



VENEZUELA

2025 IFRC network country plan



Funding Requirement **CHF 3.1M**

23 May 2025

In support of the Venezuelan Red Cross Society



42

National Society
branches



105

National Society
local units



606

National Society
staff



2,665

National Society
volunteers

People to be reached



4,000

Climate and
environment



18,000

Disasters
and crises



30,000

Health and
wellbeing



5,000

Migration and
displacement



3,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Health
- Livelihoods
- Disaster risk reduction

Capacity development

- Governance • communication
- Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting
- Resource mobilization

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

High

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Medium

Human Development Index rank

119

World Bank Population figure

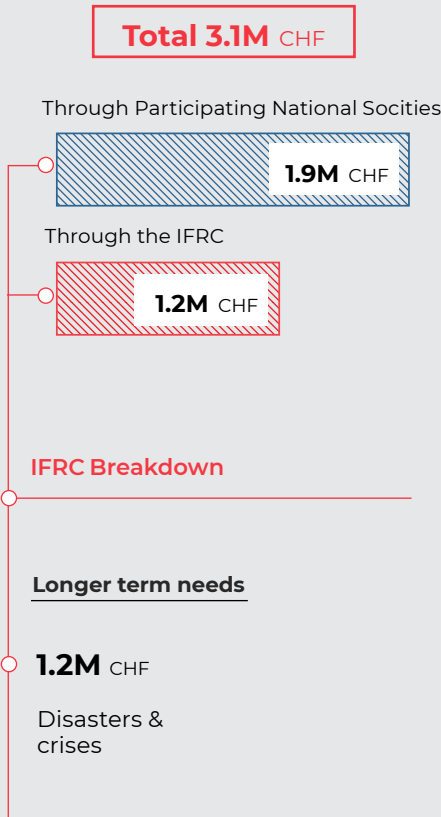
28.3M

World Bank Population below poverty line

33.1%

Funding requirements

2025



Participating National Societies












- German Red Cross
- The Netherlands Red Cross
- Spanish Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:
MAAVE003

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	1.9M						
Netherlands Red Cross							
Spanish Red Cross							

Total Funding requirement **CHF 1.9M**

Hazards



Floods



Population movement



Civil unrest



Food insecurity

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Venezuelan Red Cross** has been fulfilling its humanitarian mandate in Venezuela since its establishment by ministerial resolution in 1895. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) at its current form in 1919. The National Society is the largest private health network in Venezuela, operating eight hospitals, 26 outpatient clinics and 11 comprehensive medical centres. In addition to running the largest non-state health system in Venezuela, the Venezuelan Red Cross plays a crucial role in the communities it serves, providing the first response during disasters and crises, and assisting in community resilience building.

In emergencies, the National Society provides first aid, ambulance services, primary health care, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) promotion, relief and Restoring Family Links (RFL) services. To improve community resilience, the National Society works with local communities to design and implement participatory resilience actions across several key areas such as food security and livelihoods, community-based disaster risk reduction, community-based health, among others. As an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, the

Venezuelan Red Cross coordinates its activities with different state bodies while maintaining respect for the Red Cross Red Crescent's fundamental principles.

The Venezuelan Red Cross Strategic Plan 2021–2026 identifies four strategic objectives, along with other priorities related to its development:

- Strengthen people's capacity to anticipate and overcome crises and recover quickly from them
- Contribute to healthy and safe living conditions for people, with dignity and a chance to thrive
- Mobilize people for inclusive and peaceful communities
- Promote a culture of non-violence, peace and social inclusion

In 2023, the Venezuelan Red Cross reached over 16,000 people with its long-term services and development programmes and about 11,497 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the branches of the Venezuelan Red Cross

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

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Venezuela is currently going through a complex multi-sectoral crisis that has worsened over the years with a recorded drop of more than 75 per cent in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The Venezuelan population is facing a series of challenges, among which are the lack of access to basic services such as electricity, water, transportation, education, health, as well as a deterioration in livelihoods due to economic and social aggravation.

Hyperinflation between 2018-2021 in addition to the persistent high inflation since then has reduced household incomes, savings and purchasing power. In September 2023, inflation was 158 per cent. In 2024, despite economic projections of 4.2 per cent growth, more than three-quarters of the population was living in multidimensional poverty, and the dollarization of the economy further widened the inequality gap. Despite efforts to curb price increases, high inflation coupled with a 25 per cent increase in dollar prices, have been impacting the most vulnerable population who do not have access to foreign currency.

