



LATIN CARIBBEAN

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

8 May 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 25.6M**

In support of the Red Cross National Societies of the Latin Caribbean



1,846

National Society branches



1,509

National Society staff



61,836

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



150,000

Climate and environment



250,000

Disasters and crises



110,000

Health and wellbeing



55,000

Migration and displacement



45,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk management
 - Health services
- Climate change adaptation
- Migration-related needs

Capacity development

- Strengthened internal systems
- Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting
 - Volunteering and youth

Key country data

	Cuba	Dominican Republic
Population	11.2M	11.2M
INFORM Severity rating		Low
INFORM Climate Change Risk Index	Low	Medium
Human Development Index rank	83	80
Population below poverty level		23.9%

Country Cluster Delegation for Cuba, Haiti and Dominican Republic

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

2026**

Total 9.5M CHF

Total 8M CHF

Total 8.1M CHF

Through the IFRC

5.2M CHF

Through the IFRC

5.1M CHF

Through the IFRC

5.1M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **393,000 CHF**

Through Participating National Societies

→ **58,000 CHF**

Through Host National Society

4.4 CHF

Through Host National Society

4M CHF

Through Host National Society

4.4M CHF

**Projected funding requirements

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

700,000 CHF
Climate and environment

140,000 CHF
Disasters and crises

1.7M CHF
Health and wellbeing

600,000 CHF
Migration and displacement

450,000 CHF
Values, power and inclusion

250,000 CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

British Red Cross*

The Canadian Red Cross Society*

French Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Red Cross of Monaco*

Spanish 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:

MAACU003
MAADO002

Hazards



Hurricanes



Floods



Earthquakes



Population movement



Disease outbreaks

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

Cuban Red Cross

Number of staff	529
Number of volunteers	47,832
Branches	1,721

The **Cuban Red Cross** was founded and [admitted](#) to the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** (IFRC) in 1919. The National Society's actions are oriented towards the people and communities affected by diverse vulnerabilities, crises, and disasters.

In accordance with its legal base and auxiliary role, it is part of the National Civil Defence system and works closely with the Ministry of Public Health. The National Society has a mandate to be active through its articulation with Civil Defense and Ministry of Health for the immediate response during events affecting communities and the general population. The Cuban Red Cross also provides rescue, restoration of family links, first aid, and psychosocial support in the immediate aftermath of disasters.

In the last decade, the Cuban Red Cross has [responded](#) to several major hurricanes, providing shelter support for 7,000 families after the impact of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, and 22,191 people in response to Hurricane Ian in 2022. It also coordinated with provincial, municipal and community authorities to support [660 migrants](#) with identification, relief, and first aid through DREF in 2022.

The National Society undertakes prevention, response, and recovery actions in the community in case of disasters. It also focuses on preventing accidents in public pools, rivers, and beaches by inspecting bathing areas and raising awareness of water safety through signage. The National Society reached 3,860 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes.

Dominican Red Cross

Number of staff	980
Number of volunteers	14,004
Branches	125

The **Dominican Red Cross** was founded in 1927 and [admitted](#) to the IFRC in 1931. As an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, it has been integrated into the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response. Through this system, the National Society aims to improve disaster risk reduction in the Dominican Republic. It also delivers pre-hospital care and community health activities, supported by national ambulance services and three blood banks.

The [National Society's 2021-2025 strategic plan](#) has four strategic axes:

- Disaster damage reduction through the empowerment and involvement of people, communities, and risk management institutions
- Implementation of strategies for healthy and safe communities
- Promotion of a society committed to humanitarian values and a culture of peace
- Institutional and professional strengthening of the National Society

Through the IFRC Global Fleet Vehicle Rental Programme, the Dominican Red Cross has 128 ambulance units that serve the national population, through the [National System of Emergency Care and Security](#). The pre-hospital care system of the National Society has more than 700 employees including drivers and paramedics and a pre-hospital and fleet management structure that ensures quality service in the assistance offered.

The alliance between the Dominican Government and the Dominican Red Cross has significantly impacted the Red Cross's visibility and work. The Dominican Red Cross has implemented a strong fleet management allowing them a clear picture of the nationwide coverage and services provided by the pre-hospital care ambulance system.

The Dominican Red Cross supports health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and protection, gender & inclusion (PGI) for migrants in vulnerable situations. It will also improve disaster preparedness and response through a decentralization process at the provincial level. The National Society is actively working on restoring family links network, in collaboration with the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, and other National Societies of the Americas region. By 2022, the National Society reached 10.2M people through its long-term services and development programmes and 5,43,000 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Cuba

Cuba has a population of 11.32 million and is the largest island in the Caribbean and the second-most populous after Hispaniola. The country invests significantly in health and education, because of which its education indicators are among the highest in the world.

Cuba's Human Development Index of 0.764 puts it in the high human development category. The country's GDP was last recorded as USD 107.35 billion. Cuba is the leading Caribbean producer of sugar, though the main activity of the country's planned economy in terms of foreign currency exchange has been tourism which overtook sugar in the mid-1990s.

