



ECUADOR

2025-2026 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 29.8M**

26 September 2025

In support of the Ecuadorian Red Cross



24

National Society
branches



138

National Society
local units



217

National Society
staff



7,944

National Society
volunteers

People to be reached



176,200

Ongoing
emergency
operations



270,000

Climate and
environment



270,000

Disasters
and crises



7,000

Health and
wellbeing

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Floods and environmental contamination

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and response
- Protection and assistance to migrants and displaced persons
 - Climate change adaptation
- Community and emergency health and WASH

Capacity development

- Digital transformation
- Internal systems efficiency
- Financial sustainability and resource mobilization

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating **Medium**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Medium**

Human Development Index rank **83**

World Bank Population figure **18M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **25.2%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Andean
Countries, Lima

Funding requirements

2025

2026**

Total 29.3M CHF

Total 556,000 CHF

Through the Host National Society



Through Participating National Societies



Through the IFRC



Through Participating National Societies

556,000 CHF

HNS Breakdown

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

8,000 CHF

Climate & environment

141,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

12.1M CHF

Health & wellbeing

88,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

177,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

7.5M CHF

Enabling local actors

Longer term needs

4M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

389,000 CHF

Climate & environment

1.1M CHF

Disasters & crises

329,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

3,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

Participating National Societies

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross


IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:
MDREC027 Ecuador Floods and Environmental Contamination

Long-term needs:
MAAEC003

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	1.1M						
Spanish Red Cross	1.8M						

Total Funding requirement **CHF 2.9M**

Hazards



Floods



Earthquakes



Landslides



Migration

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Ecuadorian Red Cross** was founded and ratified by Congress in 1910 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1923. It is governed by the law that established it, by international agreements and treaties approved by Ecuador and by its own Statutes. As a humanitarian organization, it works to alleviate and prevent human suffering and to promote resilient communities. It is guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and is oriented by the concepts of sustainable development, wellbeing, dignity and diversity.

The National Society's four programmatic areas are disaster risk management, health and community development, promotion of the Fundamental Principles and values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and programmes for young people. The Ecuadorian Red Cross headquarters is located in the capital, Quito, with coverage throughout the country and is supported by its 24 local, provincial branches. The National Society also has local 'cantonal' boards and community volunteers in working through parish and neighbourhood brigades. It also operates associated components, such as a blood bank

and hosts the only hemo centre in the country that allows blood-processing to obtain hemo components.

In 2024 alone, the Ecuadorian Red Cross responded to multiple emergencies, such as for floods volcanic ash eruption, insecurity with support from the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF). In recent years the Ecuadorian Red Cross developed interventions in all 24 provinces of the country. These include health services, psychosocial support programmes, prehospital care, blood donation and support for the national vaccination campaign.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross Strategic Plan 2021-2025 defines two strategic objectives:

- Promoting the development of resilient communities to alleviate and prevent human suffering
- Promoting the development of the National Society through strategic transformations to improve its performance



Map of Ecuadorian Red Cross branches

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

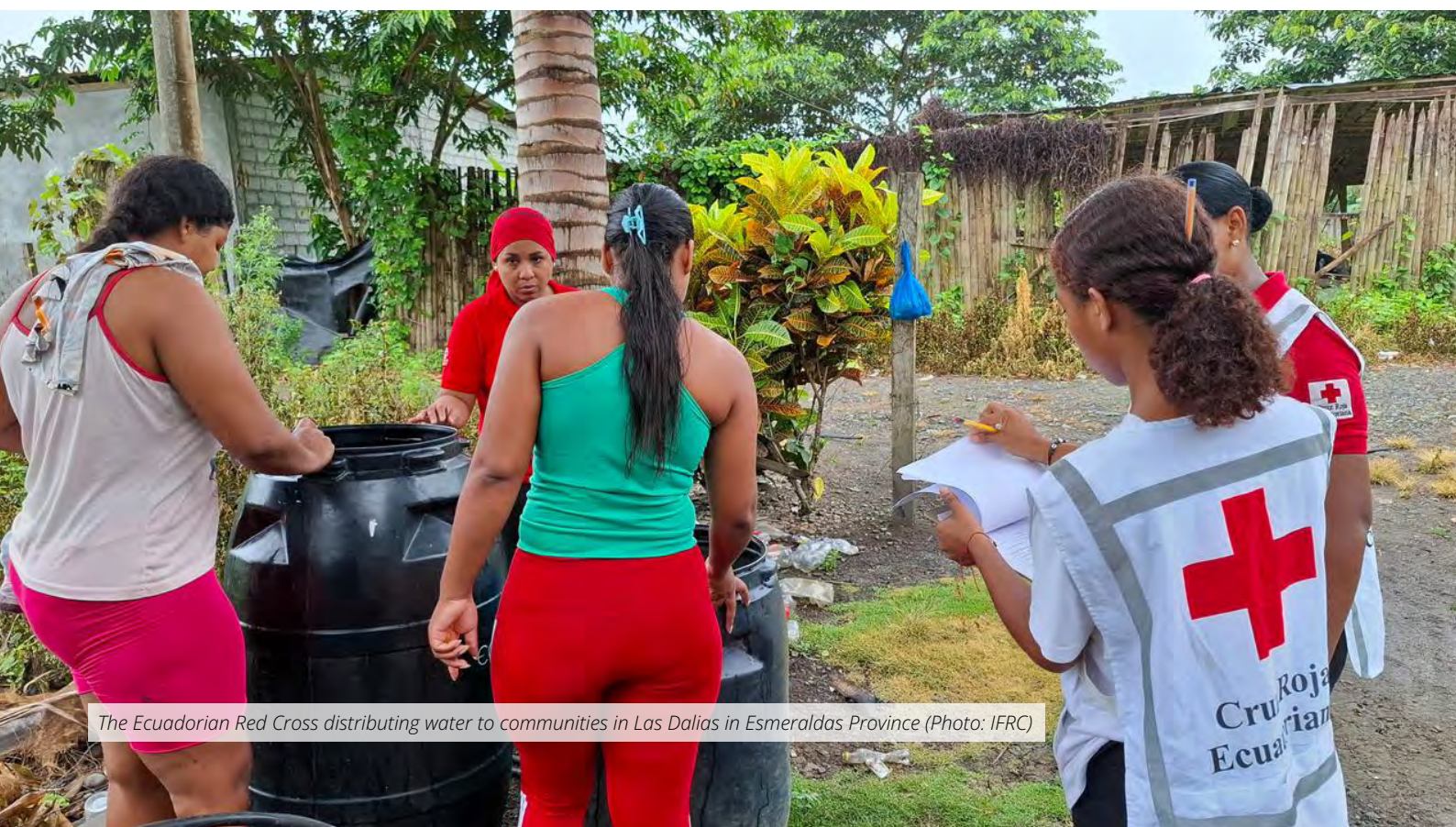
Ecuador is a country located in the northwestern region of South America, composed of 24 provinces. A volcanic section of the Andes Mountain range divides the territory from north to south, leaving the Gulf of Guayaquil and a forested plain on its western flank and the Amazon to the east. It borders Colombia in the north, Peru to the south and east and Pacific Ocean to the west, which separates it from the Galapagos Islands. It also has maritime boundaries with Costa Rica.

