



COSTA RICA

2025 IFRC network mid-year report, January – June



22 October 2025

IN SUPPORT OF THE COSTA RICAN RED CROSS



PEOPLE REACHED



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Costa Rican Red Cross			
Overview		Funding Sources	
Funding	Not reported	IFRC Secretariat	Not reported
Expenditure	Not reported	Participating National Societies	Not reported
		HNS other funding sources	Not reported

IFRC network			
Country	Funding Requirement		2.1M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term	Funding Requirement	1.1M
		Funding	381,000
		Expenditure	215,000
	Emergency Operations	Funding Requirement	Not reported
		Funding	1.1M
		Expenditure	312,000
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement		Not reported
	Funding		Not reported
	Expenditure		Not reported
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement		1M
	Funding		Not reported

Appeal number **MAACR002**

*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Number of people reached with activities addressing

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

- has received IFRC Network's support to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change
- implements environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction, clean-ups or reducing GHG emissions
- implements nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)



Disasters and crises

Number of people reached with



Emergency response and early recovery programmes

• 3,000



Health and wellbeing

Number of people reached by the National Society with



Contextually appropriate health services

• 290



Training in first aid

• 1,000



Psychosocial and mental health services

• 1,000



Contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services

• 2,000



Migration and displacement



Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection • **52**



Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing assistance and/or protection to people on the move along migration routes • **2**

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

- has undertaken any data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move



Values, power and inclusion

Number of people



Reached by the National Society's educational programmes

• **173**

ENABLING FUNCTIONS



Strategic and operational coordination

3
Number of government-led coordination platforms the National Society is part of



National Society development

- ✓ National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of its volunteers
- ✓ National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies
- ✓ National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role
- ✓ There is a National Society Development plan in place



Humanitarian diplomacy

- ✓ National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies
- ✓ National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns



Accountability and agility

- ✓ National Society has a functioning data management system that informs decision making and supports monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of its actions
- ✓ National Society has strengthened its integrity and reputational risk mechanism
- ✓ National Society is implementing a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

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 seven 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, Costa Rica is the Latin American country with the highest percentage of immigrants. 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 five 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.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

By mid-2025, the Costa Rican Red Cross carried out training, workshops, fairs and community campaigns promoting water conservation, sustainable farming and climate resilience. Strategic milestones included the Greenhouse Gas Report, Clay Sphere Festivals, school visits to the Pacuare Reserve and strengthened partnerships with UNDP, MINAE, universities and the Ecological Blue Flag Programme. Environmental action was mainstreamed across programmes, reinforcing community health, resilience and sustainable development.

Disasters and crises

The Costa Rican Red Cross strengthened its disaster preparedness and anticipatory action mechanisms, building on lessons from the IFRC DREF for flood response and advancing the Early Action Protocol for heavy rains linked to cyclones. Through the FOCARE project, community micro-projects were developed in four cantons, and an Early Warning System for the Aguas Zarcas River micro-basin was designed with municipal support. The Costa Rican Red Cross also procured humanitarian aid cards and lifesaving equipment.

Health and wellbeing

By June 2025, the Costa Rican Red Cross advanced health initiatives through community health campaigns, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and capacity building. Psychological care reached 130 Red Cross members, enhancing resilience and wellbeing, while 12 training and three specialized workshops strengthened mental health knowledge for staff and UCIMED students. National workshops on psychosocial tools and menstrual hygiene management engaged 44 participants, while awareness campaigns, podcasts and regional collaborations promoted disease prevention, self-care and stigma reduction around mental health.

Migration and displacement

Facing complex migration flows, the Costa Rican Red Cross supported people in transit and returnees, particularly at Los Chiles and Paso Canoas. The National Society produced the Costa Rica Migration Scenarios 2025–2026 document, pre-positioned six Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) and expanded operational capacity. Humanitarian aid included pre-hospital care, Restoring Family Links (RFL) and gender-based violence prevention, alongside advocacy efforts and distributed protection materials. The Costa Rican Red Cross also played an active role in regional migration forums.

Values, power and inclusion

In the first half of 2025, the Costa Rican Red Cross deepened its commitment to humanitarian values and inclusion through legal training, youth leadership and peacebuilding. Nine courses on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) were conducted, while youth activities strengthened community leadership and humanitarian diplomacy. Community events promoted peace, friendship and Red Cross principles, while quarterly initiatives on health and environment ensured cross-cutting inclusion. These efforts reinforced the National Society's mission to empower youth, promote human rights and build a culture of non-violence.

