



MAA49003

Appeal number

9,020,000

Swiss francs
funding requirement

95,000

People to be reached

13

National Societies to be Supported:

Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean Cluster Office

COUNTRY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean IFRC Cluster Office provides support to a diverse set of territories that include islands in the Caribbean Basin, one country on mainland Central America (Belize) and two on the South American continent (Guyana and Suriname). The countries in this region are middle or high income countries and most, with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago¹, are reliant on tourism and primary industries such as fishing and agriculture.

The biggest threat to the well-being and the resilience of communities in the Caribbean is climate change, which has exacerbated the threats of natural hazards including tropical storms, floods, landslides, droughts, and seismic activity. These can have devastating effects that overwhelm the ability of these countries to cope. It can take decades before full recovery is achieved. Small Caribbean nations, particularly dependent on their natural resources, are being forced to find new ways to adapt.

Despite modest improvements in basic health indicators, an increase in non-communicable diseases burdens health care systems. The region has the second highest HIV prevalence rate globally. In addition, climate change creates environments in which mosquito-borne illnesses such as dengue, chikungunya and Zika can flourish. To respond to these threats, the IFRC supports National Societies in implementing an integrated approach that not only mainstreams community resilience but goes beyond, to ensure that the National Societies and communities that they serve are able to thrive, prepare for and anticipate events, and recover. In addition to maintaining existing relationships with partners, building new partnerships is essential to sustaining programmes. Key partners include the Canadian Red Cross, French Red Cross, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), USAID/OFDA, the UNDP and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and ECHO.

¹ Unlike most Caribbean nations and territories, which rely heavily on tourism, the Trinidadian economy is primarily industrial with an emphasis on petroleum and [petrochemicals](#).^[22] much of the nation's wealth is derived from its large reserves of oil and natural gas.¹

NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Climate change adaptation is key!

Communities in the Caribbean are disproportionately affected by climate change both through the worsening of natural disasters and through the longer-term impacts that climate change has on health and livelihoods.

Red Cross National Societies in the Caribbean require support to strengthen key leadership positions, volunteer management, internal and external communications, and resource mobilization strategies for financial sustainability, in order to effectively implement their community engagement strategies and address key areas affecting communities they work with.

STATISTICS

\$10.7 billion

The cost of inaction on climate change in the Caribbean

3

Number of category 5 hurricanes that hit the Caribbean in the last five years.

300 %

Expected increase in dengue transmission due to climate change

National Society Profile

Like the region itself, the National Societies of the English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean are diverse, providing services that vary depending on their institutional capacities and volunteer-base. Having had to consistently respond to events caused by natural hazards, these National Societies are well-recognized in their countries for their role in humanitarian response. National Societies play an auxiliary role to governments, supporting achievement of health, development and other targets through their community level interventions.

National Societies in the region are in a continuous process of building the capacity and strength of their volunteer base. Thematic partnerships have provided the opportunity to expand volunteer networks, which are strengthened by National Society leadership, consistently pushing for a “one Caribbean” approach. IFRC supports this through facilitating peer to peer support mechanisms, knowledge and best practice sharing opportunities.

Country Office Role

The English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean IFRC Cluster Team recognises that vulnerable individuals and their communities cannot be separated from the natural resources on which they rely when a disaster occurs. The region’s population, relies heavily on natural resources for their health and livelihoods, and they are part of a symbiotic ecosystem which has been heavily impacted by the effects of climate change and unprecedented events in recent years.

The IFRC has recognized climate change as a humanitarian crisis and Caribbean National Societies will consequently receive support to mainstream climate change adaptation in their community programmes. Drawing on the best science and working with National Societies, the IFRC team works to empower vulnerable communities with tools, knowledge and community-based and ecosystem-based solutions to the changing climate. This ranges from community-driven participatory action to wider-scale national and regional conservation efforts.

Cross-cutting in IFRC actions to support National Societies in climate change adaptation is the assistance provided in community engagement and accountability, developing early warning systems, community-based health, sustaining livelihoods, and ecosystem-based approaches. All of these approaches are geared towards improving the resilience of Caribbean communities.

Movement Footprint

Canadian Red Cross supports a 3 year project (2018-2021) to build community resilience through gender sensitive disaster risk management. The Community Resilience Building (CRB) project works in 20 communities in three Caribbean countries (St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Belize). The project mainstreams climate change adaptation into all its trainings and works hand in hand with IFRC in developing tools for National Societies. The project also supports the inclusion of climate change and environmental considerations are included in KAP trainign, a traditional tool. The development of new tool Communities Adapting with Nature (CAN) checklist was supported under this project.

The French Red Cross has been supporting efforts in health through a vector control control project in Caribbean countries in the south America continent. French Red Cross also partners with IFRC and National Societies in International Disaster Response Law (IDRL).