Although the country has made significant socio-economic progress, there are still gaps in basic services, including poor access to health, education, housing and economic capacity. High levels of violence and insecurity linked to organized crime led to the declaration of a 60-day state of emergency in the country in [January 2024](#).

The national poverty rate in Ecuador is estimated at [25 per cent](#) of the population, while the extreme poverty rate stands

at 10.7 per cent, with the highest incidence in rural areas. Communities in Ecuador are vulnerable to social upheaval, exacerbated by unfavourable economic conditions. The country has made considerable progress in its social protection systems and development programmes; however, the humanitarian needs are increasing amongst vulnerable populations and access to basic supplies and services has become more difficult. Xenophobia and discrimination towards migrant populations has also increased and there are still significant gaps and challenges with regards to inequality and inclusion. Ecuador is currently hosting a significant number of [Venezuelan migrants](#) and it is home to the fourth largest population of migrants from that country.

Ecuador is also affected by [disasters, weather events and climate change](#). Its location makes it vulnerable to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and its ungoverned land use and extraction of natural resources have recently caused a series of disasters, including floods, landslides and forest fires. In addition, there is an increase in risks within the urban context due to high rates of urbanization, including unplanned and unsafe settlements in flood-prone, coastal and mountainous areas.



The Ecuadorian Red Cross distributing water to communities in Las Dalias in Esmeraldas Province (Photo: IFRC)

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page: [Ecuador](#)

Emergency Operation	Ecuador Floods and Environmental Contamination
Appeal code	MDREC027
People affected	500,000 people
People to be assisted	176,200 people
Duration	12 months (23 March 2025 to 31 March 2026)
Funding requirement	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 4 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 4.5 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Ecuador Floods and Environmental Contamination
Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Operational Update	Operational Update No. 2

Since January 2025, Ecuador has faced a worsening emergency caused by prolonged heavy rains triggering floods and landslides across 23 provinces and a major oil spill in Esmeraldas Province. By mid-March, over 111,000 people had been affected, more than 14,000 displaced and over 31,500 homes damaged or destroyed, with significant crop and livestock losses severely impacting small-scale farming in Manabí, Guayas, El Oro and Los Ríos. Damaged water systems, poor drainage and stagnant water have fuelled over 9,500 dengue cases, while displacement and isolation have heightened psychosocial risks. The 13 March rupture of the Trans-Ecuadorian Oil Pipeline contaminated the Caple, Viche and Esmeraldas rivers, jeopardizing safe water access for around 300,000 people and directly affecting more than 8,700 through water loss, soil contamination and crop destruction, alongside severe ecological damage to mangrove reserves. Cleanup has been hindered by rains, poor access and limited technical capacity, leaving 95 per cent of potable water service disrupted in the immediate region.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to assist 176,200 people affected by flooding and the oil spill across 14 provinces, focusing on shelter, livelihoods, health, water, sanitation and hygiene and Disaster Risk Reduction, with Protection, Gender and Inclusion and Community Engagement and Accountability integrated throughout to ensure a safe, inclusive and people-centred response. The operation will combine cash assistance, shelter support, medical services, safe water provision and protection activities, prioritizing vulnerable groups including those with limited economic resources, single-parent households, persons with disabilities, Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian communities and others at heightened risk. Preparedness measures will

address anticipated climate variability and extreme weather risks through early warning systems, contingency planning, volunteer training and climate-smart practices to strengthen community resilience. The highlights of the assistance are:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Debris removal tools are distributed along with shelter toolkits, tarpaulins, blankets and kitchen kits. Educational sessions focused on emergency shelter are conducted with affected communities.

