent of Bolivia's inhabitants lived in urban areas.

Sustained urbanization is increasing the pressure on basic infrastructure, labour markets, and social systems, particularly in intermediary cities. Additionally, territorial inequalities persist since development is taking place inequitably. These include electricity coverage reaching only 66.4 per cent of rural areas and public network access to water reaching only 47.8 per cent of rural households.

Bolivia maintains the classification of a lower-middle-income economy, being the only country in South America to be classified as such. Over the past few decades, the country has experienced sustained growth driven by booming international prices for natural gas and minerals, which has led to expanded social spending and improved human development indicators. However, the progressive fall in gas revenues, which went from more than USD 5,489 million in 2014 to approximately USD

1,635 million in 2024 have weakened macroeconomic stability. In turn, the shortage of dollars represents one of the main structural challenges, affecting both strategic state operations and the daily transactions of the population, including rents, credit, and retail trade.

Dialogue between cultures, decolonization, the principle of 'Living Well', and integrating ancestral knowledge into public policies is a priority for the country, in accordance with Law 070. While these normative advances have strengthened the recognition of diversity, the practical implementation of a horizontal interculturality still faces challenges in closing historical gaps of inequality and discrimination.

Due to its geographical location, climate variability and pressure on strategic ecosystems, Bolivia is highly vulnerable to disasters of natural and anthropogenic origin. National regulatory

frameworks, including Law 602 on Risk Management and state climate adaptation plans, recognize the recurrence of forest fires, floods, and prolonged droughts as priority threats. The increasing intensity of these events affects agricultural livelihoods, community infrastructure, and food security, setting up a scenario where the climate crisis interacts directly with pre-existing socioeconomic inequalities.

With regard to the political scenario, the country went through one of the most significant changes in its electoral direction after the victory of a liberal-conservative coalition the first time in almost two decades. This change occurs in a historical context of tensions between the opposition sectors, characterized by internal disputes, social polarization, and high levels of conflict expressed in blockades and recurrent protests that affect mobility, access to services and the implementation of humanitarian actions in different regions of the country.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Bolivia is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its varying altitudes, ecosystems, and the dependence on livelihoods linked to natural resources. Vastly diverse, Bolivia's territory extends from approximately 70 meters to 6,542 meters above sea level and crosses three predominant geographical areas: the Altiplanic/Andean region, which represents 28 per cent of the national territory and is located above 3,000 meters; the Sub-Andean/Valleys region, which covers 13 per cent of the territory with an average height of 2,500 meters; and the Llanos, which comprise 59 per cent of the territory and concentrate extensive plains and ecosystems in the Amazon and Chaco. These geographical conditions create unequal distribution of natural resources and ecosystem services.

The national climate is mainly influenced by the South American monsoon, which brings moisture from the Atlantic Ocean through the Amazon and defines two predominant seasons, wet summers between December and March and dry winters during the rest of the year. Climate records show an average surface temperature increase of between 0.9 °C and 1.2 °C since the late 19th century. Worryingly, projections towards 2050 estimate increases between 1.6 °C and 4.9 °C. This will increase pressure on water availability, agricultural productivity, and the resilience of rural communities, placing Bolivia among those with the greatest climate adaptation challenges in the region.

Although Bolivia has an average water availability of 29,000 m³ per inhabitant, about 70 per cent of the population lives in

regions where access to water is lower. The retreating glacier in the Cordillera Real reduces the availability of water for human consumption, agricultural irrigation, and livestock production, generating additional pressures on livelihoods dependent on natural resources.

A harsher climate will also contribute to an increase in habitats conducive to vector-borne diseases, such as dengue and malaria, which are beginning to be recorded at higher altitudes than those historically reported.

In this context, Bolivia is positioned among the countries with the greatest environmental pressure due to its recent acceleration in loss of tropical forests. In 2024, the country registered an approximate 200 per cent increase in the loss of primary tropical forest, reaching around 1.5 million hectares and ranking 2nd in the world in loss of this type of forest cover, only behind Brazil. Satellite monitoring systems also show an approximate loss of 1.7 million hectares of natural forest during the same year, which increases pressure on biodiversity and reduces the capacity of ecosystems to buffer climate impacts.

