



# PANAMA

2024 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec



6 August 2025

## IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF PANAMA



23

National Society  
branches



29

National Society  
local units



1,300

National Society  
volunteers



157

National Society  
staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and  
environment



3,271

Disasters  
and crises



8,171

Health and  
wellbeing



130,136

Migration and  
displacement



130,136

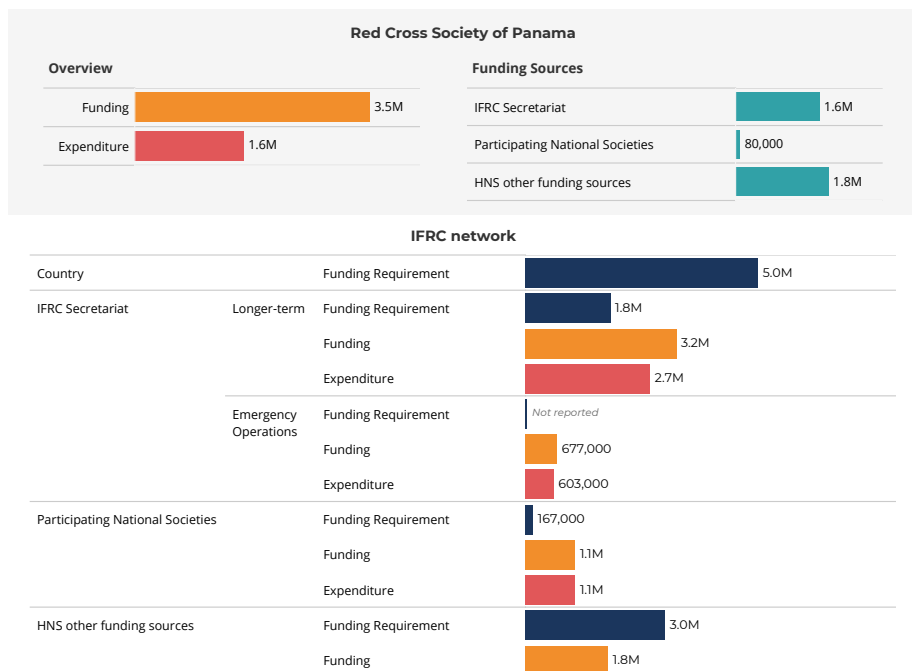
Values, power  
and inclusion



15,965

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)



Appeal number **MAAPA002**

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

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	Number of people reached with activities to address rising climate risks	3,000
	National Society implements nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Yes
	National Society implements environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction, clean-ups or reducing GHG emissions	Yes
	National Society has received IFRC Network's support to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change	Yes
Disasters and crises	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction	8,000
Health and wellbeing	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	130,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate health services	93,000
	Number of people reached with psychosocial and mental health services	3,000
	Number of people trained by the National Society in first aid	2,000
Migration and displacement	Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	130,000
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing assistance and/or protection to people on the move along migration routes	7
Values, power and inclusion	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	16,000
	Percentage of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information	75%
	National Society has a Community Engagement and Accountability policy, strategy or plan	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

National Society development	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of its volunteers	Yes
	National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	Yes
	There is a National Society Development plan in place	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
	National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Spanish Red Cross	1.6M						

Total Funding Reported **CHF 1M**

# Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

## Context

Panama continues to remain one of the countries with high human development in Latin America. According to the [National Human Development Report 2024](#), the country ranked 61st worldwide in the Human Development Index (HDI), surpassed in the region only by Chile, Argentina, Costa Rica and Uruguay. From 1990 to 2021, Panama experienced sustained growth in its HDI, driven largely by its economic dynamism.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, between 2012 and 2019, Panama's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an average of 6 per cent per year, well above the regional average. Although in 2020 it contracted by 18 per cent due to the nature of its economy, in 2022, a solid recovery was observed with GDP growth of 10.88 per cent. This rebound was led by sectors such as construction, hotels and restaurants and artistic and recreational activities, while the education sector was the only one to contract.

