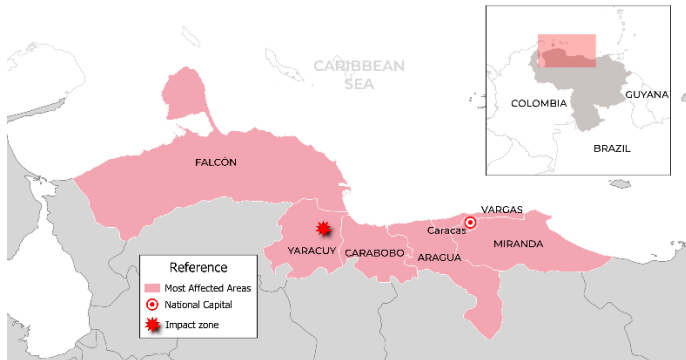




Venezuelan Red Cross staff, together with public authorities, providing urgent assistance to people affected by the earthquake.
Photo credit: Venezuelan Red Cross.

Appeal No: MDRVE015	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 50 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 55 million¹	
Glide No: EQ-2026-000093-VEN	People [affected/at risk]: 9.7 million people	People to be assisted: 300,000 people
DREF allocation: CHF 2,000,000	Appeal launched: 26/06/2026	Appeal ends: 30/06/2028

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Venezuelan Red Cross in response to the emergency. It includes the operating Venezuelan Red Cross' domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 5 million), as well as the funding ask of the IFRC secretariat (CHF 50 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilized to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Sources: IFRC, Cruz Roja Venezolana, USGS. Produced by IFRC Americas, HDCC, IM Team, June 2026.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 24 June 2026, two major earthquakes struck north-central Venezuela in rapid succession, with preliminary magnitudes of 7.2 and 7.5. The epicentres were located near Morón and Yumare, in Carabobo and Yaracuy states, west of Caracas.

The earthquakes were felt across much of the country, including Greater Caracas, La Guaira, Aragua, Carabobo, Miranda, Falcon, and neighbouring states, and were also felt in parts of Colombia, the Caribbean, and Brazil – reaching as far as Martinique and the Brazilian Amazon, more than 1,700 km from the epicentre.

The Government of Venezuela has declared a State of Emergency. According to the most recent report available at the time of this document’s release, an estimated 9,730,000 people have been affected, including approximately 530,000 exposed to severe to extreme earthquake intensity. These figures are based on GDACS modelled projections and should be understood as indicative estimates rather than confirmed counts. Additionally, at least 188 deaths and approximately 1,520 injuries have been reported, along with damage to critical infrastructure, including the collapse of over 204 buildings, severe structural damage to a further 217 buildings, and partial damage to approximately 300 others.

In addition, the Venezuelan Red Cross has received 1,133 Restoring Family Links (RFL) requests, mainly from La Guaira. These figures remain preliminary and are expected to change as search and rescue

operations continue, particularly in La Guaira and Greater Caracas.

According to the USGS statistical model, there is a one-in-two chance that the number of casualties (deaths and injuries) will fall between 1,000 and 10,000, and a three-in-ten chance that it will exceed 10,000.

The coastal city of La Guaira has emerged as the most affected area and has been described by authorities as a *Zona de Desastre* (Disaster Zone). Severe damage has also been reported in Greater Caracas, including collapsed buildings and ongoing search and rescue operations in areas such as Los Palos Grandes and Chacao. Preliminary national figures indicate that 117 buildings have completely collapsed, 119 have sustained severe structural damage, and a further 149 have sustained partial damage.

The predominant building types in the affected areas are unreinforced masonry and adobe structures, while over half of Caracas’ population lives in informal hillside settlements exposed to earthquake-induced landslides. As aftershocks continue, with at least 20 recorded since the initial earthquake, a significant portion of the urban population remains unable to return to visibly damaged buildings because of the risk of further collapse.

