This document details the IFRC’s support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.
Venezuela continues to face a complex situation in which access to basic services, including health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) conditions remain critical, impacting the Venezuelan Red Cross' (VRC) hospital network that continues to make significant efforts to provide people with medical attention. Nationwide power cuts since 2019 have also severely affected the health system, emergency services, and the water supply. Access to water is one of the biggest challenges. To date, electricity continues to fluctuate, especially in states outside the capital.

The situation presented above is aggravated by fuel shortages, which have been compounded by reduced imports and insufficient local production. This has hampered access to essential services and people's livelihoods, including the transport sector, adding to the population's difficulties in accessing health services and water resources.

The mental health of the population is a significant concern, given increases in suicide rates, as well as mortality amongst children and young people caused by violence.

By December 2020, more than 5.4 million people had left Venezuela for other countries, many of them in Latin America and the Caribbean. This is the largest migration from a single country in the region in recent history. Many Venezuelan refugees and migrants working in the informal economy in Colombia, Brazil and Peru have lost their livelihoods and face poverty, eviction, food insecurity, and increased protection risks. As a result, a growing number of Venezuelans are returning. For the first time since 2015, the number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia has decreased, partly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region, forcing 140,000 Venezuelans to return to their country, mainly through Colombia and Brazil.

The combination of the COVID-19 situation, migration and the country's socioeconomic crisis has made an already critical situation worse. The continuity and reinvigorating of efforts from the Red Cross, to continue responding to the humanitarian needs of the vulnerable population is therefore vital.
ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Venezuelan Red Cross, as auxiliaries of the public authorities, has carried out its humanitarian mandate in Venezuela for 126 years. It is composed of 1,400 staff and approximately 3,932 volunteers, including medical personnel, who carry out their work through 24 branches, 8 hospitals, 35 outpatient clinics, the Nursing Technical Institute, and at community level, throughout the national territory.

During the past decade, the National Society has worked with communities, local authorities and other humanitarian partners to design and implement activities relating to:

- primary health care and health promotion
- emergency response
- participatory community resilience
- water, sanitation and hygiene
- psychosocial support
- protection, gender and inclusion
- migration

Established

1895
The International Red Cross Movement in Venezuela is composed by the IFRC secretariat, the ICRC and the Venezuelan National Red Cross. Based on the Principles of Cooperation, these Movement partners have established coordination mechanisms to conduct actions in the field, avoid duplication and maintain complementarity to maximize resources and operational coexistence between the ICRC and the IFRC. It ensures the Secretariat’s support to public health facilities and, complements the working modalities and protocols of the ICRC and other organizations in support of the VRC.

The IFRC signed its Legal Status Agreement with the Government of Venezuela on 31 January 2020. Based on the humanitarian needs, the IFRC continues to work with key stakeholders, and donors to implement the Movement’s Fundamental Principles, Strategy 2030 and the Declaration of Buenos Aires through its Master Plan 2019-2021.

As an observer of the Humanitarian Country Team, established in 2019, the IFRC will continue to attend cluster (Health, WASH, Protection, and Logistics) and coordination spaces to advocate in favour of the more urgent needs in Venezuela.

The ICRC in Venezuela has a Headquarters Agreement with the Government of Venezuela, signed in 2001. With more than 140 staff (between mobile and permanent), the ICRC has its delegation in Caracas and two offices in the field (San Cristóbal and Bolivar). It works with a protection and prevention approach to armed violence (in urban settings and where armed groups are active); conducts actions related to the population movement in health and sanitation (first aid services and referral to health centres and hospitals); supports Restoring Family Links (RFL); and works with detainees. The ICRC also supports the VRC in the areas of logistics, visibility and communication and provides trainings in the Safer Access Framework and other areas of expertise.
Climate events such as floods and drought, including those caused by El Niño and La Niña episodes, have worsened living conditions across the country since 2015. The precipitation intensity due to El Niño cannot be predicted, but Venezuela is considered to be one of the countries at the greatest risk.

Heavy rains can affect agricultural production, and floods have the potential to contaminate water sources and make clean water scarce. Whooping cough, hepatitis, diphtheria, measles, and diseases related to the lack of safe water also could also increase. In this regard, the National Society and its partners will coordinate to enhance the contingency actions.

**TARGET**

Adverse environmental impacts are identified, avoided, reduced, and mitigated.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support the National Society to increase knowledge and resilience within communities, with particular focus on the most vulnerable
- The IFRC will support the National Society to promote the Climate Change Red Commitments
- The IFRC will support the National Society to raise awareness through a Campaign on Climate Change at community level
- The IFRC will support the National Society to modify attitudes towards Climate Change
Evolving crises and disasters

The IFRC will support the VRC to provide adequate and timely assistance to those affected.

The IFRC will support the VRC to strengthen self-sufficiency of vulnerable people.

The IFRC will support the VRC to provide skills development support to those in need.

The IFRC will support the VRC to improve coordination and collaboration with key stakeholders.

The preventive measures implemented in Venezuela related to the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the income and livelihoods of vulnerable people, resulting in reduced access to nutritious food and a balanced diet. The situation was exacerbated by the limited availability of essential products and challenges in guaranteeing supplies such as seeds and fertilisers for local agricultural production.

In 2021, the humanitarian response will seek to strengthen food and nutritional security, reaching a target population of 30,000 vulnerable people with food support including children and, pregnant and lactating women with nutritional support.

People to be reached
30,000

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
1,810,000

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Power cuts and fluctuating electrical services have made it difficult for health facilities, including those run by the National Society, to provide necessary treatment and care. This is compounded by the lack of medicines, commodities and supplies that also contribute to decreasing the diagnostic capacities of laboratories and radiological facilities. Replacement parts for medical equipment and absence of regular maintenance are additional problems. They have also disrupted the water supply to 2.5 million people, whose access relies on electric pumps. The country’s sanitation facilities are also connected to the water network and cannot function without a reliable supply of electricity. The water, sanitation, hygiene, and environmental hygiene situation poses a public health risk.

