



# COSTA RICA

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

8 May 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 6.8M**

In support of the Costa Rica Red Cross



**134**

National Society branches



**1,316**

National Society staff



**5,078**

National Society volunteers

## People to be reached



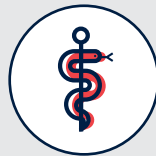
**5,000**

Climate and environment



**500**

Disasters and crises



**25,000**

Health and wellbeing



**6,000**

Migration and displacement



**380**

Values, power and inclusion

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Longer term needs

- Disaster risk management
- Climate change adaptation
- Violence prevention and protection
- Epidemic preparedness and response

### Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy
- Partnerships and resource mobilization
- Quality and upgraded management systems

## Key country data

Population **5.2M**

INFORM Severity rating **Medium**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **58**

Population below poverty level **25.5%**

# Funding requirements

2024

2025\*\*

2026\*\*

**Total 2M CHF**

**Total 2.3M CHF**

**Total 2.5M CHF**

Through the IFRC

**1.1M CHF**

Through the IFRC

**1.2M CHF**

Through the IFRC

**1.3M CHF**

Through Host National Society

**1M CHF**

Through Host National Society

**1.1M CHF**

Through Host National Society

**1.3M CHF**

\*\*Projected funding requirements

## IFRC Breakdown

### Longer term needs

**50,000 CHF**  
Climate and environment

**165,000 CHF**  
Disasters and crises

**34,000 CHF**  
Health and wellbeing

**270,000 CHF**  
Migration and displacement

**90,000 CHF**  
Values, power and inclusion

**454,000 CHF**  
Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

British Red Cross\*

Canadian Red Cross Society\*

German Red Cross\*

Japanese Red Cross Society\*

The Netherlands Red Cross\*

Swedish Red Cross\*

*\*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.*

## IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAACR002**

## Hazards



Population movement



Hurricanes and cyclones



Floods



Drought



Disease outbreaks



Economic hardship

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Costa Rican Red Cross** is a humanitarian institution that has been operating in Costa Rica for more than 130 years. It was founded in 1885 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1922. It serves as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, assisting them impartially and independently, and serving the most vulnerable people.

Through its 111 branches, 13 office stations, and 9 regional branches, the Costa Rican Red Cross develops emergency response due to disasters, pre-hospital care, community risk reduction, providing temporary shelters, and other avenues of humanitarian aid. The operating model is based on the collaboration of volunteers with roots in the community, the activities that define their auxiliary role with the State in the humanitarian field, proximity to the people with whom we collaborate and their national and global networks of solidarity. In 2021, the Costa Rican Red Cross reached more than 16,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

According to the Costa Rican Red Cross' Strategic Plan 2021–2030, the National Society has three strategic axes: humanitarian, inclusive, and open and transparent. The main function of the Strategic Plan is to motivate and manage the institution to become a resilient and innovative humanitarian organization which provides an efficient and effective response to all populations, sectors and communities.

The Humanitarian Red Cross axis exists to save lives and provide recovery support after disasters and crises. It aims to build safe and resilient environments through risk management, emergency care, and attention to the most vulnerable populations, sectors, and communities. The Inclusive Red Cross axis seeks to promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace, through intersectoral and voluntary action in all regions, with respect for the human rights of all people. The Open and Transparent Red Cross axis works to contribute to an open and transparent governance model with strategies aimed at favouring internal and external projection and preserving the National Society's strategic links for the fulfilment of its objectives and sustainability of operations.

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## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Costa Rica is located in Central America, sharing land borders with Nicaragua to the north, the Caribbean Sea to the east, Panama to the southeast and the Pacific Ocean to the west. In terms of maritime borders, it is adjacent to Nicaragua, Colombia, Panama, and Ecuador. It is a sovereign state composed of 7 provinces.

Costa Rica has a mixed economy, which has undergone a strong evolution, going from being an eminently agricultural country to a service economy. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index, in 2018 Costa Rica ranked fourth among the best economies in Latin America and the Caribbean. Tourism is the fastest growing industry and since the early 2000s has generated more foreign exchange than any of the main agricultural export products.

Also of significance are traditional agricultural exports of bananas, sugar, cocoa and pineapples, as well as flowers and mini vegetables in recent years. The production of high-quality Costa Rican coffee and its export to the U.S. market stands out. The production of medical and surgical supplies, high-tech and electronic components, software development, financial services, customer services, and outsourcing operations are increasingly contributing to the economy.

