



# LATIN CARIBBEAN

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

4 November 2024

## IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS NATIONAL SOCIETIES OF THE LATIN CARIBBEAN



**183**

National Society branches



**1,866**

National Society local units



**51,998**

National Society volunteers



**1,721**

National Society staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency operations



**22,191**

Climate and environment



**5,435**

Disaster and crises



**1,507,572**

Health and wellbeing



**1,200,689**

Migration and displacement



**797**

Values, power and inclusion










**368,844**

Appeal number **MAACU003** | **MAADO002**

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement		10.4M
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	Funding Requirement	 9M
		Funding	 3.2M
		Expenditure	 3M
Longer-term	Funding Requirement	 1.4M	
	Funding	 565,000	
	Expenditure	 206,000	

### Cuban Red Cross

#### Overview

Funding

*Not reported*

Expenditure

*Not reported*

#### Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat

 1.8M



Participating National Societies

*Not reported*

HNS other funding sources

*Not reported*

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	Developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks?	Yes
	Implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups?	Yes
	Implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)?	Yes
	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	4,000
Disasters and crises	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 1.5M
	People reached with shelter support	22,000
Health and wellbeing	People donating blood	9,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	 1.2M
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	17,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	63,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	68,000



# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

During 2023, Cuba continued to experience challenges affecting the overall humanitarian conditions in the country. Cuba's economic growth is less than 2 per cent in 2023 and remains 8 percentage points below pre-pandemic levels. Meanwhile, production in sectors such as agriculture, mining, and manufacturing was further behind. 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 per cent. Cuba is the only country in Latin America to pursue the development of its own COVID-19 vaccines.

Hurricanes, tropical storms and heavy rains continue to affect Cuba and in 2023 particularly, the Pinar del Rio Province was further affected by Hurricane Idalia and other tropical storms. For example, during Floods in June 2023, The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cuba reported that more than 25,000 people in the provinces of Camaguey, Las Tunas, Granma, Holguin, Las Tunas, Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo were isolated.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

In 2023, the Cuban Red Cross continued its efforts under the "Plan de la Tarea Vida," a state plan addressing climate change. The National Society focused on reforestation, mangrove recovery, raising climate risk awareness, and encouraging public participation in responding to climate change. The National Society conducted activities including tree planting, environmental discussions, river and beach cleanups, reforestation, and educational outreach in schools, workplaces, and communities. Additionally, nurseries and vegetable gardens were created to support the food sovereignty plan.

### Disasters and crises

In 2023, the Cuban Red Cross responded to Hurricane Ian, improving its preparedness and response actions at the community level. The National Society also addressed oil spill accidents by identifying vulnerable areas, required resources, and response plans. Cooperation with the Cuban Fire Department strengthened disaster preparedness, while disaster risk reduction plans were updated in line with national regulations. Additionally, 91,711 people were trained in lifeguarding, first aid, and mental health and psychosocial support, with 378 Enhanced Vulnerability Capacity Assessments (eVCAs) conducted nationwide.

### Health and wellbeing

In 2023, the Cuban Red Cross provided mental health and psychosocial support to communities. Additionally, the National Society supported high-risk pregnant women through the Maternal and Child Programme and promoted health awareness on issues such as breastfeeding, cytological testing, and breast self-examination. Additionally, it advanced road safety through the Road to Life Programme, addressing accident prevention and conducting driver training. The Cuban Red Cross also offered psychosocial support and first aid training to the elderly and people with disabilities, strengthening community resilience.

### Migration and displacement

In 2023, the Cuban Red Cross supported refugees and facilitated 21 scholarships for students with refugee status across multiple provinces. The National Society also aided Haitian migrants by providing access to essential services

and coordinating safe returns. It engaged in [Restoring Family Links \(RFL\)](#) efforts, helping migrants communicate with families in Haiti and offering psychosocial support. Additionally, it worked to enhance healthcare access for migrants, while maintaining close coordination with authorities and international bodies to address migration challenges.