The country's main challenges include a complex economic situation and limited access to development funds. In three recent years, three consecutive external shocks of the tightening of unilateral sanctions by the United States of America, the economic and health crisis caused by COVID-19, and the conflict in Ukraine, have adversely affected Cuba. This context has exacted additional challenges on socio-economic conditions faced by the country's population, particularly the most vulnerable.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cuba successfully contained the virus and had a very low infection rate. However, at the beginning of 2021, the rates increased significantly, peaking in August. Amid rising cases, the Cuban economy was detrimentally affected by forced border closures and restrictions on non-essential economic activities. The pandemic also led to an almost complete collapse of international tourism, negatively affecting the country's most important economic sector. As a result of these factors, the Cuban economy contracted by 11%. Cuba is the only country in Latin America to pursue the development of its own COVID-19 vaccines.

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic, located on the eastern side of the island of Hispaniola, is a middle-income developing country with a population of 11.4 million. It occupies two-thirds of the eastern part of the island, excluding maritime territory. Because of the country's geographical location in the sub-tropical hurricane region and its relatively small surface area, there is a strong maritime influence on general weather patterns, and it is highly vulnerable to hurricanes.

The Dominican Republic has been one of the fastest-growing economies in Latin America and the Caribbean in the last decade. Its GDP grew by 4.9% in 2022, driven by the service industry, a recovery in global tourism, and the government's active vaccination campaign. While the GDP has fully recovered from the pandemic, the country's fiscal position has weakened. Public debt remains above pre-pandemic levels and the interest bill has already absorbed 3 per cent of the GDP in 2022.

Growth has led to an increase in the middle class and the urban population by 50 per cent. In 2022, employment grew by 2 per cent. Structural reforms in energy, water, and public-private partnerships, as well as efforts to improve human capital and attract foreign direct investment, are expected to sustain growth potential in the medium term. Fostering long-term growth will require structural reforms that allow the country to take advantage of nearshoring opportunities and continue to diversify into non-textile activities. This should include higher investments in innovation, promoting economic clusters, and improved public services, particularly in education.

According to the Single System of Beneficiaries, two million people were living in moderate poverty while 668,460 were living in extreme poverty. As a response to the need for improved living conditions for this population, the Social Policy Coordination Cabinet has promoted plans, programmes, and projects. They are focused on the inclusion of people with disabilities and the development of sexual health, nutrition, pregnancy prevention, and drug abuse prevention.



Climate and environment

Cuba

Cuba's climate is tropical and seasonally wet. Temperatures are generally high, ranging from 20°C to 26°C. The most variable element is rainfall: on average, 1,300 mm falls annually in most parts of the country. Approximately 80 per cent of the total annual rain falls during the rainy season. Among the [meteorological events that affect Cuba's territory](#), tropical cyclones occupy an important place, and their frequency makes them an indisputable part of the Cuban climate.

Extreme weather events pose a significant threat to people living in Cuba. Over the last 100 years, the country has suffered major losses of life due to hurricanes, particularly the Santa Cruz hurricane in 1932 and Hurricane Flora in 1963. The number of tropical cyclones and hurricanes that affect Cuba is variable, ranging from [zero to five per year](#).

Studies have identified important climatic variations in Cuba and the wider region. Increases in air temperature and frequent extreme climatic events, such as intense rains and severe local storms, characterize the changing climate in Cuba today. The influence of the El Niño Southern Oscillation on the Latin Caribbean region is also contributing to the changing climate in Cuba, with more frequent droughts and fewer hurricanes.

Cuba is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. [Projections show](#) that, without interventions, 21 coastal communities in Cuba will disappear completely by the end of the 21st century due to rising sea levels, and more than 98 will be severely affected by climate-related hazards.

In addition, coastal erosion, flooding, saline intrusion, droughts and sea level rises continue to threaten the economic and social gains achieved by the Government's commitment to sustainable development and global warming adaptation through the [Tarea Vida National Plan](#).

The main priority of the Cuban emergency response system is the preservation of human life. Achieving this will require improving climate change education and strengthening of the country's monitoring and warning systems.

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic has a 4.2 rating on the [INFORM Climate Change Index](#), though it represents only [0.07%](#) of global greenhouse gas emissions. As a small island developing state, the Dominican Republic is particularly vulnerable to the effects of extreme climate events, such as storms, floods,

droughts, and rising sea levels. Combined with rapid economic growth and urbanization, climate change could strain key socio-economic sectors such as water, agriculture and food security, human health, biodiversity, forests, marine coastal resources, infrastructure, and energy.

The Dominican Republic shares the Caribbean Island of Hispaniola with Haiti. The northeastern region is vulnerable to floods and mudslides from severe storms, while arid parts of the northwest are experiencing increasing temperatures leading to more drought, which reduces crop yields and water supplies. Hispaniola Island is in the centre of a hurricane belt, where intense storms often damage coastal infrastructure and fish nurseries, negatively impacting tourism and coastal fisheries. The energy sector is responsible for most of the Dominican Republic's [greenhouse gas emissions](#), followed by agriculture, industrial processes, and waste.

The Dominican Republic has defined a [National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2015-2030](#). The main objectives are to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience, and to facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation into new and existing policies, programmes, and activities.