According to the latest data published by the UN, Costa Rica has 520,729 migrants, which represents 10.15% of Costa Rica's population. The male migrant population is marginally higher, standing at 263,636 (50.62%) while women constitute 257,093 (49.37%) of migrants. Migration in Costa Rica comes mainly from Nicaragua (67.38%), Venezuela (5.42%), and Colombia (4.90%). In recent years, the number of migrants living in Costa Rica has increased by 109,032 people or 26.48%.

For Costa Rica, the score on the Human Development Index (HDI) remained unchanged, going from 0.810 to 0.809, which

the UNDP pointed out as a sign of the “breaking of a historical trend of growth,” despite apparent stability.

In terms of poverty, one in four Costa Ricans (25.5%) lived in poverty as of 2022. Before the pandemic, this figure was 22%,

signalling a social deterioration that the country experienced due to the pandemic. Extreme poverty did grow alarmingly in the final months of 2022, with eight out of every 100 people in the country unable to meet their basic food needs.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Climate change and extreme weather-related events in Central America have become a significant threat to health conditions, food security, access to safe water and environmental security of people, especially for the most vulnerable and remote communities with low response, coping and recovery capacities.

Costa Rica has a diverse tropical climate due to its geographic location in Central America and mountainous topography. It has a variety of climates, from tropical on the coasts to temperate in the highlands and transition zones in the intermediate areas. The country experiences two main seasons: the dry season, from December to April, and the rainy season, from May to November; it is also affected by weather phenomena such as El Niño and La Niña, which can alter weather patterns and rainy seasons.

Greenhouse gas emissions in Costa Rica are on the rise. It has been estimated that, if no action is taken, Costa Rica’s emissions will increase by 2.4 per cent per year, growing 60 per cent between 2015 and 2030, and up to 132 per cent by 2050.

Costa Rica is already experiencing a number of climate impacts including rising temperatures leading to more frequent and prolonged heat waves, climate variability leading to change in rainfall patterns, increase in extreme weather events such as tropical storms and hurricanes, loss of biodiversity, risk to agriculture, and negative impact on tourism.

To address these challenges, Costa Rica has implemented several significant government policies, plans, and legal frameworks on climate and environmental issues. These efforts are aligned with the country’s commitment to conserve its biodiversity and be carbon neutral by 2050.

#### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Costa Rican Red Cross is part of the IFRC 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; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Society leads locally-owned actions to support communities and authorities in their efforts to adapt to climate change and build resilience to extreme weather events. Its objectives include:

- Adopting environmentally sustainable practices and contributing to climate change mitigation
- Encouraging communities, staff, and volunteers to take urgent action to adapt to the growing and changing risks of the climate and environmental crises

#### Planned activities in 2024

- Develop environmental policies and climate change adaptation strategies based on evidence and thorough mapping and risk scenarios
- Conduct climate-related capacity building to enable better planning and forecast-based financing
- Define operational guidelines and internal procedures to reduce the environmental impact of operations
- Develop information and dissemination actions on climate change and its impacts, oriented within the organization involving staff and volunteers, with emphasis on Red Cross youth
- Develop communication, education, and information strategies on climate change and its impacts, targeting community behavioural transformation aimed at informing local policy-making

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Costa Rican Red Cross to promote community-led solutions to address challenges, improve behaviours, and promote climate action. To pursue this goal, it will assist the National Society in collecting and analyzing

specific socio-behavioural data, community perceptions, and concerns about climate issues for programme and/or project adaptation. It will help in the technical implementation of the Guide on Climate-Smart Operations and Programmes and the development of 'green' sectoral interventions.



## Disasters and crises

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

Costa Rica is a country with high seismic activity and is generally affected by the downpours associated with tropical storms, which cause total and partial damage to homes, flooding, landslides, overflowing rivers, blocked roads, and the need to set up temporary shelters in communities. Due to its location along the Pacific Ring of Fire, earthquakes are relatively common in the country with varying degrees of severity.

Costa Rica has several active volcanoes, including Arenal, Poas, and Turrialba. While volcanic eruptions are infrequent, they pose risks to nearby communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems. The National Seismological Network (RSN) and the National Emergency Commission (CNE) monitor volcanic activity and provide early warnings to affected areas.