Essential services, including electricity, water, gas, telecommunications, and transport, have been disrupted in several areas. Metro and rail services were suspended as a precaution, while classes and non-essential activities have been suspended pending safety inspections. Furthermore, Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, La Guaira, has sustained significant damage.

The health system is now under extreme strain. Public healthcare facilities – relied upon by over 90 per cent of the population – are facing a surge in trauma cases alongside pre-existing shortages of staff, medical supplies, and functional operating theatres. According to the President of Venezuela’s National Assembly, eight hospitals have been

damaged, some of which have been evacuated, with patients transferred to other facilities. The hospital at the Venezuelan Red Cross headquarters was forced to close on the first night after reaching maximum capacity. Meanwhile, some patients in the hardest-hit area, La Guaira, are being transferred to Caracas to receive adequate care due to the overload of the local health system. The Venezuelan Red Cross has received a request from the Ministry of Health to deploy a basic field hospital to La Guaira to treat injured people and help relieve pressure on existing facilities.

Preliminary USGS economic loss modelling indicates a 30 per cent probability that losses will exceed USD 100 billion, potentially reaching up to 20 per cent of Venezuela's current GDP.

Market and economic disruptions are occurring against a backdrop of macroeconomic fragility with inflation exceeding 270 per cent and fiscal and currency constraints limiting Venezuela's capacity to finance recovery efforts.

Communications disruptions have separated families, prompting Red Cross Societies in Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Argentina to activate RFL services for the Venezuelan diaspora.

The headquarters of the Venezuelan Red Cross has sustained critical infrastructure damage. Despite this, the National Society remains operational and has activated search and rescue groups, first aid, Restoring Family Links, emergency health support, field assessments, and the dissemination of earthquake safety messages.

TARGETING

Through this Emergency Appeal, the IFRC will support the Venezuelan Red Cross in assisting 300,000 people affected by the earthquakes and their secondary impacts.

The initial operational focus will be on La Guaira and Greater Caracas, where the concentration of collapsed structures, missing persons, injuries, people remaining outdoors, and disruptions to critical services is highest. The operation will also maintain the ability to support other affected states, including Carabobo, Aragua, Miranda, and Falcon, where needs may become clearer as access, communications, and assessments improve.

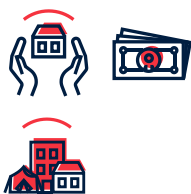
Priority will be given to people directly affected by collapsed or unsafe buildings; those who are injured or requiring referrals; families with missing relatives; people who cannot safely return home; households staying outdoors or in temporary centres; and communities experiencing disruptions to water and hygiene services, electricity, health services, or communications.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

This Emergency Appeal is issued in direct support of the Venezuelan Red Cross and its auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. It is designed to support immediate life-saving activities and enable a broader scale-up of assistance as assessments define the full scope of humanitarian needs. A CHF 2 million DREF loan (initial allocation) was approved on 25 June to support urgent response activities while the Emergency Appeal is launched and the Operational Strategy is developed.

Integrated assistance

(Shelter, Livelihoods, and Multi-purpose Cash)



- Provide essential relief items such as sleeping mats, blankets, hammocks where appropriate, hygiene-related household items, and other essential household items to approximately 20,000 households (100,000 people) unable to return home or staying in temporary locations.
- Support 5,000 households whose homes have been damaged or destroyed through safer shelter and housing recovery interventions, promoting innovative housing solutions and Build Back Better principles to improve the safety, resilience, and durability of repaired and reconstructed homes.
- Provide conditional cash assistance to 5,000 households to support the repair, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of damaged homes, linked to technical guidance and safer construction standards, where appropriate.
- Assess and provide multipurpose cash assistance, in-kind support or referrals for up to 10,000 households (50,000 people) facing damage to homes, livelihoods, small businesses, or essential household assets, subject to market functionality and access conditions.



