



DUTCH AND ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

2023 IFRC network multi-country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 6.6M**

Appeal number **MAA49003**

In support of the Red Cross National Societies of the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean



46

National Society branches



238

National Society staff



9,494

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



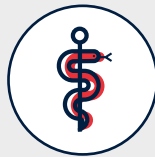
46,000

Climate and environment



47,000

Disasters and crises



22,000

Health and wellbeing



11,000

Migration and displacement



14,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk management
- Climate change adaptation
 - Community health

Capacity development

- Auxiliary role
- Financial sustainability and resource mobilization
 - Volunteering

Population

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------|
| <u>Antigua & Barbuda</u> | 98,000 | <u>Guyana</u> | 790,000 |
| <u>Bahamas</u> | 396,000 | <u>Jamaica</u> | 3M |
| <u>Barbados</u> | 287,000 | <u>Saint Kitts & Nevis</u> | 53,000 |
| <u>Belize</u> | 404,000 | <u>Saint Lucia</u> | 184,000 |
| <u>Dominica</u> | 72,000 | <u>Saint Vincent & the Grenadines</u> | 111,000 |
| <u>Grenada</u> | 113,000 | <u>Suriname</u> | 591,000 |
| <u>Trinidad & Tobago</u> | | 1.4M | |

Hazards



Floods



Hurricanes



Volcanoes



Disease outbreaks



Population movement

Funding requirements

Total 6.6M CHF

Through the IFRC

3.0M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **195,000** CHF

Host National Society

3.5M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

716,000 CHF
Climate and environment

919,000 CHF
Disasters and crises

323,000 CHF
Health and wellbeing

125,000 CHF
Migration and displacement

73,000 CHF
Values, power and inclusion

812,000 CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

Belize Red Cross Society*

British Red Cross*

French Red Cross*

Iraqi Red Crescent Society*

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society*

New Zealand Red Cross*

Norwegian Red Cross*

Red Cross Society of China*

Red Cross of Monaco*

Swedish Red Cross*

The Canadian Red Cross Society*

The Netherlands Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent Society*



NATIONAL SOCIETIES' PROFILES

The 13 National Societies of the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean countries vary in size, while sharing common values and principles and facing similar contextual realities. They all act as auxiliaries to their governments in the humanitarian field, focusing on disaster response and contributing to national disaster management frameworks.

Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Number of staff: | 9 |
| Number of volunteers: | 25 |
| Number of branches: | 1 |

The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross was established as an overseas branch of the British Red Cross in 1941. It received national recognition in 1983 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1993. Its head office is on the main island of Antigua, where 98 per cent of the population live, with one branch on the smaller island of Barbuda. The Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross has a positive national reputation and is visible in communities across the island. The National Society's status as an auxiliary to the Government is recognized by an act of Parliament. Its current activities are implemented by a small team of four staff members, with a dedicated and active volunteer base of about 25 volunteers and more than 200 registered volunteers nationwide.

The Bahamas Red Cross Society

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Number of staff: | 16 |
| Number of volunteers: | 2,000 |
| Number of branches: | 3 |

The Bahamas Red Cross Society was founded in 1939 as a branch of the British Red Cross. It was officially recognized by the Bahamas Government in 1975 as a voluntary aid society and auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field. It is governed by an Executive Board comprised of members of the community and organized into working committees: the Management Committee, the Finance Committee and the salaried Operation Team, headed by the Director General.

The National Society has two local branches in Grand Bahama and Abaco, with groups in Eleuthera, Andros,

San Salvador, Cat Island, Crooked Island Inagua, Mayaguana, Acklins, Long Island, Bimini, Exuma and Ragged Island. In September 2019, Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas, dramatically changing the role of the National Society. Since the Dorian operation, it has been engaged in a comprehensive National Society development programme resulting in a new Strategic Plan, a revised constitution, a branch development strategy and improved volunteer management systems.

Following the COVID-19 operation in 2020–2021, the Bahamas Red Cross has further strengthened its capacities to better connect with the communities it serves. The National Society's priorities for 2023 are financial sustainability, climate change programming, expansion of first aid services, digital transformation and branch development.

The Barbados Red Cross Society

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Number of staff: | 8 |
| Number of volunteers: | 45 |
| Number of branches: | 1 |

Within the current national emergency management framework, the Barbados Red Cross is identified as the organization responsible for the provision of first aid services within category one emergency shelters. In addition, it receives an annual governmental subvention which support its Meals on Wheels initiative. The National Society is represented on a number of key national committees, including Shelter, Food and General Supplies, Emergency Housing and Rehabilitation, and the Health Services Standing Committee.

The National Society's Strategic Plan 2020–2025 identifies three strategic goals:

- Strengthening community resilience, including disaster risk resilience, health and care in the community, and developing a culture of non-violence and social inclusion
- Developing the youth sector
- Building a strong National Society, including stronger governance and management frameworks, motivated and developed staff and volunteers, a sustainable National Society with a strong financial base, stronger partnerships and collaborations

Belize Red Cross Society

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Number of staff: | 17 |
| Number of volunteers: | 110 |
| Number of branches: | 8 |

The Belize Red Cross Society has eight branches countrywide. It began operations in 1914 as a branch of the British Red Cross until 1983, when it officially became a National Society in its own right. In 1984, the Belize Red Cross was recognized as a member of the IFRC. Its activities help to build on the following strategic aims: saving lives, protecting livelihoods, strengthening recovery from disasters and crises, enabling healthy and safe living, and promoting social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace. Its work focuses on the areas of disaster management, including preparedness, response and recovery, disaster risk reduction and mitigation, and HIV/AIDS prevention through the Together We Can peer education programme. The National Society is also considered a leader in basic first aid, CPR, and the Home Care Givers Certification in Belize, as well as the provision of social assistance such as feeding programmes, assistance for fire victims and skills building programmes.