At the level of climate governance, Bolivia participates in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), an international mechanism that guides national commitments for emission reductions and climate adaptation through instruments such as the Nationally Determined Contributions. Through this framework, the country defines goals related to integrated water resource management,

conservation of strategic ecosystems, and strengthening institutional capacities for adaptation to climate change. These policies make it possible to articulate national actions with international resilience and sustainable development agendas, aligning climate planning with [sectoral and territorial priorities](#).

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Bolivian Red Cross is part of the [IFRC Global Climate Resilience Platform](#) 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.

Climate and environment are central components of long-term humanitarian action of the Bolivian Red Cross (CRB), guiding multi-year objectives. These include:

- Strengthening urban and community resilience to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation
- Supporting resilient community solutions that contribute to local planning and progressive adaptation to scenarios of greater climate variability
- Consolidating institutional capacities, including the technical training of personnel and volunteers on climate and environmental issues

- Systematizing coordination with specialized technical actors, contributing to evidence-based humanitarian action with a preventive approach.

Planned activities in 2026

- Utilise [anticipatory action](#) (AA) for quicker interventions that reduce humanitarian impacts before crises escalate
- Prioritize the development of community capacities through climate and environmental education processes, the consolidation of inclusive local brigades, and committees
- Promote [locally-led adaptation](#) actions that integrate territorial analysis of climate risks and mapping critical areas
- Promoting sustainable practices that contribute to reducing vulnerabilities in territories exposed to droughts, floods, and forest fires

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Bolivian Red Cross with technical assistance in the formulation of institutional instruments, capacity building, and accessing specialized methodological tools. It will also assist the National Society in strengthening collaboration with the [IFRC Climate Centre](#) to strengthen technical planning of interventions and improve the integration of the climate approach in its programming.

The IFRC will also be the main strategic partner in the National Society's participation in the Alliance for the Amazon as a regional platform for technical articulation, knowledge sharing, and coordination on climate resilience with other National Societies of the Amazonian countries.



Disasters and crises

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

Due to its geographic location and to human activity, Bolivia is vulnerable to natural hazards and extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, frosts, hailstorms, and forest fires. The country has active volcanoes and communities are also at risk of earthquakes. These disasters are intensified by climate change and also contribute to health challenges, particularly endemic disease outbreaks.

According to the [INFORM Risk Index](#), Bolivia is in the medium risk category. This index highlights the country's lack of institutional response capacity, which shows structural limitations in preventing, managing, and recovering from disasters, including

gaps in infrastructure, unequal access to essential services, and varying institutional capacities between different levels of government.

The occurrence of many phenomena is strongly influenced by the climatic variability associated with the [El Niño Southern Oscillation](#) (ENSO) phenomenon, which alters temperature and precipitation patterns in the Andean and Amazon regions. In recent years, [forest fires](#) have established themselves as one of the most significant environmental crises in the country. During 2024, Bolivia recorded one of the most severe fire seasons in its recent history, with more than 12.6 million hectares affected, mainly in the Chiquitanía, Amazonia, and Chaco regions. These events, associated with prolonged droughts,

high temperatures, and changes in land use, have generated significant environmental and socioeconomic impacts, affecting ecosystems, rural livelihoods, and the availability of natural resources.

At the same time, the country has lost approximately 40 percent of its glacial surface which, combined with other factors, affects the production of food production. Rural households, particularly smallholders and indigenous people, are highly exposed to climatic events such as droughts, floods, and frosts, which reduces agricultural productivity and limits stable access to food. These conditions increase [food vulnerability](#) and highlight the need to strengthen the resilience of production systems and livelihoods to recurrent climate risks.

Disaster risk management in Bolivia is mainly governed by Law No. 602 on Risk Management, which establishes the institutional framework for prevention, preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters. This regulation is based on the principle of subsidiarity, according to which municipal and departmental governments must exhaust their capacities before applying support from the national or international level. While this framework strengthens the accountability of territorial levels in risk management, it can also lead to delays in resource mobilization when local capacities are limited.