Enabling local actors

By mid-2025, the Costa Rican Red Cross advanced its institutional transformation, highlighted by its 'Exemplary Organization Capacity Assessment and certification (OCAC) recertification and the landmark approval of the Costa Rican Red Cross Law (No. 10632), formally recognizing it as an auxiliary to the public authorities with priority access and protection for volunteers. Strengthened by 134 local units nationwide, the National Society improved internal systems through quality management, financial sustainability, digital transformation and human talent development. Achievements included expanded digital infrastructure, new cybersecurity measures, adoption of KoBo tools and Starlink connectivity. The Costa Rican Red Cross also reinforced humanitarian diplomacy, positioning itself as a regional leader in migration, disaster response and advocacy.

Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

During the first half of 2025, the Costa Rican Red Cross adapted its Unified Plan in response to significant socio-political, economic and environmental developments. Legislative reforms and fiscal adjustments led to public unrest and mobility challenges for staff and volunteers, while rising unemployment and inflation heightened community vulnerabilities, prompting a strategic shift toward livelihoods and social protection. Concurrently, climate events—floods in the Caribbean and droughts in the North Pacific—necessitated emergency responses in over 15 regions, mobilizing more than 120 volunteers. Institutional operations were strengthened through increased local coordination and participation in municipal emergency planning. These factors led to the rescheduling of certain activities and a prioritization of humanitarian interventions.



The Costa Rican Red Cross delivered humanitarian aid to those affected by heavy rainfall in the north of the country. (Photo: Costa Rican Red Cross)

Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, the Costa Rican Red Cross undertook a series of initiatives focused on climate action and environmental sustainability, coordinated primarily through its National Coordination of Climate Change. These efforts were implemented across national, regional and local levels, with the active involvement of volunteers, civil society organizations and the Pacuare Reserve. In total, 27 activities were carried out, including training, workshops, environmental fairs, site visits and coordination meetings. These engagements reached 290 individuals and were designed to promote innovation in water conservation, improve the health and quality of life of communities near water sources and encourage community awareness and participation in sustainable water management.

The Costa Rican Red Cross' Annual Operational Plan incorporated several strategic components aligned with its Climate and Environment Roadmap. Among the key activities were the preparation of the Greenhouse Gas Report, organization of Clay Sphere Festivals to promote cultural and environmental awareness and educational visits to the Pacuare Reserve. The National Society also responded to requests from Water Observatories and strengthened its institutional framework through partnerships with national and international organizations. These included the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE), universities and the Ecological Blue Flag Programme (PBAE). These collaborations have supported the National Society's efforts to meet its environmental goals and strengthen future outcomes.

For the Costa Rican Red Cross, environmental action is not a standalone initiative but a cross-cutting priority that reinforces the impact of all humanitarian programmes. By integrating environmental awareness into its broader mission, the Costa Rican Red Cross continues to invest in the present and future well-being of communities, promoting human dignity in harmony with nature.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical and strategic collaboration that strengthened the climate resilience efforts of the Costa Rican Red Cross. The IFRC provided guidance aligned with global frameworks such as the Climate and Environment Charter, helping the Costa Rican Red Cross to refine its methodologies and strengthen its operational capacity. Through regional knowledge exchange platforms, the Costa Rican Red Cross was able to share its experiences and learn from other National Societies across Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, the IFRC supported resource mobilization efforts, connecting the Costa Rican Red Cross with international partners and donors to expand the reach and sustainability of its environmental programmes.



Disasters and crises

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

During January to June 2025, two IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) were ongoing for floods in Costa Rica.

1.

NAME OF THE OPERATION	Costa Rica: Floods
MDR-CODE	MDRCR026
DURATION	4 months (20 November 2024 to 31 March 2025)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 458,959
PEOPLE TARGETED	7,500 people

The DREF allocation of CHF 458,959 in November 2024 supported the Costa Rican Red Cross in aiding approximately 7,500 people affected by flooding through actions focused on health, Cash And Voucher Assistance ([CVA](#)), water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)), protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) and community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) in the most impacted districts of the provinces of Guanacaste and Puntarenas over a four-month period.

2.