Dominica Red Cross Society

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Number of staff: | 9 |
| Number of volunteers: | 301 |
| Number of branches: | 10 |

The Dominica Red Cross Society was established as a branch of the British Red Cross in 1958 and recognized by the Government of Dominica in 1983 as a National Society. It was recognized and admitted to the IFRC in 1989. The Dominica Red Cross has identified strategic goals to guide its objectives and strategies: building healthier and safer communities, reducing vulnerabilities, and strengthening its resilience to function effectively as a National Society that is well resourced, with robust capacity at all levels. Achieving these goals will enable the National Society to increase its reach while maintaining independence and identity. The Dominica Red Cross's key priorities for 2023 are climate resilience and disaster preparedness through early action, financial sustainability and resource mobilization.

Grenada Red Cross Society

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|-----------------------|-----------|
| Number of staff: | 0 |
| Number of volunteers: | 89 |
| Number of branches: | 1 |

The Grenada Red Cross Society started as a branch of the British Red Cross following the devastation of the island by Hurricane Janet in 1955. In 1987, the Grenada Red Cross became an independent National Society and was admitted to the IFRC. It has its headquarters in the country's capital city of St. George's. The mission of the National Society is to serve humanity through the promotion of health and safety, disaster preparedness and response, social welfare, and youth programmes. It is a member of the National Disaster Management Advisory Council and performs an auxiliary role to the Government in disaster- and health-related emergencies.

The National Society currently operates in 32 communities across the country, targeting 10 per cent of the population with specific activities, and the entire population with public education and awareness initiatives. It is focused on gender equality and strives to mainstream a balanced gender representation in its operations. The National Society's priorities according to its Strategic Plan 2030 are:

- Strengthening relationships with affected populations and stakeholders
- Strengthening organizational results and resource mobilization capacities
- Strengthening operational excellence
- Strengthening the staff and volunteer base

In 2023, the organization will focus on the decentralization of its emergency response, increasing resources to enhance preparedness, expansion of its first aid programme and completion of its strategic planning process.

The Guyana Red Cross Society

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Number of staff: | 31 |
| Number of volunteers: | 120 |
| Number of branches: | 1 |

The Guyana Red Cross Society was established in 1948 as a branch of the British Red Cross. After Guyana gained its independence in 1967, it officially became known as The Guyana Red Cross Society. The aim of the National Society is to influence the behaviour of the people it works with through a better understanding of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Guyana Red Cross acts as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, providing a range of services addressing both immediate and long-term needs. These include emergency shelter, food and medicine, water and sanitation, restoring family links for disaster victims, disaster preparedness, community-based health and care, first aid training and activities, control and prevention of disease, HIV/AIDS prevention, and youth and volunteer activities. The Guyana Red Cross is responsible for delivering humanitarian aid and developing programmes and outreach services.

The National Society's key priorities in 2023 include resource mobilization, financial sustainability, further development of the Meals on Wheels programme, and additional support with recruiting and orienting the incoming director general.

Jamaica Red Cross

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Number of staff: | 26 |
| Number of volunteers: | 5,000 |
| Number of branches: | 13 |

The Jamaica Red Cross is currently working to obtain an amendment to the Jamaica Red Cross Society Act of 1964, in order to restore some of the privileges that were lost when it was placed under the National Charities Act, and to regain its distinctive auxiliary status.

Some of the core services of the National Society include health, welfare and first aid, youth development, livelihood protection and emergency services, disaster preparedness and response, psychosocial support and relief distribution, as well as climate change adaptation and ecosystem protection.

To tackle climatic, environmental and disaster risks in 2023, the Jamaica Red Cross has prioritized the

improvement of its community risk reduction, preparedness and response programme. This includes carrying out a comprehensive assessment, retraining and re-equipping 48 Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs), and creating at least 30 new CDRTs over the next five years.

The National Society will also work on its application of the enhanced IFRC vulnerability and capacity assessment tools, updating community plans, working on early warning systems, and focusing on eco-disaster risk reduction. It aims to scale up its environmental work, to reach other vulnerable communities, and expand the psychosocial support programme and actions. The Jamaica Red Cross also aims to expand its work in community early warning systems to bolster preparedness efforts at the local level.

The Jamaica Red Cross has identified organizational priorities, which include digital transformation, and the establishment of sustainable resource mobilization measures. It urgently needs to establish steady resource streams.

Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Number of staff: | 7 |
| Number of volunteers: | 240 |
| Number of branches: | 2 |

The Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society was introduced in 1942 and became a National Society in 1983 when the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis gained independence. It serves the twin island Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, with its headquarters and a branch office in Basseterre, St. Kitts, that covers three districts, equating to two-thirds of the island. In Nevis, a second branch in Charlestown covers the entire island.

According to the Saint Kitts and Nevis National Development Plan 2020–2024, four priorities have been identified to guide the National Society's strategic goals and objectives:

- Governance and management
- Youth programme enhancement
- Capacity development
- Exceptional and emerging needs

The Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross's main priorities in 2023 include early warning and early action, upgrading the National Society headquarters (including the physical building and technology) and improving accountability as requested by the leadership.

Saint Lucia Red Cross

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Number of staff: | 3 |
| Number of volunteers: | 301 |
| Number of branches: | 1 |

The Saint Lucia Red Cross is an auxiliary to the Government and was incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1984. It is comprised of a governance component of volunteers and members, and a management component, which employs paid staff to coordinate and support the work of the volunteers. The National Society operates solely out of the headquarters in Castries, but it is in the process of building a new branch in the south of the island in Vieux Forte. This will allow the National Society to decentralize its operations and improve its ability to respond to communities in that part of the island during emergencies.

The key services offered by the Saint Lucia Red Cross have expanded over the years. It initially supplied first aid, youth services, meals and disaster relief in 1984 and, since then, numerous other services that have been triggered by global and local events. The National Society now has a combination of traditional and new operational activities, as it responds to the evolving needs of the population.

The following themes are the focus of the Saint Lucia Red Cross:

- Disaster risk reduction and response
- Health care in the community
- Youth development
- Volunteer management and capacity building

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Number of staff: | 6 |
| Number of volunteers: | 213 |
| Number of branches: | 1 |

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross was founded in July of 1949 as a branch of the British Red Cross. In 1984, it became an independent National Society and was admitted to the IFRC in 1989.