The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are still present in the country, especially in the health system, as hospitals lack medicines, medical equipment, qualified personnel and adequate infrastructure to provide specialized services. In addition, the lack of access to safe water has increased water

and sanitation needs. In many cases, the population resorts to other means to obtain water, which is often costly and does not guarantee quality and compliance with the parameters for safe water.

Migration has been the prevailing strategy to cope with the multi-dimensional crisis, initiating the exodus of more than seven million Venezuelans worldwide. Among the most vulnerable populations are people living in poverty, children, pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities, and the elderly, who are considered “left behind” as a result of the exodus.

Depending on the evolving economic situation in Venezuela and the financial panorama in neighbouring countries, there is a possibility of return migration, generating additional humanitarian needs. The needs at the country level have continued to increase, leading humanitarian actors to shift from an emergency approach to a longer-term resilience approach.

In 2025, economic growth in Venezuela is expected to be between 3 per cent and 4 per cent, reflecting cautious recovery prospects. However, this does not imply an immediate improvement for the needs of the most vulnerable populations, who face problems related to economic contraction, political polarization, high inflation, situations of localized violence, gender inequality and low coverage in primary and specialized health services, especially in sexual and reproductive health. In turn, the political context can lead to the aggravation of existing needs and increase the risks of protection against an exodus from the country.



Volunteers of the Venezuelan Red Cross supporting families affected by Hurricane Beryl through water and sanitation supply distributions, in August 2024 (Photo: Venezuelan Red Cross)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The diverse and varied geography of Venezuela means that it is exposed to a broad array of hydrometeorological and environmental hazards. These are directly exacerbated by the impacts of climate change across the country, with increased and more severe weather-related events. Heavy rainfall typically occurs during the May to November rainy season. In 2023, Venezuela faced major climate and environmental challenges, exacerbated by climate change and ecological degradation. Climate variability manifested itself in irregular rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, and extreme events that severely affected the population and ecosystems. These events had a direct impact on the country's agriculture, food security, water resources and infrastructure.

Coastal communities along Venezuela's 2,800 kilometres of coastline are vulnerable to maritime and riverine floods, as well as the El Niño and La Niña Southern Oscillation and sea level rise. Meanwhile, the population, especially in the Andes and the centre of the country, faces the risks associated with rains, floods, landslides, droughts and damage to homes every year. Venezuela's share of the Amazon rainforest, lakes, and coastline, constituting a rich biodiverse environment, has been impacted by increasing levels of pollution and degradation in recent years.

According to the draft of the second Academic Report on Climate Change, it is expected that the increase in temperatures will have a direct effect on the country's water resources, as well as a direct impact on health levels. The lack of policies at the national level focused on reducing the impact of climate change aggravates the conditions of vulnerability that the population already faces and puts at risk the areas that should be protected.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Venezuelan Red Cross seeks to integrate climate and environmental risk management into all its programmes and operations. Efforts will be made to ensure that all present and future activities are based on a National Climate and Environment Strategy.

The Venezuelan Red Cross utilizes NEAT+ (Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool), an environmental screening tool, developed by a multi-stakeholder project, which aims to improve coordination between environmental and humanitarian actors in humanitarian operations. Using NEAT+ enables the National

Society to assess and mitigate potential environmental impacts of their humanitarian activities, such as those related to healthcare, food security and WASH.

The Venezuelan Red Cross also seeks to involve communities in climate adaptation processes, promoting greater awareness and collective action. Additionally, through its youth programme, the National Society will continue to raise awareness and promote climate change adaptation actions and sustainable environmental practices in communities. Through education and constant participation, young people will be primed to lead initiatives that foster resilience and sustainability.

The National Society aims to focus on training staff and volunteers in topics including nature-based solutions (NbS), circular economy, disaster risk reduction and climate-smart actions to enable them to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for the implementation of sustainable and resilient practices.