NAME OF THE OPERATION	Costa Rica: Floods
MDR-CODE	MDRCR024
DURATION	5 years (activated on 27 October 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 528,641
PEOPLE TARGETED	10,000 people

The DREF allocation of CHF 528,641 targeting 10,000 people supported anticipatory actions aimed at reducing and mitigating the impact of floods caused by tropical cyclones in Costa Rica. This allocation is for annual readiness activities and prepositioning supplies for early actions that was implemented when the triggers established were met. These early actions were pre-agreed with the National Society and are detailed in the [Early Action Protocol summary](#).

This project aims to deliver proactive humanitarian assistance to communities at risk of flooding due to the intensification of rainfall associated with Tropical Cyclones. By targeting identified vulnerable areas, the initiative seeks to reduce the impact on people's basic needs and build their resilience to climate-related emergencies. As part of the planned interventions, the Costa Rican Red Cross procured humanitarian aid cards to support affected families with essential resources. Additionally, lifesaving equipment will be acquired to strengthen emergency response capabilities and ensure timely and effective support during flood events.

Progress by the National Society against objectives

By mid-2025, the Costa Rican Red Cross strengthened its disaster preparedness and response mechanisms, particularly in the face of increasing climate-related emergencies. Drawing from the operational experience of the IFRC DREF Floods operation (MDRCR026), which supported communities affected by flooding due to intensified rainfall from Tropical Cyclones, the Costa Rican Red Cross conducted a comprehensive evaluation to identify strengths and areas for improvement. This analysis led to a set of strategic recommendations aimed at enhancing future interventions, improving operational efficiency, building inter-sectoral collaboration and ensuring a more targeted and timely humanitarian response.

In parallel, the Costa Rican Red Cross has been implementing the Early Action Protocol ([EAP](#)) for heavy rainfall linked to tropical cyclones. This anticipatory approach is designed to trigger early interventions before disaster impacts escalate, allowing for faster and more effective support to vulnerable populations.

As part of the FOCARE project, the Costa Rican Red Cross facilitated micro-social project training and community team development in the cantons of Río Cuarto, Upala, Guatuso and San Carlos. These efforts included administrative coordination for procurement of goods and services and engagement with municipal authorities and local emergency committees. A significant achievement during this period was the characterization of an [Early Warning System](#) for the Aguas Zarcas River micro-basin, developed with support from the Municipality of San Carlos. This included identifying key actors, mapping points of interest and specifying technical equipment such as sensors, data loggers and antennas for installation—laying the groundwork for continuous hydrological monitoring and risk mitigation.

The Costa Rican Red Cross also advanced its humanitarian response capacity through the procurement of 2,050 humanitarian aid cards and lifesaving equipment, aimed at supporting populations exposed to flooding. These resources are part of a broader strategy to address basic needs and ensure rapid assistance during emergencies.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Costa Rican Red Cross in the development and implementation of the Early Action Protocol (EAP) for intense rainfall due to tropical cyclones, the EAP for volcanic ash dispersion and the DREF flood operation.

The **German Red Cross** supported the National Society as part of the FOCARE project to facilitate micro-social project training and community team development in the cantons of Río Cuarto, Upala, Guatuso and San Carlos.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

By mid-2025, the Costa Rican Red Cross advanced its health and wellbeing objectives primarily through the efforts of the National Coordination of Community Health. These initiatives focused on ensuring a healthy and safe life for both communities and National Society staff and volunteers, using inclusive and participatory approaches. Activities included medical care, mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)), health campaigns, educational workshops, webinars and community-level actions promoting water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) and water conservation. All these efforts were carried out in close coordination with the National Society volunteers.

A key component of the Costa Rican Red Cross' health strategy has been the provision of MHPSS to its staff. Between June 1 and June 30, psychological care was extended to 130 Red Cross members, offering essential tools to enhance emotional resilience, improve quality of life and strengthen interpersonal relationships. These psychoeducational activities are part of a broader effort to promote disease prevention and self-care among staff, contributing to a culture of mental wellness within the National Society.

The Community Health Coordination also organized two national workshops aligned with the indicators of the National Operational Plan. The first workshop, focused on MHPSS tools for the National Society staff was attended by 16 participants. The second addressed menstrual hygiene management and contingency planning, drawing 28 participants. These initiatives helped raise awareness about physical and mental health, reduce stigma around mental illness and encourage self-care practices among staff and volunteers.