The COVID-19 pandemic made an already complicated situation even more challenging and further exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. Fear, anxiety, exhaustion, distress, and depression have been rife as a result of living in difficult conditions for a prolonged period, particularly for women and girls. For the many quarantined, the negative psychological effects have been overwhelming.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support the National Society to provide access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services
- The IFRC will work with the National Society to support communities to meet their mental health and psychosocial needs
- The IFRC will support the National Society to improve emergency health and psychosocial support response
- The IFRC will support the National Society to offer adequate care and support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence
- The IFRC will support the National Society to increase access to sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services

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**GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
8,880,000

People to be reached
150,000

49% of people report problems with environmental hygiene

2.5 million people lack access to water
There are around 5.4 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees worldwide. The closure of borders forces people to use informal crossings, increasing their vulnerability and exposing them to protection risks. This results in many people being inadequately informed of the risks and rights associated with migration, including the risk of trafficking or sexual and labour exploitation.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about an increasing number of returnees to Venezuela, and the numbers continue to grow. It is vital to continue strengthening the response capacity of the National Society to assist people on the move through health services provision, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and adequate psychosocial support.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Society to assess, understand, and respond to the needs of migrants, displaced persons, and host communities more effectively
- The IFRC will support the National Society to improve its capacity to respond to the humanitarian needs of people on the move
VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
897,000

People to be reached
30,000

Protection issues remain a priority in 2021. The availability, access to and quality of specialised protection services have decreased, with the most vulnerable people requiring increased attention and support to remain an integrated part of their communities.

People with specific needs include gender-based violence survivors, children at risk, those at risk of statelessness, indigenous populations, LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex) people, displaced people, persons living with HIV, the elderly and people with disabilities.

ACTIVITIES

• The IFRC will support the National Society to mainstream a comprehensive Protection, Gender and Inclusion approach across programmes and operations
• The IFRC will support the National Society to build the capacity on the National Society on PGI in emergencies
• The IFRC will support the National Society to launch a sub-regional project on violence prevention
• The IFRC will support the National Society to advocate for the rights of people on the move
In 2021, the National Society will continue its work with the IFRC and the ICRC on a clear and common development plan. This will include strengthening the capacities of volunteers and staff and improving management systems. These actions will contribute to the sustainability and long-term future of the National Society, as well as to build capacity and accelerate organisational development.

Capacity building is vital to ensure the National Society has the necessary skills and capabilities to implement actions and achieve programmatic and operational objectives in accordance with its mandate and strategic plan. Technical training and widening the scope of organisational tools and methodologies will further develop functional capacities.

The IFRC will continue to engage in humanitarian diplomacy in Venezuela to improve public understanding of the National Society’s mandate and the Movement’s Fundamental Principles. This will include providing support for international deployment of relevant specialities.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support the National Society to influence public behaviour and policy change at domestic, regional, and global levels, through humanitarian diplomacy
ENABLER 2
ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
672,000

A key priority is to continue to consolidate the IFRC County Office in Venezuela, to further improve the IFRC’s credibility and effectiveness in the country. The IFRC obtained its Legal Status Agreement in 2020, which has facilitated the increase of operational and programmatic actions, but it still requires a specific budget to finalise its set up.

Financial resources will be safeguarded and appropriately managed via high quality financial and technical reporting and control of implementation rates. Regular monitoring of identified risks will be a high priority to ensure they are managed and mitigated, and that actions are undertaken to prevent any impact in the implementation of the current plan.

The delivery of commitments to donors and partners is of the utmost importance and will be supported by building capacity for planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER). All accountability related processes will be reviewed and prioritised, including monitoring systems for projects and operations, ensuring quality insurance and the reliability of data.

ACTIVITIES
- The IFRC will support the National Society to finalise and disseminate the PSEA policy
- The IFRC will support the National Society to develop a new financing architecture to increase financial resources
- The IFRC will support the National Society to build its capacity on PMER
In order to continuously understand evolving challenges and develop strategies to address them, in 2021, the IFRC will support the National Society to assess its capacities through the organizational capacity assessment certification (OCAC) and branch organizational capacity assessment (BOCA) processes – the results of which will contribute to the development of the Venezuelan Red Cross Strategic Plan.

The IFRC will work with the National Society and the ICRC to create a solidarity fund for staff and volunteers. In addition, the IFRC will ensure that mechanisms are in place to support the psychosocial wellbeing of volunteers, as well as their general wellbeing through the provision of insurance, and appropriate equipment for the safe implementation of their activities.

Leadership training will be provided to volunteers and other training opportunities will continue to be offered with a particular focus on volunteer inductions. The approach will be inclusive for all ages and genders equality, with diversity, cultural and geographic considerations. Peer-to-peer support will also be promoted between the Venezuelan Red Cross and sister National Societies when conditions allow.

The National Society will have an increased role in regional processes and mechanisms, fulfilling its Movement-wide commitments and increasing its influence decision-making processes. The IFRC and the National Society will work together on the design and implementation of the Community Engagement and Accountability Minimum Commitments road map, ensuring progress during 2021.

**TARGET 1**
The National Society becomes a trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action

**TARGET 2**
The National Society has the capability to act in the IFRC global network

**TARGET 3**
Increased volunteer and youth involvement, gender parity and equitable geographic representation

**TARGET 4**
Greater efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian actions

**TARGET 5**
Vulnerable communities are empowered to influence decisions that affect them

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**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**

2,530,000

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The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 14 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.

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