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.
SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

1,008,483,547

Vulnerability to disasters

Flooding Volcanic activity Drought Tropical storms Disease Political instability

Latin America and the Caribbean is the second most disaster-prone region in the world, with 152 million people directly affected by 1,205 disasters between 2000 and 2019. Although many of these disasters are cyclical, those most likely to require a major humanitarian response are sudden onset, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods.

There have been 548 floods since 2000. Despite the relatively low death toll directly caused by floods, they have affected almost 41 million people and caused almost 23.5 billion Swiss Francs in damages.

Storms affecting Central America and the Caribbean are producing more rainfall and higher storm surges as a result of climate change. In the Atlantic basin, tropical cyclone activity has also increased, causing a record number of named storms in the hurricane season of 2020. In terms of strength and duration of tropical storms and hurricanes, there was a 25% increase on the long-term averages in 2020. The region is also repeatedly affected by drought, intense rains, cyclones and the El Niño and La Niña phenomenon, with La Niña conditions present in August 2020.

The migration landscape has changed rapidly over the past decade in Latin America and the Caribbean, and an escalation of political crises, continued mass migration and economic instability have led to an increasingly complex situation. The number of immigrants in the region has increased by 66% between 2010 and 2019, while the number of emigrants increased by 26% per cent.

The first COVID-19 cases appeared in Latin America in February 2020 and the disease has spread to every country in the Americas. Although the long-term effects of the pandemic are yet to be seen, the virus has exacerbated already precarious living conditions in many vulnerable communities. Refugees and migrants in the Americas are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 and other diseases due to the high levels of mobility, instability, informal or precarious income streams, overcrowding, poor sanitation, language barriers and a lack of access to decent health care or vaccination programs.
**Membership Coordination and Movement Footprint**

### Movement footprint

The IFRC works with partner National Societies globally to deliver programmes in the region.

- **The Canadian Red Cross** co-funds disaster management for hurricanes with the Rapid Response Deployment Drawdown Fund. It also participates in regular Regional Health Coordination meetings for health and WASH initiatives.
- **The Norwegian Red Cross** participates in regular Regional Health Coordination meetings with the Canadian Red Cross on health and WASH, and is involved in the ongoing Joint CBS Assessment in Colombia, Honduras and El Salvador.
- **The Spanish Red Cross** supports Disaster and Crisis, Prevention, Response and Recovery (DCPRR) through the Preparedness for Effective Response programme and Gender and Inclusion.
- **The American Red Cross** supports DCPRR and emergency response, particularly in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **The Swedish Red Cross** supports the Venezuela Health and Monarch Butterfly programmes, ensuring that vulnerable people have access to quality healthcare services. It also supports health, WASH, and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) initiatives for migrants, ensuring that they have access to assistance and information on their route.
- **The Netherlands Red Cross** supports DCPRR and emergency response, particularly in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **The Italian and the French Red Cross Societies** support DCPRR and emergency response in the region.
- **British Red Cross** supports emergency response in the region, migration and health.

The Americas Regional Office has also established partnerships with external organisations, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union (EU), the Global Vaccine Alliance (GAVI), the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and AirBnB.
Climate change continues to play a major role in the Americas where the majority of disasters in the past ten years have been caused by extreme weather events such as floods, storms, and heatwaves. While the total number of crises in the region has been steadily increasing since the 1960s, rising by almost 35% since the 1990s, the proportion of disasters directly attributable to climate and extreme weather events has also increased significantly during this time.

The health implications of climate change are far-reaching. Climate change is exacerbating the effects of some diseases on vulnerable communities and especially on marginalised groups. Respiratory illnesses caused by air pollution account for 7 million deaths per year, while vector-borne diseases have become more prevalent due to the warmer climate. Additionally, vulnerable people continue to experience food insecurity and malnutrition as a result of reduced water availability and poor quality land. Disasters aggravated by climatic stressors are also responsible for the loss of the sanitary infrastructure, and many people are experiencing anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress and other long-lasting mental disorders.

The COVID-19 crisis has vastly increased the need for financial and humanitarian aid. As local healthcare systems and humanitarian resources become overwhelmed, the capacity to support the most vulnerable communities and respond to simultaneous crises is also suffering.