The key factors influencing Costa Rica's [country risk profile](#) also include public debt, political and economic stability, diversification of the economy, credit rating, foreign investment trends, exchange rate trends, social and environmental indicators, and international trade relations.

The Costa Rican government, through agencies like the National Emergency Commission (CNE) and various scientific institutions, invests in disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation measures. These efforts include early warning systems, evacuation plans, infrastructure reinforcement, and community resilience programs.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Costa Rican Red Cross, in its auxiliary role, aims to intervene effectively in the face of a wide variety of evolving crises and disasters, working closely with communities to adopt measures to increase resilience. In the past ten years, it has been responding to [multiple emergencies](#), including with the support of the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeals.

The National Society aims to:

- Encourage [communities to take action](#) to increase their resilience to multiple evolving impacts and hazards
- Meet the needs of people affected by crises and disasters through access to [in-kind assistance](#) and support that is timely, adequate, flexible and strengthens their agency
- Providing [shelter assistance](#) to the people affected by crises and disasters
- Providing food security and livelihoods to people affected by crises and disasters and ensuring sources of income are improved
- Supplying multi-purpose cash grants to those affected by crises and disasters
- Responding effectively to the wide range of evolving crises and disasters and leveraging their auxiliary role in emergency response
- Expanding leadership in the field of disaster law and enhancing the official/legal recognition of their auxiliary role

### Planned activities in 2024

- Enhance Community Resilience through the coordination of national, regional, and local efforts
- Strengthen institutional capacities in disaster and crisis preparedness and response
- Support families with financial assistance for the protection and recovery of their livelihoods
- Coordinate meetings to establish early actions at regional, local and community levels
- Discuss early actions at regional, local and community levels linked to volcanic hazard
- Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people through the use of cash

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Costa Rican Red Cross to build capacity for [Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment](#) and the Roadmap to Community Resilience with an additional focus on climate and nature. It will also help the National Society expand the use of anticipatory action approaches by conducting simulations to test the feasibility of early actions. The implementation of community-level training to improve building capacity, evaluate local building technologies, improve waterproofing/climate resilience, and build back safer will also be assisted with the help of Participating National Societies.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2023, IFRC provided three DREF allocations for two separate emergencies in Syria. The DREF allocations have been described below:

[IFRC-DREF – Costa Rica Floods](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 528,641 in October 2023 supported the Costa Rican Red Cross to assist 10,000 people under anticipation mechanism to guide the timely and effective execution of early actions based on hydro-meteorological activity forecasts that indicate thresholds beyond which negative impacts on people and their property may arise. The National Society will support the targeted people over a six-month period with assistance such as the early action protocol which guides the timely implementation of preventive actions.

[IFRC-DREF – Costa Rica Dengue](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 413,678 in October 2023 supported the Costa Rican Red Cross to assist 26,665 people in Alajuela, Heredia, Limon, and Puntarenas to combat the rise of dengue cases in these regions. The National Society will support the targeted people over a six-month period through actions such as preventive information campaigns



## Health and wellbeing

Costa Rica's [Human Development Index](#) value of 0.81 is, to a great extent, a product of the rural and community health programmes. Life expectancy in the country is high, exceeding 80 years. Costa Rica has a universal and public health system known as the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), which provides medical care to the majority of the population. The healthcare infrastructure in Costa Rica includes a network of hospitals, health centres, and clinics distributed throughout the country. The healthcare system is decentralized, with healthcare services provided at both the national and local levels.

As in many parts of the world, non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer, are a major concern in Costa Rica due to lifestyle changes and

an ageing population. Besides this, the country also faces [occasional outbreaks](#) of dengue, a mosquito-borne disease.

Costa Rica is committed to ensuring universal access to quality health services for its entire population. This commitment includes robust vaccination programmes, reducing inequalities in access to health care, and protecting the environment. The Ministry of Health has been a fundamental pillar of the economic and social development of the country. Decade after decade, actions have been implemented to build the health system that characterizes Costa Rica today. Rural and Community Health Programmes have been developed in order to reach populations in the most remote areas, providing primary health care services such as vaccinating and deworming children and the elderly and providing prenatal care, among other activities.



