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.
Antigua & Barbuda faces critical development issues shaped by complex and dynamic social, economic, and environmental factors including climate change, disasters, and development and urbanisation. The country is particularly vulnerable to environmental hazards such as those caused by extreme weather events, including tropical storms and heavy rainfall and seismic activity. The Covid-19 pandemic also had an unprecedented impact on community health, resilience and livelihoods.

Climate change is the greatest threat to the well-being and resilience of communities and has exacerbated the threats of natural hazards. People in small territories the Caribbean rely heavily on natural resources for their health and livelihoods. This ecosystem is being heavily affected by climate change and recent disasters.

As countries in the Caribbean try to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, many families require ongoing physical and psychosocial support. Not only has there been a major health impact, including loss of lives, but also a tremendous economic impact due to the restrictions, resulting in the loss of income.

Despite improvements in basic health indicators, the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with an increase in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have placed a strain on the already burdened health care systems. In addition, the region has the second highest HIV prevalence rate globally. Moreover, climate change creates environments in which mosquito-borne illnesses such as dengue, chikungunya and Zika can flourish and some Caribbean countries report outbreaks in these diseases at certain times of the year, due to heavy rainfall.
The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society was first established in 1941. It received national recognition in 1983, gained International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) recognition in 1992, and was admitted to the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) in 1993. Its Head Office is on the main island of Antigua, where 98 per cent of the population resides, it has representation on the smaller island of Barbuda and is visible in many communities throughout the other islands.

The National Society has a positive reputation in the country and is recognized by an act of Parliament as an auxiliary to the Government. Its current activities are implemented by a team of four staff members and around 65 dedicated and active volunteers from an overall 200 that are registered as volunteers nationwide.

**The National Society identified the following priorities for 2021:**

- Technical support for capacity building, development and improving the scope and sustainability of community services
- Strengthen institutional structures through statutory revision, policy and strategic planning in line with Strategy 2030, as well as Standard Operating Procedure development for security and fleet management
- Improve financial management capacity and sustainability through the updating of systems, processes and skills, and refining business models for income generating activities
- Technical support for disaster preparedness, including a Damage and Needs Assessment Desk Review, consultation processes, the revision of the National Society Response Plan, Contingency Plan and Standard Operating Procedures
- Effective management of human and material resources including warehouse and logistics systems and process development, volunteer management systems, and development and training opportunities
Membership coordination

Name of Partner | Climate | Crises | Health | Migration | Inclusion | Engaged | Accountable | Trusted
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
Italian Red Cross | | | | | | | | ✓
French Red Cross | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |

Movement footprint

Since 2017, the IFRC, together with National Societies and the United States Agency for International Development’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (formerly Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance), have been implementing the Capacity Building Initiative in the region. Locally, the National Society collaborates with several intergovernmental agencies and local non-governmental organisations.

The Canadian, French, and Italian National Societies provide bilateral and/or multilateral support in the region, along with the ICRC. Coordination mechanisms with Movement partners are a vital component in the development of a harmonised, tailored, and sustainable approach to National Society Development.

The Country Cluster Delegation in Trinidad and Tobago continues to maintain a robust working relationship with the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency, evident through the participation of the IFRC and National Societies in technical events, committees and working groups such as its School Safety committee. The IFRC is also collaborating on the Memorandum of Understanding that will form the basis of joint programming.

The IFRC’s Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Reference Centre continues to collaborate with the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency, the Nature Conservancy, and other partners in the development and implementation of several community resilience tools.

As part of the COVID-19 pandemic response, the National Society collaborated with intergovernmental agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations, civil society, the Ministry of Social Transformation & the Blue Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Barbuda Affairs, the BE Foundation, Mount St John’s Medical Centre, and The Barbuda Council.

The National Society collaborates closely with the ICRC and the IFRC, as well as with other National Societies in the region.
Antigua & Barbuda is particularly vulnerable to climate and environmental crises, along with the rest of the Eastern Caribbean. The National Society is involved in a network of National Societies working with vulnerable communities across the Caribbean to build resilience to disasters.