In April 2021, La Soufrière volcano on the mainland of St. Vincent erupted, affecting thousands of people. The

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross responded and is implementing an IFRC Emergency Appeal operation until end 2022 covering relief distribution, cash and voucher assistance, protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies, livelihoods support and psychosocial support. The National Society has also been implementing activities as part of the IFRC COVID-19 Global Emergency Appeal. In addition, it has been strengthening its internal capacities with funds received through the IFRC's Capacity Building Initiatives and the Capacity Building Fund.

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross is now looking towards 2023, with a focus on building staff and volunteer capacities, improving volunteer engagement, digital transformation, financial sustainability and resource mobilization. These activities will enable the National Society to strengthen its core structure to better respond to future disasters and emergencies.

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross is also actively working towards improving its environmental practices, with a goal of reducing its carbon emissions by 75 per cent by 2030. This will be achieved through planned investments in solar energy production, battery storage capacity, and the eventual replacement of petrol- and diesel-powered vehicles with electric- or hydrogen-powered vehicles.

Suriname Red Cross

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Number of staff: | 12* |
| Number of volunteers: | 50 |
| Number of branches: | 0 |

**With 27 additional staff in the national blood bank*

The Suriname Red Cross was founded in June 1940 and officially recognized in 1983 as an independent association through the Red Cross Decree. It was admitted to the IFRC in 1986. The National Society's main objective is to prevent and alleviate human suffering, in an impartial manner and without discrimination based on nationality, race, sex, religion, language, or social or political beliefs. The Suriname Red Cross manages the only blood bank in the country. Its main priorities for 2023 include the development of its 10-year strategy, early warning systems, environmental policy, organizational development, financial sustainability and volunteer development.

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Number of staff: | 100 |
| Number of volunteers: | 1,000 |
| Number of branches: | 3 |

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society is an auxiliary in the humanitarian field to the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. It was admitted to the IFRC in 1963. As a non-profit humanitarian organization, the National Society focuses its resources on providing communities with disaster preparedness and quality health programmes designed to empower the most vulnerable people. The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross is comprised of its headquarters and three branches situated in Port of Spain, San Fernando and Scarborough. Its mission is to mobilize the power of humanity through

volunteerism, and to be a beacon of hope that supports and connects people as they regain control of their lives.

The National Society is currently operating under its 2019–2022 Strategic Plan, which was designed to provide a framework of direction and action. The plan focuses on three strategic pillars:

- Building community resilience
- Promoting peace, non-violence and social inclusion
- Developing youth resilience

The strategic plan was developed before COVID-19, and it has been adjusted to meet new challenges brought about by the pandemic, in terms of outreach, funding and general service implementation. These adjustments led to the development of several new approaches, achieving certain objectives and removing gaps in service provision.

Country facts

| Country | INFORM Severity rating | Long-term Climate Risk Index | Human Development Index rank | Population below poverty line |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Antigua and Barbuda | | 56 | 71 | |
| Bahamas | | 6 | 55 | 9.30% |
| Barbados | | 148 | 70 | |
| Belize | | 33 | 123 | 41.00% |
| Dominica | | 11 | 94 | 29.00% |
| Grenada | | 24 | 68 | |
| Guyana | | 119 | 108 | 35.00% |
| Jamaica | | 54 | 110 | 19.90% |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | | 130 | 75 | |
| Saint Lucia | | 51 | 106 | 20.30% |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | | 48 | 89 | |
| Suriname | | 171 | 99 | 70.00% |
| Trinidad and Tobago | Low | 159 | 57 | 20.00% |

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Caribbean countries, many of which are small island developing states, are susceptible to a wide range of risks, with limited capacity to deal with disasters when they occur. The 13 countries within the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean region continue to be severely affected by climate change and geomorphological and

hydrometeorological events, aggravated by the ongoing impact of COVID-19. The pandemic has had negative economic impacts across the Caribbean, causing damage to key sectors including tourism and resource exports. This has resulted in some of the largest single-year declines in growth ever recorded for the region, and it has forced governments to think seriously about economic structures, diversification and vulnerabilities

linked to specific sectors. According to the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the pandemic highlighted some of the unique challenges that these countries face in dealing with new and unprecedented crises. The impact of the pandemic will continue to overlap with existing vulnerabilities – lives and livelihoods are at risk and many people will remain vulnerable for the foreseeable future.

In 2021, the National Societies in the Caribbean were forced to respond to multiple concurrent disasters, including flood events in Suriname and Guyana, and dengue outbreaks in St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Red Cross in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had to cope with the impacts of La Soufrière volcanic eruption, the dengue outbreak and COVID-19 simultaneously.

Due to the multi-dimensional vulnerabilities of Caribbean small island developing states, exacerbated by economic, social and environmental factors, as well as the frequency of disasters in this region, recovery from crises can take years. This is demonstrated by what happened in Dominica, and Antigua and Barbuda, after Hurricanes Maria and Irma passed through in 2017. Other National Societies, including the Belize Red Cross, the Bahamas Red Cross and the Jamaica Red Cross, continue to lead recovery efforts relating to hurricane and flooding events from as far back as 2019.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the movement and vulnerability of migrants in the region. National Societies like Trinidad and Tobago have been addressing the needs of migrants, mainly from Venezuela, but also from other Caribbean countries such as Cuba. More than 21,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in Trinidad and Tobago are currently registered with UNHCR, and the vast majority are of employable age. In Trinidad and Tobago, UNHCR-registered people of concern come from 40 different countries – 86 per cent of them are Venezuelan and seven per cent Cuban.

COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the Government interrupted business operations, leaving migrants with limited or no access to livelihoods, which led to evictions and left migrants unable to meet their own basic needs. Most asylum seekers and migrants do not benefit from government-regulated social programmes. Most migrants need food support, multi-purpose cash,

integration, protection, education access, access to medical and psychosocial health services, livelihood opportunities and shelter. Furthermore, asylum seekers are vulnerable to stigma and discrimination in their host countries, often experiencing acts of resentment from local people in response to their employment and access to health services. Recent political events in Haiti, along with the 7.1 magnitude earthquake in August 2021, have resulted in an upsurge of Haitian migrants in Jamaica and Suriname.

