



ARGENTINA

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

12 August 2024

IN SUPPORT OF THE ARGENTINE RED CROSS SOCIETY CRUZ ROJA ARGENTINA



63

National Society branches



65

National Society local units



2,954

National Society volunteers



1,620

National Society staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Disasters and crises



2,500

Health and wellbeing



5,000

Values, power and inclusion



1

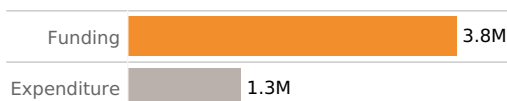
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

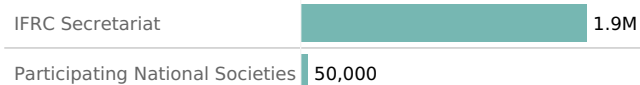
Country	Funding Requirement	2.3M
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	Funding: 609,000
		Expenditure: 266,000
	Longer-term	Funding Requirement: 2.2M
		Funding: 626,000
		Expenditure: 572,000
		Funding Requirement: 50,000
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	50,000

Argentine Red Cross

Overview



Funding Sources



Appeal number **MAAAR002**

In addition to: CHF 609,000 DREF Funding

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Disasters and crises	People reached with shelter support	3,000
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	2,000
Health and wellbeing	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	5,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	5,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	5,000
Values, power and inclusion	Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of	1
National Society development	Youth engagement strategy developed or in place	Yes
	One National Society Development plan in place	Yes
	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of their volunteers	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society is showing progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
	Functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
British Red Cross	●		
German Red Cross		●	
Swiss Red Cross	●		
Ukrainian Red Cross Society		●	●

■ Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

In 2023, Argentina experienced both climatic and economic challenges, adversely impacting the daily lives of people in the country. A series of extreme weather events such as persistent heat waves reached record temperatures of 48.5°C causing significant rainfall deficits, with 2023 being the twentieth driest year since 1961. However, some areas such as Ituzaingó experienced recorded the highest daily rainfall of the year while the north of the Argentine Litoral region suffered floods and rising rivers as a result of heavy rains.

Argentina's challenges also included economic hurdles such as inflation as high as 200%, the impact of drought on agriculture, and political uncertainty. The persistent high inflation eroded the purchasing power of the population, making it difficult to access basic goods and services. In addition, there was a gradual increase in the official exchange rate, which raised concerns about its impact on domestic prices and the competitiveness of Argentine exports in the international market. This also reflects the lack of confidence in the national currency and the country's economic stability. Although the Central Bank's reserves showed signs of some stability, they are still insufficient to cover the country's economic needs, limiting the capacity to respond to possible financial crises.

There was a high rate of unemployment and insufficient creation of new jobs, which contributed to labour precariousness and hindered the improvement of the population's living conditions. Poverty continued to be a significant problem in Argentina, with a large part of the population living below the poverty line, representing a major challenge for the country's social and economic development.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

The Argentine Red Cross began a study on the humanitarian impact of climate change. This study aimed to understand community perceptions of climate change in Argentina and how these perceptions influenced the mechanisms people adopted to address and adapt to climate impacts. Data was collected through interviews and focus groups in Corrientes, Esperanza, La Plata, Mendoza, Neuquén, and Quilmes. The analysis was particularly valuable for evidence-based decision-making and designing risk management strategies, early warning systems, and community resilience-building programmes. By incorporating the perspectives of affected communities, the study ensured greater relevance and effectiveness in interventions addressing climate change challenges.

Disasters and crises

In 2023, the Argentine Red Cross responded to two emergencies with the support of the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF). It provided aid to regions affected by floods and storms, including support in shelter, health, WASH, and community engagement and accountability (CEA). The National Society also worked with the IFRC Climate Centre to strengthen its forecast-based action (FbA) capabilities, aiming to reduce the impact of emergencies that can be anticipated at least ten days in advance. A national monitoring team was established to track catastrophic or slow-onset events, supporting emergency response planning. The Argentine Red Cross also sought to improve its official recognition as an auxiliary in disaster risk management, participating in international courses and platforms, including sessions on leveraging its auxiliary role and advancing disaster risk reduction efforts.

Health and wellbeing

The Argentine Red Cross, along with the IFRC and the ICRC, met with the Ministry of Health to discuss the participation of the Red Cross Movement in the 'V Global Mental Health Summit' hosted by the Argentine government in October.

Migration and displacement

To assist the needs of vulnerable migrants and displaced people, including internally displaced persons, the Argentine Red Cross held meetings with the migration focal points of Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay to improve coordination

between border National Societies on migration issues. The Argentine Red Cross was leading the space, improving the coordination between neighbouring National Societies around migration issues, to enable them to share tools and cross-check border monitoring data.