The IFRC supports the National Society and its communities to organise and prepare for emergencies and crises. In 2021, this will include championing ecosystem-based approaches and community-based initiatives that promote climate smart actions, hand in hand with disaster preparedness priorities.

### ACTIVITIES

- Reduce and adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises
- Increase staff and volunteer knowledge and capacity to mobilise positive and large-scale action to address climate and environmental crises
- Increase the capacity of communities to address the evolving impacts of climate change and ownership over programmes addressing climate risks
- Increase the ambition of governments, partners and the private sector on climate action
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation
- Encourage staff and volunteers to participate in the eLearning Climate Change Course
- Produce stories that raise awareness of the risks and work the National Society is doing to help communities adapt
- Share up to date, actionable information with communities
- Integrate environmental sustainability practices in the Country Cluster Support Team and National Society offices

**CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES**

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**92,500**  
People to be reached  
**22,500**
Against the backdrop of more complex and protracted disasters, the IFRC will support the National Society to address new and more complex forms of risks to communities and vulnerable groups.

The National Society will be engaged in areas such as preparedness and readiness to respond to shocks, adaptive and enhanced community risk-reduction and resilience, advocating for effective and protective disaster related laws, and supporting vulnerable communities to recover from the immediate and secondary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**TARGET 1**
Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards

**TARGET 2**
People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through access to assistance and support

**TARGET 3**
The National Society is prepared to respond to crises and disasters with increased capacity to analyse and address the needs of those affected

**ACTIVITIES**
- Provide at-risk communities with actionable risk information and supported them to take active steps to reduce their vulnerability and exposure to hazards
- Provide advice to the Government in the analysis, drafting and implementation of effective disaster-related laws and policies
- Start and complete the Preparedness for Effective Response Cycle to systematically assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of the National Society’s response system
- Advocate for effective and protective disaster related laws, policies and regulations
- The International Disaster Response Laws Study will identify gaps in the legal and policy frameworks and provide recommendations for their improvement
Hypertensive diseases are the fourth most common cause of death in the region. Infectious and vector borne diseases are also among the top causes of death for children and the elderly.

People in areas with inadequate sanitation or water supply, which are mainly associated with poverty and unplanned urbanisation, are especially vulnerable to diseases. Other social determinants include international travel and tourism, which increase contact between infected and uninfected populations.

Climate change exacerbates the vulnerability of Caribbean people to vector borne disease, since warmer temperatures accelerate mosquito reproduction, and floods increase the sites where they can breed.

**TARGET 1**
The health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services

**TARGET 2**
Achieve and sustain national targets for vector-borne disease interventions, including coverage with insecticide-treated nets for effective malaria prevention.

**TARGET 3**
The National Society has a defined and active Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene strategy.

**TARGET 4**
Communities at risk from pandemics and epidemics have increased access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services.

**TARGET 5**
The National Society is officially recognised, appropriately positioned and an active member of relevant public health emergency preparedness and response coordination platforms.

**ACTIVITIES**
- Engage Ministries of Health on relevant health issues and develop cooperation agreements with relevant partners
- Develop Movement platforms to support the National Society
- Share stories that raise awareness of the work of the National Society to help communities with public health emergency preparedness and response
- Raise awareness of the importance of controlling vectors and vector borne diseases
- Promote and measure community awareness of pandemics and epidemics

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding requirement in Swiss francs</th>
<th>People to be reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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</table>

75.7% to 78.7%

the increase in deaths from non-communicable diseases in the English-speaking Caribbean from 2000 to 2014
VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
25,000

People to be reached
500
The IFRC will work with the National Society to strengthen its engagement with partners within and outside of the network, in order to work collectively on the key challenges facing communities. It will also support the National Society with activities and initiatives related to partnership resource development, advocacy and Community Engagement and Accountability.

The National Society will network on key themes at the regional and global levels to achieve stronger visibility and gain adequate resources, and engage in a planned leadership development program. A leadership competency framework will be developed to identify the key criteria for the selection of new leaders, such as competency, vision and skills at innovation, and adaptive and transformational leadership.