### Values, power and inclusion

The Cuban Red Cross continued to support children with special educational needs, with its programme becoming active in 86 centres, including special schools and psycho-pedagogical medical centres. The initiative resulted in enhanced memory, imagination, coordination, and social behaviour. The National Society branches worked closely with local education partners to expand the programme. Notable progress has been reported in provinces such as Santiago de Cuba, Holguín, and Matanzas, where psycho-pedagogical evaluations have shown significant improvements in children’s development and social adaptation.

### Enabling local Actors

The Cuban Red Cross made significant strides in updating its statutes and continued work on its [organization capacity assessment and certification \(OCAC\)](#) and [branch organizational capacity assessment\(BOCA\)](#). In 2023, despite challenges, the National Society carried out over 10,000 training activities where it reached volunteers, educational institutions, and workplaces on topics like first aid, disaster management, and water safety. Coordination with other institutions helped enhance outreach, with notable contributions from provinces such as Camagüey, Havana, and Holguín. The Cuban Red Cross also advanced its [digital transformation](#), developing a Computer Security Plan and maintaining vital radio communications across its branches.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	Hurricane Ian
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRCU008
<b>DURATION</b>	6 October 2022 to 31 February 2023
<b>FUNDING REQUIREMENTS</b>	CHF 3,855,736
<b>PEOPLE TO BE ASSISTED</b>	25,000
<b>LINK TO EMERGENCY APPEAL</b>	<a href="#">Hurricane Ian Final Report</a>
<b>LINK TO OPERATIONAL STRATEGY</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>

On 26 September 2022, the National Civil Defence in Cuba declared a cyclonic alert for six western territories: Pinar del Río, Artemisa, Mayabeque, Havana, Matanzas and the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud. An information phase was declared for three central territories: Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus and Ciego de Avila. In the early hours of 27 September, Hurricane Ian made direct landfall in the Pinar Del Río province, battering large swaths of western Cuba as a powerful Category 3 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 185km/hour.

The hurricane left Cuba after seven hours of destruction, mainly affecting urban and rural areas in the Pinar del Río and Artemisa provinces. Hurricane Ian also caused notable damage in Havana and Isla de la Juventud. For an hour and a half, the eye of the hurricane remained over the capital city of this territory, causing heavy damage to infrastructure, housing, agriculture, electricity and telecommunications services.

According to the World Food Programme's Automatic Disaster Analysis and Mapping tool, nearly 600,000 people were exposed to wind speeds of 120km/hour or more. By 30 September 2022, six western provinces had been affected, and more than 65,000 people were evacuated from high-risk areas. Local and international media outlets reported that Pinar del Rio, Cuba's westernmost province, bore the brunt of the impact, with significant damage reported across the province. Hurricane Ian reportedly caused the deaths of at least three people and left thousands without power.

Cuba has strong early warning systems and preparedness protocols that minimize the impact of hurricanes. Before Hurricane Ian made landfall, the Cuban Red Cross was delivering preparedness activities. As an auxiliary to the Government, the National Society helped coordinate evacuations – an operation that began on 24 September, three days before the hurricane made landfall.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

For the reporting period of 6 October 2022 to 31 February 2023, 25,000 people were supported through various interventions. These ongoing interventions include the following:

**Integrated assistance:** Integrated assistance included emergency shelter support for families whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the hurricane, with an emphasis on rebuilding better homes. The Cuban Red Cross will use the IFRC participatory approach for safe shelter awareness.

**Healthcare and WASH:** Health care and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities, including health and hygiene promotion, first aid, mental health and psychosocial support, distribution of menstrual kits, safe water, sanitation, and vector control were undertaken. Additionally, to contribute to the restoration of health services, the Emergency Appeal provided the Ministry of Health with equipment, solar panels or climate-efficient energy solutions, medical supplies, and support for infrastructure rehabilitation.

**Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI):** Protection and prevention actions according to the IFRC minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies, ensuring that these activities are implemented under the IFRC dignity, access, participation and safety framework. This also includes safeguarding mechanisms for child protection and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Cuban Red Cross encouraged the meaningful participation of people in affected communities and improved community resilience through meetings, focus groups and key informant contacts.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Cuban Red Cross continued working with its "Plan de la Tarea Vida" or life task plan, which is a state plan to face the challenges of climate change. Under it, the National Society aimed at reforestation efforts, the recovery of mangroves, raising the perception of climate risk and increasing the degree of participation of the entire population in confronting climate change. Coordination was carried out with the Risk Management Centres, Civil Defence, Ministries of Environment, Flora and Fauna, Forestry, Agriculture and the Mapa Verde initiative.

During 2023, the National Society undertook 3,895 trainings and activities in areas such as: a) planting trees in Red Cross parks b) discussions on environmental care c) cleaning of rivers, beaches, and sewers, d) talks on mitigating negative effects and live in a healthier environment e) reforestation f) transmission of educational messages g) dissemination of its programmes in workplaces, schools, and communities h) creation of nurseries in schools with various types of vegetation i) planting of vegetables in organoponics, to support the food sovereignty plan.

#### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Cuban Red Cross Society with technical and financial support for various projects and programmes.



## Disasters and crises

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

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Cuban Red Cross responded to Hurricane Ian. As a result, it strengthened its emergency appeals management including preparedness and response actions at the community level. In addition, a total of 92 sudden events were reported which received support through the evacuations of vulnerable populations, rescue, physical and [psychological first aid](#), and [restoring family links](#).

The National Society also responded to accidents related to oil spills by identifying vulnerable municipalities and communities, as well as identifying the equipment and personnel required for the operations and relief groups. It also pursued an active response plan for accidents with hazardous substances and oil spills in each territory.

Based on the agreement signed between the Cuban Red Cross and the Cuban Fire Department, the cooperation in preparedness and response actions in disaster situations was strengthened while creating links in all the territories of the country. The National Society updated staffing and resources in support of the groups prepared for national response to major events such as earthquakes or tsunamis. The disaster risk reduction plans were updated according to Resolution No. 4/2017 in all territories.

The Cuban Red Cross identified areas for improvement in disaster management such as the provinces of Pinar del Río, Villa Clara, and Isla de la Juventud working on the criteria for the evaluation of [disaster risk reduction](#) related matters, undertaking the analysis of the territories, addressing difficulties faced by the Municipal Groups, improving the information around sudden events, and approving of the disaster risk reduction plan.

During 2023, all branches worked through an annual community education plan which prioritized vulnerable communities and coordinated with the Management Centres for Risk Reduction (CGRR) and the Civil Defence and Ministry of Environment, Science, and Technology (CITMA). In total, 91,711 people received training, representing 1.2 per cent of the total vulnerable population. Among the main activities developed were lifeguarding, [first aid](#), and [mental health and psychological support](#) for the vulnerable population during disaster situations.

[Enhanced Vulnerability Capacity Assessment](#) (eVCA) workshops were carried out and all the branches developed a plan. The National Society held 378 eVCAs during 2023.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Cuban Red Cross in increasing its disaster management capacity, particularly during its extensive emergency appeals management. The IFRC further supported the National Society through the timely review and processing of the [Hurricane Ian emergency appeal request](#).



## Health and wellbeing

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In its endeavour to ensure the health and wellbeing of communities, the Cuban Red Cross provides [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS) to communities. All the branches developed municipal focal points, groups, and volunteers as a keystone in the implementation of the psychological support activities. As a result, over 20,155 people were assisted through psychosocial support. All initiatives were implemented in coordination with the Civil Defence, Committees for the Defence of the Revolution, Federation of Cuban Women, National Sexual Education Centre, National Association of the Deaf, National Association of the Blind, Community Mental Health Centres, and others.

The National Society also supported the Maternal and Child Programme, mainly aiming at caring for high-risk pregnant women, disseminating hygienic-sanitary measures and health promotion measures for mothers and children in priority communities, visiting maternal homes, giving educational information on breastfeeding, cytological testing, and breast self-exam.