In addition, the Costa Rican Red Cross conducted 12 training sessions, both virtual and in-person, aimed at strengthening mental health capacities among staff and volunteers. Three specialized training sessions were delivered to students from UCIMED, focusing on mental health topics. The Costa Rican Red Cross further contributed to public awareness through participation in two podcasts, developed in collaboration with the Department of Occupational Health and the National Coordination of Community Health. These podcasts explored the importance of mental health and the impact of post-traumatic stress. The Costa Rican Red Cross also engaged in working sessions with the MHPSS teams of the Americas, reinforcing its regional collaboration and knowledge exchange.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical guidance, capacity-building opportunities and regional coordination that have enriched the Costa Rican Red Cross' approach to community health and staff wellbeing. The IFRC also facilitated the National

Society's participation in regional MHPSS platforms, enabling the exchange of best practices and the development of context-specific interventions.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, Costa Rica experienced a complex and evolving migration landscape, marked by mixed flows that included people in transit, pendulum migrants, asylum seekers, returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Regional developments such as changes in U.S. immigration policy, the closure of migrant detention centres in Panama and stricter legal migration pathways led to a decrease in northbound transit and a rise in returnees, particularly through informal crossings at the southern border. According to institutional records, over 3,276 individuals entered Costa Rica in transit, while approximately 1,400 returnees were registered, with the majority concentrated in the border regions of Los Chiles and Paso Canoas.

In response, the Costa Rican Red Cross undertook a series of strategic, operational and humanitarian actions to address the needs of these populations. A key milestone was the development of the technical document 'Costa Rica Migration Scenarios (May 2025 – May 2026)'. This document serves as a foundational tool for institutional planning, enabling the identification of priority actions, the establishment of early warning systems and the coordination of internal and external efforts to address short- and medium-term migration trends.

Operational capacity was significantly strengthened through the [Global Route-based Migration Programme](#), which included specialized training in areas such as migration, community engagement, safer access, MHPSS, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and Restoring Family Links (RFL). Six humanitarian assistance points (HSPs) were pre-positioned in strategic regions—North Zone, South Zone, Guanacaste, Limón, Heredia and San José—chosen for their proximity to migration routes, borders and urban centres with high migrant populations.

Further institutional development was achieved through a project on the formation of a multidisciplinary team, recruitment of staff and procurement of supplies. This led to the revision of the national strategy and policy on migrant and refugee care, the streamlining of administrative and logistical protocols for emergency response and the vaccination of frontline staff against yellow fever.

Humanitarian assistance efforts included the provision of pre-hospital care at key transit points, implementation of protection-focused activities through the RFL programme and targeted interventions under a regional project emphasizing the prevention of gender-based violence. The Costa Rican Red Cross also engaged in humanitarian diplomacy to address critical cases and advocate for the rights and needs of migrants.

A central focus of the National Society's migration response was the prevention of family separations, disappearances and risks along migratory routes. More than 5,000 preventive materials were distributed, including printed messages, audiovisual content and multilingual resources designed to inform and protect migrants in transit.

The Costa Rican Red Cross also played an active role in regional coordination and knowledge exchange. It participated in the Migration Scenario Planning Conference 2025 in Panama, the Regional Meeting on Migration in the Americas and the XVI Face-to-Face Meeting of the Restoring Family Links Regional Network (AMERCAN). These engagements facilitated the sharing of best practices, the presentation of the National Society's migration response model and the strengthening of operational ties with other National Societies across the region.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical assistance in the development of strategic planning tools, such as the migration scenario document, and supported the implementation of the Early Action Protocol (EAP) for migration-related emergencies.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supported the National Society in institutional strengthening through policy updates, resource mobilization and operational enhancements. The Swiss Red Cross also collaborated with the Costa Rican Red Cross on the presentation of the project 'Strengthening the Costa Rican Red Cross: Rapid and Efficient Responses for People on the Move,' which focuses on improving humanitarian services for migrants and displaced populations.

The **Canadian Red Cross** contributed to protection efforts, particularly in addressing gender-based violence among migrant populations.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (**ICRC**) played a vital role in the dissemination of preventive materials and the promotion of family reunification through the Restoring Family Links (**RFL**) programme. The ICRC also conducted workshops on Safer Access, Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and RFL.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, the Costa Rican Red Cross continued to advance its commitment to promoting humanitarian values, inclusive leadership and community engagement and accountability (**CEA**). A central focus of these efforts was the training and empowerment of volunteers, particularly through educational initiatives that reinforce the principles of International Humanitarian Law (**IHL**), peacebuilding and youth leadership.

