



COSTA RICA

2025-2027 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 7.8M**

21 April 2025

In support of the Costa Rican Red Cross



134

National Society
branches



134

National Society
local units



1,326

National Society
staff



5,026

National Society
volunteers

People to be reached



5,000

Climate and
environment



500

Disasters
and crises



25,000

Health and
wellbeing



6,000

Migration and
displacement



380

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk management
- Climate change adaptation
- Violence prevention and protection
- Epidemic preparedness and response

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy
- Partnerships and resource mobilization
- Quality and upgraded management systems

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating **Medium**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **64**

World Bank Population figure **5.1M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **25.5%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras & Panama, based in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Funding requirements

2025

2026**

2027**

**Projected funding requirements

Total 3M CHF

Total 2.3M CHF

Total 2.5M CHF

Through the Host National Society

1M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

858,000 CHF

Through the IFRC

1.1M CHF

Through the Host National Society

1.1M CHF

Through the IFRC

1.2M CHF

Through the Host National Society

1.3M CHF

Through the IFRC

1.3M CHF

HNS Breakdown

IFRC Breakdown

HNS Breakdown

IFRC Breakdown

HNS Breakdown

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

Longer term needs

Longer term needs

Longer term needs

Longer term needs

Longer term needs

50,000 CHF

Climate & environment

150,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

35,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

250,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

100,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

450,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

50,000 CHF

Climate & environment

165,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

34,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

270,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

90,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

454,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

55,000 CHF

Climate & environment

182,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

37,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

297,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

99,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

500,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

55,000 CHF

Climate & environment

165,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

38,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

275,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

110,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

495,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

60,000 CHF

Climate & environment

182,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

42,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

302,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

121,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

544,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

60,000 CHF

Climate & environment

200,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

40,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

300,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

100,000 CHF


Values, power & inclusion

500,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
German Red Cross	858,000						

Total Funding requirement **CHF 858,000**

Participating National Societies

German Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*

The Canadian Red Cross Society*

**National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2024.*

IFRC Appeal codes

Long-term needs:

MAACL002

Hazards



Population movement



Hurricanes and cyclones



Floods



Drought



Disease outbreaks



The Costa Rican Red Cross responded to the heavy rains in the country, 29 November 2024. (Photo: Costa Rican Red Cross)

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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

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

The Humanitarian axis exists to save lives and provide recovery support after disasters and crises. It aims to build safe and resilient environments through risk management, emergency care, and attention to the most vulnerable populations, sectors, and communities. The Inclusive axis seeks to promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace, through intersectoral and voluntary action in all regions, with respect for the human rights of all people. The Open and Transparent axis works to contribute to an open and transparent governance model with strategies aimed at favouring internal and external projection and preserving the National Society's strategic links for the fulfilment of its objectives and sustainability of operations.

In 2022, the Costa Rican Red Cross reached 259 people through its long term services and development programmes and 175 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

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

Costa Rica has a mixed economy, which has undergone a strong evolution, going from being an eminently agricultural country to a service economy. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index, in 2018 Costa Rica ranked fourth among the best economies in Latin America and the Caribbean. Tourism is the fastest growing industry and since the early 2000s has generated more foreign exchange than any of the main agricultural export products.

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

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

For Costa Rica, the score on the Human Development Index (HDI) remained unchanged, going from 0.810 to 0.809, which the UNDP pointed out as a sign of the "breaking of a historical trend of growth," despite apparent stability.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

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

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

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

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

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

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Costa Rican Red Cross is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led, climate-smart, disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing

the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

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

- Adopting environmentally sustainable practices and contributing to climate change mitigation
- Encouraging communities, staff, and volunteers to take urgent action to adapt to the growing and changing risks of the climate and environmental crises

Planned activities in 2025

- Adopt better environmental management measures and climate-related risks through adaptation and mitigation actions
- Develop environmental policies and climate change adaptation strategies based on evidence and thorough mapping and risk scenarios
- Develop information and dissemination actions on climate change and its impacts, oriented within the organization involving staff and volunteers, with emphasis on Red Cross youth

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Costa Rican Red Cross to promote community-led solutions to address challenges, improve behaviours, and promote climate action. To pursue this goal, it will assist the National Society in collecting and analyzing specific socio-behavioural data, community perceptions, and concerns about climate issues for programme and/or project adaptation. It will help in the technical implementation of the Guide on Climate-Smart Operations and Programmes and the development of 'green' sectoral interventions.