In social terms, there was evidence of a reduction in extreme poverty by income, which went from 10 per cent in 2019 to 9.5 per cent in 2021, thanks to social programmes implemented during the pandemic. Multidimensional poverty also showed a significant decrease between 2017 and 2022. However, economic inequality measured by the Gini coefficient increased after the pandemic, standing at 50.9 in 2021, one of the highest in Latin America.

Panama also made progress in gender equality. The [Gender Development Index](#) reached a value of 1.017, with an HDI of 0.812 for women and 0.798 for men. At the institutional level, key initiatives such as the creation of the Ministry of Women, the implementation of budgets with a gender and climate change approach, the Economic Empowerment Plan for Indigenous Women and the approval of a Gender Equality Policy in Science and Technology were highlighted.

Despite the progress, Panama continues to face economic challenges due to factors such as the closure of the Cobre Panama mine, one of the largest in the world, which impacted national production and exports. Prolonged drought continues to affect the operation of the Panama Canal, reducing maritime traffic and toll revenues. Political uncertainty generated by the general elections and the change of government slowed down key decisions in the economic and business environment.

Under migration, the country witnessed a 40 per cent decrease in the number of migrants who crossed the Darien jungle, largely as a result of the application of new measures, such as the bilateral agreement with the United States for the deportation of migrants, closure of unauthorized crossings, and greater binational coordination with Colombia.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

In 2024, the Red Cross Society of Panama advanced its commitment to environmental protection and community sustainability through strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Environment, community organizations and humanitarian actors. Key initiatives included reforestation, clean-up campaigns, and environmental education activities such as the 'Sowing Future and Sustainable Awareness' campaign and the Blue Schools programme, which promoted climate resilience and sustainable practices in schools. By empowering community-based organizations and integrating environmental advocacy into its humanitarian work, the National Society formalized its environmental focus with a new policy aligned with the 2030 Agenda, marking a step in institutionalizing sustainability.

### Disasters and crises

In this reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Panama made progress in disaster risk management, anticipatory action and community resilience. It developed early action protocols for floods and droughts, promoted local early warning systems and strengthened community risk committees. Youth played a key role through the [Y-ADAPT](#) climate resilience programme, while the first national disaster risk management course enhanced institutional capacity. The National Society launched the 'Risk Management #TareaDeTodos' awareness campaign and actively contributed to the National Risk Management Cabinet. With the approval of its disaster risk management policy and the expansion of its

livelihoods and Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) programmes, the National Society improved preparedness and supported vulnerable populations with income-generating resources and rapid humanitarian aid.

## Health and wellbeing

In 2024, the Red Cross Society of Panama strengthened its health interventions, aligning with its auxiliary role and commitment to supporting vulnerable communities. Key achievements included the approval of a national health strategy focused on prevention, public and environmental health and dignity-centred care. The National Society provided [first aid](#), health kits and pre-hospital support—especially to migrants—and expanded its Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services through partnerships and community-based activities. Volunteers were trained in psychological first aid and peace promotion in schools, while blood donation drives and emergency health coverage during major public events reinforced community engagement. In the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector, the National Society scaled up safe water production and hygiene promotion in migrant transit areas, ensuring access to clean water and disease prevention in high-risk zones.

## Migration and displacement

In this reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Panama sustained vital humanitarian operations in Temporary Migrant Reception Stations and host communities, providing medical care, psychosocial support, safe water, hygiene kits and protection services to migrants. It expanded its refugee livelihoods programme, promoting economic self-reliance through technical training, entrepreneurship support and community bazaars. A comprehensive livelihoods assessment in Darién guided tailored interventions for host communities. Through its partnership with UNHCR, the National Society supported refugees and asylum seekers with psychosocial care, counselling and multipurpose aid, delivered through diverse and adaptable modalities, showcasing its national reach and responsiveness to the complex realities of human mobility.