Planned activities in 2025

- Develop a toolbox on environmentally sustainable practices to facilitate the implementation of its internal and external activities
- Hold binational youth meetings to strengthen leadership and develop work plans that promote the reduction of the carbon footprint
- Include adaptation to climate change as a theme within communities and educational brigade training
- Train volunteers in anticipatory action based on forecasts, and exchange of experiences with other National Societies

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support capacity building of the Venezuelan Red Cross volunteer network by promoting actions at the community level to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The IFRC will also assist the National Society through technical support, positioning and financing urgent actions for climate risk adaptation and environmental sustainability.

The **German Red Cross** seeks to support the Venezuelan Red Cross by facilitating meetings and exchanges to share methodologies for nature-based solutions (NbS) and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (DRR). Additionally, it will also provide technical support to the National Society in evaluating the feasibility of implementing anticipatory actions.



Disasters and crises

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

Venezuela, with an INFORM risk rating of [5.6](#), has a high risk of humanitarian crises and disasters, due to a combination of hazards, vulnerability and lack of coping capacity. The country faces increased exposure to hydrometeorological hazards, and heavy precipitation can cause devastating floods and landslides with significant humanitarian impact. On [19 August 2023](#), heavy rains in Santa Elena de Uairén affected approximately 1,884 families across Venezuela. Similarly, on [31 October 2023](#), heavy rains affected the states of Sucre and Aragua, with 273 families in need of humanitarian assistance. Moreover, on 01 July 2024, [Hurricane Beryl](#) reached category five, severely affecting the northeastern states of Venezuela, especially Sucre, causing severe damage to at least 29,000 people, affecting water and electricity distribution, roads, health centres, businesses and homes. Floods and landslides forced hundreds of families to abandon their homes. In addition to the immediate destruction, it also exacerbated the already vulnerable population, negatively impacting their well-being, safety, and livelihoods.

In terms of food security levels, Venezuela is below average. It is estimated that a family of five requires [133 minimum wages](#) to cover the basic consumption basket. The deterioration of livelihoods, which was aggravated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, has significantly impacted groups with specific vulnerabilities, such as children under five years of age, pregnant women, and the elderly.

Between [June 2024 and January 2025](#), the highest area-level outcome in Venezuela was 'Stressed' (IPC Phase 2). Following the economic crisis that affected millions of households, macroeconomic improvements and the reactivation of various economic and agricultural activities reduced the population in need. However, a portion of the poorest households remained in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through January. Needs were estimated to persist for between 1.0 and 1.5 million people.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Venezuelan Red Cross promotes community resilience and works with communities to strengthen their capacities to address the impacts of disasters and crises. As part of the capacity transfer process, these actions will be led by the National Society's youth programme.

The National Society seeks to ensure the availability and pre-positioning of response inputs in prioritized regions. For this, it will focus on ensuring that storage spaces meet required standards as well as timely distribution of these relief supplies, in close collaboration with local authorities. It will enhance its role in emergency response, through the development of contingency plans at the national, regional and subsidiary levels,

incorporating comprehensive actions from all sectors. The National Society also aims to improve monitoring of adverse events, by strengthening the situational rooms of the subsidiaries through training and structuring. Additionally, the Venezuelan Red Cross will make efforts to expand its leadership in the field of disaster law and improve the official and legal recognition of its auxiliary function.

Planned activities in 2025

- Train and train community brigade specialized in disaster response, including content on early warning systems
- Develop and implement community action plans based on Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments to reduce risks and strengthen resilience
- Standardize the curriculum of the Relief Directorate
- Ensure communication and coordination with other specialized organizations for emergency response
- Evaluate the legal framework for the preparation of a draft law on the Red Cross that contemplates the law relating to disaster situations
- Strengthen the response capacities of the National Society at the branch, regional, and national levels on topics such as [emergency needs assessments](#)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support to the National Society in the development of its National Disaster and Crisis Strategy. It will also provide technical support in ensuring the review and improvement of the internal processes of the Venezuelan Red Cross, enabling it to strengthen its response mechanisms.

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, IFRC provided DREF allocations for a flood emergency in Venezuela.

- [IFRC-DREF Venezuela: Floods - Hurricane Beryl](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 270,049 in July 2024 supported the Venezuelan Red Cross to assist 5,000 people in the northeastern states of Venezuela impacted by flooding resulting from Hurricane Beryl. The National Society supported the targeted people over a six-month period through interventions distribution of essential items and shelter kits and cash support. Support also included distribution of hygiene kits as, complemented with awareness sessions focused on hygiene.