Livelihoods

Food kits are distributed to targeted population along with cash transfers. Training in topics such as business risk management, business modelling, and sustainable agricultural practices is provided to the recipients of cash transfers.

Multi-purpose cash

Affected communities are given safe access to cash assistance and multi-purpose cash transfers are made.

Health and care, including water, sanitation and hygiene

Mental health and psychosocial support services are provided, along with community health toolkits and mosquito nets. Clean-up campaigns and fogging campaigns are conducted to eliminate vector breeding sites in affected areas, alongside the distribution of clean-up kits. Voluntary blood donation drives are conducted. Affected households are provided with hygiene kits, cleaning kits and safe drinking water through the installation of water points and distribution of household water disinfectants.

Cross-cutting approaches

The operational strategy integrates **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)** and **Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)** as pivotal elements, in an approach that

recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities include the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

According to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, the main climate change impacts in Ecuador are the intensification of extreme weather events, such as those caused by the La Niña and El Niño phenomena, sea level rise, glacier retreat, decreased annual runoff, increased transmission of vector-borne and other diseases, expansion of invasive species in Galapagos and in other sensitive ecosystems of continental Ecuador and species extinction.

In recent years, there has been evidence of more than 40 per cent loss of glacier cover on the Antisana, Carihuayrazo, Cotopaxi and Chimborazo volcanoes. In Ecuador, agricultural industry is highly vulnerable to temperature increases and extreme weather events. Changing precipitation patterns are affecting soil and water availability and higher temperatures are becoming unfavourable for certain crops. The incidence of floods and landslides is projected to increase, resulting in more frequent soil erosion that will lead to reduced yields, damaged crops and livestock and, eventually, increased food insecurity. Intense droughts are already affecting approximately 70 per cent of agricultural areas and more than half of livestock areas, while extreme rains are increasing floodable areas where nearly half of the country's population is located. Some vulnerable populations are needing to move to higher altitudes to survive, while the extensive coastline leaves communities vulnerable to rising sea levels. The El Niño phenomenon was upgraded from yellow to orange alert on September 19, 2023, following a declaration by the National Emergency Operations Committee.

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador developed the National Climate Change Strategy (2021-2025) to guide the actions and measures that the country needs to prepare for extreme climate events, from the strategic lines of mitigation and adaptation. Likewise, Ecuador's National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2023-2027) is a key instrument to reduce climate risk, increase resilience and adaptative capacity. Ecuador contributes 0.15 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. The emissions are distributed through the following anthropogenic activities:

energy, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, waste, forestry and other land uses.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is part of the IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led, climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to mitigate the effects of the most critical climate threats in the country, including heavy rains, heat waves, frost and droughts, which trigger severe impacts such as floods, landslides, food insecurity, biodiversity loss and increased vector-borne diseases. The National Society seeks to strengthen resilience in the agricultural and livestock sectors, protect vulnerable livelihoods and reduce the disproportionate impacts on smallholder farmers, older adults and people with disabilities. It will focus on implementing Anticipatory Action and Early Recovery strategies to protect livelihoods from climate-related hazards, including Early Action Plans to address extreme rainfall associated with El Niño and volcanic ash dispersal. The National Society aims to expand the use of Cash and Voucher Assistance to support households affected by emergencies such as droughts, floods, landslides and earthquakes, ensuring timely and targeted assistance that reduces the long-term impacts of climate shocks.

The National Society carried out a climate-risk analysis in the provinces of Imbabura and Manabí on food sovereignty, agriculture, livestock, aquaculture and fisheries. The analysis

applied agroecological zoning modelling and design of climate change adaptation actions for climate-smart production.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross seeks to scale up its [Climate-Smart Livelihoods](#) approach in key provinces to safeguard agricultural production from extreme weather and will strengthen Early Warning Systems to prevent pest outbreaks affecting critical crops. It aims to integrate climate change adaptation and loss-and-damage management measures, prioritizing areas where traditional adaptation strategies are no longer viable, while protecting biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem services.

Planned activities in 2025

- Implement environmental management activities
- Carry out [vulnerability and capacity assessments \(VCA\)](#) with communities
- Carry out risk reduction activities factoring in climate change risks and environmental protection
- Carry out actions aimed at reducing the [ecological footprint](#) of the National Society's programmes and operations



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page: [Ecuador](#)

Ecuador spans three geographically diverse zones: the Andean mountains, the Amazon rainforest and the arid coastal areas. Each zone presents its unique hazards and the country is affected by multiple disasters. It is located at the convergence of the Nazca and South American tectonic plates and is part of the 'Pacific Ring of Fire' which entails a permanent seismic and volcanic risk. In the continental and insular territory there are 84 identified volcanic centres, of which 27 are potentially active and seven are part of the ranking of [high and very high threat](#). Ecuador is also exposed to hurricanes and tropical storms, with people in coastal areas also in danger of tsunamis.

Ecuador faces a high and [complex disaster risk profile](#) which cause widespread humanitarian and environmental impacts. Human mobility, driven by migration from Venezuela and Colombia, adds pressure on shelter, food and health systems, while recurrent epidemics such as dengue, Zika and malaria have exposed weaknesses in public health. These hazards result in loss of life, displacement, infrastructure destruction, environmental degradation, food insecurity, loss of livelihoods, disruption of services and rising poverty and inequality. In [2023 alone](#), a total of 3,181 events linked to meteorological phenomena were recorded, mainly floods with 41 per cent recurrence and landslides with 33 per cent, which left 140,696 people affected and 7,559 affected in 205 cantons. A [landslide](#)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and with implementing support from the **Spanish Red Cross** as lead EU National Society, the **German Red Cross**, the **Italian Red Cross**, the National Society was supported in conducting climate-risk analysis in the provinces of Imbabura and Manabí to enable the continuation of climate-smart programming, including by providing communities with knowledge and inputs to cope with climate change. The National Society will also be supported to further strengthen staff and volunteer capacity in Cash and Voucher Assistance, including the use of tools from the 'Guide for the Use of Tools for the Implementation of Cash Transfer Programmes' with a gender perspective.