Non-communicable diseases remain a challenge and are of particular concern – it is estimated that by 2023, they will cause 81 per cent of deaths in the region. These conditions, such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity and cancer, are the major causes of death and account for the greatest share of the disease burden in the Caribbean. The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the need to address non-communicable diseases, as most of deaths in the region have been linked to elderly people and those with comorbidities, particularly in countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas and Jamaica. The prevalence of chronic illnesses is higher in the Caribbean than in the rest of the Americas. After sub-Saharan Africa, the region has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the world, with one per cent of the adult population HIV/AIDS positive. The spread of vector-borne diseases, especially dengue, chikungunya and, more recently, Zika, is of great concern, and there is a high risk of widespread transmission because of the mobility of the population.

Evidence shows that the risk of gender-based violence increases during times of additional stress, including financial hardship, job losses and emergency situations like the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic created a lot of fear, and the potential for economic hardship, job losses and extended periods of quarantine and stay-at-home orders all combined to create a dangerous scenario for women and their children in abusive relationships. Violence and social exclusion are also on the increase in the region, particularly in urban areas, and women, girls, men who have sex with men and transgender populations are particularly vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence. Young people are an especially vulnerable group, as they experience high levels of unemployment, disenfranchisement and exposure to crime and violence.



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Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Due to their size and location, Caribbean small island developing states are particularly susceptible to the serious threat of the impact of climate change, despite their relatively low contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. In their precarious position as developing economies relying on sectors that are vulnerable to climate patterns (such as tourism, agriculture and fishing), Caribbean nations are increasingly affected by sea level rise, changes in rain patterns and temperatures, and the increasing intensity of natural hazards identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

According to the IPCC, average temperatures in the region have increased by 0.1° to 0.2°C per decade over the last three decades. Rainfall patterns have shifted in the region, and the number of consecutive dry days is expected to increase. Additionally, sea level rise has occurred at a rate of about two to four centimetres per decade over the last 33 years—a trend that presents risks to the region's freshwater resources and its largely coastal population who are dependent on tourism and agriculture to support their livelihoods.

To the Caribbean, the cost of failing to address the threat of climate change is high. Projections indicate that losses could total CHF20.6 billion every year by 2050, a figure that represents 10 per cent of the current

Caribbean economy. Increased resources could help the region reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, reduce its exposure to fuel price variability, and enable climate change mitigation activities.

Main areas of support

All 13 National Societies have indicated that addressing this strategic priority is critical to their mandates.

The **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross** will continue to engage young people in climate change and the environment. It will also explore ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and the development of an environmental policy.

The Barbados Red Cross Society will train staff and volunteers in climate-smart livelihoods, and staff will be encouraged to take the online climate change courses on the IFRC Learning Platform. With IFRC support, the Barbados Red Cross has committed to developing and adopting an environmental policy to govern its climate change mitigation activities.

The Bahamas Red Cross Society will focus on reducing the current and future humanitarian impacts of climate and environmental crises and supporting people to adapt and thrive in the face of them.

The **Belize Red Cross Society** has been engaged in climate and environmental actions over the last few years. It will focus on continuing efforts to replicate and scale up the use of nature-based solutions for climate-smart livelihoods and disaster risk reduction.

The **Dominica Red Cross Society** requires support from the IFRC to develop nature-based solutions for community resilience through self-funded projects, such as watershed management and coral reef restoration. The National Society wishes to establish agri-responders in vulnerable communities to build resilience among the farming community – women farmers in particular. The National Society also plans to assist the local government authorities and the Climate Resilience Agency of Dominica with the development of community disaster plans and hazard maps for vulnerable communities around the island. The National Society will continue to increase resilience and reduce shocks by working with at-risk communities.

The **Grenada Red Cross Society** plans to support climate change activities at the community level and in schools. It will develop micro projects that will adapt to climate change, helping communities build resilience to evolving climate and environmental crises.

The Guyana Red Cross Society plans to expand its use of nature-based solutions to adapt to climate change.

The **Jamaica Red Cross** will identify the risks associated with climate and environmental crises, by building on work done by the Resilient Islands by Design Project, in Old Harbour Bay. The National Society will develop a range of ecosystem-based approaches that will reduce the risks and vulnerabilities of communities and improve their capacities to adapt to these risks. This work will be done in two vulnerable communities under the Eco-Disaster Risk Reduction Project, which focuses on implementing nature-based solutions.

The **Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** plans to develop a climate change policy and action plan with targets to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

The **Saint Lucia Red Cross** will seek to raise levels of community awareness around climate- and environmental-related issues. It will partner with other national organizations and community groups to deliver environmental activities, such as monthly environmental clean-ups.

The **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** will complete an audit of its headquarters and identify ways to reduce energy consumption, save water, recycle items and minimize food waste through onsite

treatment and reduction strategies. It will also develop an environmental policy and carry out a detailed environmental impact report. This will enable the National Society to establish a baseline of information about its environmental impact when responding to emergencies, implementing recovery operations, and other social welfare activities outside of response and recovery operations. The National Society will develop a strategy and operational plan for its offices, warehousing and vehicles to reach net zero carbon by 2030. It will train and support community disaster response teams and Red Cross groups to implement the IFRC enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment in three separate communities from 2023 to 2025. This will include an assessment for the Calliqua community disaster response team, if it is completed in 2022.

The **Suriname Red Cross** will continue to encourage and support staff participation in climate change online courses, which are available in both Dutch and English.

The **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** has prepared its Environmental Programme 2022–2026 in response to the unprecedented global environmental challenges that have the potential to affect the country. The National Society aims to reduce the impact of its operations and humanitarian responses on the environment, actively restore the environment, and foster more environmentally responsible operations. It will also explore opportunities for green business growth, to ensure its continued independence and sustainability.

The IFRC, through the Red Cross Caribbean Disaster Risk Management cell (CADRIM) will continue to promote the climate change online courses available on the IFRC Learning Platform.