IFRC rescue teams searching for tourists missing in rivers and mountains, 24 April 2023. (Photo: Costa Rican Red Cross)

## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Costa Rican Red Cross is one of the largest providers of pre-hospital emergency care services in the country. This includes responding to traffic and workplace accidents, social violence, and medical issues. Its objectives include:

- Leveraging its auxiliary role to secure its position in relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms
- Protecting the health and well-being of communities and improving it through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services throughout life
- Maintaining the health and dignity of communities in emergencies and disease outbreaks by providing access to appropriate health services
- Ensure communities have greater access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene ([WASH](#)) services both during emergencies and otherwise

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Promoting community health during emergencies and complex environments for the Costa Rican Red Cross personnel and the communities they serve
- Focusing on a culture of peace and non-violence in gender and/or rights

- Evaluating the implementation of community health, health care, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene ([WASH](#)) programmes to meet the needs of the most vulnerable or marginalized people
- Purchasing protective equipment for the population
- Disseminating direct communication and education campaigns in local and national media to prevent respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases due to the effect of Volcanic ash

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support for the development and implementation of national plans for epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, including epidemic contingency plans and the National Action Plan for Health Security. Following this, modelling context-specific community engagement strategies, and promoting activities that support the rapid exchange of information within communities are actions of priority. The IFRC will also help with the earliest response to outbreaks, community surveillance posts, vector control, oral rehydration points, active case finding, contact tracing, infection prevention and control in health facilities run by the National Society, immunization, and [psychosocial support](#).

The IFRC also provided an imminent Disaster Response Emergency Fund allocation in August 2023, in support of the Costa Rican Red Cross and the Ministry of Health's efforts to manage a massive [dengue outbreak](#). The National Society is supporting 26,665 people with CHF 413,678 in funding from the IFRC's DREF.



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## Migration and displacement

Costa Rica experiences large-scale mixed-migration due to its open-door migration policy. It has policies aimed at protecting the rights of migrants, including access to health services and education making it a destination country for nationals from Latin American countries, but also a transit country for those arriving from the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. Costa Rica hosts a [large refugee and asylum seeker population](#) who have fled armed conflict and socio-political crises in their home countries.

The most common countries of origin include Nicaragua, Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. Reasons for immigration vary and may include seeking employment, family reunification, fleeing conflict or

persecution, and seeking better living conditions. Some immigrants enter Costa Rica irregularly, while others do so legally through work, study, or family reunification visas.

Despite protective laws and policies, migrants in Costa Rica face challenges related to discrimination, limited access to services, and labour exploitation. Refugees and asylum seekers face [subtle barriers to integration](#) that prevent them from attending higher levels of education and being employed in lucrative professions. Costa Rica is also working to fight human smuggling and trafficking which run rampant since the country is a transit point for people moving to North America.

## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society is 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, 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.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Ensuring migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migration routes, as well as access to durable solutions where appropriate
- Engaging with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to assess, understand, and respond to their priority needs more effectively

- Ensure the provision of essential services, protection, and dignified human treatment to all persons without distinction as to nationality, religion, social status, or political belief
- Respond to the call of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation (IFRC) for the implementation of the measures defined in the Movement's Framework for Community Resilience (FCR) Strategy

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the National Society's efforts to protect people on the move along migratory routes through the establishment of [humanitarian service points](#). It will further assist in strengthening the capacities of national societies on migration issues by developing information, tools, training and providing technical support, as well as their articulation to the [community engagement and accountability](#) (CEA) and [protection, gender & inclusion](#) (PGI) approaches. The IFRC will conduct humanitarian diplomacy with national and international actors on migration and host community interventions. Participating National Societies will assist the National Society with conducting orientation and raising awareness of the policy of attention to migrants and refugees.



## Values, power and inclusion

Costa Rica, like many other countries, faces challenges related to violence, discrimination, and exclusion of certain groups. In Costa Rica, Decree No. 40955 of 2018 establishes inclusion and accessibility in the education system for all, including people with disabilities, without any type of discrimination.

However, [gender-based violence](#), which includes domestic violence and sexual violence, is a significant problem in Costa Rica. Despite efforts to address this issue, rates of gender-based violence and femicide remain concerning. Laws and programmes have been implemented to prevent and address this violence, but challenges remain in raising awareness and reporting.