In this context, the humanitarian response is taking place in an environment characterized by the recurrence of extreme weather events, institutional capacity gaps, and operational challenges linked to access to remote areas and differences in capacities between territories. These factors reinforce the need to strengthen preparedness, risk reduction and inter-agency coordination capacities to reduce the humanitarian impact of disasters in the country.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Bolivian Red Cross aims to strengthen its institutional capacities for Disaster Risk Management, including anticipatory action, preparedness, and humanitarian response, with the goal of contributing to community resilience in the face of crises and adverse events in the country. The objectives for this include:

- Strengthening [disaster preparedness](#) and response capacity in the face of increasingly complex and recurrent emergencies
- Contributing to timelier, coordinated, and standards-based humanitarian interventions
- Ensure operational response maintains its focus on immediate assistance and protecting the dignity of those affected
- Strengthening its auxiliary role with the authorities.

Planned activities in 2026

- Promote sustained training processes, consolidate inclusive brigades, and strengthen community response mechanisms
- Improve operational processes, provide continuous technical training of personnel and volunteers, and develop comprehensive crisis preparedness and coordination systems
- Integrate [anticipatory action](#) (AA) as a key element to promote early action and reduce humanitarian impacts
- Promote risk analysis at the community level through the implementation of [enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment](#) (eVCA)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Bolivian Red Cross with strengthening its auxiliary role and humanitarian diplomacy in disaster risk management. It will aid the National Society's participation in technical spaces and coordination mechanisms in the National Risk Management System, establishing its presence in key public institutions such as the Vice Ministry of Civil Defence (VIDECI) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the International Risk Management Mechanism (MEGERI). In parallel, it will also assist the National Society with the development of its contingency plans and operational tools for emergencies. Within this framework, it is expected to advance in the development of Early Action Protocols (EAP) for priority threats, starting with a first protocol aimed at floods.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2025, IFRC provided DREF allocations for an emergency in the country. The DREF allocation has been described below:

[IFRC-DREF Bolivia Wildfires](#): The DREF allocation of CHF 250,580 in September 2024 supported the Bolivian Red Cross in assisting more than 2,500 people. The National Society provided first responders and communities affected by the res in the regions of Roboré, Concepción, and San Ignacio in the department of Santa Cruz, as well as Guayaramerín and Riberalta in the department of Beni, by providing first aid assistance, delivering a Cash Transfer Programme, and activating the Restoring Family Links service for affected families.

[IFRC-DREF Bolivia Floods](#): The DREF allocation of CHF 495,243 in November 2025 supported the Bolivian Red Cross in assisting more than 12,000 people affected by flooding in the departments of Santa Cruz, La Paz, Chuquisaca, and Cochabamba through the implementation of activities in the areas of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), health,

multipurpose cash transfers, livelihoods, and community participation and accountability (CEA).

IFRC-DREF Wildfires: The DREF allocation of CHF 259,300 in September 2025 supported the Bolivian Red Cross in assisting more than 2,150 people from affected communities and 150 first responders, through the provision of first aid, multi-purpose cash assistance, and restoring family links (RFL) services.

IFRC-DREF Flash Floods: The DREF allocation of CHF 272,193 in December 2025 supported the Bolivian Red Cross in assisting more than 2,150 people affected by the floods in the municipality of El Torno, department of Santa Cruz—particularly in Districts 6 and 7, through the implementation of

activities in Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Health, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

The **Swiss Red Cross** will provide support to Bolivian Red Cross with technical support in areas related to disaster risk management and community resilience, while opportunities for collaboration with other National Societies of the Movement will be explored to strengthen technical and operational capacities in this component.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will provide support to Bolivian Red Cross with support in institutional strengthening through the Safer Access approach, aimed at improving security conditions for staff and volunteers during operations.