The National Society delivered nine specialized courses on IHL, reaching a total of 173 participants. These training sessions not only strengthened the legal and ethical understanding of the National Society staff but also contributed to the broader institutional goal of promoting a culture of humanitarian protection and respect for human rights.

Under the Red Cross Youth programme, approximately 111 activities were carried out nationwide, focusing on leadership development, humanitarian diplomacy and planning of community-based initiatives. These activities were aligned with the three strategic axes of the National Society and its Annual Operational Plan, ensuring that youth engagement was both purposeful and impactful. Through these efforts, young volunteers were equipped to lead actions in their communities that reflect the values of solidarity, peace and nonviolence.

In collaboration with auxiliary committees, the Costa Rican Red Cross initiated plans to conduct at least one community activity per semester dedicated to the themes of national and international friendship and peace education. These initiatives are closely tied to the Youth programme's work blocks and the National Society's broader efforts to prevent violence and promote a culture of peace. Additionally, each semester includes a community activity focused on disseminating the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross, IHL and human rights. These are complemented by quarterly activities addressing community health and environmental management, reinforcing the cross-cutting nature of inclusion and values in all areas of humanitarian work.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in promoting the implementation of Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (**YABC**) training with a **CEA** approach to strengthen the capacities of the National Society in its articulation of behaviour change actions in the different programmes and projects.

The **Canadian Red Cross** supported a regional initiative emphasizing the prevention of gender-based violence.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

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 ([WASH](#)) 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](#).

The **Swiss Red Cross** supported the National Society in institutional strengthening through policy updates, resource mobilization and operational enhancements. The Swiss Red Cross also collaborated with the Costa Rican Red Cross on the presentation of the project 'Strengthening the Costa Rican Red Cross: Rapid and Efficient Responses for People on the Move,' which focuses on improving humanitarian services for migrants and displaced populations.

The **Canadian Red Cross** supports a regional initiative of the National Society in protection efforts, particularly in addressing gender-based violence among migrant populations.

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. The ICRC works closely 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.

External coordination

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 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.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

By mid-2025, the Costa Rican Red Cross has continued to advance its institutional transformation in alignment with the Strategic Plan 2021–2030. This plan envisions the National Society as a resilient, innovative humanitarian institution with both national and international reach, capable of delivering efficient and effective responses to all communities and sectors. The transformation is guided by three strategic pillars: a Humanitarian Red Cross, an Inclusive Red Cross and an Open and Transparent Red Cross.

A major milestone in this journey was the reaffirmation of the Costa Rican Red Cross's commitment to excellence through its successful recertification under the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification ([OCAC](#)) process.

On December 11, 2023, the National Society was officially recognized during the Extraordinary General Assembly of the IFRC. It remains the first National Society in the Americas and the third globally to achieve OCAC certification. Following the completion of phase two, the evaluation report classified the Costa Rican Red Cross in the 'Exemplary' category, the highest distinction awarded under the OCAC framework.

The Costa Rican Red Cross' national presence is structured through 134 Local Units distributed across nine regions, supported by a central headquarters and an administrative headquarters. This decentralized model ensures strong community engagement and operational reach across the country.

A landmark achievement in the first half of 2025 was the approval of the Costa Rican Red Cross Law (Law No. 10632) on February 21. This legislation represents a significant success in humanitarian diplomacy. It formally recognizes the Costa Rican Red Cross as an institution of public interest and utility, legally empowered to manage state funds and act as an auxiliary to public authorities during emergencies. The law grants the National Society operational advantages such as priority access, protection for volunteers and streamlined procedures for importing humanitarian supplies. It also reinforces the National Society's legal standing in its coordination with national and international actors, ensuring a more agile and protected humanitarian response during crises.

The National Society has also made progress in strengthening its internal systems through the implementation of strategic enablers. These include Quality Management and Internal Control, which promotes transparency, efficiency and accountability through continuous improvement and compliance monitoring. Financial Sustainability has been prioritized to ensure the ethical and effective management of resources, securing the long-term viability of the Costa Rican Red Cross. Human Talent Management focused on attracting, developing and retaining both volunteer and salaried staff, recognizing their central role in fulfilling the National Society's mission.