Health and Care including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support/Community Health)

- Provide first aid, pre-hospital care, triage, referral support, and health assistance to approximately 25,000 people, complementing public authorities and international USAR operations.
- Support search and rescue-related response in line with the capacity and mandate of the Venezuelan Red Cross, prioritising La Guaira and Greater Caracas.
- Provide psychological first aid and mental health and psychosocial support to approximately 40,000 people, including affected families, people with missing relatives, first responders, volunteers, and communities affected by aftershocks and displacement.
- Provide safe water, hydration services, hygiene promotion, and basic WASH support to approximately 150,000 people in temporary concentration points, reception centres, and affected communities.
- Support the continuity and strengthening of emergency health services for approximately 50,000 people by reinforcing the capacity of affected health facilities, expanding emergency medical services, strengthening referral pathways, and mobilising additional emergency medical capacities, including an Emergency Response Unit (ERU), as required.
- Deliver community health and risk communication activities reaching approximately 300,000 people with information on aftershocks, safe return to buildings, hygiene practices, safe water use, referral pathways, and available services.



Protection and Prevention

(Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability, Migration, Environmental Sustainability, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, Education)

- Scale up RFL and case management for approximately 15,000 people, including coordination with Red Cross National Societies in the region and the ICRC, while supporting families searching for missing relatives.

- Provide timely information on available services, safety recommendations, assistance criteria, and feedback mechanisms to approximately 15,000 people through community engagement and accountability activities.
- Integrate protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) across the operation, ensuring that all targeted people are reached through safe, accessible, and inclusive assistance by embedding safeguarding measures, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), prevention of abuse, exploitation, neglect, and harm affecting children and adults at risk, and appropriate referral mechanisms across all interventions.
- Support the safety and security of staff, volunteers, and humanitarian operations through context monitoring, security risk management, access analysis, and the implementation of operational security measures in line with IFRC standards.
- Promote earthquake safety, preparedness for aftershocks, safer shelter practices, and community-based risk reduction as part of the immediate response and early recovery.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

Coordination and partnerships



- Movement coordination is guided by the existing Movement Coordination Agreement (MCA) for Venezuela and the strengthened through the activation of Part II of the Seville Agreement 2.0, enabling a collective, coordinated and complementary Movement response aligned with the priorities of the Venezuelan Red Cross and the needs of affected communities.
- Legal coordination for the access of rapid response personnel to be involved in the emergency operation.
- Strategic coordination with external partners and donors to strengthen the emergency response operation and promote complementarity, avoid duplication of efforts, and maximise the collective impact of humanitarian assistance.
- Executive disaster risk reduction (DRR) coordination with local authorities and relief agencies.

IFRC Secretariat services

The IFRC Secretariat will provide tailored technical, operational, and coordination support to the Venezuelan Red Cross to ensure the effective planning, implementation, monitoring, and accountability of the operation, while ensuring compliance with IFRC policies, procedures, and donor requirements.



- During the initial phase of the operation, the Secretariat will support the scale-up of the response through the deployment of surge personnel to address priority operational and technical gaps identified jointly with the National Society. Depending on operational needs, this may include expertise in operations coordination, information management, PMER, finance, logistics, and supply chain management, communications, health, community engagement and accountability (CEA), and other technical areas as required.
- The IFRC, in coordination with the National Society and Participating National Societies, will assess the potential mobilisation of a Health Emergency Response Unit.
- Throughout the operation, the Secretariat will work closely with the Venezuelan Red Cross to adapt the operational structure as the response

evolves, strengthen institutional and operational capacities, facilitate engagement with Participating National Societies and external partners, support resource mobilisation, and ensure that the response remains accountable, technically sound, and aligned with the National Society's recovery priorities and long-term development objectives.

- The IFRC Supply Chain will ensure the timely mobilisation and delivery of relief items in support of the Venezuelan Red Cross response. The Panama Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) will serve as the main coordination hub, managing procurement, in-kind donations, and the regional pipeline. Given the infrastructure constraints, including limited airport capacity, air charter operations are being activated to enable rapid deployment of priority relief cargo. Customs facilitation, transport coordination, and warehousing solutions will be prioritised.