The Bolivian Red Cross delivered humanitarian aid kits to 150 families affected floods in the municipality of El Torno in the Santa Cruz department (Photo: Bolivian Red Cross)



Health and wellbeing

Health in Bolivia presents structural challenges linked to territorial inequalities, social determinants of health, and limitations in the capacity of the health system. The country has begun experiencing a progressive demographic transition where the population under 15 years of age is on a decline while the population aged 65 years and over is on an increase. Urban-rural divides also influence access to healthcare.

In terms of health indicators, life expectancy at birth is estimated at 68.7 years in 2024, a figure that reflects progress compared to previous decades. However, it continues to be below the regional average of Latin America. In the area of maternal and child health, gradual improvements have been

observed, especially in the coverage of childbirth care. Despite advances, maternal mortality continues to represent a significant challenge, with recent estimates placing the ratio between 146 and 160 deaths per 100,000 live births, one of the highest rates in the South American region.

The epidemiological profile of the country is characterized by the coexistence of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Diseases such as dengue, tuberculosis and malaria continue to be registered in various regions of the territory, particularly in tropical and Amazonian areas. At the same time, noncommunicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases, represent a

growing proportion of the burden of disease and mortality in the country, reflecting an epidemiological transition associated with population aging and changes in lifestyles.

The capacity of the health system continues to face limitations in human resources and infrastructure. Bolivia has approximately 1.2 to 1.3 doctors per 1,000 inhabitants and about 1.39 hospital beds per 1,000 inhabitants. These values remain below the [standard recommended](#) by the World Health Organization. These gaps affect the response capacity of the health system, especially in rural territories and regions that are difficult to access.

Access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is another key determinant for public health. Recent data indicate that access to drinking water coverage reaches approximately 88 per cent at the national level, while access to basic sanitation stands at around 65 per cent, implying that a significant proportion of the population [still lacks adequate services](#), mainly in rural areas. These conditions have a direct influence on the incidence of water-related diseases and the sanitary conditions of the most vulnerable populations.

In response to these gaps, Bolivia implemented the Unified Health System (SUS) in 2019 with the aim of expanding universal and free access to health services. However, its implementation continues to face challenges related to financing, availability of health personnel, and infrastructure, which conditions the effective coverage of services in various regions of the country. In this context, factors such as climate change, the recurrence of natural disasters, and socioeconomic inequalities continue to influence the health and well-being outcomes of the population, reinforcing the need to strengthen the resilience of the health system and inter-institutional coordination for the prevention and response to health emergencies.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Bolivian Red Cross will:

- Support the integral well-being of communities and promote more humanized, culturally relevant, and person-centred interventions, in line with the current challenges of the national health system
- Improve quality of care, reinforce the dignified treatment of people and ensure interventions aligned with humanitarian principles and local needs

- Contribute to more accessible healthcare to communities, strengthening prevention, self-care, and the capacity to respond to health emergencies from a community perspective
- Improve access to safe water and appropriate personal and community hygiene practices.

Planned activities in 2026

- Develop technical and human skills of volunteers and staff, through training processes in pre-hospital care, [psychological first aid](#), and community accompaniment
- Promote solutions aimed at the treatment and proper management of wastewater, contributing to the prevention of diseases related to [water and sanitation](#)
- Develop educational actions, organize local brigades, and liaise with community and institutional actors to reduce vulnerabilities and consolidate support networks that favour collective resilience
- Strengthen capacities in [first aid](#) and pre-hospital care, promote the training of volunteers and communities in these areas
- Promote comprehensive well-being through community spaces for self-care and psychoeducational processes aimed at mental health, mutual aid, and [healthy aging](#)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Bolivian Red Cross with strengthening of health promotion and disease prevention actions at the community level, through initiatives that facilitate access to reliable information. It will also support the National Society with strengthening work in the prevention of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), promoting healthy lifestyles, and community actions aimed at reducing risk factors associated with chronic diseases. The IFRC will provide cross-cutting technical support for institutional and programmatic capacity building in the field of health.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will also provide technical support to the National Society in the development of initiatives linked to healthy ageing. At the same time, the National Society will seek to strengthen coordination with institutions in the health sector and international organizations.