## Values, power and inclusion

In 2024, the Red Cross Society of Panama reinforced its Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) approach across all operations, ensuring safe, dignified and inclusive environments for vulnerable populations. Guided by its Institutional Protection Policy, the National Society trained staff and volunteers on PGI, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and protection principles and integrated these into emergency responses and migrant support. It developed and distributed informative mini-books for migrants and implemented women-focused training sessions on violence prevention, self-esteem and human rights. Through active participation in the PGI regional network and joint PGI-MHPSS training, the National Society promoted inclusive, rights-based humanitarian action and strengthened its regional and institutional capacity.

## Enabling local actors

In 2024, the Red Cross Society of Panama modernized its founding law through Law 422, strengthening its legal framework and reaffirming its role as an auxiliary to public authorities. The law introduced key provisions ensuring legal protection for volunteers, secure handling of humanitarian data, and authorization to operate nationwide, enhancing the National Society's independence and institutional capacity. A comprehensive capacity-building initiative reached volunteers across 23 local committees and five specialized agencies, while collaboration with the Electoral Tribunal boosted emergency preparedness through equipment donations during the national elections. These actions reinforced the National Society's trusted role as a neutral humanitarian actor, especially in sensitive contexts.

Institutionally, the National Society worked on communication, [digital transformation](#) and accountability. The 'Stronger, Faster, Safer' and 'Become a Member' campaigns enhanced public visibility and citizen engagement, promoting financial sustainability and shared responsibility in community resilience. Technological upgrades—such as internal network improvements, website updates and volunteer data management tools—boosted operational efficiency and set the stage for further innovation. Governance remained a priority through regular audits ensuring transparency in donor-funded projects. Additionally, the first national Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) workshop fostered stronger ties with local authorities and reinforced the National Society's commitment to humanitarian principles and impactful, accountable service delivery.

## Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

*In this reporting period, no changes or amendments were made by the National Society*

## Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



#### Climate and environment

##### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2024, the Red Cross Society of Panama strengthened its institutional commitment to environmental protection and community sustainability through a series of strategic actions developed in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, community organizations and humanitarian partners. These initiatives not only contributed to environmental conservation but also promoted active participation of people as agents of positive change in their territories.

Through reforestation, community clean-up and environmental awareness days, the National Society spaces for meeting and collective action in key communities. In these communities, 'Mi Ambiente' was integrated to promote environmental initiatives by strengthening community-based organizations, promoting their organizational capacities and their role as key actors for sustainable development. One of the outstanding actions was 'Sowing Future and Sustainable Awareness' campaign through which volunteers, teachers and students created school gardens in selected schools, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and raising awareness about climate change.

The Blue Schools methodology, financed under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) between the IFRC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), strengthened the educational community in issues of resilience to climate change, environmental management and promotion of sustainable communities. These actions were accompanied by recycling workshops, tree planting, and beach clean ups, with the active participation of National Society volunteers and personnel from the educational regions of the Ministry of Education.

In the area of institutional advocacy, the National Society managed environmental advocacy actions in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment, aimed at formalizing community participation through community-based organizations and positioning the environmental approach as a cross-cutting axis of humanitarian interventions. This commitment was consolidated with the approval of the environmental policy of the Red Cross Society of Panama during its National General Assembly, aligning its efforts with the principles of sustainability established in the 2030 agenda.

##### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical, financial and programmatic support to the Red Cross Society of Panama in its objectives under climate and environment. IFRC support to the National Society was also accompanied by strategic partners of the National Society such as the European Union through the IFRC-DG ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) project and government entities such as the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education. This inter-institutional collaboration allowed the National Society to effectively integrate the environmental sustainability approach into its humanitarian programmes, strengthening the resilience of communities, promoting local empowerment and ensuring that interventions responded not only to immediate needs, but also to structural challenges related to climate change and sustainable development.



## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit IFRC GO page [Panama](#).

In 2024, an IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) was approved for flood in Panama under disasters and crises.

<b>NAME OF THE OPERATION</b>	<a href="#">Panama Floods</a>
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRPA020
<b>DURATION</b>	3 months (12 November 2024 to 28 February 2025)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 249,979
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	2,500
<b>DREF OPERATION UPDATE</b>	<a href="#">Panama Floods Operations Update</a>

The DREF allocation of CHF 249,979 in November 2024 supported the Red Cross Society of Panama in aiding approximately 2,500 people affected by floods in the region of Los Santos, Panama and Herrera. The National Society supported the affected population over a period of 3 months with interventions such as shelter, multipurpose cash assistance, WASH, health, among others.

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2024, the Red Cross Society of Panama consolidated important advances in disaster risk management, anticipatory action and community capacity building, prioritizing preparedness for both natural and anthropogenic scenarios. Through the anticipatory action mechanism, the National Society worked on the design of two drafts of [Early Action Protocols](#) in the face of recurrent events such as floods and droughts, exploring pre-agreed financing options and consolidating inter-institutional alliances for the implementation of preventive measures based on forecasts.

The Red Cross Society of Panama promoted the formation and strengthening of community risk management committees in various communities, promoting the creation of local [early warning](#) systems. As a result, several communities were able to respond in an organized manner to adverse events, minimizing the impact on lives and livelihoods. These processes included community meetings to exchange experiences, where representatives of other organizations and the Ministry of Environment also participated, strengthening the local organizational fabric.

Youth participation was also a key axis. Through the implementation of the [Y-ADAPT](#) methodology which combines games, playful activities and educational content on climate adaptation, young volunteers were trained to lead resilience processes in their local committees, thus increasing climate awareness at the territorial level. At the national level, the National Society also carried out the first comprehensive disaster risk management course in coordination with the reference centre for disaster preparedness.

The Red Cross Society of Panama also maintained an active participation in the National Risk Management cabinet, positioning its auxiliary role and promoting an articulated response between humanitarian and governmental actors. At the same time, the awareness campaign 'Risk Management #TareaDeTodos' was launched on social networks, through which key messages were disseminated to promote a culture of prevention in the population.

In this reporting period, the National Society's policy on disaster risk management as approved, laying the foundations for a more structured, sustainable intervention aligned with the international standards of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. The National Society also consolidated its livelihoods programme, implementing effective assistance mechanisms that responded to the socioeconomic needs of the beneficiary population. Through this programme, people in vulnerable situations were supported through seed capital, cash delivery over the country, bank transfers and carfs associated with local financial institutions, strengthening their capacity to generate income and improve their quality of life.

Towards the end of 2024, emergencies were recorded in several communities which promoted the implementation of rapid assessments and the piloting of a Cash and Voucher Assistance ([CVA](#)) programme to respond quickly to these new humanitarian need.

**IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC supported the Red Cross Society of Panama with technical, programmatic and financial support in ensuring compliance with operational standards, strategic coherence and accountability in implementation. This includes direct support in the planning and execution of lessons learned workshops, an essential space for the critical review of results, the identification of areas for improvement and the strengthening of institutional capacities with a view to future-oriented, sustainable and evidence-based humanitarian responses.



**Health and wellbeing**

In 2024, under health and wellbeing, an IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) was approved for dengue outbreak in Panama.

<b>Name</b>	<a href="#">Panama Dengue</a>
<b>Appeal number</b>	MDRPA019
<b>Duration</b>	4 months (20 August 2024 to 31 December 2024)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	CHF 420,995
<b>People Targeted</b>	30,000
<b>DREF Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">Panama Dengue operations update</a>

The DREF allocation of CHF 420,995 in August 2024 supported the Red Cross Society of Panama in aiding approximately 30,000 people with dengue prevention and awareness campaign in the area of Colon. Over a four-month period, the National Society conducted interventions such as awareness campaigns, community clean-up campaigns under WASH and other interventions aimed at prevention of dengue outbreak.