Additionally, the IFRC will support the Venezuelan Red Cross in the financing of National Emergency Response Plans and

in the identification of available funds focused on building

capacities at the community-level and the achievement of its disaster risk reduction objectives.



Health and wellbeing

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated health needs which, due to the socio-economic crisis in the country, were already escalating. It is estimated that, due to limitations in accessing a private doctor, nine out of ten people must resort to a public hospital or outpatient clinic, which are estimated to have lost about 70 per cent of their capacity compared to pre-2016 levels.

Although drug shortages have been reduced (27.5 per cent in August 2023), high costs and lack of access to medicines limit the population's ability to obtain them, leading to an increase in chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. This in turn has made it difficult to treat acute diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis.

Due to the socioeconomic context, medical personnel have been forced to migrate or seek other sources of employment, which has directly impacted the quantity and quality of services offered. This is more pronounced in remote areas of the main cities, where clinics lack a minimum of staff.

Among the most urgent needs is maternal and child health, one of the areas most affected by the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. The maternal mortality rate is 50 per 100,000 live births, one of the highest in Latin America. The infant mortality rate is 25 per 1,000 live births. Communicable diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS remain a grave problem in Venezuela. Due to the economic situation in Venezuela, state-sponsored disease prevention programmes have been reduced, increasing the prevalence of tuberculosis, malaria, and other vaccine-preventable, water- and vector-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.

A lack of access to basic goods and services is also aggravating the mental health of the population, causing higher levels of acute stress, anxiety and episodes of distress and suicidal tendencies among people, particularly young people, in Venezuela.

People in Venezuela are facing a rapidly decreasing supply of safe water, primarily due to a lack of investment in and maintenance of vital water systems such as aqueducts, pipelines and treatment plants. In many rural and urban communities, water is available once or twice a week at most. It is often untreated and unsafe for consumption, leading to an increased risk of water-borne diseases.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Venezuelan Red Cross aims to improve public health and community resilience by strengthening its network of health centres and healthcare teams. It will focus on the implementation of its Health Strategy 2025 through strategic, coordinated activities that respond to local needs and capacities.

The National Society seeks to ensure sustainable, affordable and quality health services, especially in vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities, by expanding mobile health units, equipping health facilities, and continuously training its volunteer base in health promotion, disease prevention and community care. It also aims to enhance community preparedness and empowerment by working through community organizing committees and health brigades, promoting health education on topics such as first aid, communicable and non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health.

The Venezuelan Red Cross is engaged in the Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP) through the IFRC. This global partnership, including government, private sector, faith-based and humanitarian organizations, focuses on three main activities: coordination of partners involved in insecticide-treated net (ITN) campaign and continuous distribution activities; development of operational guidance for planning and implementing of ITN distribution based on an iterative process; and providing technical assistance to national malaria programmes and partners based on requests.

The Venezuelan Red Cross will prioritize psychological and emotional well-being by offering mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services. It aims to strengthen access to primary health care, including sexual and reproductive health and nutrition services. The National Society also focuses on improving access to environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services by supporting infrastructure development, promoting hygiene education including menstrual health, and facilitating participatory community engagement through methodologies such as Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and Child Hygiene and Sanitation Training (CLST).

Through coordination with authorities and other organizations, the Venezuelan Red Cross seeks to participate in humanitarian clusters, contribute to public health policy and reinforce a rights-based, community-led approach to health and well-being.

Planned activities in 2025

- Update Health Strategy 2025, incorporating realistic and feasible actions for its implementation
 - Collaborate with communities to strengthen their capacities in health and reinforce community brigades to empower communities
 - Provide nutritional care in the communities
 - Implement sexual and reproductive health services
 - Promote health in communities through activities and educational sessions on first aid and communicable and non-communicable diseases
 - Promote menstrual hygiene in communities
 - Develop activities focused on improving community and hospital waste management, providing knowledge on its proper management
 - Development of the National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Strategy
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical support to the Venezuelan Red Cross in the process of updating its plans and strategies. It will provide financial support to the National Society to maintain continued humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities in the area of health and well-being. Additionally, the IFRC will provide technical support to the National Society in strengthening its capacities at the national level.

The **German Red Cross** will support the Venezuelan Red Cross through the provision of educational material on sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). It will also provide technical assistance in strengthening volunteerism in infection prevention and control, public health in emergencies and community-based health and first aid (CBHFA).