The Costa Rican Red Cross also contributes to the broader Movement through its involvement in the Reference Centre, which supports the development of methodologies, tools and learning processes. This centre plays a key role in strengthening the capacities of National Societies across the Americas, encouraging innovation, harmonization and shared leadership in humanitarian knowledge and service delivery.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical guidance and strategic alignment throughout the OCAC recertification process. The IFRC also supported the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2021–2030, particularly in areas related to innovation, financial sustainability and quality management. Through its regional coordination mechanisms, the IFRC facilitated knowledge exchange, capacity building and the dissemination of best practices, enabling the Costa Rican Red Cross to remain at the forefront of humanitarian innovation in the region.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Costa Rican Red Cross actively advanced its diplomatic and advocacy efforts throughout the first half of 2025 in alignment with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's definition of humanitarian diplomacy by persuading decision-makers and opinion leaders to act in the best interest of vulnerable populations while upholding humanitarian principles. The Humanitarian Doctrine continues to guide all institutional actions of the National Society, ensuring alignment with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

A major achievement in humanitarian diplomacy during the first half of 2025 was the official approval of the Costa Rican Red Cross Law (Law No. 10632), published in *La Gaceta* on February 21. This landmark legislation formally recognizes the Costa Rican Red Cross as an institution of public interest and utility, legally empowered to manage state funds and act as an auxiliary to the public authorities in emergencies. It grants operational advantages such as priority access, protection for volunteers and administrative agility in coordinating with national and international authorities. The law strengthens cooperation between humanitarian actors and the State, providing a solid legal foundation for rapid and effective response in times of crisis. Under the slogan 'A Law that does not harm anyone,' the National Society successfully advocated for a framework that protects its emblem, assets and staff, and affirms its role within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

A key area of engagement has been the sustained dialogue with the Diplomatic Academy of Costa Rica, particularly with Ambassador Carmen Claramunt, focusing on humanitarian issues and the work of the ICRC. The National Society has also maintained active coordination with institutions involved in the protection of cultural property, advocating for the placement of the blue shield emblem in accordance with the 1954 Hague Convention. These efforts aim to increase the number of protected assets in the event of armed conflict or disaster.

The Costa Rican Red Cross also played a critical role in humanitarian negotiations with the General Directorate of Migration and Aliens, particularly in cases involving returnees. During the reporting period, three humanitarian assistance cases were coordinated—two involving Salvadoran nationals and one involving a Costa Rican citizen in Peru. In the Peruvian case, the individual required medical evacuation upon returning to Costa Rica, and the National Society facilitated his transfer by ambulance from Juan Santamaría International Airport to Ricardo Allen Hospital in Turrialba. The Salvadoran cases involved traffic accident victims who were transferred from hospitals in San José and Pérez Zeledón to their respective departure points, including Juan Santamaría Airport and La Cruz in Guanacaste.

The presidency of the Costa Rican Red Cross led an active agenda of inter-institutional engagement, holding strategic meetings with representatives from government ministries, diplomatic missions, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector. These interactions helped position the National Society as a multifaceted humanitarian actor, extending its visibility beyond prehospital care to include migration, protection, health and disaster response. Meetings were held with the Legislative Assembly, the Office of the Ombudsman and ministries such as Finance, Interior and Foreign Affairs. Diplomatic engagement included embassies from Italy, Switzerland, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Türkiye, Canada, the European Union, Luxembourg and the United States.

The National Society also strengthened ties with international cooperation agencies such as the United Nations, USAID and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, as well as academic institutions such as the National University, CENFOTEC and the University of Castilla-La Mancha. Engagement with the private sector included companies such as Intel, Pfizer, Ricoh and Bac Credomatic, while collaboration with professional associations and municipal authorities further expanded its influence and operational reach.

Internationally, the Costa Rican Red Cross actively participated in key regional and global forums, including the Migration Scenario Planning Conference 2025, the Regional Meeting on Migration in the Americas, and the XVI Meeting of the Restoring Family Links Regional Network (AMERCAN). Other notable events included the WASH HUB Central America Technical Meeting, the Global Youth Commission, the CONNECT 2025 Conference and the Regional Workshop on Auxiliary Role and Humanitarian Diplomacy in Migratory Contexts. The National Society also contributed to the Women and Diplomacy Conference and deployed Mr. Jim Batres Rodríguez to support operations in Bolivia as part of the IFRC's rapid response team.