The National Societies of Antigua, Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago are 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

Disasters and crises

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

The diversity of the geography, population, wealth, culture, language and economic models in the Caribbean presents a number of unique challenges when dealing with evolving crises and disasters. Disasters have become more complex and protracted and can even intersect with each other to form 'super emergencies and disasters.' Latin America and the Caribbean is the second most disaster-prone region in the world, with 152 million people affected by 1,205 disasters between 2000 and 2019 recorded in the international disasters database EM-DAT. Among its 13 countries, two feature in the global top 10 of countries for total deaths per million inhabitants during that time period, with the Bahamas recording a 54.2 per cent death rate and Dominica 67.3.

As developing states, countries in the region share similar sustainable development challenges, such as limited resources, susceptibility to natural hazards, vulnerability to external shocks, excessive dependence on international trade, and fragile environments and ecosystems. These vulnerabilities are exacerbated by a combination of anthropogenic influences on the natural environment, including urbanization, deforestation, coastal degradation and inadequate physical development planning. The Caribbean continues to confront critical issues shaped by complex and dynamic social, economic and environmental processes – including climate change, disaster risk, development and urbanization – which are now combined with the realities of COVID-19. The combination of these issues has a potentially devastating effect on lives and livelihoods and can overwhelm the capacities of governments and local institutions.

Communities are intricate and varied, and so too are the vulnerabilities that challenge them. The physical, human, financial, natural and social factors that influence community resilience are interconnected and require consideration and understanding through a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach. An appreciation of the complex, dynamic nature of Caribbean communities and their vulnerabilities reinforces the idea that people living in the region know how things around them work, and how their lives can be improved by building safer, more resilient communities.

Main areas of support

The IFRC network will support the National Societies to improve their capacity to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to, evolving crises and disasters, while

improving the capacities of local vulnerable communities to do the same. This work includes community response and contingency planning, early warning systems, and early action and anticipation to mitigate risks from multi-hazards affecting the lives, livelihoods, homes and living conditions of the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and hard-to-reach communities. The IFRC network will also place specific emphasis on enhancing community disaster response teams and mechanisms, prioritizing the linkage between resilience, training and strategic approaches to conducting IFRC vulnerability capacity assessments with livelihood considerations.

National Societies will engage in multiple activities, including 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.

The **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross** will continue its work in reducing community vulnerability through disaster preparedness activities, including drills and evacuation planning. At the country level, the National Society will work with the National Office of Disasters to establish its auxiliary role through a Memorandum of Understanding. The IFRC will support the National Society to carry out these actions and encourage the development of human resources and systems, providing both technical and financial support, training in logistics and warehouse management, the pre-positioning of cash and voucher assistance cards, and making progress in the area of international disaster response law.

The Bahamas Red Cross Society will improve and integrate early warning systems and early action and anticipation in the communities it serves in 2023, with the aim of mitigating the risks caused by multi-hazards that affect the lives, livelihoods, homes and living conditions of vulnerable, disadvantaged and hard to reach communities. The National Society will also enhance community disaster response teams and mechanisms within communities. This will include the provision of training, equipment and contingency plans to support [anticipatory action](#), as well as the improvement and coordination of early warning systems throughout the Caribbean.

The Barbados Red Cross Society's key objective in 2022–2023 is to build local capacity by providing training to local community groups, with the aim of establishing community disaster response teams. The National

Society is limited in its ability to undertake vulnerability capacity assessments in the targeted communities, but it will provide community disaster response training in neighbourhoods with strong community-driven groups, in order to enhance the capacity of existing organizations.

In 2023, the **Belize Red Cross Society** plans to develop a National Society Disaster Contingency Plan. It will also implement the Red Cross Protected Schools training programme in selected primary schools, focusing on disaster risk reduction education. Additionally, the National Society will procure inventory and equipment for the National Society emergency operations centre.

The IFRC network will support the **Dominica Red Cross Society** to expand its use of the common alerting protocol by promoting the [Alert Hub](#) initiative. To build its regional logistics capacity, the National Society will undertake warehouse and stock management training. It is also hoped that an additional branch facility can be constructed to facilitate timely and efficient response to crises or disasters in the community.

In 2023, the **Grenada Red Cross Society** will focus on improving its preparedness and readiness to respond to shocks, as well as enhancing community risk reduction and resilience. This work will include the development of multi-hazard plans, policies and procedures, the renovation of the National Society's warehouses and decentralization of emergency supplies, the strengthening of the National Society's building to withstand hazards and impact, and improving the capacity of the emergency operations centre – including communications infrastructure, water storage and backup power.

The Guyana Red Cross Society will focus on enhancing community disaster response teams and mechanisms. It will also prioritize the use of resilience, training and strategic approaches to conduct IFRC vulnerability capacity assessments with livelihood considerations in communities.

As part of the eco disaster risk reduction project, the **Jamaica Red Cross** establish, train and equip teams in three target communities. It will also develop action plans, including nature-based solutions that will reduce exposure and vulnerability to hazards when implemented. The National Society also plans to retrain and re-equip its existing 48 community disaster response teams and create a minimum of at least 30 additional teams over the next five years. The eco disaster risk reduction project will supply three teams to reach this total, and the Caribbean Basin Initiative will supply one new community disaster response team and strengthen

two existing teams. The IFRC is currently engaging the Jamaica Red Cross in the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) approach, and will support it through the assessment, prioritization, analysis and work plan development phases in 2023.

The IFRC network will support the **Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society** to tailor and disseminate key disaster risk reduction messages through [public awareness and public education](#). The National Society will promote the use of the [WhatNow](#) service, as well as making five community disaster response training videos accessible to people with special needs. The videos will focus on the following key areas: planning for people living with disabilities, psychosocial support tips for community disaster response teams, the role of these teams, and key principles and tips on first aid basics and assessments. The IFRC network will support the National Society and community disaster management committees with developing community contingency plans and standard operating procedures, aiming to improve them through simulation drills.