To continue improving global humanitarian response and the capacity of local communities to cope with disasters, it is clear that rapid, inclusive, and climate and disaster risk-informed development is required, with the aim of significantly reducing both the impact of climate change and the cost of humanitarian aid.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support National Societies to understand climate-related threats and their impact on communities
- The IFRC will help build the capacity of National Societies for Climate Smart-Disaster Risk Reduction, early warning and early action, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and nature based and climate smart livelihoods and environmental-related programming
- The IFRC will support National Societies to reduce their carbon footprint

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**

1,200,000
The Americas region has experienced an increase in natural disasters and large population movements in Central America, South America and the Caribbean motivated by violence, unemployment, droughts, food insecurity and socio-political events. COVID-19 hotspots have been exacerbated by weak social protection, fragmented health systems and profound inequalities. The pandemic is having an impact on densely populated vulnerable communities in urban areas where people living in poverty have few options and little support to protect themselves and their families from the virus. Overcrowded accommodation, homelessness and a lack of proper sanitation and safe water supply leave communities exposed to infection.

IFRC will enhance and increase the efforts to support National Societies, in strengthening national and regional response systems using the preparedness for effective response common approach, cash programming, shelter, livelihoods and information management.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Support the Preparedness for Effective Response by advocating use of the GO Platform and developing information products
- Support implementation of large-scale cash interventions in emergency operations with a regional debit card system designed for a rapid response
- Support awareness raising for the appropriation of cash and voucher assistance, National Society institutional preparedness to be Cash Ready, and reporting of the CVA impact operations
- Development of a regional roadmap for Shelter and advocacy to integrate shelter as part of national plans.
- Support National Societies to scale up community volunteers’ capacities to lead community preparedness using a multi-hazard approach
- Revise the Regional Information Management Strategy to localize more resources with support from Country Cluster Support Teams
- Work with National Societies to become actively involved in national disaster and crisis management coordination systems
- Co-create and implement a communication strategy with National Societies to leverage the IFRC’s actions on Disaster Law

28 million
potential increase in the number of extremely poor people in the Americas

9.1% decrease in GDP in the region
While life expectancy has been increasing due to a reduction in mortality, rising living standards, better nutrition, and improved drinking water and sanitation, disparities in adult mortality between regions and countries still remain. In 2016, the probability of death in men between ages 15 and 60 ranged from 114 per 100,000 people in Chile to 311 per 100,000 in Guyana. The probability among women ranged from 60 per 100,000 in Chile, to 211 in Haiti.

The prevalence of non-communicable diseases among adults has rapidly increased. On average, across the 32 countries in the region in 2017, non-communicable diseases were responsible for over 82 per cent of deaths, with an estimated 1.8 million deaths caused by these conditions annually. Communicable diseases, such as respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, and tuberculosis, along with maternal and perinatal conditions, are still responsible for 10 per cent of total deaths, with the remaining 8 per cent of deaths attributed to injuries and violence.

Communities with inadequate water, hygiene and sanitation infrastructures are the most affected by vector and waterborne diseases, such as malaria, dengue, chikungunya and zika. Malaria has been eradicated in Argentina, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Paraguay, and several other countries are no longer reporting cases, but other countries in the region remain vulnerable to malaria outbreaks.

Dengue, chikungunya and zika are still public health problems in the Americas despite efforts to stop and mitigate these diseases. There are significant outbreaks of dengue every 5 years but the incidence and mortality rate of chikungunya and zika decreased after 2018. An epidemic preparedness and control programme is crucial for reducing the burden of outbreaks and for building resilient and empowered communities.

In the last 20 years, there has been significant progress with water, sanitation and hygiene across the region, however, disparities between the regional, national, and local levels have left many without affordable, equitable and sustainable access to basic services. However, the access of vulnerable communities to sanitation is still limited.

**TARGET 1**
The IFRC will support 20 National Societies to design a Health Strategy in 2021 and 6 National Societies to update their WASH strategies

**TARGET 2**
The IFRC will support the design and implementation of 4 WASH binational agreements

**TARGET 3**
The IFRC will support 25 National Societies to create an action plan with community activities

**TARGET 4**
The IFRC will support 25 National Societies to develop a national mental health and psychosocial support strategy and programme
MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
760,000

Migratory flows in the Americas region are diverse and complex, representing more than 26 per cent of the world’s international migration. During their journeys, migrant populations often face a number of significant physical and psychological dangers, compounded by inadequate support and limited access to essential services.