Bolivia maintains a triple migratory profile, acting as a country of origin, transit, and destination. Historically, Bolivia has been a country of emigration, with a large diaspora abroad. Meanwhile its geographical location in the Andean corridor makes it a relevant route for migrants moving to the Southern Cone. In recent years, the country has also received refugees and asylum seekers from other countries in the region.

In relation to emigration, it is estimated that around 1.8 million Bolivians reside abroad, which represents approximately 15 per cent of the national population. The main destinations are Argentina, Spain, and Chile, reflecting historical migration patterns linked to job opportunities and consolidated family networks. These communities abroad contribute significantly to the national economy through remittances. According to the Central Bank of Bolivia, between January and July 2025 the country received approximately USD 757 million in remittances, mainly from Spain and the United States.

In terms of international protection, Bolivia has registered a gradual increase in the presence of refugees and asylum seekers, mostly of Venezuelan nationality. According to recent data from UNHCR and the R4V Regional Platform, by 2025 the country had approximately 1,324 recognized refugees and nearly 1,150 pending asylum applications. This population has a relevant demographic composition from the perspective of protection, with 52 per cent women and about 30 per cent children and adolescents, which implies specific needs in terms of access to basic services, education and protection.

Bolivia also plays an important role as a transit country within regional migratory flows. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that approximately 85,000 migrants crossed the country in 2025 mainly to Chile and Argentina. These flows are concentrated in border corridors such as Desaguadero (border with Peru) and Pisiga (border with Chile). In such circumstances, migrants face extreme geographical and climatic conditions typical of the Andean highlands, including temperatures below zero and altitudes close to 3,800 meters above sea level, which increases health and protection risks during the journey.

In addition to cross-border mobility, Bolivia faces internal displacement mainly associated with disasters and climate variability. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, the country registers on average around 12,000 new internal displacements per year linked to disasters, particularly forest fires, floods and severe droughts. These events particularly affect rural and indigenous communities, such as those located in the Chiquitanía, Chaco, and Altiplano, where loss of livelihoods and water stress can drive temporary or permanent displacement.

The humanitarian needs arising from these dynamics are mainly concentrated on migrants in transit, people in need of international protection, and communities affected by internal displacement associated with disasters. Among the main challenges are the limited availability of transit shelters, the risks of exploitation, and human trafficking in border areas, and the difficulties of socioeconomic integration of the refugee population, particularly due to barriers to documentation and access to formal employment.

The Bolivian regulatory framework establishes the basis for the management of human mobility and international protection. Law No. 370 on Migration (2013) regulates the entry, stay, and departure of foreigners, while Law No. 251 on the Protection of Refugees (2012) establishes the national asylum system under the principle of non-refoulement. Bolivia also participates in regional coordination mechanisms such as the Quito Process and the R4V Regional Platform, aimed at strengthening the regional response to migratory flows.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

- Continue to support communities to be more inclusive and resilient in the face of increasingly complex human mobility dynamics
- Promote actions that create safer and more supportive community environments, strengthening local capacities to positively manage the challenges associated with human mobility
- Contribute to the protection of the dignity and well-being of people in vulnerable situations, promoting humanitarian responses that prioritize social cohesion, community participation and respect for cultural diversity.

Planned activities in 2026

- Prioritize community awareness, the strengthening of the social fabric and the promotion of humanitarian values that contribute to reducing risks of exclusion and social tensions in territories with the presence of a population on the move
 - Work on institutional strengthening and liaising with key actors, promoting evidence-based humanitarian action, inter-institutional coordination and the development of capacities that allow responding in a pertinent way to changing contexts
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Bolivian Red Cross in monitoring migratory flows in the country to identify possible humanitarian needs linked to the mobility of people in the region. This

monitoring will aim to better understand the main risks, vulnerabilities, and humanitarian needs associated with these population movements.



Values, power and inclusion

Bolivia has made progress in terms of social inclusion and recognition of rights, however structural inequalities persist that disproportionately affect women, children and adolescents, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, peasants and rural populations. These gaps are reflected in unequal access to basic services, educational opportunities, protection from violence, and economic participation.