Values, power, and inclusion

The Argentine Red Cross worked to incorporate the terms of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) in the study on community perception of climate change in Argentina. The National Society aimed to facilitate its understanding and application by diverse audiences, including policymakers, development professionals, and community members at large.

Enabling local actors

The Argentine Red Cross prioritized youth volunteerism and action as key drivers for behaviour change and local action. Collaborating with the National Team and regional coordination of volunteering and youth development, the National Society developed a session focused on understanding the necessary enabling environments for effective humanitarian missions. This initiative aimed to stimulate internal discussions among participants. The Argentine Red Cross also worked on enhancing its image and advocating for change at various levels, including strengthening its auxiliary role and expanding humanitarian diplomacy activities. The National Society met with the Inter-American Development Bank (CAF) in Buenos Aires to discuss cooperation, with follow-up discussions taking place during the disaster risk reduction platform. Additionally, the Argentine Red Cross began building its risk management capabilities, holding meetings to design a dedicated team for this purpose, with plans to continue development in 2024. The risk management officer for the Americas participated as a speaker in the "Escuela de Dirigentes," a leadership training programme for Argentine Red Cross branch and headquarters leaders. In line with its goal of digital transformation, the National Society invested in video conferencing systems, equipment, and internet services to strengthen digital participation through its digital engagement capacity-building project.

Changes and amendments

The Argentine Red Cross's implementation of the plan was subject to the available funding which is limited for the Southern Cone and may have resulted in some changes and revised milestones.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the National Society received no funding for activities under this objective. However, upon the request of the Under-Secretary National Society Development and Operations Coordination (NSDOC), the Argentine Red Cross began conducting a study on the humanitarian impact of climate change.

To understand the community's perception of climate change in Argentina, the study was undertaken by the Argentine Red Cross. The main objective was to understand how these perceptions influenced the mechanisms people adopted to address and adapt to climate impacts. The data was supplemented with qualitative information gathered through interviews and focus groups in Corrientes, Esperanza, La Plata, Mendoza, Neuquén, and Quilmes. The analysis was particularly valuable for evidence-based decision-making and the design of risk management strategies, early warning systems, and community resilience-building programmes. By involving the voices and perceptions of affected

communities, greater relevance and effectiveness in interventions aimed at addressing climate change challenges are ensured.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society through the [IFRC's Climate Centre](#) with increasing cooperation to scale up [anticipatory action](#) in the region. The Argentine Red Cross has been working with the Climate Centre to activate its response mechanisms and reduce the impact of emergencies in crises that can be anticipated at least 10 days in advance. The IFRC Climate Centre supported the National Society in finalising the Early Action Protocols (EAPs) for implementation in the second half of the year.

The German Red Cross provided technical support to the National Society to increase the focus on reducing the current and future humanitarian impact of climate and environmental crises through [anticipatory action](#).



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit the [IFRC GO page: Argentina](#).

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) was approved for two separate emergencies:

1. Argentina - Floods

NAME OF OPERATION	Argentina - Flood June 2023
MDR-CODE	MDRAR019
DURATION	5 months (6 June 2023 to 30 November 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 269,978
PEOPLE TARGETED	5,000
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Final Report

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 269,978 in June 2023 supported the Argentine Red Cross in assisting approximately 5,000 people affected by the storms that caused floods in the municipalities of Quilmes and Neuquén. The National Society supported the targeted people over a five-month period with assistance in shelter housing, health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and CEA (community engagement and accountability).

2. Argentina - Storm Bahia Blanca

NAME OF OPERATION	Argentina - Storm Bahia Blanca
MDR-CODE	MDRAR020
DURATION	4 months (28 December 2023 to 30 April 2024)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 339,101
PEOPLE TARGETED	4,000
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Operation

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 339,101 in December 2023 supported the Argentine Red Cross in aiding approximately 4,000 people affected by the storm in the city of Bahía Blanca and the resulting structural damage. The National Society supported the targeted people over a four-month period with health, shelter, multi-purpose cash transfer, and CEA (community engagement and accountability).

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

Progress by the National Society against objectives

As part of its objectives to help prepare communities to respond to and recover from disasters and crises, the Argentine Red Cross jointly implemented a Risk Management programme with the Health and Risk Management Directorates. It included aspects related to risk preparedness and mitigation, as well as preparedness and healthcare actions. The programme aimed to build community resilience and disaster preparedness among rural communities and governmental stakeholders in northeast Corrientes. Throughout a 12-month period, the National Society aimed for these communities to better withstand, adapt to, and recover from future adversities and promote ecosystem recovery.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC contributed to support the Argentine Red Cross in its current operations including the development of digital content and campaigns to catalyze social conversation about the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement's actions to address the climate crisis and its impact on livelihoods, communities and ecosystems. This content will continue to support National Societies to work in community and governmental contexts to build resilience.