Cooperation with our Overseas Branches has in the past and will in the future be critical in coordination efforts particularly in disaster response.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

REQUIRED RESOURCES:
CHF 4,200,000

Disaster Risk Reduction in support of climate change adaptation unites the other sectors in this plan. Vulnerability Capacity Assessments (eVCA) conducted in 40 communities in the Caribbean have demonstrated that communities and local partners prioritize actions and plans to strengthen resilience. Ecosystem-based approaches, and livelihoods will be part of this approach. This will be achieved through:

- Development of community resilience action plans in 20 new communities.
- Forecast-based Financing in 2 National Societies.
- Integration of NDO and CDEMA assessment forms into NS response systems using ICT.
- Advocating for improvements to IDRL through 3 National Societies.

HEALTH

REQUIRED RESOURCES:
CHF 2,190,000

IFRC supports behavioural change approaches to improving the health and well-being of Caribbean communities. Thirteen National Societies in the region are trained in the enhanced Community Based Health and First Aid (eCBHFA) approach. This approach, used successfully to develop community-led programmes to address vector-borne diseases in the region can also be applied to other health priorities including non-communicable diseases. The Health programme in the region will support National Societies to:

- Prevent disease risks using the eCBHFA approach in 13 countries.
- Enable early detection of communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Strengthen community based disaster response teams to respond to key health risks after a disaster.

MIGRATION

Natural disaster-linked displacement is a complex challenge for Caribbean nations. In addition, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana are experiencing migration pressures due to ongoing political and social instability in Venezuela. IFRC's support to National Societies in migration will focus on:

- Scaling-up the campaign to fight xenophobia against migrants and displaced persons in 2 countries.
- Supporting the Bahamas Red Cross with programmes for its displaced populations as a result of Hurricane Dorian,
- Supporting Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana with programming that addresses Venezuelan migration
- Working closely with the ICRC to support other NSs in dealing with migrant issues.

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

REQUIRED RESOURCES:
CHF 200,000

A community that has access to decent work and economic growth is better equipped to address its vulnerabilities. The IFRC's strategic approach to support National Societies to strengthen community resilience will focus on making communities economically stronger, while preparing for and reducing disaster risk. As such, livelihoods programming will be directly linked in with disaster risk reduction. In particular IFRC will support:

- Completing livelihood and economic opportunity assessments in 10 communities
- Better management of natural assets linked to nature-based solutions.
- Integration and development of robust community early warning systems in 10% of communities

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Water and sanitation efforts will focus reduction of risks associated with poor community and household water management including the spread of vector-borne and water borne diseases. Support to National Societies in WASH will be conducted through:

- Inter-Caribbean peer to peer support mechanisms to build stronger community management of water and sanitation systems.
- Improving community knowledge on treatment and reuse of waste water in 13 communities.
- Increased engagement with 13 communities to find local solutions to solid waste management and reduction of mosquito breeding sites.
- Advocacy with governments and communities to increase climate resilience in water and sanitation systems.

SHELTER

REQUIRED RESOURCES:
CHF 540,000

The Red Cross international response mechanism remains strong with regard to emergency shelter response and recovery. For the Caribbean, the worsening impacts of hurricanes require Build Back Better approaches to shelter response be taken. At the same time, advocacy for effective building code enforcement and supportive institutional arrangements is required. This advocacy will be achieved through:

- Representation at strategic forums, partnerships and champions to raise awareness of the need for effective codes and institutions.
- Strategic targeting of key decision makers.
- Joining with international lending and grant agencies to encourage national change.

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 1,540,000

Support to youth and volunteering work through the development of National Society volunteering strategies and plans will continue in Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St Vincent and the Grenadines and expand to Trinidad and Tobago and Antigua and Barbuda and Jamaica in 2020. A regional activity will be carried out and the culture of peer support and learning will be strengthened.

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) strengthens local preparedness capacities to ensure timely and effective humanitarian assistance to prevent and alleviate human suffering. In 2020, four (4) National Societies will be supported to undertake PER assessment or follow-up on their action plans for those NSs which have already completed their assessments. Ongoing emergency responses including migration in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas and additional responses as needed will be supported.

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 100,000

IFRC Cluster Office's approach will continue to stress the auxiliary role of National Societies at the national and regional levels, and provide a framework for National Societies to successfully advocate for specific humanitarian issues and concerns **especially those around climate change**. by using such stools as Humanitarian Diplomacy and Disaster Law. In 2020, NSs will further develop a strengthened auxiliary role in Humanitarian Diplomacy and Disaster Law, though support from various projects including the Capacity Building Initiative Phase III project and the Ready together project funded by ECHO/Interreg and be led by the French Red Cross in partnership with the IFRC.

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 260,000

The IFRC cluster office has a core technical team that supports implementation of project activities through a centralised programme management structure in support of results-based management and efficiency. Programme management methodologies have been strengthened with regular monitoring of implementation rates using standard IFRC operating instruments that positively impact support to National Societies. A reviewed structure of programme duties and responsibilities had made the support structure clearer and aligned competencies with regional priorities.



CONTACTS

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