According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Bolivia registers a Gender Inequality Index of 0.419 on a scale ranging from 0 to 1, where values closer to 1 reflect higher levels of inequality between women and men in dimensions such as reproductive health, empowerment and economic participation. This result places the country in the bottom third in Latin America and shows that there are still important challenges to guarantee equal participation of women in the social and economic development of the country.

Inequalities are also manifested in access to educational opportunities. Although Bolivia has achieved relatively high levels of coverage in primary education, challenges remain related to retention in the education system and the quality of learning. The dropout rate at the secondary level is around 4.5 per cent, a phenomenon mainly associated with socioeconomic factors and the early insertion of adolescents and young people into the market labour.

It is also estimated that around 120,000 children and young people remain outside the education system, a situation that most often affects dispersed rural areas and students with disabilities. Educational continuity is also affected by emergencies and disasters.

Inclusion gaps also affect groups that face structural barriers to fully participate in social and economic life. Data from the 2024 Population and Housing Census indicates that 5.7 per cent of people live with some type of disability. This group faces significant difficulties in accessing education, employment, and health services. These constraints tend to deepen in rural areas and among indigenous populations, where territorial and socioeconomic inequalities overlap. In this context, it is estimated that only 35 per cent of persons with disabilities effectively have access to inclusive education programmes or employment opportunities, which restricts their full participation in society.

In terms of protection, gender-based violence continues to be one of the main social challenges. According to the State Attorney General's Office, 82 cases of femicide were registered in 2024, a figure that keeps Bolivia among the countries with the highest rates of femicide in South America. In addition, UNICEF reports estimate that around 70 per cent of children and adolescents have experienced some type of physical or psychological violence in their homes or close environments, which shows the magnitude of the protection risks faced by children. These situations are exacerbated by socioeconomic inequalities, limited access to protection services, and institutional gaps, especially in rural areas.

Other groups also face significant barriers to inclusion. Although Bolivia has made regulatory advances such as Law No. 807 on Gender Identity, LGBTQI+ people continue to face discrimination in access to public services and justice mechanisms. Bolivia is also identified as a country of origin and transit for trafficking in persons, particularly for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation. The border areas with Peru, Chile and Argentina, especially in Desaguadero, Pisiga, and Bermejo, they have been identified as critical corridors where there are greater risks of human trafficking and smuggling.

In terms of community participation and access to information, the Bolivian context presents differentiated dynamics between urban and rural areas. In many rural and indigenous communities, community radio continues to be one of the most reliable means of receiving information during emergencies, particularly in local languages such as Quechua, Aymara, and Guaraní. In contrast, in urban areas, messaging applications such as WhatsApp have established themselves as key channels for accessing and disseminating information during crises.

Likewise, various analyses point to significant levels of distrust towards some public institutions, particularly towards the judicial system. In this context, communities tend to prefer face-to-face feedback mechanisms, such as community assemblies or physical mailboxes, over digital tools. This preference responds both to connectivity gaps and to the importance of direct participatory spaces within community dynamics.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthening humanitarian culture based on fundamental principles, institutional ethics, and meaningful participation of people and communities
- Strengthen spaces for dialogue, access to clear information, and feedback mechanisms that contribute to more equitable interaction with communities
- Integrate Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) across interventions to prevent risks of violence, discrimination and exclusion, paying special attention to people in situations of greater vulnerability, including children and adolescents, people with disabilities, older people and populations exposed to gender inequalities.

Planned activities in 2026

- Integrate Community Participation and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) across programmes
- Build the Child Safeguarding Policy to promote safeguarding and protection of the rights of children and adolescents

- Support practices that promote ethical leadership, social innovation, and institutional cohesion, integrating safeguarding and well-being measures that prioritize the protection of volunteers and personnel
- Use tools such as WhatsApp lines, suggestion boxes, and other community communication channels to improving the quality, relevance and transparency of humanitarian interventions
- Promote training and awareness-raising processes aimed at volunteers and staff to strengthen the application of the principles, humanitarian ethics, and respect for diversity in interventions and in the relationship with communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Bolivian Red Cross with the application of the Movement's protection and safeguarding guidelines and will promote the validation and implementation of its Policy for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), currently under development, with the aim of strengthening institutional mechanisms for prevention, awareness, and response to these risks.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Bolivian Red Cross is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening, having gone through the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2023. The OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities such as volunteering, financial sustainability, and leadership, among others.