**Progress by the National Society against objectives**

The Red Cross Society of Panama has worked on strengthening its health interventions in line with its auxiliary role of the public authorities and its commitment to improving the living conditions of people in vulnerable situations. While most of the medical services have been developed under the migration programme, the National Society has continued to provide pre-hospital assistance and first aid care, as well as the distribution of health kits for migrants in transit.

A key milestone of 2024 was the approval of the national health strategy, validated by the General Assembly in the middle of the year. This strategy establishes a comprehensive approach to public and environmental health, promoting prevention, health promotion and improving the quality of life, always safeguarding the dignity of the communities served.

In the field of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support ([MHPSS](#)), the National Society has developed key actions including psychosocial care to migrants and refugees, designing of emotional ventilation strategy and coordination establishment with the Panamanian Association of Psychologists to expand coverage and technical capacity in psychological care.

Training has been another essential pillar. Volunteers from five local committees were trained in a culture of peace and psychological first aid and they developed educational days in schools located in Panama Norte, La Chorrera, Arraijan, Panama Este and San Miguelito, promoting a culture of peace among children and youth. As for community participation, the National Society held two days of voluntary blood donation, in alliance with local institutions and organizations and an active promotion of the importance of this solidarity practice was maintained. Every year, the National Society provides pre-hospital and [first aid](#) coverage during events of high community impact, such as carnivals, holy week, national holidays, Christmas parades and activities organized by district foundations.



During this reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Panama strengthened its actions in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector, in response to the growing flow of migrants through the Darien jungle. The National Society maintained continuous production of safe water both in the Temporary Reception Stations and in the host communities, located on the main migratory transit routes. The National Society, with the help of its strategic partners, was able to increase the number of litres of safe water produced, responding to the high demand and ensuring access to quality water for human consumption. The National Society volunteers and staff carried out regular cleaning days as part of its efforts to promote hygiene practices, prevent water-borne diseases and control vectors.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC provides support to the Red Cross Society of Panama in strengthening its capacity for Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Response, in line with the recently developed national health strategy. This support includes awareness-raising on vector control for the prevention of mosquito-borne illnesses in target communities, as well as early response to outbreaks, community surveillance, active case finding and infection prevention and control.



## **Migration and displacement**

---

### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

In 2024, the Red Cross Society of Panama maintained humanitarian operations active in the Temporary Migrant Reception Stations and in host communities, providing essential services. This includes primary medical care, including wound healing, maternal and child care, prenatal control and first aid; production and distribution of safe water for migrants and local population; psychosocial care and safe referral for people with protection needs; distribution of hygiene and dignity kits, among a range of other activities aimed at alleviating the essential needs of migrants.

Additionally, in 2024, the Red Cross Society of Panama strengthened its livelihoods programme aimed at refugees, as part of its commitment to provide sustainable solutions to vulnerable populations. This programme was developed in close coordination with national and international actors, facilitating the access of persons of interest to technical training mechanisms, accompaniment in entrepreneurship and marketing opportunities, mainly through the periodic organization of community bazaars.

The National Society carried out a comprehensive assessment of livelihoods in host communities in the province of Darien, a strategic region due to the constant migratory flow. This assessment made it possible to identify local capacities, analyse the main economic barriers and design strategies adapted to the territorial context.

In the area of international protection, the Red Cross Society of Panama continued to implement its refugee assistance programme, funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This programme reached applicants for refugee status and people recognized as refugees in Panama through a comprehensive approach that included psychosocial intervention, counselling and the delivery of multipurpose support aimed at covering basic needs. The National Society adapted the modalities of delivery of humanitarian aid to the conditions of each person, ranging from direct attention in the programmes' offices, shipments to the interior of the country, recharges to the bank cards, transfers to personal accounts, issuance of checks and distribution of cash over counter.