The **Norwegian Red Cross** has shown interest in supporting the development of capacities in epidemiological surveillance at the community level.



Migration and displacement

Mixed migratory flows continue to occur in and out Venezuela, including people who intend to leave, returnees and people who make cross-border pendulum movements. It is estimated that nearly eight million Venezuelans have left the country. By October 2023, there had been an increase in migratory flows heading north, passing through the Darien Gap, considered one of the most dangerous routes in the Americas. Many cases consist of Venezuelans who migrated within South America, returned to Venezuela to obtain legal documents or to go with family members, and left again in search of new horizons. Of the 248,000 migrants who crossed the Darien in 2023, 55 per cent have been Venezuelans, further risking vulnerable conditions. It is increasingly common to see women, unaccompanied children, and young people on the migration route, often in extremely vulnerable states. In 2024, a total of 302,203 migrants crossed the Darien Gap, a decrease of 42 per cent compared to 2023. While the overall number of migrants decreased, the proportion of Venezuelans crossing the Darien remained high, accounting for 69 per cent of the total. The migration route continues to pose significant risks, particularly for vulnerable groups including women, unaccompanied children, and young people, who are increasingly visible on the path.

The reasons for migration vary between lack of access to goods and services, deterioration in quality of life, lack of

education or employment services, as well as insecurity. The impacts of migration are both short and long-term, including the increase of protection risks for communities along the migration route, and the loss of human capital in specialized sectors, which affects productivity levels and availability of qualified personnel.

The impacts of migration are expected to increase if no changes occur in the economic, political, and social context. The probabilities of return are reduced when the initial conditions or reasons for emigration persist over time.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Venezuelan Red Cross is part of the three-year IFRC Global Route Based Migration Programme, which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support people on the move and people in host communities 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 Venezuelan Red Cross aims to establish alliances with actors operating in border areas and at the national level and facilitate binational meetings with other National Societies to encourage the exchange of good practices. It will train community advocates to promote the inclusion of returnees and the culture of peace in the communities. Additionally, the Venezuelan Red Cross aims to strengthen alliances with external actors present in border areas and at the national level.

- Develop a comprehensive migration response plan

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to promote partnerships to ensure the strengthening of the Venezuelan Red Cross branches in border states. It will also provide technical accompaniment and support in the search for resources that provide continuity with community processes and bring together migrant and host populations.

In 2025, the IFRC launched a [Disaster Response Emergency Fund](#) (IFRC-DREF) for a population movement emergency in Uganda.

- [IFRC-DREF Venezuela: Population Movement](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 148,383 in March 2025 has been supporting the Venezuelan Red Cross to assist 3,500 returnees and people impacted by the recent return of hundreds of Venezuelans back to the country. The National Society has been supporting and will continue to support the targeted people over a three-month period through interventions such as the provision of shelter support. Support also includes distribution of hygiene kits as, complemented with awareness sessions focused on hygiene.

Planned activities in 2025

- Provide primary health care to migrants and displaced people, mental health, and psychosocial support, restoring family links services, and water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion
- Develop a Migration and Protection Strategy that includes contingency planning for potential increases in migration flows
- Disseminate key messages to migrants on the safe route and migrant protection risks, and promote community support for the safe route orientation
- Develop a communication plan to promote inclusion and non-xenophobia against migrants



Values, power and inclusion

A decline in the availability, access, and quality of specialized protection services in Venezuela has exacerbated protection risks for vulnerable populations. This includes people who are survivors of gender-based violence, at-risk children, pregnant women, indigenous people, people living with disabilities, the LGBTIQ+ community, displaced populations, migrants, people living with HIV and chronic diseases, and the elderly.

According to data from [UN Women](#), in a 2018 study of adolescent girls and adult women aged 15 to 49 years, 8.5 per cent of the participants reported that they had experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, by a current or former partner in the previous 12 months. Pregnant women face several obstacles in accessing adequate prenatal and postnatal care, which in turn increases the risk of complications during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum.

There has been evidence of an increase in protection risks particularly in border areas for children and the elderly. Known as the “left behind”, this population, often lacking access to basic services, faces aggravated vulnerability. A 2020 [Help Age International rapid needs assessment](#), conducted in Miranda, Lara and Bolívar, found that 77 per cent of elderly people in Venezuela do not have access to sufficient food supplies.