The **Saint Lucia Red Cross** will focus on improving its ability to respond effectively to disasters and crises through training and equipping staff to play a role in national intervention teams. It will also train and equip five community disaster response teams with first aid and other relevant skills, including the provision of refresher training for existing team members. It will work with five vulnerable communities and their stakeholders to conduct IFRC vulnerability and capacity assessments, prioritizing and enhancing the resilience of the most at-risk populations.

The IFRC network will support the **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** to select one new vulnerable community, where it will establish a new community disaster response team. The National Society will also increase its warehouse capacity in St. Vincent and on selected islands of the Grenadines.

The IFRC network will support the **Suriname Red Cross** to implement an early warning system and explore [forecast-based financing](#) for flooding disasters, which are common in the area. It will also complete a market basket analysis and agree a pre-disaster Memorandum of Understanding with in-country suppliers.

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society will work on training and equipping five community disaster response teams with first aid training and other relevant skills, including providing refresher training for existing teams.

Health and wellbeing

The Caribbean was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic a few weeks later than Europe, with the first cases registered in the Dominican Republic in February 2020. Since then, it has spread to all territories in the region, with the highest number of new cases reported in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Barbados, Grenada and Suriname.

COVID-19 has had a serious impact on the Caribbean region's health system, economy and psychology. The prevalence of pre-existing health conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and obesity makes Caribbean communities extremely vulnerable to COVID-19, while high levels of inequality and informality in the region make the situation potentially more catastrophic than in other parts of the world. This is compounded by the region's abundance of small island developing states, which are also vulnerable to climate change. Many of these countries are low-lying, small, often remote and economically vulnerable.

The Caribbean region already has a heavy burden of non-communicable chronic diseases. Now, the prevalence of chronic diseases is on the increase too, and this creates a greater burden on vulnerable communities than communicable diseases or injuries. The risks of infectious diseases, triggered by emergency events, also stretches the limited capacities of Caribbean health systems.

Main areas of support

The IFRC network will support the Caribbean National Societies to enhance their community-based health and first aid, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives to meet the needs of elderly people, migrants and other vulnerable populations. It will plan and implement health and WASH initiatives through existing and previous community-based health initiatives, with the aim of improving community resilience.

The IFRC network will also ensure that the governments' strategic direction and national health plans to meet sustainable development goals are incorporated into National Society programming. This includes non-communicable disease prevention and the promotion of healthy lifestyles, encouraging voluntary non-remunerated blood donations, raising awareness of maternal and child health through formal learning (such as routine immunization and breast feeding), communicable disease control (such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS), addressing outbreaks of vector-borne diseases, and encouraging health-seeking behaviour among communities. National Societies will be encouraged to agree Memoranda of Understanding or other

formalized arrangements with local statutory agencies and stakeholders to support local health plan development and implementation.

National Societies will give increased focus to mental health and psychosocial support. The psychological and social impacts of emergencies, while acute in the short term, can also undermine the long-term mental health and psychosocial well-being of the affected population, threatening peace, human rights and development. During a crisis, access to mental health and psychosocial support and mental health referral pathways should be available to staff, volunteers, frontline workers and their families, as well as affected communities. Care for staff and volunteers should have an organizational focus to ensure effective and efficient responses by Caribbean National Societies.

The Red Cross is recognized as a key first aid provider globally, and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic have had an impact on service implementation in the Caribbean as in other parts of the world. Despite this, the IFRC and its Global First Aid Reference Centre aim to ensure that commercial first aid continues to generate vital income for National Societies operations in the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean. The IFRC will seek to support the development and sustainability of both community and commercial first aid. The IFRC will strengthen National Societies' capacity to facilitate stakeholder meetings and policy consultations on local health and first aid legislation.

The **Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross** will work on health promotion, first aid training and services, mental health and psychosocial support, emergency response, ambulance service, blood procurement and WASH services in 2023. It will also aim to restore the technical capacity of its health department.

The Bahamas Red Cross Society has identified a need to increase the number of certified first aiders across the Bahamas, with a specific focus on family islands and remote locations, especially those only accessed by water and visited by local and international tourists.

The IFRC network will support **The Barbados Red Cross Society** to develop a commercial first aid programme and contribute to the development of commercial first aid tools by working with the Global First Aid Reference Centre. The IFRC will facilitate a review of the commercial first aid business model, particularly as it relates to the creation of an online option. The National Society will promote the psychosocial well-being of its staff and volunteers and increase the number of people that have access to mental health and psychosocial support services.

Through the Council for Human and Social Development of CARICOM, of which Belize is a member, the **Belize Red Cross Society** will promote the improvement of health, education, and living and working conditions for the Caribbean community.

The **Grenada Red Cross Society** will focus on expanding integrated community-based health, care and first aid, as well as WASH programmes to address the unmet needs of vulnerable or marginalized groups. This will include significant investment in epidemic and pandemic preparedness, with local people, networks and volunteers acting as community-based responders to detect and respond to disease outbreaks and other health risks.

The IFRC will continue to provide technical support to the **Jamaica Red Cross** to develop and update its epidemic and pandemic preparedness contingency plans. It will also support the Jamaica Red Cross in supplemental immunization activities and the implementation of health activities for people on the move. The National Society will also develop commercial first aid models to bolster financial sustainability and accelerate its capacity to sustain services.

The **Saint Lucia Red Cross** will focus on enhancing its role in the health sector, upgrading and enhancing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health and contributing to the development of national and local level strategies. It will work on the implementation of community-based health and first aid in four communities, and train 10 community care representatives in psychological first aid and psychosocial programmes for personal well-being.

The **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross** will work on building its staff and volunteer capacity through training in first aid and adult CPR, occupational health and safety, water safety, emergency medical teams and first aid in the wilderness, with the aim of improving income generation and finance sustainability for the National Society. It will also purchase and pre-position hygiene kits and cleaning kits for use in an emergency.

The **Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society** has a five-year health programme running from 2022 to 2026, with the theme of safeguarding society through the mind and body. The programme consists of two pillars to guide the National Society's efforts: positive mental health and well-being, and integrated community-based health. Together, these pillars will ensure enhanced access to health care, and build on the National Society's longstanding legacy of involvement and support in the health sector.