The modalities of delivery of humanitarian aid were adapted to the conditions of each person, ranging from direct attention in the program's offices, shipments to the interior of the country, recharges to bank cards, transfers to personal accounts, issuance of checks and distribution of cash over the counter. These interventions enabled national coverage, reflecting the National Society's operational capacity and flexibility to respond to diverse contexts of vulnerability and human mobility.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC provides support to the Red Cross Society of Panama in tracking migration flows and actions. It is supported both technically and financially by the IFRC in areas such as capacity building efforts by the National Society, training of staff and volunteers on migration, development of migrant-related strategies, advocacy efforts and a range of other activities aimed at catering to the specific needs of migrants.



## Values, power and inclusion

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In this reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Panama strengthened the implementation of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) approach at all operational levels, guaranteeing safe, accessible and dignified environments for the most vulnerable people. The National Society's PGI focal point at the national level facilitated the incorporation of this approach into both humanitarian interventions and internal processes. This effort was guided by the Institutional Protection Policy, which served as a regulatory framework to safeguard the safety, dignity and rights of all the people served.

The National Society held multiple training sessions for volunteers and management staff on key topics such as PGI, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and the Protection Policy. In natural hazards such as floods, the National Society reached people with safe and relevant information, adapted to the PGI approach.

The Red Cross Society of Panama worked on migrant care centres and host communities, with the objective of creating a safer and more inclusive space. As part of its information strategy, mini books with key messages were developed and implemented, which were distributed to migrants in transit to guarantee access to rights, care routes and self-care measures. The Refugee Assistance Programme carried out a series of training courses aimed at women, focusing on the prevention of violence and capacity building on key issues such as self-esteem, leadership and human rights.

The Red Cross Society of Panama also participated in the PGI regional network of the Americas, promoting the exchange of good practices, mutual learning and regional coordination for a more inclusive humanitarian response. In addition, staff capacities were strengthened through integrating training in PGI and MHPSS, consolidating a holistic approach.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided both financial and technical support to the National Society where specific workshops were conducted under areas such as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) and Information Management, all with a PGI approach. Workshops were also held with educational brigades in the western area of the capital, which included refugee students and activities to promote values, respect and peaceful coexistence in schools in the metropolitan area.

The Italian Red Cross provided support to the National Society under values, power and inclusion.



*The Red Cross Society of Panama carried out an awareness campaign in the province of Veraguas regarding hand washing and hygiene. (Photo: Red Cross Society of Panama)*

# ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

#### 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 contribute to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Red Cross Society of Panama is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the DG ECHO and IFRC, and as such, is receiving the implementation support of the Spanish Red Cross, as well as the coordination support of the IFRC. In this connection, the Red Cross Society of Panama is undertaking the following main interventions: promoting good environmental practices in communities and schools, climate-smart livelihoods, early warning early action for communities at risk, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move and community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)).

The following participating National Societies are supporting the Red Cross Society of Panama:

The **Italian Red Cross** is supporting the Red Cross Society of Panama's efforts to promote a culture of non-violence and peace through educational brigades.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has been collaborating with the Red Cross Society of Panama for more than 40 years. Currently, it is contributing to strengthening the National Society's management, coordination, and response capacity in the provision of humanitarian assistance to migrants in the Darién and Chiriquí region, in accordance with the National Migration Strategy. In this way, the Spanish Red Cross contributes to the strengthening of the Red Cross Society of Panama as a key local actor for the localization of aid with funding from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

#### Movement coordination

The Red Cross Society of Panama 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 Panama works to ensure that people with the highest risk and vulnerability factors are protected and assisted and that their fundamental rights and dignity are respected. The ICRC has been present in Panama since 1989. In 2010, a headquarters agreement was signed between the Government of Panama and the ICRC, establishing a permanent presence and strengthening its exclusively humanitarian activities in the country.