With the support of the **German Red Cross**, the National Society will carry out actions to strengthen its capacities in understanding and addressing climate and environmental risks. These actions will include identifying threats related to climate change, analyzing their impact on vulnerable communities, and developing adaptive strategies to mitigate these risks and foster community resilience.



Disasters and crises

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

Costa Rica is a country with high seismic activity and is generally affected by the downpours associated with tropical storms, which cause total and partial damage to homes, flooding, landslides, overflowing rivers, blocked roads, and the need to set up temporary shelters in communities. Due to its location along the Pacific Ring of Fire, earthquakes are relatively common in the country with varying degrees of severity.

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

The key factors influencing Costa Rica's [country risk profile](#) also include public debt, political and economic stability, diversification of the economy, credit rating, foreign investment trends, exchange rate trends, social and environmental indicators, and international trade relations.

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

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

The National Society aims to:

- Encourage [communities to take action](#) to increase their resilience to multiple evolving impacts and hazards
- Meet the needs of people affected by crises and disasters through access to [in-kind assistance](#) and support that is timely, adequate, flexible and strengthens their agency
- Providing food security and livelihoods to people affected by crises and disasters and ensuring sources of income are improved
- Supplying multi-purpose cash grants to those affected by crises and disasters
- Responding effectively to the wide range of evolving crises and disasters and leveraging their auxiliary role in emergency response

- Expanding leadership in the field of disaster law and enhancing the official/legal recognition of their auxiliary role

Planned activities in 2025

- Enhance community resilience through the coordination of national, regional, and local efforts, applying the Resilience Pathway and its indicators
- Strengthen institutional capacities in disaster and crisis preparedness and response
- Support families with financial assistance for the protection and recovery of their livelihoods
- Coordinate meetings to establish early actions at regional, local and community levels
- Discuss early actions at regional, local and community levels linked to volcanic hazard
- Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people through the use of cash

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Costa Rican Red Cross to build capacity for [Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment](#) and the Roadmap to Community Resilience with an additional focus on climate and nature. It will also help the National Society expand the use of anticipatory action approaches by conducting simulations to test the feasibility of early actions. The implementation of community-level training to improve building capacity, evaluate local building technologies, improve waterproofing/climate resilience, and build back safer will also be assisted.

IFRC mechanisms such as the [Disaster Response Emergency Fund](#) (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2024, the IFRC provided DREF allocations for emergencies related to dengue, floods, and volcanic ash. Additionally, the IFRC has been providing technical support to the two ongoing Early Action Protocols (EAPs) in the country: one for volcanic ash and another for floods associated with tropical storms.

The **German Red Cross** will support the National Society with the promotion of the implementation of the Resilience Pathway in the regions and auxiliary committees, ensuring an appropriate approach to address the needs of the communities. This effort will strengthen the response and adaptation capacity of communities in the face of challenges, aligning with international best practices and resilience standards.



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

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

Costa Rica is committed to ensuring universal access to quality health services for its entire population. This commitment includes robust vaccination programmes, reducing inequalities in access to health care, and protecting the environment. The Ministry of Health has been a fundamental pillar of the economic and social development of the country. Decade after decade, actions have been implemented to build the health system that characterizes Costa Rica today. Rural and Community Health Programmes have been developed in order to reach populations in the most remote areas, providing primary health care services such as vaccinating and deworming children and the elderly and providing prenatal care, among other activities.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

- Leveraging its auxiliary role to secure its position in relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms
- Protecting the health and well-being of communities and improving it through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services throughout life
- Maintaining the health and dignity of communities in emergencies and disease outbreaks by providing access to appropriate health services

- Ensure communities have greater access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene ([WASH](#)) services both during emergencies and otherwise

Planned activities in 2025

- Promoting community health during emergencies and complex environments for the Costa Rican Red Cross personnel and the communities they serve
- Focusing on a culture of peace and non-violence in gender and/or rights
- Evaluating the implementation of community health, health care, [Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene \(WASH\)](#) programmes to meet the needs of the most vulnerable or marginalized people
- Purchasing protective equipment for the population
- Disseminating direct communication and education campaigns in local and national media to prevent respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases due to the effect of volcanic ash

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support for the development and implementation of national plans for epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, including epidemic contingency plans and the National Action Plan for Health Security. Following this, modelling context-specific community engagement strategies, and promoting activities that support the rapid exchange of information within communities are actions of priority. The IFRC will also help with the earliest response to outbreaks, community surveillance posts, vector control, oral rehydration points, active case finding, contact tracing, infection prevention and control in health facilities run by the National Society, immunization, and [psychosocial support](#).