The IFRC will provide technical support as required to the Ecuadorian Red Cross for climate and environmental adaptation, with special emphasis on reducing the ecological footprint and reducing climate risks in vulnerable communities.

was reported in the Province of Chimborazo, which caused loss of life and infrastructure and left an area of 24.3 hectares and more than 1,650 people directly affected in the impact zone. At the same time, heavy rainfall caused seven rivers in the Province of Esmeraldas to overflow their banks, leaving 3,500 people affected by [flooding](#).

Highly populated urban areas, poor land-use, environmental degradation and weak building codes that do not sufficiently address potential risks, all contribute to the country's vulnerability. More than 60 per cent of the population live in areas that are exposed to multiple hazards. Populations living in poverty and extreme poverty tend to be those most at risk from natural hazards, since they are located on the banks of rivers that overflow, on the slopes of active volcanoes, in areas with low productivity and exposed to cycles of drought and floods, on steep slopes prone to landslides and informal urban settlements. In these areas, the supply of public and social services is usually limited and disasters have severe impacts on their resilience.

Ecuador's Secretariat of Risk Management identifies other emergencies in the country, derived from:

- Human action (anthropogenic): soil erosion, deforestation, water, soil and air pollution from industrial processes and petroleum derivatives, among others

- Social practices: fires, spread of diseases, crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking and corruption or violence by armed groups, psychosocial and cultural violence, human mobility, among others

The National Secretariat for Risk Management is the public body responsible for guaranteeing the protection of people and communities from the negative effects of natural and anthropic disasters. Through the Public Policy on Disaster Risk Management, the National Decentralized Risk Management System has been established, which is composed of the risk management units of all public and private institutions.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ecuadorian Red Cross will focus on strengthening community resilience and safeguarding lives and livelihoods in alignment with the National Decentralized Risk Management System and the Organic Law for Integrated Disaster Risk Management. The National Society aims to prevent and alleviate human suffering while enhancing preparedness, response and recovery capacities across the country. Its multi-year objectives centre on reinforcing operational teams for rapid emergency response and support teams for technical and logistical deployment, ensuring that humanitarian assistance reaches affected populations swiftly and effectively.

It will continue to develop and implement a comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Policy to protect quality of life and ensure communities are better prepared to face and recover from disasters. The National Society seeks to deepen its integration with national emergency coordination mechanisms while maintaining active participation in Emergency Operations Committees, Technical Working Groups and the Country Humanitarian Team.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to modernize and expand its emergency response infrastructure, including the renewal of its vehicle fleet, the operation of a national situation and monitoring room supported by five provincial monitoring facilities and the strengthening of a humanitarian logistics network with strategically positioned warehouses to enable rapid deployment of critical supplies. It will also continue coordinating with technical-scientific institutions and security forces to refine volcanic eruption preparedness, supported by a clear roadmap and deployment plan tailored to each hazard's context.

Additionally, the Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to adapt its humanitarian strategies to address emerging challenges posed by climate change, urbanization, cyber crises and the increasing overlap of fragility and conflict. It will invest in institutional sustainability, forge stronger partnerships with national and international actors and ensure its interventions remain effective, sustainable and aligned with the evolving risk landscape.

Planned activities in 2025

- Respond to emergencies as they arise and deliver in-kind and cash assistance to affected people as per their needs
 - Carry out an analysis of the vulnerabilities and capacities of the communities affected by disasters and crises
 - Develop thorough community action plans and family emergency plans along with practice drills
 - Develop additional Early Action Protocols
 - Establish and maintain strategic warehouses with adequate pre-positioned stocks
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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 a DREF allocation for a flood emergency in Ecuador.

- IFRC-DREF Ecuador Floods: The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 486,886 in March 2024 supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross in assisting about 10,000 people affected by the devastating impact of persistent rains and floods in the Esmeraldas, Guayas, Los Rios and Manabi areas. The National Society supported the targeted people over a five-month period with assistance including the distribution of shelter kits including mattresses, multi-purpose cash grants, health and hygiene related services such as mental health and psychosocial support, the distribution of mosquito nets and the provision of safe water and storage facilities to affected people. Support also prioritized the implementation of feedback mechanisms and dissemination of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) messages for communities.

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, with implementation support from the **Spanish Red Cross**, the **German Red Cross**, the **Italian Red Cross** and the IFRC, the Ecuadorian Red Cross is increasing community preparedness for disasters. The National Society will continue to work with communities on raising awareness on disaster risks and developing family emergency plans. It will also continue to work with local authorities on risk management and contingency planning for floods and landslides, including the pre-position of supplies in strategic warehouses. The National Society will further develop and roll out the e-learning training platform with courses related to disaster risk management and anticipatory action. The procedure for cash and voucher assistance will be strengthened, taking into account findings from a recent feasibility study and financial risk assessment.