#### External coordination

The Red Cross Society of Panama works in close collaboration with local and national authorities and other humanitarian organizations for a coordinated response. It is a member of the national civil protection system, takes part in the National Operations Centre during emergencies, and coordinates with its network of branches in response to emergencies. Local and departmental government authorities are actively involved in all operations undertaken by the National Society to ensure it complements and works in alignment with public policies and response plans in emergencies.



## National Society development

---

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2024, the Red Cross Society of Panama updated its founding law, which was originally enacted in 1917. This legal modernization occurred through Law 422 of February 8, 2024, composed of 24 articles that strengthened the legal framework of the National Society and reaffirmed its role as an auxiliary to the public authorities in humanitarian matters. The new law has established fundamental provisions for the safe, independent and impartial conduct of humanitarian activities throughout the national territory. Among its main advances are the legal protection of volunteers, the safeguarding of sensitive humanitarian data and the explicit authorization to operate at all administrative levels of the country. This legal instrument strengthens the institutionality of the National Society and provides a more solid regulatory environment for its humanitarian management.

The National Society also carried out a major capacity building process in the 23 local committees and in the five specialized voluntary agencies, reaching dozens of volunteers from all over the country. The training focused on the promotion of fundamental principles of the Movement, local organizational strengthening and the development of skills for humanitarian action in diverse contexts.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross Society of Panama across multiple areas of organizational development and programme implementation. Additionally, the IFRC support governance development initiatives, the institutionalization of the Safer Access framework, and the strengthening of PMER systems. IFRC funding mechanisms such as the IFRC-ICRC National Society Investment Alliance ([NSIA](#)) and the IFRC Capacity Building Fund ([CBF](#)) are utilized for National Society development initiatives.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

---

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2024, the Red Cross Society of Panama reinforced its auxiliary role through a key collaboration with the Electoral Tribunal, which included a significant donation of rescue equipment and vehicles. These resources were strategically deployed during the electoral process to ensure a timely humanitarian response in case of emergencies, thus strengthening the preparedness and response capacity of local committees. This alliance reaffirmed inter-institutional trust and recognition of the role of the National Society as a neutral and operational sector in scenarios of high social and political sensitivity.

In the area of institutional communication, the National Society successfully implemented the 'Stronger, Faster, Safer' campaign, designed to enhance the public visibility of the organization's humanitarian mandate. This campaign had a wide reach through advertisements placed at strategic bus stops in the capital city, helping to position the National Society as a reliable and life-saving institution.

Likewise, the 'Become a member' campaign was relaunched, taking advantage of the renovation of the institutional website. This initiative sought to promote citizen participation and strengthen sources of financial sustainability, while increasing the number of people allied to the humanitarian work of the Red Cross Society of Panama. The campaign not only promoted social involvement but also strengthened the sense of co-responsibility in building resilient communities.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the National Society with the implementation of regional and global commitments. It provided support to the National Society's efforts in organizing training in humanitarian diplomacy and auxiliary roles, including a workshop, with the participation of Central American National Societies.



### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2024, the Red Cross Society of Panama progress in strengthening its institutional digital transformation, due to its access to specific financing for technological modernization. Among the main achievements was the renovation of the internal network structure, which made it possible to optimize operational processes and improve connectivity between programmes and projects implemented at the national level.

This process has not only improved operational efficiency but has also laid the foundation for further institutional innovation, through the development of digital tools such as updating the official website and implementing applications for the secure management of volunteer data.

In the area of governance and accountability, the National Society maintained regular audits, both planned and random, within the framework of its donor-funded projects. These audits, as in the case of livelihood programmes, were key to validating the efficient use of resources, verifying compliance with international standards and ensuring the trust of strategic partners.