Through the [Resilient Islands Project](#), the National Society advocated for the strengthening of legal and policy frameworks on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, as well as the mainstreaming and integration of these frameworks into national and regional laws and policies. Furthermore, the National Constitution calls for the efficient and [sustainable use of the nation's natural resources](#) in accordance with the need to adapt to climate change. The government is acting, both domestically and in coordination with the international community, to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Both National Societies are 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; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Societies will focus on reducing the current and future humanitarian impacts of climate and environmental crises and supporting people to adapt. Climate adaptation and mitigation are high on the collective agenda including integrating climate risk management across all programmes, operations, and advocacy. Accordingly, the main objectives of the National Societies are to:

- Ensure that communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation

Planned activities in 2024

- Train staff and volunteers on climate change, climate action, and climate-smart programming
- Engage with national authorities to secure their coordination with existent climate change frameworks

and provide inputs for the revision of national legal frameworks

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Cuban Red Cross in its engagement with national authorities to coordinate the existing climate change frameworks such as Tarea Vida. It will also assist with conducting national workshops on climate change, climate action, and climate-smart programming and the development of enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (eVCA). The National Society's efforts to promote sustainable environmental practices through the IFRC environmental policy will also be aided.

The IFRC will support the Dominican Red Cross with the development of a climate change policy. It will further support the National Society in building the narrative and messaging around climate change and its impact on communities.

The **Italian Red Cross** will continue to assist the Dominican Red Cross with adaptation to climate change and nature-based solutions. Both the Italian Red Cross and the **French Red Cross** will also aid the school-based readiness approach.



Roof brigades of the Cuban Red Cross in Consolación del Sur assisting communities in rebuilding after Hurricane Ian, 8 March 2024. (Photo: Cuban Red Cross/Susana Arroyo)



Disasters and crises

Cuba

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

Cuba's governing structure is the [National Civil Defence](#), established by law in July 1966 with the aim of protecting the population and the national economy in exceptional situations. The system operates throughout the country to support mobilization efforts, emergency planning, early warning systems, recovery and urgent repair, search and rescue efforts, and the reduction of risks and vulnerabilities.

The country's geographical location and the [frequent hydro-meteorological hazards](#) that strike the island have [forced the Cuban Civil Defence system](#) to progressively develop forecasting and early warning for the effective protection of people and material goods in risk areas. Preventive activity is the essential purpose, due to the impact of natural disasters on economic and social development. The context in Cuba demonstrates that disasters occur not only due to increasingly recurrent and extreme weather events but also because of vulnerabilities that have accumulated over time.

The frequency and impact of extreme weather events have a devastating effect on the population and economy, while [Cuba's location](#) in the seismic belt leaves it vulnerable to geological risks. Emerging and re-emerging disease outbreaks are a significant issue for people living in Cuba. The country also faces technological dangers from its own economic development.

[Hurricanes](#) have caused considerable damage to the island's infrastructure and economy in recent years. In September 2022, Hurricane Ian made landfall in the country, impacting 3.2 million people directly and critically damaging housing, access to drinking water and electricity, health and educational institutions, facilities that store or distribute food, thousands of hectares of crops, agricultural and livestock production and fisheries. Previously, Cuba had also suffered the adverse impacts of Hurricanes Irma, Matthew, Ike, and Sandy.

Dominican Republic

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

The Dominican Republic is affected by [multiple natural hazards](#), including tropical storms, droughts, heatwaves, lightning, landslides, dam failures, floods, and forest fires. The country is frequently in the path of hurricanes, especially in the south and northeast during the annual hurricane season from June to November. The climate is hot and humid, the geographical terrain is mountainous, and the largest population concentrations are in the coastal areas. As a

result of these factors, the Dominican Republic is [particularly vulnerable](#) to the effects of climate change, such as storm surges, more intense hurricanes, and flooding.

In June 2023, the Dominican Republic experienced [numerous incidents](#) of urban and rural flooding, river overflowing, and landslides. The National Meteorological Office attributed these events to the presence of a trough at various levels of the troposphere, along with the passage of a tropical wave over the Caribbean Sea. These weather phenomena led to increased humidity and instability, resulting in heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, and strong wind gusts.

The affected areas spanned several provinces, including Azua, Barahona, Bahoruco, Dajabón, Elías Piña, Espaillat, Independencia, La Vega, Pedernales, Santiago, and Santiago Rodríguez. In August 2023, tropical storm Franklin passed over the Dominican Republic and the Turks and Caicos Islands. According to a report from the country's [Emergency Operations Centre](#), Franklin affected 680 homes, isolated 24 communities, and forced 3,390 people to evacuate.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Focus on [preparedness](#) and readiness to respond to shocks, enhancing [community risk reduction](#), and resilience.
- Meet the needs of people affected by crises and disasters through access to in-kind assistance and support that is timely, adequate, and flexible
- Respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters, and leverage their auxiliary role in emergency response
- Expand leadership in the field of [disaster law](#) and improve official/legal recognition of their auxiliary role

Planned activities in 2024

Both National Societies will ensure appropriate targeting, placing affected people and communities at the centre of preparedness and response activities.