National Society Strengthening

- Communication strategy to local and international media, systematic communication, and operational communication.
- Strengthen strategic communication and visibility at the national and local levels, positioning the Venezuelan Red Cross as a trusted, neutral, and leading humanitarian actor through consistent and transparent engagement with communities, authorities, and the public.
- Rehabilitate and restore critical infrastructure affected by the earthquake, including headquarters, branches, and operational facilities, while reinforcing logistics and operational capacities to sustain scale-up of the response.
- Strengthen financial management and internal control systems, standardisation of processes, strengthened risk management, and compliance with reporting requirements to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Scale up PMER, information management, and digital systems to support data collection, analysis, reporting and evidence-based decision-making, and the reinforcement of information technology, connectivity, and security capacities to ensure safe, reliable, and continuous operations.
- Support resource mobilisation efforts and strategic partnerships, leveraging public trust and institutional credibility to strengthen the sustainability and operational capacity of the National Society.
- Procure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), uniforms and visibility, and safety equipment for volunteers and personnel, based on the operational risks and needs.
- Implement duty of care measures, including insurance coverage, volunteer rotation, and access to psychosocial support and psychological first aid, to protect the safety and well-being of volunteers and personnel.
- Prioritise psychosocial support and well-being measures for volunteers directly affected by the earthquake, in line with their needs and operational capacity.
- Strengthen volunteer management through registration, deployment tracking, role clarification, briefing, supervision, and operational debriefings.
- Provide logistical support for volunteers, including transportation, meals, drinking water, communication, accommodation where required, and appropriate uniforms and identification.
- Support the coordinated management of spontaneous volunteers through registration, orientation, and supervised engagement to complement trained Red Cross volunteers.



- Promote volunteer recognition and motivation through appropriate appreciation and engagement initiatives that acknowledge their contribution and encourage continued participation.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days, which will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

After 30 June 2028, response activities to this disaster will continue under the IFRC Network Venezuela Country Plan for 2028. The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's action. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due time, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY

Venezuelan Red Cross Society

Core areas of operation	Number of staff:	677
Rescue and Risk Management, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, Livelihoods, Ambulance and Hospital Services	Number of volunteers:	3,322
	Number of branches	41

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

The IFRC Delegation in Venezuela has been coordinating with the National Society and ICRC since the onset of the crisis, having established a strategic crisis room for decision-making and coordination with other stakeholders.

IFRC Membership coordination

The Venezuelan Red Cross has in-country bilateral support from the German Red Cross in Disaster Risk Management, Health, and Well-being projects, while also developing bilateral projects in Disasters and Crises with the Canadian Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross. Since the onset of the crisis, support from Movement Partners has been offered across a range of areas.

External coordination

Since the onset of the crisis, the Venezuelan Red Cross has been in close coordination with the Government of Venezuela, including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Risk Management, and Civil Protection, as well as with the Humanitarian Country Team, DG ECHO, AECID, and other NGOs to ensure a coordinated response and avoid duplication of efforts.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

At the Venezuelan Red Cross National Society:

- **Executive Director:** Simon Pestano, spestano@cuzroja.ve, +58 4122453070
- **Operational coordination:** Karina Sanz, Disaster Risk Management Coordinator, ksanz@cuzroja.ve, +58 4149181848

At the IFRC:

- **Operations, Evolving Crises and Disasters Manager:** Maria Martha Tuna, email: maria.tuna@ifrc.org
- **Head of Country Delegation:** Nelson Aly Rodriguez, Head of IFRC Venezuela Delegation, nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org email, phone +58 4242294760
- **IFRC Geneva:** Antoine Belair, Senior Officer Operations Coordinator, antoine.belair@ifrc.org, +41 497083149

For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

- **Head of Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation:** Mónica Portilla, monica.portilla@ifrc.org
- **Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation in Emergencies Manager:** Mei Lin León, meilin.leon@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:

- **Head of SCM Americas:** Stephany Murillo, stephany.murillo@ifrc.org

Reference



Click here for:

- [Link to IFRC Emergency landing page](#)