The Bolivian Red Cross also carried out a performance measurement through the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process. The PER 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 ultimately take the necessary action to improve.

It also carried out BOCA process in 8 of the 9 departmental branches. It is important that the BOCA is a process of self-evaluation that is based on the analysis and reflection by the volunteers of the Subsidiaries themselves.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

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



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Consolidate its auxiliary function to public authorities, strengthen coordination with State institutions at the national and subnational levels, including ministries, governorates, and municipalities, to contribute to preparedness, response and recovery in the face of emergencies and disasters
- Strengthen its positioning in humanitarian and technical coordination spaces, promoting active participation in national and sectoral mechanisms related to disaster risk management, public health, and other humanitarian fields

- Strengthen its humanitarian positioning and generate opportunities for collaboration that will allow the mobilization of financial resources and technical support necessary for the implementation of its humanitarian priorities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Bolivian Red Cross in facilitation of spaces for articulation within the Movement, including regular meetings between Movement partners. These spaces will allow for the strengthening of the exchange of information, joint planning, and the complementarity of the support provided to the National Society.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will continue to provide technical and strategic support to strengthen the coordination capacity of the Bolivian Red Cross and support the development of its programmatic priorities.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Improve institutional development with the aim of establishing sustainable and efficient organization with a greater capacity for humanitarian impact in the country
- Work on the development of branches and the development of a robust volunteer base, in line with the priorities defined in the Strategic Development Plan 2026–2030
- Implement an institutional volunteering policy, promote tools for its management, recognise mechanisms and training processes aimed at strengthening the participation, leadership, and permanence of volunteering within the organization
- Strengthen institutional sustainability and resource mobilization, promoting the positioning of the National Society before public, private, and international cooperation actors, and advancing in the development of mechanisms that allow diversifying and consolidating its sources of financing
- Continue to promote the strengthening of its administrative, financial, and organizational management, through the consolidation of institutional systems that contribute to improving planning, resource management, and operational efficiency of the organization

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Bolivian Red Cross with the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan 2026–2030. It will also assist the National Society with its resource mobilization capacities through the implementation of fundraising strategies and the development of an institutional model for income generation. The IFRC will also support the National Society with mechanisms such as the [Branch Organisational Capacity to Act \(BOCA\)](#) and the [Empress Shôken Fund](#) which aim at improving institutional capacities and accountability.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** will provide technical and financial assistance for internal management capacities. The results of this exercise will guide the institutional strengthening actions planned for the coming years, particularly in the areas of administrative-financial management, internal controls and organizational sustainability.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will also support the National Society with technical support focused on strengthening capacities in operational security.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will support the National Society with technical support focused on strengthening capacities in access and operational security, including the implementation of the [Safer Access Approach](#), as well as on improving coordination in complex contexts and positioning the National Society in its auxiliary role.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Constructively influence decision-makers and opinion leaders to ensure that public policies and cooperation initiatives respond to the needs of people in vulnerable situations
- Strengthen its institutional communication and public positioning, in line with the Communications Plan developed in 2025
- Promote the Safer Access approach, strengthening dialogue with relevant authorities and institutions to improve the conditions of acceptance, security, and recognition of the National Society's humanitarian action in the territory
- Strengthen digital platforms of the National Society, promoting the systematic dissemination of advances, news, calls and relevant information through its digital channels and social networks