Cuban Red Cross

- Raise awareness among communities of risks, and the work of the Red Cross in the mitigation of, preparedness for, and response to those risks
- Take hurricane season preparedness actions
- Organize induction sessions for staff and volunteers to familiarize them with the forecast-based financing approach

Dominican Red Cross

- Strengthen its [cash and voucher assistance](#) response capacity
- Strengthen its [livelihoods](#) response capacity
- Continue strengthening its warehouse infrastructure and logistic capacities
- Increase pre-positioned stocks under the [Humanitarian Corridor Initiative](#)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Cuban Red Cross

The IFRC mechanisms such as the [Disaster Response Emergency Fund](#) (DREF) and [Emergency Appeals](#) will continue to be drawn on as needed for the Cuban Red Cross to respond to disasters and crises.

The IFRC will further aid the National Society in appointing a focal point for [forecast-based financing](#).

The Cuban Red Cross, with the support of the IFRC, has strengthened its disaster management capabilities by enhancing its management of extensive emergency appeals. This effort has reinforced community preparedness and response initiatives, bolstered through collaborative actions during the hurricane season preparedness and coordination with the Cuban Red Cross headquarters in the [Hurricane Ian operation](#).

Dominican Red Cross

The IFRC mechanisms such as the [Disaster Response Emergency Fund](#) (DREF) and [Emergency Appeals](#) will continue

to be drawn on as needed for the Dominican Red Cross to respond to disasters and crises. In November 2023, IFRC launched a [DREF](#) to support the National Society in its response to heavy floods. A DREF allocation of CHF 465,386 was provided to support 7,500 people, over a period of five months. The National Society is assisting them with health-related activities, water and hygiene services, multipurpose cash grants, and basic disaster response actions.

The IFRC is also supporting the Dominican Red Cross in preparedness through [early warning](#), [early action](#), and anticipation to mitigate risks from multiple hazards that affect the lives, livelihoods, homes, and living conditions of vulnerable communities and the most disadvantaged and hard-to-reach people.

The IFRC will provide the National Society with technical support to develop [Early Action Protocols](#). It will further strengthen [shelter](#) response capacity and advocacy on the mandate of the Dominican Red Cross in emergencies. The IFRC will also continue to support the National Society in its efforts to strengthen the humanitarian corridor in addition to its humanitarian warehouse that serves as a key strategic hub in the Latin Caribbean.

The **Haitian Red Cross** and **Cuban Red Cross** will also continue to cooperate with the Dominican Red Cross in the optimization of a humanitarian warehouse in Santo Domingo and to strengthen the humanitarian corridor initiative. They will also support the National Society in the operational and development levels of contingency plans. The **Italian Red Cross** has a well-established Caribbean delegation in the Dominican Republic. It supports the Dominican Red Cross in disaster risk reduction and community projects.



Health and wellbeing

Cuba

In Cuba, universal health access and coverage are based on three key principles: health as a human right, equity, and solidarity. The Cuban authorities have made health a priority since 1959, dedicating efforts and resources to the development and consolidation of the national health system under its governing body, the [Ministry of Public Health](#). Legal regulations are contained within the Constitution of the Republic and under Law 41 on Public Health, which establishes the right to health protection and the responsibility of the State to guarantee this right.

The [national health policy](#) prioritizes health as an essential component of human wellbeing and as a strategic objective of development. Accordingly, all social sectors must share

the objectives of universal health coverage and guarantee equal access to comprehensive and quality health services for everyone. The [national health service is universal](#), free of charge, accessible, regional, and comprehensive, reaching both rural and urban communities. It is structured on three territorial levels (national, province and municipality) and three levels of care based on a network of integrated, comprehensive, general, specialized, and regional services. The first level of care is represented by family doctors and nurses, polyclinics, and other services; the second level is represented by hospitals; and the third level is made up of highly specialized hospitals and research institutes. Primary health care is the strategy and fundamental axis of the national health system.

The [social security system](#) comprises two subsystems: the social security system and the social assistance system. The former guarantees adequate protection to any person disabled by old age or sickness, and provides, in addition to pensions, cash benefits for maternity leave for working women and sickness or accident benefits. The social assistance system provides care for the elderly and the disabled in social institutions through programmes aimed at improving the quality of life and societal integration for those who require it.

Although many of [Cuba's health indicators](#) are among the best in the region of the Americas, in 2011, a reorganization of the health services was decided upon, in line with the process of updating the Cuban economic and social model that was taking place in all sectors of the country. Life expectancy at birth in 2023 was [78.3 years](#), higher than the average for the Region of the Americas and 2.1 years higher than in 2000.

However, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) pose a challenge in the region. NCDs are linked to more than [7 out of 10 deaths](#) in the Caribbean region, which exceeds the global average of nearly 60 per cent. The [prevalence](#) of tobacco (15.9%), high weight (58.5%), arterial hypertension or high blood pressure (19%) and diabetes mellitus (8.4%) contributes to the spread of NCDs.

According to the [United Nations Country Team](#), in the post-COVID context, Cuba has registered a slight deterioration in [indicators](#) such as infant mortality and maternal mortality. The steepest decline was reported in the population with an average annual rate of growth of -6.1 per thousand inhabitants. The crude birth rate was the lowest in the last 55 years, while the mortality rate increased. The rate of the aging population was also recorded among the highest in the region at 21.6%. This demographic panorama complicates elements of vulnerability and reduces the availability of a qualified labour force alongside the sustainability of the social assistance system.

Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, both dengue and malaria are endemic. Outbreaks of dengue occur with greater intensity in the rainy season between June and October, while increasing cases of malaria have been [linked to climatic phenomena](#). Zika, chikungunya and cholera are also present.