In addition, as part of its commitment to Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), the National Society organized its first national workshop with local authorities and institutional representatives in Panama City. This space strengthened mutual understanding on transparency mechanisms, humanitarian principles, and the institutional responsibility to ensure that interventions effectively reach those who need them most.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross Society of Panama in organizing training and mentoring sessions on results-based management for National Society staff. Other support included financing support for digital transformation and public relations staff, volunteer database development, fraud prevention policy and capacity strengthening exercises.

## 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 Annual Reports*

## Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

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



## Q8. LESSONS LEARNED

- Early and active involvement of communities in all phases of planning and implementation of programmes, projects, and emergency operations. The experience showed that integrating the knowledge, perceptions and proposals of the communities not only improves the relevance and acceptance of interventions but also strengthens local ownership of humanitarian processes. The Community Participation and Community Accountability (CEA) approach proved to be a key pillar to build trust, identify real needs and adapt responses in an agile way, increasing the effectiveness of the services provided.
- Recognition and strengthening of the auxiliary role of the National Society vis-à-vis public authorities, especially in contexts of migratory crisis, health emergencies and disasters. Active collaboration with state institutions allowed for better coordination, avoided duplication of efforts, and positioned the National Society as a technical actor of reference in humanitarian response.
- Strengthen scenario-based planning and anticipatory action. The timely activation of mechanisms such as the IFRC-DREF and community monitoring systems made it possible to significantly reduce response times to critical events such as floods and disease outbreaks. This proactive approach, combined with the use of rapid assessment tools and risk analysis, strengthened the National Society's capacity to anticipate crises and mitigate humanitarian impacts more efficiently and effectively.
- Having specialized technical structures and trained human resources was necessary, particularly in contexts of high demand such as the Darién. Investment in training in key approaches/sectors such as Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and Integrated Risk Management, strengthened interventions with a more holistic and inclusive approach. It was also learned that flexibility in operational and administrative processes is essential to adapt to changes in the national and international context, without compromising the quality and fundamental principles of the Movement.

## SUCCESS STORIES



### 1

#### Humanitarian Health Services: Comprehensive Care of Migrants

During 2024, in one of the Temporary Migrant Reception Stations in Darien, the Red Cross Society of Panama provided care to an 11-year-old paediatric patient of Venezuelan nationality. The girl suffered from a congenital condition, characterized by extreme skin fragility and severe blisters, especially on her feet, which prevented her from walking.

Made up of doctors, nurses and psychosocial support personnel, the Red Cross Society of Panama health team activated a comprehensive response. Specialized wound healing, immediate medical attention and clinical follow-up were performed. Given the seriousness of her condition and the urgent need for a more suitable environment, the girl's priority departure from the station was successfully managed, in coordination with a social worker who led a joint evaluation with the medical staff to justify the need to urgently transfer the girl.

Due to the commitment of the health personnel, the family was able to prioritize their physical and emotional wellbeing and did not have to wait in long lines to treat their child. This response, based on humanitarian principles, reflects the National Society's ability to act with empathy, speed and efficiency in critical situations. The mother of the girl expressed her gratitude to the health team.

# 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 Annual Report (with variance in structure in red)
<b>Core Questions</b>	
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
<b>Additional Questions</b>	
1. Value for Money/ Cost Effectiveness	Not included in annual reports
2. Visibility	Not included in annual 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 31 December 2024. 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 2024 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

- [PA\\_Panama AR Financials.pdf](#) (Note: This financial report link will be fed upon the completion of the audit. For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see [MDRPA019](#) and [MDRPA020](#))
- [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  
for Central America  
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for  
Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala,  
Honduras & Panama, based in  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
**T** +504 93007044  
[marjorie.sotofranco@ifrc.org](mailto: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](mailto:monica.portilla@ifrc.org)

### Sumitha Martin

Lead  
IFRC Global Strategic Planning  
& Reporting Centre  
New Delhi  
[sumitha.martin@ifrc.org](mailto:sumitha.martin@ifrc.org)