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Bolivian Red Cross with its humanitarian mandate. This includes respect for the emblem and dissemination the [Fundamental Principles](#), as well as the positioning of the Bolivian Red Cross as a key actor in emergency preparedness and response in the country. The IFRC will also support the National Society's participation in technical roundtables, coordination platforms, and high-level dialogue spaces, where the National Society will seek to prioritise humanitarian issues such as disaster risk management, emergency preparedness, community health, and community resilience.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will support the National Society with the [Safer Access Approach](#), strengthening dialogue with authorities and relevant actors to improve the conditions of acceptance and safety of personnel and volunteers during humanitarian operations.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop and implement regulatory frameworks, institutional policies, and oversight systems that ensure transparent management of resources and strengthen the trust of communities, partners, and donors
- Consolidate [results-based management](#), strengthen planning, monitoring and data analysis systems that improve decision-making, the traceability of interventions and institutional accountability
- Advance its [digital transformation](#), aimed at modernizing its administrative and information systems, strengthening data management, and

facilitating the use of digital tools that improve institutional efficiency

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society with progress on the implementation of the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy, as well as in the development and consolidation of institutional instruments that reinforce the ethical culture and accountability mechanisms, including the Code of Conduct, the guide for ethical decision-making and the guide for addressing audit observations. With regard to digital transformation, the IFRC will assist the National Society in advancing the modernization of its institutional systems by strengthening the technological infrastructure, acquiring institutional mail licenses, and the progressive adoption of digital solutions.



The Bolivian Red Cross supporting flood-affected families in Tarija with WASH, cash assistance and community engagement (Photo: Bolivian Red Cross)

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has had a presence in Bolivia since 1917, supporting the Bolivian Red Cross in strengthening its institutional capacities and implementing humanitarian initiatives in

the country, as well as facilitating access to the Movement's financing mechanisms, including the IFRC's [Disaster Response Emergency Fund](#) (DREF).

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.

Several participating National Societies have longer-term partnerships with the Bolivian Red Cross. These include the **Italian Red Cross**, the **German Red Cross**, the **Norwegian Red Cross**, the **Spanish Red Cross**, and the **Swiss Red Cross**.

Movement coordination

The Bolivian Red Cross 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 provides support to the Bolivian Red Cross through its regional delegation in Lima, Peru. The ICRC works with the National Society to strengthen safer access and support capacity strengthening; provide technical and financial support for the restoring family links programme; promote the Fundamental Principles and respect for the Emblem; disseminate International Humanitarian Law; and support crisis communication. It also provides advice and support in sensitive and insecure contexts.

Coordination with other actors

The Bolivian Red Cross exercises its auxiliary role to the public authorities through permanent coordination with national and subnational authorities, as well as with communities and other humanitarian actors.

At the inter-institutional level, the National Society has been part of the Humanitarian Country Team (EHP) in Bolivia since 2016, actively participating in the mechanisms for coordinating the humanitarian response. In this framework, and in co-leadership with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the National Society reactivated the Health Thematic Group, whose objective is to strengthen coordination between humanitarian actors, consolidate resources and promote a coordinated response to health emergencies, in support of the Government and health sector institutions.

In the field of health, the National Society coordinates closely with the Ministry of Health and Sports, contributing to the implementation and monitoring of national public health guidelines, as well as the strengthening of prevention, health promotion and health response actions in the territory.

In the area of disaster risk management, the Bolivian Red Cross maintains constant coordination with the Ministry of Defence, particularly with the Vice Ministry of Civil Defence (VIDECI),

participating in its technical roundtables and national coordination spaces for emergency preparedness and response. The National Society also coordinates its work with the International Risk Management Mechanism (MEGERI), coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which facilitates institutional coordination and the management of international assistance in the development of the country.

At the community level, the National Society develops initiatives with the educational community aimed at preventing violence and reducing disaster risk. In coordination with educational authorities and teaching staff, it promotes the formation of school brigades and the strengthening of capacities in children and adolescents, contributing to resilience in the face of adverse scenarios and the promotion of humanitarian values and a culture of peace.

Finally, the National Society maintains cooperative relationships with humanitarian and development actors, including agencies of the United Nations system, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector, with the aim of complementing capacities, strengthening the humanitarian response and contributing to sustainable solutions for the country's most vulnerable communities.



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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