Small island communities in the region face a triple burden of malnutrition, whereby undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity exist simultaneously within a population. The Dominican Republic also suffers increasing rates of [diet-related non-communicable diseases](#) with 10.4 per cent of adult populations considered under-nourished and 26.9 per cent considered obese. Climate change is likely to exacerbate the triple burden of malnutrition and the metabolic and lifestyle risk factors for diet-related non-communicable diseases.

Most people in the Dominican Republic have access to clean water and sanitation facilities on a regular basis. Ninety-seven per cent of the population have access to basic drinking water and 84 per cent can use basic sanitation facilities.

The current government has prioritized the policy of universal access to health services as a fundamental principle for the overall design and planning of the national health strategy. Public policies, through the National Multi-Year Public Sector Plan (PNPSP), have led to the launch of a series of actions aimed at achieving universal access to health.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Cuban Red Cross and the Dominican Red Cross will work towards ensuring that everyone has safe and equitable access to health, water, sanitation, and adequate living conditions. This will involve the expansion of integrated [community-based healthcare and first aid](#) and [water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\)](#) programmes to address the unmet needs of vulnerable or marginalized groups. The National Societies will also invest in [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#), training local actors, networks, and volunteers as community-based responders to detect and respond to disease outbreaks and other health risks. They will capitalize on their auxiliary roles to ensure their position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy, and policy platforms and mechanisms.

Planned activities in 2024

Cuban Red Cross

- Maintain the health and dignity of communities in emergencies and disease outbreaks by providing access to appropriate health services
- Coordinate with the Ministry of Health to undertake hygiene promotion and provide safe water for emergency situations
- Implement [psychosocial first aid](#) and [mental health and psychosocial support \(MHPSS\)](#) training for volunteers
- Train hygiene promoters

Dominican Red Cross

- Strengthen pre-hospital care services provided to the state through the 911 system
- Reduce the number of people affected by vector-borne diseases
- Provide [community-based first aid](#) and primary health care
- Provide maternal and child health programmes in vulnerable communities
- Provide psychosocial first aid to people affected with a focus on migrants

- Develop community engagement strategies and guidance for water programmes
- Run a menstrual hygiene campaign

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the Cuban Red Cross in assuming its role in coordination and advocacy platforms. It will aid the National Society in implementing various training for volunteers and its coordination with the Ministry of Health to undertake hygiene promotion and provide safe water during emergencies.

The IFRC will support the Dominican Red Cross in the implementation of feedback mechanisms focused on health programmes and through behavioural change campaigns based on the feedback. It will assist the Dominican Red Cross in developing communications and social media campaign materials in Creole targeting affected populations, especially on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) topics that reduce fear and stress during emergencies. The IFRC will also aid the National Society in conducting a feasibility study for a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) training centre, as well as develop community engagement strategies and guidance for water programmes.



Migration and displacement

Cuba

Cuba hosts 180 refugees and asylum-seekers from over 16 countries under UNHCR's mandate. The migratory flows consist of many people from different countries such as Haiti, Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, and Sudan. Of these, 54 per cent lack legal status in the country, and 33 per cent are women and children.

Between 2012 and 2022, the country suffered 19 disasters such as storms, floods, and wildfires which internally displaced 4.2 million people. Internal displacements are still underway with the November 2023 floods forcefully relocating 17,689 people in the region of Santiago de Cuba, while 76,221 people had to evacuate to centres set up by local government authorities or to the homes of friends and family due to Hurricane Ian.

Historically, the National Society has supported migrants arriving in Cuba and within Cuba with shelter, medical attention, WASH facilities and protection measures. National Society staff and volunteers continuously respond to the needs of the affected population in coordination with the authorities.

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is a country of both emigration and immigration. According to the OECD, 12 per cent of its population resides abroad, while immigrants constitute about 4 per cent of the population. The country benefits from a large volume of remittances which represent approximately 7 per cent of the GDP, exceeding foreign direct investment.

The Dominican Republic is one of the main host countries for Haitian and Venezuelan populations. As recorded by the UNDP, 86.5 per cent of the migrant population in the Dominican Republic is from Haiti. Haitian migration is

influenced by transborder commercial dynamics, the pursuit of job opportunities or the desire to escape the political instability and violence. However, deportations of Haitians have increased. Human rights organizations have reported that several deportations have been carried out without respect to legal procedures and humanitarian principles and have caused the separation of families, physical violence, and the expulsion of Dominicans of Haitian descent.

The country also hosts the largest number of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the Caribbean. In 2021, the Government launched a three-phase 'Normalization Plan for Venezuelans' to better integrate the estimated 87 per cent of Venezuelans living in irregular situations prior to the start of the plan. The implementation of the plan is supported by the UN and civil society organizations through the R4V Platform.

Refugees and migrants in the Dominican Republic have access to public services such as primary and secondary education and primary health care. However, tertiary education and secondary or long-term health care through the public systems remain elusive. The economic revival of the country, coupled with access to work permits, is expected to decrease the reliance of refugees and migrants on humanitarian aid and require more livelihood and integration interventions.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Both National Societies are part of the IFRC 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.