Furthermore, 31 per cent of older adults living with a disability depend on their family and friends to receive basic goods. There are also gaps in guaranteeing the right to identity of children and adolescents. This especially holds in foster care and family strengthening programs in border areas and destination communities.

Almost three per cent of the population in Venezuela identifies as indigenous. While indigenous rights are recognized in the country’s constitution, this population faces socio-environmental challenges to their territories and way of living. The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs ([IWGIA](#)) has reported that Indigenous people in Venezuela experience health problems due to the prevalence of malaria, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and gastrointestinal and respiratory diseases in the country. Migratory flows also affect indigenous populations and territories.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Venezuelan Red Cross will prioritize the implementation of activities through the cross-cutting approach of protection, gender, and inclusion ([PGI](#)), to ensure that all actions are

developed respecting and dignifying the populations. The National Society also seeks to strengthen the cross-cutting axis of community engagement and accountability (CEA), as it is a priority for the institution to work on actions that allow for optimal identification of community needs.

Throughout its work, the Venezuelan Red Cross protects and promotes the Red Cross Red Crescent's Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values to effect positive change within the Venezuelan population. The Venezuelan Red Cross focuses on youth empowerment both within its organizational structure and in its action in favour of people affected by multiple challenges. The Venezuelan Red Cross youth department brings together children and young people from eight years of age until adulthood. With support from the National Society, the young people involved form children's brigades and youth groups and even work as coordinators of various programmes. The department aims to assist children and young people in situations of vulnerability, with activities to strengthen their development and encourage them to become drivers of change.

Planned activities in 2025

- Establish a reporting line as a feedback mechanism for the community
- Conduct educational sessions on inclusion issues in educational centres

- Form school brigades as an option within the school curriculum on "interest groups" or "stable groups"
- Hold educational sessions with state security forces and public entities as well as with the target population
- Continuously conduct sessions for volunteers on the code of conduct, Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy, PGI, and other relevant regulatory instruments
- Train volunteers in community engagement and accountability, and feedback mechanisms

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support to the Venezuelan Red Cross in the development of its protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) policy. It will also support the National Society in the implementation of community engagement and accountability (CEA). Additionally, the IFRC will assist the National Society by facilitating the creation of spaces for dialogue and reflection that encourage the active participation of communities in decision-making, promoting accountability and empowerment of the most vulnerable groups.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Venezuelan Red Cross is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2014. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The

Venezuelan Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response process and is at the prioritization phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen its relations and cooperation with external actors to promote effective, coordinated and efficient humanitarian assistance
- Coordinate joint work among the organizations that make up the national risk system

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the management of the Venezuelan Red Cross in the functions of external representation to key stakeholders and the establishment of strategic

dialogue. A permanent relationship will be maintained with key interlocutors, such as the government, community representatives, national and international partners, to provide regular updates on the progress of the restructuring process. The IFRC will continue to participate in monthly meetings with the members of the interagency humanitarian country team to coordinate efforts and be aware of the programs implemented by each of the organizations present in Venezuela, to provide a comprehensive response, as well as to avoid duplication of efforts and favour the strengthening of the humanitarian network.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue to work on the development of a draft Red Cross Law that regulates the legal link between the National Society and the State
- Undertake a review of its statutes in line with the latest Movement guidelines
- Update its Strategic Plan and create a regulatory framework for the protection of its volunteers and employees
- Implement an efficient and transparent governance and management model
- Strengthening financial sustainability by identifying sources of funding generate funds and mobilize resources

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Venezuelan Red Cross and its restructuring board, in the process of updating its statutes. It will also offer the National Society technical support to update the training of management and governance teams, ensuring that they have the necessary tools to lead effectively.

The IFRC will provide the Venezuelan Red Cross with assistance in the creation of regulations, which identify and develop the structure and functioning of the organization, contributing to strengthening its governance and improving internal processes. Additionally, it will provide technical support to the National Society in the development of its national volunteering management strategy.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop a [humanitarian diplomacy strategy](#)
- Facilitate public understanding of its auxiliary role and actions
- Strengthen its communications network, focusing on updating and improving its communication strategies and plans
- Develop and promote policies for the protection of vulnerable people and ensure that their needs are high on the public agenda and that concrete measures are implemented for their assistance and protection

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Venezuelan Red Cross in regularly communicating with key stakeholders about its performance and organizing meetings to evaluate areas for improvement. This will help maintain the relationships that have been consolidated during the transition period, including with diplomatic representatives.