These engagements have elevated the international profile of the Costa Rican Red Cross, allowing it to share best practices, advocate for humanitarian priorities, and strengthen coordination with other National Societies and global partners. The Costa Rican Red Cross has positioned itself as a committed and proactive actor in the regional and global humanitarian landscape.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided strategic guidance and facilitated the Costa Rican Red Cross' participation in high-level regional and global platforms, including CONNECT 2025 and the Regional Workshop on Humanitarian Diplomacy.

The **Swiss Red Cross**, the **Spanish Red Cross**, the **Panamanian Red Cross**, the **Turkish Red Crescent** and the **Italian Red Cross** also contributed to strengthening diplomatic engagement and operational coordination.

The ICRC collaborated with the National Society in advancing protection-related initiatives, particularly in the areas of cultural property and migration.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, the Costa Rican Red Cross institutionalized community engagement and accountability (CEA) approach, while simultaneously enhancing its digital infrastructure and operational agility.

A major achievement was the formal appointment of a national officer responsible for CEA. This designation ensures technical leadership and coordination across regions, marking full compliance with the strategic objective of national articulation. In preparation for the 2025 Pilgrimage, a comprehensive CEA strategy was developed in collaboration with five regional representatives, focusing on key monitoring zones such as Cartago, the South Zone and the North Zone. This initiative integrates community feedback mechanisms into large-scale operations, reinforcing the principles of participation and protection.

The Costa Rican Red Cross also launched a prevention campaign under the theme 'Zero Tolerance for Sexual Harassment and Abuse,' targeting both internal staff and the public. Developed by the Community Participation and Accountability Area, this campaign strengthens institutional safeguards and promotes human dignity in line with humanitarian standards.

Training efforts were expanded through two regional workshops on the CEA approach, reaching 33 participants in Region 1 (San José) and 35 in Region 7 (Limón). These sessions supported the development of local capacities and aligned with indicators in the 2025 Annual Operational Plan. Additionally, the first draft of the national CEA policy was completed, with 50 per cent progress toward formal adoption. In collaboration with DINACAP and the regional CEA officer for Central America, the Costa Rican Red Cross also advanced the development of a specialized course on CEA in emergencies, now 80 per cent complete.

To ensure ongoing accountability, three active feedback channels were maintained: telephone and WhatsApp (available Monday to Saturday), institutional email and a 24/7 web form with responses during working hours. These mechanisms provide direct and continuous access for both internal and external users, reinforcing transparency and responsiveness.

Innovation and digital transformation drove the adoption of new technologies and creative approaches to improve services and enhance humanitarian impact. A structured roadmap was implemented to modernize infrastructure, enhance cybersecurity and improve operational efficiency. Key accomplishments included the procurement of new computer equipment for committees with outdated systems, the presentation of a national technology diagnosis revealing 57 per cent obsolescence and the replacement of 12 units at the administrative headquarters. Bandwidth was expanded at no additional cost to support increased use of collaboration platforms such as MS Teams, SharePoint and the ERP system.

Cybersecurity improvements included the proposal to upgrade firewall infrastructure, replacement of the CCTV system at headquarters and acquisition of TeamViewer licenses for secure remote support. The National Society also began migrating servers to the cloud, initiated automation projects such as a WhatsApp bot for sales and software for fuel invoice processing, and secured CHF 75,000 in funding from the Grants and Funds Committee to digitize key documentation and strengthen web security.

Further advancements included the acquisition of four Starlink devices to ensure satellite connectivity during emergencies, the implementation of the SAWC centralized incident tracking system and quarterly updates to the ERP system, with Version 4.4 scheduled for nationwide rollout in September. The Costa Rican Red Cross also engaged with MICITT to procure cybersecurity solutions and reviewed a new version of the Incident Command System to improve internal coordination.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC played a key role in the development and implementation of the SAWC system, which enhances centralized tracking of incidents and operations. This tool has improved real-time decision-making and coordination during emergencies. The IFRC also provided technical support for the institutionalization of the CEA approach, including collaboration on the emergency-focused training course and strategic planning for large-scale operations.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** contributed to the deployment of digital tools and systems, reinforcing the Costa Rican Red Cross's capacity to respond with speed and precision.