In line with the above, both National Societies will work to ensure that displaced people are safe and treated humanely and with dignity, with access to the assistance and protection support. The National Societies will:

- Ensure that migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance, protection, and durable solutions when appropriate at key points along migratory routes
- Work to engage with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to more effectively assess, understand, and respond to their priority needs

The Dominican Red Cross will make efforts to establish its migration strategy.

Planned activities in 2024

Cuban Red Cross

- Establish fixed or mobile [humanitarian service points](#) (HSPs) to support migrants arriving at the coast
- Conduct training for staff and volunteers on migration issues
- Participate in regional migration platforms
- Conduct [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) training for staff and volunteers with a focus on migration

Dominican Red Cross

- Establish six HSPs in the provinces of Santo Domingo, Santiago, and La Altagracia

- Incorporate the focus of [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) and [PGI](#) into the [humanitarian service points \(HSPs\)](#)
- Implement feedback mechanisms to collect migrant opinions, doubts, suggestions, etc.
- Create materials with important information for migrants

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Cuban Red Cross in establishing [humanitarian service points \(HSPs\)](#) while also improving the monitoring of migration trends and needs by developing a migration preparedness plan inclusive of all migration routes. The IFRC will train the National Society on [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) with a focus on migration.

The IFRC teams will work to ensure prepositioned household and relief items to assist the Cuban authorities while they support the receipt and safe return of migrants. They will also provide and position hygiene kits to be at disposal of the National Society while receiving migrants.

The IFRC will support the Dominican Red Cross in establishing its migration strategy. Support will also be provided in expanding and standardizing the [HSP](#) model, with the integration of [CEA](#) and [PGI](#) into the model.

The **Italian Red Cross**, in coordination with the IFRC, will provide technical support to the Dominican Red Cross in the establishment of its migration strategy.

The **ICRC**, in coordination with the IFRC, will provide technical support and guidance to the National Society in matters related to migration. This strategy will be part of the services provided by the [Humanitarian Corridor Initiative](#).



Values, power and inclusion

Cuba

The Cuban state is committed to the empowerment of women and has enacted a series of laws and policies to promote women's equal and active participation in society. A [report by the Overseas Development Institute \(ODI\)](#) shows remarkable progress made towards women's economic empowerment and gender equality – and this is due to the provision of universal and free education, state employment opportunities,

equal pay for equal work, maternity protection and childcare facilities.

However, the report also reveals that these measures have fallen short of challenging deeply entrenched gendered social norms about female and male roles in the family and society. According to [UN Women](#), 29.4% of women aged 20–24 years were married or in a union before age 18, making the adolescent birth rate 53.3 per 1,000 women aged 15-19. Women and girls

aged above 15 spent 21 per cent of their time on unpaid care and domestic work, compared to 12.5 per cent spent by men.

[Humanity and Inclusion](#) reports that although people with disabilities receive free medical care, the lack of transportation services and of modern, specialized equipment (such as hearing tests) limit access to healthcare. People with disabilities are particularly vulnerable when natural disasters such as hurricanes occur.

Regarding attitudes and acceptance towards the LGBTQ+ community, independent reports note more tolerant attitudes in recent years. In 2018, the National Assembly voted to legalize same-sex marriage with a constitutional referendum to be held in February 2019, but it was later removed from the draft constitution. In May 2019, the government announced that the Union of Jurists of Cuba was working on a [new Family Code](#) which will address same-sex marriage. Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is illegal in Cuba.

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is a developing country working towards inclusion and attention to vulnerable groups. However, demographic, economic, and social challenges persist.

[Gender-based discrimination and violence](#) remains a pervasive protection risk in the country. According to [UN Women](#), 9.6 per cent of women reported that they had been subject to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Furthermore, 35.9 per cent of women were married or in a union before the age of 18 and the adolescent birth rate is 53.5 per 1,000 women. Women and girls also disproportionately undertook unpaid care and domestic work, spending 16 per cent of their day on it, while men spent 3.9 per cent.

It is worth noting that gender wage gaps, shorter formal careers, and higher unemployment and unpaid roles, all combine to contribute to [higher poverty among women](#) of all age groups in the Dominican Republic as compared to men. In addition, adolescent pregnancy remains exceptionally high by global standards and well above the Latin America and the Caribbean average. Due to the wide social tolerance of child marriage and high school dropout rates, [seven in every ten adolescents \(71.5%\)](#) who were married or in an early sexual relationship, reported being pregnant at least once. A [World Bank report](#) notes that the age of first sexual abuse is strongly related to adolescent pregnancy.

People with disabilities face significant obstacles in fully developing their abilities. Limited access to inclusive education, decent employment, and social participation reinforces the relationship between disability and poverty. The [Ministry of Education](#) has found that 64 per cent of schools do not have support staff for the educational inclusion of students living with disabilities, and 59 per cent have no specific

methodological strategies or teaching resources adapted to the learning processes of these students. According to the [National Single Beneficiary System](#), 16.6 per cent of disabled persons over 15 years have not achieved any level of education. Further, 38 per cent have basic education, 35 per cent have completed secondary education, and 8.9 per cent have completed university. A lack of participation and access to basic services from early childhood limits the development of people living with disabilities, denying them the opportunity to live a dignified and independent adult life.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Both National Societies aim to protect and promote positive change for their communities based on humanitarian values and principles. They seek to increase the capacities of their branches to engage young people and the education sector in their work, protect people and their dignity, and contribute towards building resilience and peaceful environments. They will:

- Ensure safety and inclusivity, ensuring dignity, access, and participation for people of all identities
- Contribute to a positive change in communities through wider understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of the [Fundamental Principles](#) and humanitarian values, [focusing especially on young people's](#) knowledge, skills, and [behaviour](#)

Planned activities in 2024

Cuban Red Cross

- Train protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) staff and volunteers on community engagement and accountability approaches
- Conduct [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) training for staff and volunteers with a focus on migration

Dominican Red Cross

- Provide protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) training for staff and volunteers
- Strengthen community engagement and accountability mechanisms, including the collection of migrant concerns and opinions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Cuban Red Cross and the Dominican Red Cross by ensuring the proper training in [protection, gender and inclusion minimum standards](#) during emergencies for staff and volunteers. It will promote guidance and tools for

monitoring community satisfaction and levels of community engagement and accountability.

The IFRC will also support the National Societies to:

- Develop more inclusive and diverse work dynamics
- Establish a protection, gender, and inclusion policy

- Raise awareness of the importance of promoting positive change based on humanitarian principles and values
- Collect feedback data disaggregated according to age and sex

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

Both National Societies are committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and are engaged in the IFRC Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process. The Cuban Red Cross is at the action and accountability phase, and the Dominican Red Cross is at the orientation phase. The approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to

assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps in their preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take the necessary action to improve it.

The Dominican Red Cross also carried out the self-assessment phase of the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification process (OCAC) in 2014. The self-assessment phase of the process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Societies aim to:

- Increase cooperation and coordination with external partners to address major challenges facing communities
- Ensure membership coordination to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions, and the shift in its mindset towards a Federation-wide approach leading to increased trust within the network

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support both the National Societies through IFRC guidance and information of interest. It will promote the work of volunteers and be actively involved in national coordination systems for disaster and crisis management. It will also support with strengthening resource mobilization capabilities, and fostering effective partnerships to address the needs of vulnerable populations.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Societies will work to further their development by:

- Ensuring that they are trusted partners of choice for local humanitarian action with the capabilities to act in the global network
- Prioritizing volunteering development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Cuban Red Cross in revising the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment ([BOCA](#)) and develop strategies to address identified gaps in capacity. In 2023, the IFRC continued the efforts support the Cuban Red Cross in National Society development and held an introduction to the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification ([OCAC](#)) and BOCA. It will also help the National Society to obtain remote Internet connection at headquarters and then progressively at its branches.

The IFRC will support the Dominican Red Cross in accomplishing its high-level objectives. The **Italian Red Cross** will assist with the youth development project for the Dominican Red Cross.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Societies aim to successfully promote their work and advocate for change, influencing public behaviour, [policies](#), and decisions on a domestic, regional, and global scale.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Cuban Red Cross in sharing the IFRC guidance and information of interest through corresponding Cuban authorities. It will support the National Society to mitigate

and minimize the impact of the current context in which Cuba is dealing with sanctions and banking system challenges. The **Canadian Red Cross Society** supports the Cuban Red Cross with [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) (PER).

The IFRC will continue to work closely with the Dominican Red Cross, advocating for the interests of vulnerable populations with decision-makers and influencers, enhancing access to decision-making processes, expanding humanitarian access for the National Society and the IFRC, and raising public awareness about Red Cross Red Crescent initiatives.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen their accountability mechanisms
- Undergo a [digital transformation](#)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Cuban Red Cross in applying the IFRC's Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) capacity assessment tool, in accordance with the National

Society's needs and priorities. It will also provide staff with related capacity building and technical support.

The IFRC will support the Dominican Red Cross via the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#) to improve accountability mechanisms. It will enhance its PMER capacity by building on recommendations from prior workshops and training sessions supported by IFRC. It will also support the National Society in implementing [CEA minimum commitments](#) and advise the use of CEA tools.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the National Societies in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, through its Latin Caribbean Country Cluster Delegation based in the Dominican Republic. It operates with support from an extended regional team of specialists in different areas, including disaster risk reduction, community health, emergency response, logistics, finance, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, and information management.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Societies in Cuba and the Dominican Republic through [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) and Emergency Appeals operations. These operations have supported emergency responses to tornados, hurricanes, floods, droughts and population movement in [Cuba](#), and tropical storms, hurricanes, floods and disease outbreaks in the [Dominican Republic](#). To support

the response to Hurricane Ian in Cuba, the IFRC deployed a response team from the Americas Regional Office and Latin Caribbean Country Cluster Delegation. The IFRC also employed an operation manager as part of the surge capacity scheme for two months, providing a permanent presence in Cuba until long-term staff can be assigned to the operation. Through its global appeal on the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC supported both National Societies during their COVID-19 responses with funding and technical assistance.

All procurement processes are coordinated through the IFRC regional logistics unit in Panama to ensure material availability and expedite the procurement process. Managing procurements from the regional logistics unit is more expeditious as there is limited availability of materials and supplies in Cuba.

IFRC membership coordination

The 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.