Although Costa Rica is known for its ethnic diversity, people of African descent and [indigenous people](#) often face discrimination and social exclusion. Problems include lack of access to basic services, economic inequality, and cultural marginalization. The marginalization sometimes also extends to migrants and refugees.

While there have been significant advances in terms of rights for the LGBTQ+ community in Costa Rica, such as the legalization of same-sex marriage in 2020, there is still discrimination and prejudice towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people. People with disabilities often also face barriers in accessing education, employment, and health services. Policies have been put in place to promote inclusivity and accessibility, but challenges remain in eliminating discrimination.

[Youth violence](#) and the presence of gangs in some urban areas are also concerns in Costa Rica. Social exclusion and lack of opportunities can contribute to the involvement of young people in criminal activities.

The Government of Costa Rica, together with civil society organizations and the international community, works to promote equality, non-discrimination, and the fight against violence in all its forms. Policies and laws have been put in place to address these issues, but there is still work to be done to achieve a more inclusive and just society.



## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Empowering vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals and communities to influence decisions that affect them and rely on the IFRC network to serve their best interests.
- Contributing to positive change in communities through increased understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values, with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of young people
- Ensuring the dignity, access, participation, and safety of people of all identities
- Increasing understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of the fundamental principles and humanitarian values, with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of young people
- Promoting the recognition of human rights in the institutional actions of persons in vulnerable conditions, without any discrimination, direct or indirect

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## Planned activities in 2024

- Protecting and promoting a system of values and doctrine with inclusive, participatory, and diverse initiatives based on fundamental principles
- Promoting the recognition of human rights in the institutional actions of persons in vulnerable conditions, without any discrimination, direct or indirect
- Promoting equity throughout the National Society taking into account a gendered approach
- Developing an external communication strategy to strengthen the visibility of the institution's work
- Developing training on the Community engagement and accountability (CEA) approach within the National Society and the communities

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support with integration of the Movement's commitments into key policy documents, guidance, tools and plans, and programmatic operating procedures including national, thematic, and regional operational plans. It will also train protection, gender & inclusion (PGI) staff and volunteers on approaches to community engagement and community accountability. Providing technical support to the National Society and ensuring a feedback mechanism through a variety of channels is a priority alongside the goal of ensuring that all feedback data collected is disaggregated by age and gender.

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## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Costa Rican Red Cross is an [OCAC](#) Certified National Society (one of five certified globally). However, the 5-year certification period expired in June 2023 and in order to access the re-certification, the National Society is required to positively complete the two phases of the OCAC. For phase 1, the Costa Rican Red Cross has carried out an OCAC internal review process throughout 2022. For phase 2, held in

September, the peer evaluation teams surveyed the cultural environment that allowed them to understand the reality of the work of the National Society.

The National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is in the action and accountability phase. The PER Approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



## Strategic and operational coordination

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase its cooperation and coordination with external partners, through the help of the IFRC, to address the main challenges faced by communities
- Establish a process of continuous linkage that allows for improved dialogue and participation to face the challenges of the sustainability of the NS articulated in development, international cooperation, and resource mobilization agendas.
- Coordinate among members to improve efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions

- Ensure effective coordination of hosting clusters with partners, with the assistance of IFRC
- Take on a greater role in coordinating shelter groups
- Increase financial resources, both through national fundraising and by securing increased international support with the help of the IFRC

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will ensure that the development of the National Society is an integral part of the commitment of all partners in the country and is linked to the long-term development and consolidation of the National Society, including in crises. **The IFRC** will represent the IFRC network at key inter-agency meetings at the national and regional levels.



## National Society development

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase capacities in the management, development, and permanence of volunteering in the National Society with a rethinking of the service and a more flexible, inclusive, and participatory approach
- Prioritize the development of youth volunteerism and action as critical catalysts for behaviour change and local action, ensuring access and building trust in all contexts

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will promote and accompany the use of IFRC funding mechanisms to support National Society's development processes/plans in response to strategic priorities. It will also strengthen the use of the services of the Inter-American Centre for the Development of Volunteers and its five main tools to boost the development of volunteerism through: the use of the Volunteer Development Platform, participation in working groups, laboratories, and exchanges. The IFRC will also promote and accompany the use of IFRC funding mechanisms, such as FIF piloting, to support National Society development processes linked to fundraising.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Protect and promote a system of values and doctrine with inclusive, participatory, and diverse initiatives based on fundamental principles
- Promote its image and promote change, affecting public behaviour, policies, and decisions at the national, regional, and global levels