People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through access to in-kind assistance and support that is timely, adequate, flexible and strengthens their agency

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Argentine Red Cross responded to two separate emergencies through the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF). It provided emergency relief to multiple regions affected by floods and storms, working to aid with shelter housing, health, access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and CEA (community engagement and accountability) to help communities recover.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the National Society in operationalizing two disaster responses, as well as the distribution of emergency relief. The IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals were drawn upon as reflected above in the National Society's response to disasters and crises.

National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters and leverage their auxiliary role in emergency response

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In an endeavour to strengthen its forecast-based action (FbA), the Argentine Red Cross has been working with the International Federation's Climate Center for over three years. It aims to activate response mechanisms and reduce the impact of emergencies in crises that can be anticipated at least ten days in advance, mostly associated with climate change and variability in the coastal area. The National Society is responding to the consultations of the early action plan evaluation group, which is expected to be implemented during 2024.

The Argentine Red Cross established a national monitoring team with a system tracking catastrophic or slow-onset events, allowing informed decisions to be made in case of emergency. The team is active and provided support in the preparation of action plans for emergency response in 2023.

The National Society also worked to improve the official recognition of its auxiliary role in disaster risk management. It attended the Movement induction course in Panama with 23 participants, including presidents and directors of the Red Cross-National Societies from across the Americas. The National Society also attended the Disaster Law team's session on leveraging our auxiliary status with governments in the Bahamas in 2023. The session focused on highlighting the importance of the auxiliary role of National Societies by exploring the experiences and perspectives of several other National Societies, the Argentine Red Cross discussed the long process to pass a new Red Cross law. Finally, it also attended the VIII regional platform for disaster risk reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean in

Uruguay. Representatives from the National Society participated in the discussions and decisions to advance disaster risk reduction in the different regions.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Argentine Red Cross by providing technical support for the activation of the early action plan, if necessary. The IFRC also worked together with the regional office to monitor and support the implementation of the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) strategy.



Health and wellbeing

National Societies capitalize on their auxiliary role to ensure their position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Argentine Red Cross President, along with the head of delegation from the IFRC and the head of delegation from the ICRC, met with the Ministry of Health to discuss the participation of the Red Cross Movement in the 'V Global Mental Health Summit' hosted by the Argentine government in October.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC as a result of the aforementioned discussion, is part of the technical working group of the 'V Global Mental Health Summit'. It has secured the participation of some National Societies at the Summit. In addition, the Humanitarian Observatory will present reports on mental health carried out in several countries.



The Argentine Red Cross supported the affected communities of Chos Malal, Vista Alegre and Centenario who were affected by rain-induced flooding, 11 July 2023. (Photo: Argentine Red Cross).



Migration and displacement

Migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes as well as access to durable solutions when appropriate

Progress by National Society against objectives

One of the objectives of the Argentine Red Cross was to address the immediate assistance and protection needs of vulnerable migrants and displaced people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs). As a result, the National Society held meetings with the migration focal points of Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay to improve coordination between border National Societies on migration issues. The Argentine Red Cross was leading the space, improving the coordination between neighbouring National Societies around migration issues, to enable them to share tools and cross-check border monitoring data.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC continued to support the National Society's efforts to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced people. This included providing access to essential services.

The ICRC supported the National Society in its coordination efforts with the Country Cluster Delegation for the Andean Countries to improve coordination between neighbouring National Societies around migration.



Values, power and inclusion

People and communities, vulnerable to and affected by crises, are empowered to influence decisions affecting them and trust the IFRC Network to serve their best interests

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Argentine Red Cross worked to incorporate the terms of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) in the study on community perception of climate change in Argentina. The National Society aimed to facilitate its understanding and application by diverse audiences, including policymakers, development professionals, and community members at large.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society by upholding the community engagement and accountability (CEA) framework.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

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.

In 2023, the National Society, with support from the IFRC, implemented IFRC-DREF operations for floods in Quilmes and the province of Neuquén. It also assisted with the OCAC certification and volunteering database from the financial support of the [Capacity Building Fund](#) (CBF).

The in-country participating National Societies include the **Canadian Red Cross Society**, the **German Red Cross**, and the **Spanish Red Cross**.

Movement coordination

The National Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross 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.

The ICRC has been operating in Argentina the 1970s. Its work focuses on the identification of unidentified Argentine soldiers buried at Darwin Cemetery in the Falkland/Malvinas Islands. It also fosters adoption and promotes International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the armed forces and the academic communities and supports the National Committee for the Implementation of IHL.