According to data from the [Inter-American Development Bank](#), Ecuador is among the countries with the greatest development challenges in the field of health, ranking 54th out of 71. Around 87 per cent of all public health personnel and professionals available in the country are concentrated in urban centres, while only the remaining 13 per cent are in rural areas. The health system is composed of both public and private sectors and has seen the public sector affected by low budgets, shortages and instability of personnel and a lack of specialized infrastructure. Health institutions are experiencing critical shortages of trained personnel and medicines, leading to ongoing misinformation and mistrust in the health care system.

The increase in vector-borne diseases, such as [dengue](#), is a growing concern. According to the National Directorate of Epidemiological Surveillance, 48,993 cases of dengue were reported in 2024, mainly in provinces such as Manabí, El Oro, Los Ríos, Guayas and Napo. This increase is attributed to climate change, which has expanded the habitat of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito to previously unaffected areas, such as Pichincha, Cotopaxi and Tungurahua.

Ecuador has the [second-highest chronic child malnutrition](#) rate in Latin America: according to UNICEF, 23 per cent of children under five years of age and 27 per cent of children under two years of age suffer from chronic child malnutrition. Four out of ten indigenous children under five years of age are chronically malnourished. The prevalence of chronic child malnutrition is higher in rural areas (28.7 per cent) compared to urban areas (20.1 per cent).

The increase in violence in Ecuador has had a significant impact on mental health. The homicide rate has increased from [13.7 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2021 to 43 per 100,000 in 2023](#), leading to high levels of stress, anxiety and depression in the population. Constant threats from criminal gangs, coupled with unemployment and low incomes, have increased mental health problems, especially in the most vulnerable areas.

Access to clean water and sanitation is another critical challenge. Many communities lack safe sources of water, which increases the risk of communicable diseases. Deficiencies in water treatment and irregular distribution in rural areas have [exacerbated](#) this problem.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has significant experience in health interventions and community-based health. It runs an ambulance service, offers pre-hospital care and provides 75 per cent of the blood components for transfusion therapies in the country. The Ecuadorian Red Cross will also focus on optimizing the operations of its Blood Centre by removing regulatory

barriers to the export of surplus plasma. The National Society seeks to transform currently discarded plasma into essential blood products such as albumin and immunoglobulin. This initiative will generate sustainable revenue streams, support the long-term operation of the Hemocentre and enable reinvestment in public health operations and new health projects, contributing to improved national health security.

Its work to improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations includes reducing chronic child malnutrition and promoting nutritional activities and support in the Posorja and El Morro parishes. The National Society also addresses the rights of older adults to access comprehensive health care services.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to strengthen local capacities for health preparedness and response through the expansion of the community-based surveillance strategy, fostering healthy brigades composed of trained volunteers able to anticipate and address public health risks. The National Society will continue to equip communities with practical tools, training materials, communication mechanisms and action protocols tailored to local contexts, ensuring interventions are effective, sustainable and community driven.

It will prioritize the creation and reinforcement of Community Committees to enhance preparedness for health emergencies, promote community cohesion and strengthen collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners.

Planned activities in 2025

- Maintain the delivery of the National Society's various health services
 - Promote the importance of physical as well as mental health
 - Implement [community-based surveillance](#) with community volunteers and brigades
 - Raise community awareness on maternal and child health and respiratory diseases, waterborne diseases, diseases caused by lack of access to vaccination, among others
 - Help communities identify preparedness and response actions to protect health in emergencies
 - Support vaccination campaigns
 - Provide communities with material for cleaning and prevention of vector-borne diseases
 - Target schools and health facilities for water, sanitation and hygiene services
 - Ensure the delivery of safe water, water treatment kits and chlorine delivery during emergencies
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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 disease outbreaks.

In 2025, IFRC provided a DREF allocation for a flood emergency in Ecuador.

- IFRC-DREF Yellow Fever Epidemic: The [IFRC-DREF](#) allocation of CHF 137,064 in May 2025 is supporting the Ecuadorian Red Cross in assisting about 3,000 people affected by the resurgence of a yellow fever outbreak in Morona Santiago, Pastaza and Zamora Chinchipe areas of Ecuador. The National Society is supporting the targeted people over a three-month period with assistance including the distribution of shelter kits including immunization campaigns, distribution of vector control

kits as well as provision of mental health and psychosocial support. Support also prioritized awareness-raising sessions focusing on vaccine hesitancy

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, with implementation support from the **Spanish Red Cross**, the **German Red Cross**, the **Italian Red Cross** and the IFRC, the Ecuadorian Red Cross will further strengthen the capacity to prepare for and respond to epidemics. Working with the Ministry of Health, the National Society will support vaccination campaigns in areas with low coverage. The National Society will also improve water and sanitation services in target schools and health centres based on the assessment that was completed.

Magen David Adom, the Israeli National Association, provides technical support to the National Society in pre-hospital care for multiple-victim incidents, supporting the preparation of corresponding protocols, equipment standards, inter-agency guidance and guidelines for simulation exercises.



Migration and displacement

Ecuador is historically characterized as a country with high migration flows, being a country of origin, transit and destination. Periods of emigration have resulted in 1.3 million Ecuadorians leaving the country by 2022. According to statistics from the Government of Panama, Ecuador shifted from being the thirteenth nationality in irregular transit through the dangerous Darien route (with 387 people in transit in 2021) to being the second nationality in transit (with close to 30,000 people in 2022).