In many cases, a lack of visas and other vital resources force migrants and internally displaced people to choose irregular and dangerous routes, with women and children particularly vulnerable to violence, trafficking and abuse. Due to the high risks and costs associated with migration, many people undertake the journey in groups as a protection strategy.

Upon arrival at their destination, migrants are often forced to seek informal and inadequate shelter due to high housing prices and demand, compared to the availability of safe accommodation. During the transit process, shelters often lack the capacity to absorb the number of migrants arriving, forcing them to live in precarious conditions on the street or in informal settlements.

Migrants also struggle to establish a sustainable livelihood on arrival at their destination, primarily due to a lack of income and legal documents, reduced assets and an inability to enter the labour market. These factors are further exacerbated by poverty and inequality, inefficient health and education systems and limited employment opportunities.

Additionally, there has been a rise in xenophobia, gender-based and domestic violence against migrants and refugees. For migrant women, this discrimination can have significant consequences for mental and physical health, often leading to a lack of adequate care in medical centres and other healthcare settings. Quarantine and mobility restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic have meant many women have been unable to escape from their abusers, a particularly dangerous situation for migrant women who do not have sufficient support networks.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will facilitate a dialogue between National Societies, partners and relevant organisations to enhance coordination and collaboration for migrants’ assistance
- The IFRC will develop and implement a regional communication strategy to leverage advocacy actions and support migrants and displaced persons with access to essential public services
- The IFRC will develop a programmatic approach for promoting mid and long-term interventions for migrant integration processes
- The IFRC will support National Societies to implement global migration strategies to establish a strategic framework on migration at the national level
With 37 per cent of global homicides occurring in the Americas, the region is the most violent in the world. Central America is home to four of the countries with the highest rates of violence and the lowest rates of social inclusion in the region. High levels of violence often cause unemployment, displacement, exclusion and migration, negatively affecting vulnerable populations in these countries.

Vulnerable populations in the Southern Cone, which comprises Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay, often encounter high crime rates and violence. In all these countries, violence tends to be underreported due to shame, stigma and fear. Although there is legislation for the protection of women and children, much remains to be done to protect and guarantee the rights of populations in vulnerable situations, particularly since femicide, gender-based violence and child abuse have increased.

Countries in the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) also experience high incidences of violence against women, with youth and gang violence often leading to poor participation and performance of males in education. Several social issues exist alongside these challenges, including a prevalence of HIV and the stigma and discrimination that often exists alongside it, as well as significant levels of poverty, crime, drug abuse, violence, and gender-related concerns.

In addition to its heavy toll on human life and the economy, the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating existing weaknesses within communities. In many Latin American countries, there has been a significant increase in reports of domestic violence and murders of women and girls since stay-at-home orders were put in place. Together with the negative effects on gender equality documented in previous pandemics, these developments underscore the urgency of continuing efforts to empower women across the region.

With a total population of around 1 billion, the Americas is one of the most urbanised and unequal regions in the world. More than 46 per cent of people work in the informal labour market, and around 116 million people, or 35 per cent of the urban population, were living in slums in 2014.

### ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will develop, implement and support a program to strengthen women’s equality in humanitarian leadership
- The IFRC will support National Societies to develop and implement youth-led initiatives across the region, such as Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YACB)
- The IFRC will support National Societies to develop online courses for people with visual or hearing disabilities
- The IFRC will develop a regional narrative for the Americas on safe, equitable, and continuous access to education
- The IFRC will support National Societies to implement Child-Friendly Spaces
ENABLER 1
ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

The IFRC will support National Societies to strengthen their engagement with partners within and outside the network to work collectively on the key challenges facing communities.

The IFRC will strengthen its volunteering network in the Americas region by continuing to support peer-to-peer exchanges and fluid communications. The IFRC will develop and strengthen youth networks in Central America, South America and the Caribbean with technical support to existing regional youth networks.

The IFRC will support National Societies to become effective advocates, influencing both public behaviour and policy change at the domestic, regional and global levels. The IFRC will provide National Societies with communications and public advocacy resources and advice to increase their impact and nurture public trust and understanding of their role and activities.

The IFRC will support National Societies to strengthen their auxiliary role, positioning and voice in humanitarian and development fora through effective content and social media campaigns. It will provide National Societies with opportunities for training and peer support in influencing skills, data literacy and strategy development, guided by governance-approved priorities based on the five priority areas.