Migration and displacement

The Caribbean region is often overlooked as a destination for some of the estimated 5.6 million migrants and refugees who have fled the political and economic crises in Venezuela. Governments have not been equipped to respond to the unprecedented increase of migration into the Caribbean region, nor have they responded in a coordinated manner. Throughout the Caribbean, Venezuelan migrants face a variety of legal, economic and social barriers that prevent their integration into society, especially amid pandemic-related concerns among public officials and host communities that their arrival puts undue pressure on public resources.

More recently, people facing difficult economic circumstances have also left Haiti and Cuba, often travelling to other countries in the region. In Haiti, the 7.2 magnitude earthquake in August 2021 and the assassination of the country's President caused a surge in migration to Jamaica and the Bahamas. Some migrants try to reach the United States by transiting along a difficult route through Central America and Mexico, but many have put down roots within the Caribbean region.

Main areas of support

The National Societies will continue to build their capacities to respond to this ongoing challenge. For example, the Belize Red Cross will develop migration strategies and action plans; the Grenada Red Cross will foster partnerships with external partners such as UNHCR and enhance its social welfare support programmes for vulnerable populations; the Grenada Red Cross, Jamaica Red Cross and Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross will provide direct humanitarian assistance to displaced people, such as cash-based assistance and shelter.

The National Societies of Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago are 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.

Values, power and inclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about restrictions and social isolation measures, as well as economic and social stress – and this led to an increase in gender-based violence in the Caribbean’s small island developing states. As governments enforced COVID-19-related lockdowns, many women were left with limited options, confined at home with their abusers while services to support survivors were disrupted or made inaccessible.

A UN Women report indicates that the COVID-19 pandemic has not only increased the prevalence of violence within the home, but also other forms of violence against women and girls, particularly migrants. The pandemic has further aggravated the situation for migrants and refugees, creating, in particular, a lack of access to services, protection, livelihoods and health. Many migrants in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana work in the hospitality sector, which has been repeatedly locked down. In an August 2020 UNICEF study, it was estimated that unemployment among migrant populations rose to more than 50 per cent. Xenophobia-related violence, harassment and other forms of violence in public spaces and online has also become more prevalent, and the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse in exchange for social safety net benefits is common.

Emergency response assessments in countries such as Belize, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, have also demonstrated worsening inequalities, with an increase

in incidents of sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children during and after emergencies.

Main areas of support

The protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) approach for the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean will focus on further building the capacities of the National Societies. The PGI network established in the region will focus on the implementation of the IFRC [PGI operational framework 2022–2025](#), which sets out how to turn the new IFRC PGI policy into action.

More specifically, the IFRC will focus on providing PGI training and support for the focal points, as well as supporting National Societies to draft policies associated with the prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse, and child safety. The IFRC will ensure that these policies are approved by the board, and that staff and volunteers are provided with regular information sessions.

The IFRC will support National Societies with developing community-level advocacy projects tackling discrimination and lack of access to livelihood services for vulnerable groups, such as women and people living with disabilities, for the Barbados Red Cross; awareness raising among staff and volunteers of the Guyana Red Cross; and monitoring of PGI minimum standards within the Jamaica Red Cross.

Enabling local actors

The Dutch and English speaking Caribbean National Societies are committed to pursuing National Society development, and all of them, apart from The Guyana Red Cross Society have carried out a self-assessment as part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process. The self-assessment process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The National Societies are also committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\) process](#), and 10 of them are at different phases of completion. The approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, and take necessary action to improve it.

Engaged

In 2023, in order to strengthen National Societies’ engagement with partners within and outside of the IFRC, and support the provision of humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable in society, the Red Cross Caribbean Disaster Risk Management cell ([CADRIM](#)) will continue to:

- Provide digital risk communication materials through its public awareness and public education e-library
- Create a digital space on its website for National Societies to access all training materials and key resources
- Develop two online self-paced courses to support capacity building within the National Societies

The National Societies in Bahamas, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago will work towards their digital transformation, investing in upgrades of their physical structures and working on respective policy and process developments, such as in The Bahamas Red Cross Society. The National Societies will build the capacity of their staff and volunteers through regular training. The Barbados Red Cross Society will introduce an e-component for its first aid and a shop as an income-generating activity. The IFRC will also support National Societies to develop their communication strategies and strengthen partnerships with the media.

Accountable

The IFRC network will continue to deliver humanitarian support to communities as effectively and efficiently as possible. To do this, the IFRC will support National Societies to identify global fundraising business insights, seek resource mobilization development in emerging markets and utilize the Virtual Fundraising Hub.

The IFRC network will support National Societies to develop and implement financial management and resource mobilization strategies, as well as partnerships with local and global agencies to access additional funding. The IFRC network will support National Societies to develop income generating projects to ensure their financial sustainability, which has been heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Guyana Red Cross Society plans to participate in an ongoing mentorship with the American Red Cross. The National Society's first aid coordinator will provide support through the Caribbean business plan, coaching first aid trainers and assisting in the development of cohesive and homogenous training modules. Further collaborations are expected regionally and globally on behalf of the National Societies in 2023, covering resource mobilization and financial sustainability with the IFRC, Asia Pacific National Societies, the Australian Red Cross, The Netherlands Red Cross and the Mongolian Red Cross Society.

The Netherlands Red Cross will support the Jamaica Red Cross with funding to expand its first aid services. Additionally, first aid coordinators will support the Caribbean business plan by coaching trainers and assisting in the development of cohesive and standardized first aid training modules, with the aim of securing regional clients. The Netherlands Red Cross will provide training in business concepts and monitoring to

strengthen Caribbean National Society business plans and increase income. The Netherlands Red Cross will encourage the Jamaica Red Cross to improve the business plans of Peach Beach and the Warehouse, and the team will be trained in resource mobilization and financial sustainability. It is expected that the National Society in Jamaica will pitch these business plans by the end of 2023.

National Societies planning to work on the development of their online fundraising platforms, in Saint Lucia for example, will receive support in this area from the IFRC. The IFRC will also support National Societies to apply and implement projects within the IFRC Capacity Building Fund framework, the Empress Shôken Fund, and other available funding mechanisms.