The IFRC also provided support through a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation to the Costa Rican Red Cross to manage a [dengue outbreak](#).



Migration and displacement

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

The most common countries of origin include Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. Reasons for immigration vary and may include seeking employment, family reunification, fleeing conflict or persecution, and seeking better living conditions. Some immigrants enter Costa Rica irregularly, while others do so legally through work, study, or family reunification visas.

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

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society is part of the IFRC's three-year Global Route-Based Migration Programme, which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points;

(2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The National Society's objectives include:

- Access humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migration routes, as well as access to durable solutions where appropriate
- Engage with migrants, displaced persons and host communities to assess, understand and respond more effectively to their priority needs

Planned activities in 2025

- Ensure the provision of essential services, protection, and dignified human treatment to all persons without distinction as to nationality, religion, social status, or political belief
- Respond to the call for the implementation of the measures defined in the Movement's Framework for Community Resilience (FCR) Strategy

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the National Society's efforts to protect people on the move along migratory routes through the establishment of humanitarian service points (HSP). It will further assist in strengthening the capacities of national societies on migration issues by developing information, tools, training and providing technical support, as well as their articulation to the community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender & inclusion (PGI) approaches. The IFRC will conduct humanitarian diplomacy with national and international actors on migration and host community interventions. Participating National Societies will assist the National Society with conducting orientation and raising awareness of the policy of attention to migrants and refugees.



Values, power and inclusion

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

However, gender-based violence, which includes domestic violence and sexual violence, is a significant problem in Costa Rica. Despite efforts to address this issue, rates of gender-based

violence and femicide remain concerning. Laws and programmes have been implemented to prevent and address this violence, but challenges remain in raising awareness and reporting.

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

marginalization. The marginalization sometimes also extends to migrants and refugees.

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

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

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

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

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

Some of the objectives of the National Society include:

- Increasing understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values, with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of young people
- Continue to work as a safe and inclusive network, ensuring the dignity, access, participation and safety of people of all identities
- Empowering vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals and communities to influence decisions that affect them and rely on the IFRC network to serve their best interests

Planned activities in 2025

- Protecting and promoting a system of values and doctrine with inclusive, participatory, and diverse initiatives based on fundamental principles
- Promoting the recognition of human rights in the institutional actions of persons in vulnerable conditions, without any discrimination, direct or indirect
- Promoting equity throughout the National Society taking into account a gendered approach
- Developing an external communication strategy to strengthen the visibility of the institution’s work
- Developing training on the Community engagement and accountability (CEA) approach within the National Society and the communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support with integration of the Movement’s commitments into key policy documents, guidance, tools and plans, and programmatic operating procedures including national, thematic, and regional operational plans. It will also train protection, gender & inclusion (PGI) staff and volunteers on approaches to community engagement and accountability. The IFRC will also support the National Society in promoting the implementation of Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) training with a Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach to strengthen the capacities of SNs in their articulation of behaviour change actions in the different programmes and projects.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Costa Rican Red Cross is an Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) Certified National Society—one of only five globally. Although the five-year certification period expired in June 2023, the National Society has continued implementing institutional strengthening processes with the aim of applying for re-certification. These efforts reflect a strong commitment to continuous improvement and a robust, efficient organizational structure.