The National Societies in Cuba and the Dominican Republic, along with other National Societies in Central America, also receive support from [IFRC Reference Centre for Institutional Disaster Preparedness \(CREPD\)](#) hosted by the Salvadorean Red Cross and supported by IFRC. Communication and coordination channels across the region are available for the exchange of information on operational activities and different contextual analyses, with meetings held on a regular basis. The centre assists National Societies in strengthening their disaster preparedness capacities through the development of methodologies, tools and harmonization processes, complemented with the expertise and best practices of National Societies.

The [IFRC Reference Centre for Institutional Disaster Preparedness \(CREPD\)](#) has been working with the Dominican Red Cross in strengthening capacity for [planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting \(PMER\)](#), and preparedness for effective response, among others.

The following participating National Societies are supporting the National Societies in Cuba and the Dominican Republic:

The **French Red Cross** supports the Latin Caribbean National Societies (Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti), through its [American-Caribbean regional intervention platform \(PIRAC\)](#), which acts as the international delegation of the French Red Cross for the Caribbean region. In coordination with the IFRC, the platform has been responding to emergencies and supporting initiatives to strengthen the resilience of Caribbean territories since 2005. The French Red Cross has its coordination offices in Guadeloupe, with teams and emergency resources located in various French territories in the region.

The **Haitian Red Cross** and **Cuban Red Cross** support with the Dominican Red Cross in the operational and development levels of contingency plans.

The **Italian Red Cross** has a well-established Caribbean delegation in the Dominican Republic. It supports the

Dominican Red Cross in disaster risk reduction and community projects, and in strengthening its youth department. It continues to support the well-being of young mothers and households in vulnerable communities in the Province of Elias

Pina. The Italian Red Cross has also developed remote technical assistance for virtual learning and volunteer management.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Canadian Red Cross Society							●
French Red Cross	200,000	●	●				
Italian Red Cross	135,000	●	●	●	●		●
Spanish Red Cross	58,000						●

Total Funding requirement
393,000

Movement coordination

The Cuban Red Cross and the Dominican Red Cross ensure regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

Through its regional [delegation in Venezuela](#), the ICRC carries out work relating to its mandate and operations to meet immediate needs in Cuba and the Dominican Republic. It works with the Cuban Red Cross and the Dominican Red Cross to advance work in International Humanitarian Law and [Restoring Family Links \(RFL\)](#). As part of this work, the ICRC provides information and technical support to migration, gender, and inclusion focal points at the National Societies as part of this initiative to enhance their responses.



The Dominican Red Cross volunteers conducted blood typing at the Piedra Blanca Polytechnic School for 90 students and administrative staff, on 25 March 2024. (Photo: Dominican Red Cross)

Coordination with other actors

The **Cuban Red Cross** works in coordination with Cuban authorities, primarily civil defence, local government, management centres for risk reduction and the Ministry of Public Health. The National Civil Defence system integrates all levels, from nation to community, with measures for prevention, mitigation, and preparedness. It is also responsible for the dissemination of guidelines on the protection of the population, their property, and the national economy. The National Civil Defence staff is the main governing body of this system, in charge of overseeing compliance with civil defence measures and international conventions related to civil protection. It is also responsible for coordinating international cooperation and assistance during disasters. In times of emergency, the National Society liaises closely with authorities and oversees the arrival of humanitarian goods, which must pass through several government approvals to enter Cuba.

Throughout the ongoing Hurricane Ian response, the Cuban Red Cross and the IFRC are actively coordinating with other humanitarian actors, conducting numerous meetings both in country and externally. UN OCHA also organized an ad hoc meeting with the Regional Group on Risks, Emergencies and Disasters for Latin America and the Caribbean, where the UN Plan of Action and IFRC Emergency Appeal were shared among the UN agencies and international NGOs. The United Nations system in Cuba supports national response efforts to address the most urgent needs, primarily through in-country pre-positioned supplies and by mobilizing its own resources. UNICEF, UNESCO and UNFPA are addressing programmatic areas related to [MHPSS](#) and [PGI](#), based on their expertise and humanitarian mandate. Care International also has a presence in several affected municipalities through its disaster preparedness projects.

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation continues to support the Cuban Red Cross to implement the strategic plan of the Ministry of Public Health, with a financial contribution for the purchase of medicines and medical equipment.

The **Dominican Red Cross** is actively represented at national, provincial, and municipal levels and works closely with the following organizations:

- The National Council for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response, the governing body in charge of guiding, directing, planning, and coordinating the national system
- The National Emergency Commission
- The Emergency Operations Centre
- The National Technical Committee for Risk Prevention and Mitigation – the Dominican Red Cross branches act as the operational arm of the Provincial and Municipal Committees for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response
- Consultative teams

The Dominican Red Cross has established agreements and strategic alliances with external actors to complement and strengthen its prevention and response actions. Through the development of projects, the National Society has developed important relationships with various UN agencies including the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to strengthen community resilience through the national prevention, mitigation, and response system. Together with the IFRC, the National Society has been working to establish a humanitarian corridor between Hispaniola and Cuba.

The Dominican Red Cross is also part of a regional consortium with the Nature Conservancy and the IFRC to develop its ecosystem-based adaptation and climate action.

The COVID-19 response operation enabled the National Society to build additional partnerships for resource mobilization, including Mastercard and a network of private banks in the Dominican Republic.



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 Cuban Red Cross and the Dominican 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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