External coordination

In line with its auxiliary role, the Argentine Red Cross works closely with the national authorities in their respective countries, particularly in disaster management and response. The National Society has signed a three-year agreement with AySA, the concessionaire of public drinking water and sewage treatment services for the City of Buenos Aires, to carry out the technical and social monitoring of the Conectar T programme. It is launched together with the World Bank to make 10,000 links to the drinking water network and 20,000 links to the sewage service.

The National Society has several collaborative humanitarian networks that include different state agencies such as the National Meteorological Service, the Government of the Province of San Juan, the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires, the Municipality of San Pedro, the Municipality of Baradero, security forces (National Gendarmerie, Argentine Naval Prefecture) among several others.

The Argentine Red Cross is also part of different instances and mechanisms for articulation and decision-making in the field of emergency response, risk management, and health training. This includes the Network of Scientific and Technical Organizations for Disaster Risk Management, the Advisory Council for Adolescent and Youth Health (CONSAJU), and the Permanent Advisory Commission of the National Directorate of Nursing.

The National Society also has financial support from the following companies: Andreani, Mc Donalds, IRSA, Macro, Call Care, Pudencia, Mazalan, Banco Comafi, Santander, Bayer, Naturgy, Unilever, Coca-Cola, Banco Hipotecario, Walmart, Mercado Libre, Jetsmart, Uber, Mastercard, Alicorp, Movistar, Go Integro, La Segunda, Global Logics, P&G, Carrefour, Ford, SeSock, Cruz del Sur, DHL, Danone, The North.



National Society Development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Argentine Red Cross worked to prioritize the development of youth volunteerism and action as critical catalysts for behaviour change and local action. The National Society developed a session with the National Team, aiming at preparing their national meeting. The regional coordination of volunteering & youth development prepared this together with the cluster office this session. The objective was to understand what the enabling environments are and why they are necessary when carrying out humanitarian missions. The National Society achieved this by looking at the programmatic areas of Headquarters and initiating questions so that the participants could work on them internally.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society through grants such as the [Capacity Building Fund \(CBF\)](#) which enabled the Argentine Red Cross to carry out the second phase of the [OCAC](#), peer evaluation, and volunteer management platform through the MONDAY tool.

The IFRC also assisted the National Society with technical support to prepare a workshop on the volunteering cycle at the national and branch levels. The regional coordination of volunteering and youth development provided the terms of reference that were adapted to the needs of the National Society.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Argentine Red Cross worked towards promoting its image and advocating for change, affecting public behaviour, policies, and decisions on a domestic, regional, and global scale. In line with its objectives, the National Society strengthened its auxiliary role and increased its humanitarian diplomacy activities. The President of the Argentine Red Cross visited the Vice-President of the Inter-American Development Bank (CAF) in Buenos Aires and discussed cooperation between the CAF and the IFRC in the continent. Follow-up discussions took place during the disaster risk reduction platform and CAF was invited to participate in the IFRC Inter-American Conference.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society by commissioning global research on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic. The fieldwork and data collection were carried out by forty-two National Societies, including the Argentine Red Cross, and private actors who gathered representatives from each sector and collaborated with the research.

The IFRC, together with the Argentine Red Cross and **the ICRC**, met the Ministry of Health to discuss the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's participation at the V Global Mental Health Summit that was hosted by the Argentinian Government on 5 and 6 October. As a result, IFRC was part of the technical working group and has secured the participation of some National Societies at the Summit.

The IFRC initiated a collaboration with the Argentine Council for Diplomatic Relations (CARI, by its initials in Spanish). An official collaboration could be formalized in 2024.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Argentine Red Cross began working towards building a risk management capability. In 2023, several meetings took place to design and roll out a plan in the Argentine Red Cross headquarters for creating a dedicated team trained in risk management and continuing with its development during 2024.

Further, the risk management officer for the Americas participated as a speaker in the regular "Escuela de Dirigentes" of the Argentine Red Cross, where leadership from branches and headquarters follow intensive training in the key leadership areas of management.

As part of its objective to undergo a [digital transformation](#), the Argentine Red Cross invested in its video conferencing systems, equipment, and internet services through the National Society's digital engagement capacity-building project. This was done to reduce the digital bridge and strengthen capacities for digital participation.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society assistance with the IFRC global deployment of the IFRC Risk Management policy. Several trainings regarding risk management with Southern Cone Delegation were undertaken. In addition, ad-hoc support was provided to the National Society within the cluster.



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.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Argentina 2023 Financial Report](#)
- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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