Ecuador hosts citizens of more than seventy nationalities. In the last two decades, the country has accommodated successive flows of refugees from Colombia, Haitians fleeing to Ecuador due to the 2010 earthquake and Cuban migrants arriving in Ecuador. Arrivals from Haiti have been observed again in recent times. Ecuador's economic conditions, especially dollarization, have been an attraction for the immigration of foreign nationals in recent years.

Ecuador continues to be a recipient of significant migratory flows, particularly of Venezuelan citizens, with more than 550,000 people residing in the country. Of this total, only [47 per cent](#) have their migratory status regularized. Risks are especially high for women and families with small children and people are exposed to dangerous terrain, severe weather conditions and other hazards, such as sexual abuse, trafficking and other human rights violations. According to the [UN](#), many travel through the country in transit to other South American nations. Around 65 per cent of migrants do not have any regular status and approximately 80 per cent of the families report having children and adolescents

Likewise, Ecuador has experienced an increase in the migration of its own population abroad, particularly to North America, with [13,368](#) Ecuadorians crossing irregularly into Honduras in 2024. This underscores the need for a coordinated and efficient response to migration challenges.

In Ecuador, the government's legal framework guarantees universal access to basic services, such as health and education, including for refugees and migrants with irregular status. However, the limits on public capacities often create barriers for these migrants and refugees in accessing basic services. The lack of proper documentation affects their access to the formal labour market, exposing them to protection risks and limiting their socio-economic integration prospects.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society is part of the IFRC's three-year [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross migration strategy aligns with Movement migration action plan for the Americas and articulates objectives for the National Society to:

- Exercise its auxiliary role to the public authorities in relation to humanitarian migration-related needs, within the framework of the Movement fundamental principles
- Promote the resilience of both migrant communities and communities of origin of departing Ecuadorians, which implies actions of a developmental nature
- Prioritize the response based on acuteness of needs and local capacity (poverty levels in the area, local infrastructure for access to rights such as health and education, governmental response capacity), to ensure maximum relevance in the face of migration flows affecting Ecuador's entire continental territory

Planned activities in 2025

- Ensure that migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes, as well as access to durable solutions when appropriate
- Deliver humanitarian aid kits, preventative and curative medical care and psychosocial support services to migrant populations
- Strengthen health service provision and health surveillance for migrants and displaced persons
- Provide Restoring Family Links (RFL) services
- Provide information and guidance to migrant populations to raise their awareness of risks

- Support social cohesion and mutual integration between host communities and migrants

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support and funding to the Ecuadorian Red Cross to give continuity to community processes that promote the integration of migrant populations and host communities in Ecuador. The main objective of these initiatives is to promote encounter and dialogue between both populations, creating spaces for positive and constructive interaction.

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, the Ecuadorian Red Cross will continue to provide assistance to people on the move. The National Society will provide medical care, psychosocial support, health education, information and kits to people on the move. Due to increased demand, the National Society will enhance RFL services, offering phone and internet access at service points. Social cohesion activities will continue to integrate migrant population and host communities. With the support of the **Spanish Red Cross**, community processes were carried out to bring together the migrant and host communities in provincial branches. This has included recreational activities (arts, sports), promoting dialogue to identify common needs, in particular access to sexual and reproductive health and the right to education for girls and boy. In this context, actions have been implemented that have directly benefited more than 3,000 people directly and 12,000 indirectly and allowing the strengthening of the inter-institutional coordination of the Ecuadorian Red Cross with 15 public and non-governmental entities on migration-related issues.



Values, power and inclusion

People in Ecuador face significant levels of violence, ranging from armed violence to social unrest caused by economic disparity. Since 2021, Ecuador has seen a systematic increase in criminal violence generated by organized criminal groups over territorial disputes linked to transnational drug trafficking. In mid-2022, the country also experienced a national strike and social protests, with demands for access to better inter-cultural education opportunities, health services and medicines and income generation or livelihood opportunities. The social mobilization took place in 22 provinces of the country, with the largest concentration of protesters seen in Quito, the country's capital.

Figures from the Ministry of Interior recorded 3,599 violent deaths for the first semester of 2023, reflecting a 69% increase compared to the same period in 2022. In 2023, the

[rise in violence](#) has put Ecuador as the top South American country in number of violent deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, rising in a single year from 25 to 42 violent deaths per 100,000 inhabitants.

On [08 January 2024](#), simultaneous riots were reported in Social Rehabilitation Centres across the provinces of Guayas, Cotopaxi, Azuay, Cañar, Loja, Napo, Chimborazo, El Oro, Tungurahua and Pichincha. Correctional officers and administrative personnel were held hostage, prompting interventions by specialized units to restore control. In response, the President issued Executive Decree No. 110, declaring a 60-day [State of Exception](#) nationwide, restricting rights such as freedom of movement, assembly, inviolability of domicile and correspondence. This decree authorized the mobilization

of the National Police and Armed Forces. However, between the night of 08 January and the afternoon of 09 January, violent incidents were reported in Pichincha, Esmeraldas, Azuay, El Oro, Chimborazo, Loja, Guayas and Los Ríos, including car bomb explosions, vehicle burnings, kidnappings and attempts to seize public and private spaces such as barracks, shopping centers, universities, media outlets and hospitals. These events, broadcast live and amplified on social media, generated unprecedented collective panic.