Q4. AFFECTED PERSONS (PEOPLE REACHED)

See cover pages

Q5. PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

See Strategic Priority on 'Values, power and inclusion' under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q6. RISK MANAGEMENT

This information is not available in Mid-Year Reports

Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

See Strategic Priorities or Enabling Local Actors, where relevant under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q8. LESSONS LEARNED

Nothing to report

SUCCESS STORIES



1

A Law for Humanity

On February 21, 2025, the Costa Rican Red Cross achieved a historic milestone with the official approval of Law No. 10632, published in La Gaceta. This landmark legislation formally recognizes the National Society as an institution of public interest and utility, legally empowered to manage state funds and act as an auxiliary to the public authorities during emergencies. It grants operational advantages such as priority access, protection for volunteers and streamlined coordination with national and international authorities, ensuring faster and more effective humanitarian response.

This achievement, driven by strategic humanitarian diplomacy, reinforces the Costa Rican Red Cross' role as a first-response institution and safeguards its emblem, assets and staff. Under the slogan 'A Law that does not harm anyone,' the National Society successfully advocated for a legal framework that strengthens cooperation with the public authorities and affirms its membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Coinciding with its 140th anniversary, the Costa Rican Red Cross celebrated this legislative victory alongside commemorative events nationwide, honouring its legacy and reaffirming its commitment to humanitarian service.

ANNEX 1. IFRC APPLICATION OF THE 8+3 REPORTING TEMPLATE

The IFRC network structures its result-based management along five Strategic priorities and four Enabling functions, developed based on the IFRC network's [Strategy 2030](#):

IFRC network Strategic Priorities	IFRC network Enabling Functions
SP 1 - Climate and environment	EF 1- Strategic and operational coordination
SP 2 - Disasters and crises	EF 2 - National Society development
SP 3 - Health and wellbeing	EF 3 - Humanitarian diplomacy
SP 4 - Migration and displacement	EF 4 - Accountability and agility
SP 5 - Values, power and inclusion	

The Federation-wide results matrix provides a standard way for the IFRC network to measure its progress towards Strategy 2030 implementation and supports consistent quality of the IFRC network planning, monitoring and reporting. To further advance coherence in monitoring across the IFRC network, a [Federation-wide Indicator Bank](#) has been developed and integrated into the Federation-wide monitoring systems for emergencies and longer-term work, structured along the Federation-wide results matrix as well. Signatory of the Grand Bargain Agreement, the IFRC has committed to its monitoring and reporting standards through integration of the [8+3 reporting template](#) contents into its results-based management approach. The following mapping demonstrate the way in which this report aligns with 8+3 reporting:

8+3 template	IFRC network Mid-Year Report (with variance in structure in red)
Core Questions	
1. Overall Performance	Overall Performance
2. Changes and Amendments	Changes and amendments
3. Measuring Results	Measuring Results
4. Affected Persons	Cover pages with indicators values
5. Participation & AAP	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 5: Values, power and inclusion – Community Engagement and Accountability
6. Risk management	Risk management
7. Exit Strategy and Sustainability	Under Q3 sub-sections by Strategic Priority/Enabling Function where relevant
8. Lessons Learned	Lessons learned
Additional Questions	
1. Value for Money/ Cost Effectiveness	Not included in mid-year reports
2. Visibility	Not included in mid-year reports
3. Coordination	Under Q3 Enabling Function 1: Strategic and operational coordination
4. Implementing Partners	Cross-cutting, with a focus on support to localization through the Q3 Enabling Functions 1 to 4
5. Activities or Steps Towards implementation	Cross-cutting in Q3 Strategic Priorities and Enabling Functions
6. Environment	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 1: Climate and environment



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 15 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.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2025. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods and may be incomplete. 'Not reported' could sometimes mean 'not applicable'. Also note that funding requirements are already reflected in the published 2025 IFRC network country plan. The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network has sought 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
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-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

- [CR_Costa Rica AR Financials.pdf](#)
- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

Contact information

Marjorie Sotofranco

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

T +504 93007044

marjorie.sotofranco@ifrc.org

Monica Portilla

Head of Strategic Partnerships
& Resource Mobilization
IFRC Regional Office for Americas,
Panama

T +502 586 57619

monica.portilla@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

Lead
IFRC Global Strategic Planning
& Reporting Centre
New Delhi

sumitha.martin@ifrc.org