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will provide technical support for the development, of an advocacy strategy and a National Society work plan. It will promote the national implementation of global and regional commitments and organize training sessions in humanitarian diplomacy and auxiliary roles.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Promote an efficient and inclusive salaried human talent management system
- Strengthen the management system so that it contributes to institutional development with standards of the highest level

- Establish a monitoring, and evaluation system to measure progress and results of the quality of processes and organizational management

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the establishment of systems, facilitate the collection of data at the national level, and ensure that high-quality evaluations and reviews are carried out in line with the IFRC evaluation framework.

## THE IFRC NETWORK

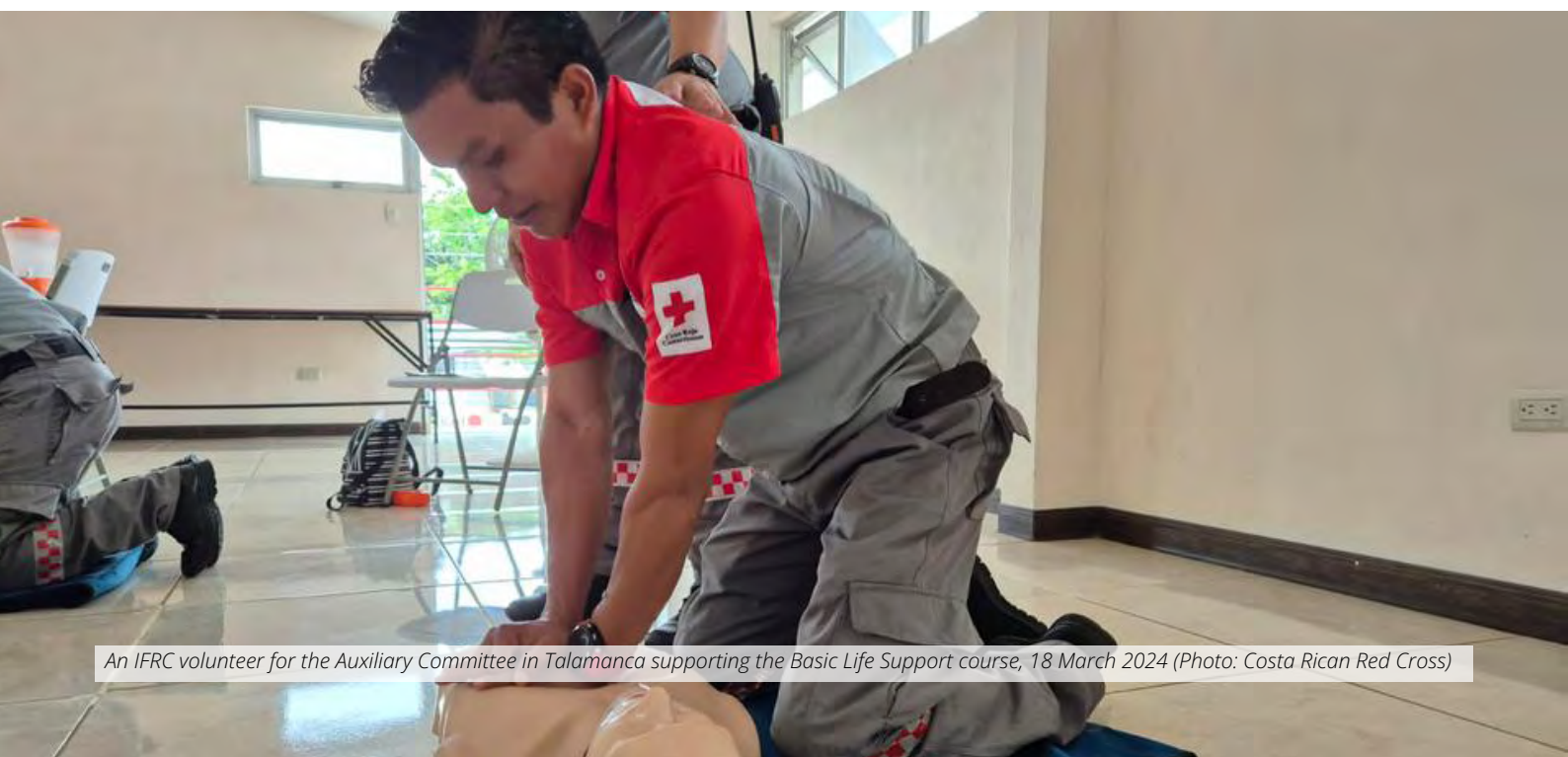
### The IFRC

The IFRC is represented by the Cluster Delegation for Central American countries in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and operates with a large team of specialists in different areas in all Central American countries. This allows for close support, coordination, and constant communication with the National Societies of Central America, including the Costa Rican Red Cross, and the participating National Societies that support them. IFRC's support focuses on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

El Salvador hosts the Reference Centre for Disaster Preparedness, whose national focal points provide direct

support to the five National Societies. Communication and coordination channels across the region are available and open for the exchange of information on operational activities and different contextual analyses, with meetings held on a regular basis.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported National Societies in Central America, including the Costa Rican Red Cross, through a series of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF-IFRC) [operations](#) and Emergency Appeals in relation to a variety of hazards.



An IFRC volunteer for the Auxiliary Committee in Talamanca supporting the Basic Life Support course, 18 March 2024 (Photo: Costa Rican Red Cross)

## IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly 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. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

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## Movement coordination

The IFRC leads regular coordination meetings between the different International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement actors, including participating National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), through established national and regional mechanisms. It also coordinates humanitarian assistance during emergency responses. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

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## Coordination with other actors

The Costa Rican Red Cross works in close collaboration with local and national authorities, and other humanitarian organizations for a coordinated response. Permanent coordination with Costa Rican national authorities is carried out through the Emergency Operations Centre and the National Emergency Commission Board of Directors. Through the National Directorate for Risk and Disaster Management and coordination with the Auxiliary Committees, actions are prioritized in order to assist the most affected communities.