The IFRC will support the National Society in establishing a communications strategy to disseminate its mandate in the country, ensuring the Venezuelan Red Cross is respected and recognized as a neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian actor. In addition, work will continue with the National Society to increase understanding of the Red Cross as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. A crisis management guide will be developed, and internal National Society capacities will be strengthened.



The Venezuelan Red Cross support families of Cumanacoa affected by Hurricane Beryl with the installation of a water purification plant, in July 2024 (Photo: Venezuelan Red Cross)



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Conduct an external accounting audit to evaluate its current financial structure
- Develop a regulatory framework for the protection of the integrity and safeguarding of volunteers and employees
- Implement the IFRC [Integrity Line](#) to support the actions of its integrity committee
- Create an atmosphere that enables reporting of any possible misconduct affecting personnel, assets or operations, including reports of corruption, fraud, harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse
- Develop a planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) system
- Focus on [digital transformation](#) to optimize established processes and ensure accountability

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Venezuelan Red Cross in implementing a financial reporting system that provides a complete record of financial transactions, covering its branches and subcommittees. In addition, support will be provided to strengthen areas such as project management, accountability and protection of volunteers.

The IFRC will also provide the National Society with an assessment of its current data and [digitization capabilities](#), as well as its aspirations for the future. It aims to measure the current capacity for continuous improvement of humanitarian operations through the application of data analytics and digital technology.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC delegation in Venezuela was established in 2018, and a status agreement was signed with the authorities in 2020. The delegation is staffed by a head of delegation and eleven local workers who provide technical assistance to the National Society in the implementation of different programs and operations.

Committed to the humanitarian work carried out by the Venezuelan Red Cross, the IFRC has prioritized its accompaniment in the institutional strengthening required

by the restructuring process of the ad-hoc board. The IFRC will continue to work in the different areas detailed in this plan, with the objective of strengthening the National Society and guaranteeing the continuity of operations.

In addition to longer-term support, the IFRC supports the Venezuelan Red Cross through the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal [operations](#) when needed, such as in recent years in relation to floods and health emergencies.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

Through different spaces, the IFRC network partners of the Venezuelan Red Cross, such as the **Canadian Red Cross, Colombian Red Cross, Ecuadorian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Honduran Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Mexican Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross** and **Swiss Red Cross** have ratified their support to the Venezuelan Red Cross in the restructuring process.

The **German Red Cross** has given bilateral and multilateral support to the Venezuelan Red Cross since 2019 for primary and emergency health care. Following an integration agreement with the IFRC, signed in 2022, the German Red Cross has also maintained an in-country presence.

Movement coordination

The Venezuelan 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 in Caracas works to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of armed violence in Venezuela. Working with

the authorities and the communities it serves, it carries out activities in the areas of health, water and sanitation, economic and food security, dignified management of the dead, protection of detainees and [Restoring Family Links](#). It also promotes international humanitarian law and international standards on the use of force by the armed forces and police. The ICRC also supports the Venezuelan Red Cross in the areas of logistics, visibility, and communication, and provides training courses on the [Safer Access Framework](#) (SAF) and other areas of expertise.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Venezuelan Red Cross coordinates with the governmental risk management system, which includes the country's emergency mechanism VEN911, civil protection, the fire brigade, and local, regional, and national response bodies.

In April 2024, the Venezuelan Red Cross signed a letter of understanding with the United Nations in Venezuela, recognizing the importance of continuing to promote an effective and coordinated humanitarian response, ensuring that aid reaches those who need it most in a timely and efficient manner. Both organizations committed to collaborate on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

with a focus on knowledge management, capacity building, technical assistance and advocacy. This alliance reaffirms their joint commitment to strengthen both the humanitarian response and sustainable development in the country.

The IFRC in Venezuela will continue to work with the main humanitarian actors present in the country. Observation and follow-up of the development of the Venezuelan Red Cross restructuring process will be provided to long-term and emerging donors, as foreseen in the transparency guidelines of the restructuring board. This will enable the support of actions aligned with the priorities identified by the restructuring board and based on the designed action plan.



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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