High levels of violence and insecurity linked to organized crime, as well as the poverty and social inequality gaps, increased protection risks for women, girls and adolescents in both host communities and migrant and refugee groups. Services provided by organizations and the public sector for women survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were affected by the same situations of violence. It is estimated that 6.5 out of every 10 women in Ecuador have experienced some type of violence in their lifetime and one out of every four has suffered sexual violence. All types of violence continue to affect most Ecuadorian women, regardless of their ethnicity, level of education, age or status.

There are also challenges of gender inequality, with 76 per cent of unpaid work carried out in the home and generated by women and illiteracy levels substantially higher among indigenous women. Regarding unemployment levels, there is a gap of 1.4 per cent between men and women and women's participation in as elected representatives continues to be considerably below that of men. These indicators are even more prevalent in rural areas.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ecuadorian Red Cross sees Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) as key cross-cutting approaches that need to be integrated in all its programmes and operations. It aims to ensure that staff and volunteers are aware of the IFRC PGI minimum standards in emergencies and of the CEA Movement-wide commitments while developing specific actions and tools to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups and populations. The National Society has made inter-institutional

coordination efforts to promote CEA approach to government bodies and has focal points in all its provincial boards.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross youth programme contributes to community development by training young people as agents of change in the construction of a just, equitable and inclusive society. The programme focuses on social innovation and community engagement approaches and promotes a culture of peace and non-violence seeks and environmental care.

The multi-year objectives of the Ecuadorian Red Cross include to:

- Raise awareness of humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Expand its humanitarian education, through training opportunities covering the humanitarian values and fundamental principles

Planned activities in 2025

- Develop and use recreational tools to conduct community activities addressing issues such as gender-based violence and xenophobia
- Implement feedback mechanisms and digital tools to improve communication with communities
- Strengthen Community Engagement and Accountability in emergency response and longer-term work with communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue supporting the Ecuadorian Red Cross to institutionalize Protection, Gender and Inclusion and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). Support includes the development of a community feedback strategy, based on identified steps and further integration of CEA in emergency response. The IFRC will encourage the National Society to expand its humanitarian education, through training opportunities covering the humanitarian values and Fundamental Principles. It will also support peer-to-peer collaboration between National Societies.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Ecuadorian Red Cross carried out its first self-assessment part of the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2017. The self-assessment part of the process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of a National Society as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. In February 2023, the National Society conducted a new OCAC preliminary exercise with the IFRC to update its capacity mapping. In March 2023, the eighty-five OCAC attributes were analyzed with the

management team of the institution and a roadmap defined. The Ecuadorian Red Cross is also committed to the IFRC's Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is currently at the assessment phase. The approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps in their preparedness and response mechanisms and take the necessary action to improve them.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Coordinate at the highest level in the humanitarian field with State institutions in charge of the country's public policy, non-governmental organizations, civil society as part of its auxiliary role to the public authorities
- Maintain close coordination with key ministries such as the Ministry of Public Health, Environment and Education

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society's external engagements through the various programmes they

support, including climate change adaptation and migration. The IFRC network will also ensure strong coordination amongst partners, in alignment with the Ecuadorian Red Cross priorities. This includes continued close work as part of the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and DG-ECHO, which receives implementation support of the **Spanish Red Cross, German Red Cross and Italian Red Cross**. The members will continue joint planning and procurement, regular coordination meetings and aligning technical support for the Ecuadorian Red Cross to be the lead local actor.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Update the National Society general regulations, based on its amended Statutes
- Develop and revise key internal policies
- Launch the process of drafting the next institutional Strategic Plan
- Consolidate quality management systems, in particular by developing the operational safety policy
- Launch the newly developed application to provide volunteer staff with updated and easily accessible information, in line with the decentralization approach
- Provide training at all levels to strengthen the National Society
- Continue to strengthen financial sustainability and prioritize resource mobilization efforts in new areas such as digital transformation and adaptation to climate change

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Ecuadorian Red Cross in applying for the OCAC process and all its development efforts. It will also support the National Society in accessing pool funds

dedicated to National Society development. IFRC network partners will also provide support in line with the National Society priorities and their own areas of expertise.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Carry out high-impact humanitarian diplomacy and legislative advocacy activities with public authorities
- Collaborate with relevant non-governmental bodies and academia for impactful humanitarian diplomacy and legislative advocacy
- Maintain the focus on key themes including migration, pandemics, epidemics and endemics, disaster law, early warning systems, international humanitarian law and volunteering

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide support for humanitarian diplomacy and legislative advocacy of the Ecuadorian Red Cross, as well as for its public communications efforts. The IFRC will also cooperate with the ICRC for support to initiatives related to the promotion of international humanitarian law in Ecuador.



Volunteers of the Ecuadorian Red Cross assisting families affected by severe flooding in Guayas (Photo: Ecuadorian Red Cross)



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Safeguard the physical and emotional integrity of volunteer and humanitarian personnel through the socialization of protocols and guidelines
- Implement an Enterprise Resource Planning and Management System (ERP)
- Develop a data protection policy for the Ecuadorian Red Cross in line with Ecuador's new data protection law

- Standardize and regulate data collection and processing through technological solutions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the digital transformation of the National Society and provide technical advice for the application of the data protection policy and the use of technological tools for data collection.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has supported the National Society through its Andean Country Cluster Delegation based in Lima, Peru, since 2016. The IFRC has also maintained a permanent office in Ecuador since 2016, following the response to the Manabí earthquake. The IFRC supports the National Society in its strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy and in

strengthening its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Society through several DREF [operations](#) in response to floods and landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and ash, population movement and civil and penitentiary unrest.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to analyze the humanitarian context, assess humanitarian situations and needs, agree common priorities, co-develop strategies to obtain greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilize funding and other resources, clarify consistent public messaging and monitor progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clear humanitarian actions and development assistance and reinforce the auxiliary role of the National Societies in their respective countries.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is part of multiple coordination spaces organized by the IFRC in the region and globally, including the IFRC regional PGI network, livelihoods working group, Americas innovators network, youth network of the Americas and Caribbean and the IFRC global migration Task Force.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the European

Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and the IFRC, supported by the **Spanish Red Cross** (as lead EU National Society), the **Italian Red Cross** and the **German Red Cross**. The partners are providing support to implement activities across disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, humanitarian assistance and protection of people on the move and cash and voucher assistance. Risk communication and community engagement and accountability is addressed as cross-cutting theme within the main pillars of the intervention.