Together, the IFRC and the National Society aim to put communities and volunteers at the centre of all digital transformation goals, with design outputs that are inclusive, global, iterative, open, and flexible. The National Society will engage in regional volunteer development plans, including digital engagement opportunities. There will also be a blended First Aid course with an online component, including the use of simulations to deliver knowledge and skill, and face to face testing.

**Target 1**

Leadership is supported by development opportunities that enhance capacity in anticipation and to drive agility, innovation, and transformation

**Target 2**

The IFRC network undergoes a digital transformation

**Target 3**

Appropriate, affordable volunteer platforms are supported and adopted for volunteers to register, engage, identify service opportunities, record contributions, and share learning and insights

**Activity**

- Learning, coaching and experiential opportunities will form part of a leadership program with innovation as a core focus area
- Stronger peer network development and knowledge exchange opportunities
- Convert face to face courses to online self-paced/facilitated courses, adapted to the Caribbean context, and accessible on IFRC learning platform
ENABLER 2
ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
12,000

The National Society will revise its approach to funding by innovating fundraising methods. The IFRC will assist the National Society to diversify income streams to enable a more agile approach to cost recovery and beneficiary impact. Support in the use of business modelling, design thinking and future thinking, to be responsive to multiple crises that can affect restricted and unrestricted revenue.

IFRC and the National Society will work on the identification of global fundraising insights, and development of proposals to NSIA, ESF and other fundraising mechanisms. Including, the use and benefits of the global digital fundraising platform of which ABRCS has signed on to participate.

TARGET 1
The leadership is supported by development of skills in the diversification of fundraising methods, business modelling and design thinking.

TARGET 2
The finance management team is supported in the development of skills that would drive financial data collection for decision making by the board.

TARGET 3
The executive leadership is involved in macro-economic analysis for future thinking and right sizing of the organisation when faced with financial adversity.

ACTIVITIES
• Various online and face to face shared meetings with IFRC, learning and coaching of board members and finance staff.
• Network with regional economists to anticipate trends in the macro environment, coaching on planning for trends as part of design and future thinking.
• Series of webinars on business and fundraising initiatives to constantly diversify income sources.
• Attend meetings and contribute to the success of the digital global fundraising hub.
The IFRC will support the National Society to assess its development needs, revise its legal base, and better address the sustainability of its services through strategic and development plans. This will include strengthening its institutional structures through statutory revision, policy and strategic planning in line with Strategy 2030, as well as Standard Operating Procedure development for security and fleet management.

With support from the IFRC, the National Society will implement the Youth Engagement Strategy, as well as the IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy implementation toolkit. The IFRC will also provide support to the National Society to fostering a more diverse leadership embodied in increased volunteer and youth involvement, gender parity and equitable geographic representation.

The IFRC will support the National Society to improve its financial sustainability through investment in accountability and systems development, resources mobilization, and vision and mandate. Finance teams will be provided with training that enables them to develop, complement and update their financial management skills and knowledge to build and maintain financial reserves, assess and manage risk and financial planning, and strategically manage overheads.

The IFRC and the National Society will collaborate to create emergency appeals and country plans, along with align strategic and continuity plans with contingency and response plans, taking into account the country’s context and humanitarian needs.

**TARGET 1**
Become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action, with capabilities in the global network.

**TARGET 2**
The National Society adopts guidelines, tools and mechanisms to prevent, manage and address integrity and reputational risks.

**TARGET 3**
Youth, volunteers and young community-based drivers of change contribute to decision-making, innovation and strengthening the domestic network.

**TARGET 4**
People and communities, vulnerable to and affected by crises, are empowered to influence decisions affecting them.

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**ACTIVITIES**
- Co-design activities to strengthen local action via communities
- Financial management capacity building through training and updating of systems, processes and document management software and training
- Prioritise volunteering development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action
- Identify and promote professionals to foster age and gender equality, diversity and cultural and geographic inclusion

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**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**
25,000
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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