This National Society's HIV-AIDS programme maintained its strength at the primary level through its health promoters. Dissemination was undertaken through radio and other different media which raised awareness among young people about the prevention of infectious diseases and their preventive measures. The Cuban Red Cross participated in 36 Health Fairs providing health promotion in vulnerable and prioritized communities, activities were developed for World AIDS Day. To further promote sexual health, the Cuban Red Cross conducted talks on the prevention of pregnancy and sexual reproduction awareness to more than 300 students.

The National Society also worked on the Road to Life Programme which supported accident prevention and road safety. Over 15 Cuban Red Cross branches developed agreements and surveys to apply at places of high accident rates (black spots). Operational control actions and regular checks are carried out by the Ministry of the Interior, Integrated Monitoring Directorate, transport specialists, and personnel. The controls are carried out systematically and periodically due to the existing accident rate. Training courses were held for professional drivers on road safety issues.

To support its goals of all communities being protected and improved through access to health services, the Cuban Red Cross supported elders through visits to grandparents' homes, providing 344 psychosocial support activities, 104 [first aid](#) courses, and awareness sessions. The National Society also participated in 163 activities in vulnerable communities, including visits to the veterans' councils. In addition, the Cuban Red Cross collaborated with the Ministry of Employment and Social Security (ANSI), the Cuba National Deaf Persons Association (ANSOC), and the Cuban Association of People with Physical and Motor Disabilities (ACLIFIM) across all branches. First aid training was provided to people with disabilities and their families.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC supported the National Society through technical assistance.



*The Cuban Red Cross assisted migrants from Haiti through medical attention and humanitarian aid in the Duniesky province, 21 June 2022. (Photo: The Associated Press)*





## Migration and displacement

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### Progress by National Society against objectives

The Cuban Red Cross engaged with migrants and displaced persons, supporting 87 refugees. The National Society supported the Cuban authorities in granting 21 scholarships to students with refugee status in 2023. The scholarships were distributed throughout the provinces of Holguín, Sancti Spíritus, Matanzas, Camagüey, and Pinar de Río.

Coordination between the Cuban Red Cross branches and the provincial authorities was carried out to support the arrival and safe return of Haitian migrants in Camagüey, Holguín, and Guantánamo. In total, 792 Haitians were aided through access to essential services and identifying key priority humanitarian lines of action. The National Society facilitated primary care for migrants in the shelters through the national health system. Throughout the process, the Cuban Red Cross volunteers and staff worked on positioning the National Society in the operation, highlighting the presence of the volunteers.

As part of its support, the National Society also undertook [Restoring Family Links](#) (RFL) to assist communication between migrants and their families in Haiti. Psychosocial care was also provided to people in municipal and provincial headquarters who requested RFL services. Attention was given to Haitian migrants who accidentally arrived on Cuba's shores during this period.

The Cuban Red Cross continued to follow up on the agreements as a result of different meetings at international and regional levels such as the XIV Regional Meeting on RFL which took place in Honduras during April. The National Society also complied with the agreements regarding the Centres for the Attention of the Returned Migrants (OMOA for their initials in Spanish). In 2023, the Cuban Red Cross also signed a collaboration agreement with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to work on actions aimed at facilitating healthcare processes.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical assistance.

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The ICRC provided technical support to the National Society in its [restoring family links](#) (RFL) efforts.



## Values, power and inclusion

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In its efforts to promote access, participation, and safety of people of all identities, the Cuban Red Cross undertook teaching children who had special educational needs. The programme has been taking place in Cuba since 1995. Currently, the initiative is present in 86 centres of which 78 are special schools and 8 are psycho-pedagogical medical centres.

The National Society provincial branches have focal points, a music teacher, and a basic module of musical instruments needed to develop the activities in the centres. The provincial branches have been guided in the preparation of project profiles for the repair and acquisition of new instruments. The National Society also coordinates locally with education counterparts in search of solutions.