The IFRC will use innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate and adapt to complex challenges and opportunities, putting greater investment into foresight and anticipation. It will encourage leaders to experiment with new approaches, greater collaboration in problem-solving and greater but informed tolerance of risk.

The IFRC will support National Societies to ensure that they have the foundational IT digital systems to efficiently run, and ensure accountability, in their daily operations, and are ‘data ready’ for engagement with their staff and volunteers, operational decision-making and business intelligence. IFRC leaders will use and understand data in their work, drawing on evidence and research to guide humanitarian action.

The IFRC will support National Societies to adopt and implement data protection best practices and information security measures in ongoing and new operations. The IFRC and National Societies will put communities and volunteers at the centre of all digital transformation goals.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support National Societies to develop and strengthen youth networks in Central America, South America and the Caribbean
- The IFRC will support National Societies to develop and strengthen partnerships with influencers, media and alternative distribution platforms
- The IFRC will support National Societies to build inclusive systems for leadership succession that promote cooperation, participation, and representation, with an intergenerational approach
- The IFRC will provide volunteers and National Societies with access to up-to-date information and training for volunteering development
- The IFRC will provide National Societies with training on digital literacy and Digital Workspace Tools

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**

1,070,000
ENABLER 2
ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

The IFRC will develop the talent of National Society staff and support National Societies to implement effective workforce planning, HR analytics and constructive employee engagement, and provide training on digital literacy and workspace tools.

The IFRC will support National Societies to ensure that financial resources are safeguarded and managed effectively, efficiently and transparently. The IFRC will implement organisational risk management, addressing risk management cultures with a clear link to accountability and quality assurance. The IFRC will also support National Societies to develop strategies and plans of action to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse.

The IFRC will develop a new architecture for National Societies to increase financial resources and multi-year and sustainable partnerships for the benefit of National Society funding and programming. It will increase resources for National Societies to invest in National Society Development (NSD) through mechanisms such as the National Society Investment Alliance, the Capacity Building Fund, the Empress Shôken Fund and other innovative approaches.

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
3,380,000

The IFRC will develop and implement a strategy on proactive and reactive communication to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse.

The IFRC will develop and support resource mobilisation strategies and plans to attract new partners and gain access to new sources of funding for National Society programming.

The IFRC will support National Societies to assess their accounting needs and secure funding for the purchase of financial software.
The IFRC will support National Societies to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action, with the capabilities to act in the global network. The IFRC will support National Societies to assess their development needs, revise legal bases and better address the sustainability of their services through strategic and developmental plans.

The IFRC will support National Societies to create a stronger network of volunteers and staff that will support them to become self-sustainable.

The IFRC will support National Societies to improve their financial sustainability through investment in accountability and systems development, resource mobilisation, and their vision and mandate.

The IFRC will support National Societies to adopt guidelines, tools and mechanisms, including policies on fraud and corruption, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), discrimination, harassment and child safeguarding, to prevent, manage and address integrity and reputational risks.

The IFRC will support National Societies to prioritise volunteering, development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action, ensuring access to young people from all backgrounds and nurturing trust. It will support National Societies to ensure that volunteer bases reflect the diversity of communities, paying attention to gender, local languages and cultures, marginalised groups and influential members of communities and institutions.

The IFRC will support National Societies to strengthen mechanisms to protect volunteers, promote psychosocial wellbeing and provide greater support to those killed or injured in the line of duty and their families.

The IFRC will support National Societies to renew and foster a more diverse leadership, reflecting increased volunteer and youth involvement, gender parity and equitable geographic representation. The IFRC will implement a talent management strategy to identify and promote professionals to foster age and gender equality, diversity and cultural and geographic inclusion.

The IFRC will enhance membership coordination within National Societies through an overarching strategy, practical tools and regional and country coordination positions, fostering greater trust from the membership and greater efficiency and effectiveness of the network’s humanitarian actions.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will guide National Societies to develop their resource sustainability activities and plans
- The IFRC will support National Societies to implement regional and national strategies that strengthen volunteering and youth development
- The IFRC will support the development of leadership skills and leadership programmes across the region
- The IFRC will support National Societies to integrate the Movement-wide commitments and minimum actions into strategies, policies, procedures, programmes and operations
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.