Trusted

The IFRC network will continue to support National Societies in the region, enhancing their systems and approaches to better support volunteers, and promote and enhance locally led development and humanitarian action. The IFRC will continue the ongoing Volunteer Development Framework revision and implementation in all 13 National Societies. The IFRC will support National Societies' headquarters and branch leaders to maximize the engagement of volunteers and volunteer leaders on existing digital platforms, including the Volunteer Development Platform and the V-Community App, as well as the promotion of the IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy.

The IFRC will engage in the development and mainstreaming of national volunteering policies, analyzing youth-targeted programming, revising programmes as necessary and using feedback gathered from discussions. It will support the National Societies with including comprehensive volunteer protection in all forms of programming, and ensuring the inclusion of mental health, wellness and psychosocial support in volunteer engagement strategies.

The IFRC network will continue to support the organizational development of National Societies, ensuring that they are upscaling their work in support of local communities. The IFRC will support the Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross in revising its legal base and updating its constitution. The IFRC will also support the Jamaica Red Cross to advocate with government authorities for the passing of a new Red Cross Act, and assist the Suriname Red Cross in shaping its 10-year strategy.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean National Societies through its country cluster delegation based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The IFRC's support centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC supports the National Societies with strengthening their auxiliary roles by meeting key stakeholders at government level on a regular basis.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Societies in the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations in relation to hurricanes and tropical storms, floods, disease outbreaks and volcano eruptions. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global appeal, has supported the National Societies' COVID-19 response across the region.

The IFRC also provides technical and expert support to National Societies in a number of areas.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC's coordination activities involve working with member National Societies to assess humanitarian context, situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. It ensures that strategies and programmes incorporate elements of humanitarian action, development, and efforts to reinforce the National Societies' auxiliary roles in their respective countries.

In the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean, various established national and regional mechanisms provide space for coordination and knowledge sharing. Those include, most prominently, the Red Cross Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Cell (CADRIM), which takes the lead in building and contributing knowledge and providing services to the IFRC network in the Caribbean, as well as contributes in the Americas and globally. CADRIM actively works towards the development of evidence, data and research on how to strengthen community resilience through sustainable preparedness and risk reduction activities, particularly in small island developing states.

The **French Red Cross**, through the Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean of the French Red Cross (PIRAC), works in Eastern Caribbean countries under the Ready Together project in international disaster response law and civil military activities, as well as in climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness activities. The platform will also work with the National Societies of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to train trainers and accredit National Society commercial first aid with the IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre.

The National Societies of the Dutch and English speaking Caribbean also receive long-term support from the **American Red Cross** (Bahamas), **the Canadian Red Cross Society** (Bahamas), **French Red Cross** (Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines), **Italian Red Cross** (Dominica, and exploring support to Antigua and Barbuda), **the Netherlands Red Cross** (Suriname) and **Turkish Red Crescent Society** (St. Kitts and Nevis).

Movement coordination

The IFRC liaises as appropriate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which supports countries from its delegation in Panama. 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 supports some of the National Societies in their work on restoring family links and tracing, primarily in the areas of migration, and in promoting international humanitarian law.

Coordination with other actors

The IFRC continues to have a robust alliance with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), and IFRC staff and National Societies actively participate in various technical events, committees and working groups. Currently, the IFRC is represented on the CDEMA's school safety committee, it is working on renewing their joint Memorandum of Understanding and developing a technical annex that will form the basis of joint programming.

In the Bahamas, the IFRC leads the shelter cluster. The Global Shelter Cluster is an inter-agency standing committee coordination mechanism and the IFRC has been leading it in disaster contexts since the establishment of the cluster approach in 2005. This critical mandate places the IFRC as one of the lead agencies in the international humanitarian coordination system. The IFRC leverages its leadership position in the Global Shelter Cluster to improve coordination, develop stronger policies and standards across the sector, and ensure that affected people are supported in their recovery.

CADRAM continues to collaborate with CDEMA, the Nature Conservancy and other development partners

in the development and implementation of several community resilience tools. Most recently, the CADRAM team coordinated several technical working groups to develop a self-paced, e-learning climate change course and the [Public Awareness and Public Education \(PAPE\) Library](#), as well as updating training manuals for community response teams and various aspects of early warning systems programming.

Since 2017, the IFRC, together with its National Societies and the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, has been implementing the Capacity Building Initiative in the region, focusing on preparedness at both the institutional and community level. Phase IV of the initiative began in September 2021.

In 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, and it is expected that more will be signed by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the University of the West Indies, Cavehill Campus in Barbados, and the Digicel Group.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



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.

Contact Information

Ariel Kestens

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for
English & Dutch Speaking Caribbean,
based in Trinidad and Tobago
T +1868 684 0101
ariel.kestens@ifrc.org

Mei Lin Leon

Head of Strategic Engagement &
Partnerships, a.i.
IFRC Regional Office for Americas,
Panama
T +12 345 6789
meilin.leon@ifrc.org

Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross

W www.facebook.com/ab.redcross/

Bahamas Red Cross

W [bahamasredcross.org/](https://www.bahamasredcross.org/)

Barbados Red Cross

W www.barbadosredcross.com/

Belize Red Cross

W www.facebook.com/BelizeRedCrossSociety/

Dominica Red Cross

W [www.ifrc.org/national-societies-directory/
dominica-red-cross-society](https://www.ifrc.org/national-societies-directory/dominica-red-cross-society)

Grenada Red Cross

W [grenadaredcross.gd/](https://www.grenadaredcross.gd/)

Guyana Red Cross

W [guyanaredcross.org.gy/](https://www.guyanaredcross.org.gy/)

Jamaica Red Cross

W www.jamaicaredcross.org/

Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross

W www.facebook.com/sknrcs/

Saint Lucia Red Cross

W www.saintluciatedcross.org/

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross

W www.redcross.vc/

Suriname Red Cross

W [www.ifrc.org/national-societies-directory/
suriname-red-cross](https://www.ifrc.org/national-societies-directory/suriname-red-cross)

Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross

W www.ttrcs.org/