The partnership meets the humanitarian needs that arise from extended crises and provides longer-term predictable funding, to facilitate actions and processes and provide greater impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the biggest donor for international aid in the world.

Participating National Societies that have longer-term partnerships with the Ecuadorian Red Cross include:

The **German Red Cross** has a close and longstanding relationship with the Ecuadorian Red Cross, which was established in 1989–1990, when the German Red Cross supported the National Society to set up its blood bank. In 1994, the German Red Cross partnered with the American Red Cross to support the development of disaster management structures within the National Society and ten years later on disaster risk reduction. From 2019, the German Red Cross has worked with the Ecuadorian Red Cross on forecast-based financing and anticipatory action. In cooperation with the IFRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the German Red Cross is hosting the Anticipation Hub, a platform to facilitate knowledge exchange, learning, guidance and advocacy around anticipatory action. The German Red Cross also supports the National Society since 2017 on institutional development. The German Red Cross has also supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross to implement a COVID-19 project funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The **Italian Red Cross** has been present in the region for more than 20 years, supporting National Societies to deliver activities across disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, National Society development and migration. It currently supports the Ecuadorian Red Cross on migration, health and innovation, as well as on disaster risk management at institutional and community level. Currently, the Italian Red

Cross has two focal points to manage preparedness, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at regional level.

Magen David Adom is Israel's National Rescue Organization and the Israeli National Association within the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Magen David Adom supports the Ecuadorian Red Cross in strengthening its capacities for delivering pre-hospital care for multiple-victim incidents.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross since 1980 and has had a presence in the country through an established delegation in Quito since 2000. The Spanish Red Cross supports the National Society in Ecuador to deliver humanitarian, emergency and development interventions. Since 2016, the two National Societies have worked together on more than 40 projects across humanitarian assistance and emergency response, as well as in development, enabling the Ecuadorian Red Cross to increase its expertise and capacity in disaster risk reduction management and early response to emergencies, population movement, physical and mental health, cash transfer, economic recovery and livelihoods, water and sanitation and protection. The Spanish Red Cross also supports the Ecuadorian Red Cross's institutional strengthening in particular related to care and well-being of volunteers, psychological first aid, mental health and psychosocial support and dealing with isolation in temporary shelters and infrastructures.

Movement coordination

The Ecuadorian 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** is concerned about the humanitarian consequences derived from armed violence in Ecuador. For decades, the ICRC has carried out activities to promote respect and dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), visits people deprived of liberty and maintains a close relationship of cooperation and coordination with the Ecuadorian Red Cross. The ICRC provides support to the National Society through its regional delegation in Lima, Peru, on [safer access](#), restoring family links services, promotion of the fundamental principles and respect for the emblem, dissemination of international humanitarian law and crisis communication.

Coordination with other actors

The Ecuadorian Red Cross, in line with its auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, coordinates at the highest level with the state institutions in charge of the country's public policy and non-governmental and civil society organizations. Collaboration with ministries and public bodies includes: the Ministry of Public Health, Secretariat of Risk Management, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior, National Assembly, Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Water Regulation and Control Agency, Technical Secretariat "Ecuador Grows without Child Malnutrition" and National Service for the Comprehensive Care of Adults Deprived of Liberty and Adolescent Offenders.

As part of the national decentralized risk management system, it maintains close coordination with the "ECU 911" comprehensive security system, is a permanent actor in the national and provincial emergency operations centres and participates in

technical working groups at national and sub-national level. Within the Emergency Operations Committee manual in force, the Ecuadorian Red Cross participates in the three technical working tables for safe water, sanitation and waste management (as guest and support member), health and primary health care (as main member) and temporary shelter and humanitarian assistance (as support member). It also takes part in the search and rescue working group and in other tables and groups when required by the government.

The National Society is also part of the Humanitarian Country Team alongside representatives from the UN system, NGOs and other humanitarian actors. It participates in several of the clusters formed, in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), livelihood recovery, food security, health and temporary shelter. Coordination has also been ensured for population movement through participation in the human mobility technical table, bringing together government agencies and non-governmental organizations such as UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, IOM, HIAS, Alas de Colibrí, CARE and Plan International, among others.



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 network country plans](#) • [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](#)
- [Evaluations and research databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

Contact information

Ecuadorian Red Cross
cruzroja.org.ec

Stephen McAndrew
Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation
for Andean Countries,
Lima
stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org

Monica Portilla
Head of Strategic Engagement
& Partnerships
IFRC Regional Office for Americas,
Panama
T +502 586 57619
monica.portilla@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin
Lead
IFRC Global Strategic Planning
& Reporting Centre
New Delhi
sumitha.martin@ifrc.org