The National Society plays a key role as auxiliary to the public health systems in the areas of primary health, outreach to vulnerable communities and pre-hospital care. During operations to prevent and respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Society coordinated with the Ministry of Health to implement and follow up on prevention measures against the virus. The National Society held regular technical coordination meetings with representatives of the

The **German Red Cross** partners with the National Society and provides bilateral support. Some activities have been carried out jointly including the participation and certification process of the Emergency Response Unit on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene with a possibility of integrating the WASH teams with the Central American cluster. The German Red Cross also participated as a consultant in the Reference Centre for Resilience and Environment (CRREC). It is supporting the Community Risk Management planning, Early Action planning, and Early Warning systems.

The **ICRC** contributes to the National Society's work in protection, including minimum standards, restoring family links, self-care messages for migrants, health and first aid, and support in humanitarian diplomacy. The ICRC works closely with the Costa Rican state to promote the implementation and development of international humanitarian law. The ICRC also maintains relations with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, headquartered in San José.

Ministry of Health, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) at the national level, with support of the IFRC.

To ensure good coordination, the Costa Rican Red Cross meets with actors involved in the migration response to ensure good coordination, including IOM, UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other humanitarian organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Doctors of the World and Save the Children. The IOM in Costa Rica is currently implementing human security projects for migrants, labour migration, linkages with the diaspora, migration and development, and protection and assistance to vulnerable migrants. UNHCR's operations in Costa Rica focus on displacement caused by conditions in northern Central America, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

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**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 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.

### 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](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the Costa Rican Red Cross, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with [IFRC Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process, and will serve joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

### Contact information

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**Costa Rican Red Cross**  
[www.cruzroja.or.cr](http://www.cruzroja.or.cr)

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#### **Nelson Aly Rodriguez**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua & Panama, based in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**T** +504 99860160

[nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org](mailto:nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org)

#### **Monica Portilla**

Head of Strategic Partnerships & Resource Mobilization  
IFRC Regional Office for Americas, Panama

**T** +502 586 57619

[monica.portilla@ifrc.org](mailto:monica.portilla@ifrc.org)

#### **Sumitha Martin**

Lead  
IFRC Global Strategic Planning & Reporting Centre  
New Delhi

[sumitha.martin@ifrc.org](mailto:sumitha.martin@ifrc.org)