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



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase its cooperation and coordination with external partners, through the help of the IFRC, to address the main challenges faced by communities
- Coordinate among members to improve efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions and the change of mindset towards a full-fledged federation leads to greater trust within the network
- Deliver on its priorities for Movement Coordination and Cooperation, as outlined at the Council of Delegates meeting in 2019
- Ensure effective coordination of hosting clusters with partners inside and outside the network. National

Societies take on a greater role in the coordination of accommodation groups

- Effectively increase its financial resources, both through national fundraising and by providing greater international support to National Societies

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will facilitate the National Society's annual unified planning process, providing support from the formulation stage through to the approval of the internal plan. In addition, it will support Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) efforts, through the development of baselines, technical training processes, and the facilitation of national-level data collection. It will also ensure the implementation of high-quality evaluations and reviews, aligned with the IFRC Evaluation Framework.



The Costa Rican Red Cross responded to an alert about an aircraft with six passengers that lost contact in the area of Cerro Pico Blanco, 2 December 2024. (Photo: Costa Rican Red Cross)



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue to function as a network of relevant local organisations that are the trusted partners of choice for local humanitarian action with the capacity to act in the global network
- Prioritises the development of youth volunteerism and action as critical catalysts for behaviour change and local action, ensuring access, and building trust in all contexts

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will promote and accompany the use of IFRC funding mechanisms to support National Societies' development processes/plans in response to strategic priorities. It will also strengthen the use of the services of the Inter-American Centre for the Development of Volunteers and its five main tools to boost the development of volunteerism through: the use of the Volunteer Development Platform, membership of the members of the National Society in the network of experts, participation in working groups, laboratories, and exchanges. implementation guidelines, among a range of other services.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Protect and promote a system of values and doctrine with inclusive, participatory, and diverse initiatives based on [fundamental principles](#)
- Promoting its image and promoting change, affecting public behaviour, policies, and decisions at the national, regional, and global levels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support for the development/ updating of an advocacy strategy and a National Society work plan. It will promote the national implementation of global and regional commitments and organize training sessions in [humanitarian diplomacy](#) and auxiliary roles.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Function as a responsible global network
- Undergoes a [digital transformation](#)
- Use innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate, adapt and change to complex challenges and opportunities

Longer-Term Support from the IFRC Network

The IFRC will facilitate the National Society's annual unified planning process from inception to approval of the internal plan. It will support the establishment of systems, facilitate the collection of data at the national level, and ensure that high-quality evaluations and reviews are carried out in line with the IFRC Evaluation Framework.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC is represented by the Cluster Delegation for Central American countries in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and operates with a large team of specialists in different areas in all Central American countries. This allows for close support, coordination and constant communication with the National Societies of Central America and the participating National Societies that support them. IFRC's support focuses on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

The IFRC Regional Office for the Americas and the regional logistics unit are located in Panama. El Salvador hosts the

Disaster Preparedness Reference Centre (CREPD), whose national focal points provide direct support to the five National Societies. Communication and coordination channels across the region are available and open for the exchange of information on operational activities and different contextual analyses, with meetings held on a regular basis.

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

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging, and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development assistance and contributing to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The **German Red Cross** partners with the National Society and provides bilateral support. Some activities have been carried out jointly including the participation and certification in the Emergency Response Unit of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene process with a possibility of integrating the WASH teams with the Central American cluster. The German Red Cross also participated as a consultant in the Reference Centre for Resilience and Environment (CRREC). It is working specifically in the theme of the Community Risk Management Plan, Early Action Plan, and Early Warning Systems.

Movement coordination

The Costa Rican Red Cross ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles, and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The **ICRC** contributes to the National Society's work in protection, including minimum standards, restoring family

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

Coordination with other actors

The Costa Rican Red Cross works in close collaboration with local and national authorities and other humanitarian organizations for a coordinated response. Permanent coordination with Costa Rican national authorities is carried out through the Emergency Operations Centre and the Costa Rican National Emergency Commission (CNE) Board of Directors. Through the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response and coordination with the Auxiliary Committees, actions are prioritized in order to assist the most affected communities.

For 140 years, the Costa Rican Red Cross has been working to respond to emergencies and disasters throughout the national territory, however, it does not have a formal recognition law currently and has only been recognized by Executive Decree. In view of the above context, it was identified that there is currently a lack of a normative basis that provides legal certainty to the institution for the fulfilment of its humanitarian role.



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 2025 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 Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- 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 2025 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 Global Plan and IFRC network country plan](#) • All plans and reports
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [IFRC Evaluation and Research Databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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