The psycho-pedagogical evaluations conducted in music teaching centres have shown progress in children's memory, imagination, coordination of thought, and sensory perceptions. Additionally, these evaluations have shown improvements in social and family behaviour, aiding their adaptation to the social environment. This initiative is particularly highlighted in the province of Santiago de Cuba, which is currently working on a joint project with the Provincial Department of Mental Health and PROSALUD. The branches in Holguín, Ciego de Ávila, Matanzas, and Granma have reported some of the best results. The efforts of Mayabeque, Villa Clara, and Las Tunas are also noteworthy.

## IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical assistance.

# 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.

The National Societies in Cuba, along with other National Societies in Central America, also receive support from the [IFRC Reference Centre for Institutional Disaster Preparedness \(CREPD\)](#) hosted by the Salvadorean Red Cross and supported by the 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 by the expertise and best practices of National Societies.

The following participating National Societies are supporting the National Societies in Cuba:

The **Canadian Red Cross Society** supports the Cuban Red Cross with [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#).

The **French Red Cross** supports the Latin Caribbean National Societies such as Cuba 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.

### 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](#).

Through its regional **delegation in Venezuela**, the **ICRC** carries out work relating to its mandate and operations to meet immediate needs in Cuba. It works with the Cuban 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.

### External coordination

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 the 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.



## National Society development

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In efforts to update its statutes, the suggestions made by the joint commission were introduced and collective work was carried out in each of the branches. With regard to its organization capacity assessment and certification ([OCAC](#)) and branch organizational capacity assessment ([BOCA](#)), the Cuban Red Cross continued working on the certification and institutional capacity assessment process.

Training activities planned for 2023 saw slight delays due to the difficulties related to the electricity situation in the country. However, the National Society branches achieved 10,288 training activities by 928 instructors and facilitators. Volunteers, the general population, different organizations, educational centres and workplaces, among others received training on first aid, stretchers, disasters, psychological support, climate change, and water safety among others.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society with technical assistance.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Cuban Red Cross continued to work in close coordination with different institutions. For better dissemination of information, National Society programmes were linked with other efforts such as training, workshops, conferences, and courses that the municipal affiliates have given to different audiences. Due to existing working relations between the provincial and municipal branches, the Cuban Red Cross volunteers supported an increase in training and participation in conferences and talks. Training of broadcasters was carried out using the basic training programme. All the provinces carried out outreach activities and the individual work of the provinces of Camagüey, Havana, Holguín, Matanzas and Sancti Spíritus was highlighted.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society with technical assistance.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Cuban Red Cross continued its efforts to elaborate a Computer Security Plan as part of its [digital transformation](#) programme. The National Society carried out assessments as part of the Department of Information Technology of the Ministry of Health (MINSAP). The difficulties to adequately communicate present a major challenge for this National

Society. The National Society also used radio communications with all the branches. The CRC continued significant efforts to keep necessary licenses up to date for the use of the national radio spectrum.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC supported the National Society with technical assistance.

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement	2.2M
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	
	Funding	1.1M
	Expenditure	574,000
	Longer-term	
	Funding Requirement	1.9M
	Funding	218,000
	Expenditure	208,000
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	250,000
	Funding	299,000
	Expenditure	299,000

### Dominican Red Cross

#### Overview

Funding *Not reported*

Expenditure 782,000

#### Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat 1.3M

Participating National Societies *Not reported*

HNS other funding sources *Not reported*

*In addition to: CHF 964,000 DREF Funding*

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	Implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups?	Yes
	Implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)?	Yes
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	1,000
Disasters and crises	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	2,000
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	20,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	1,000
	People reached with shelter support	6,000
Health and wellbeing	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	49,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	49,000

	People reached with shelter support	6,000
Health and wellbeing	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	49,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	49,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	6,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	2,000
Values, power and inclusion	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	2,000

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Bilateral Support						Enabling Functions	Multilateral Support Through IFRC
		Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion			
British Red Cross								✓	
French Red Cross								✓	
Italian Red Cross	848,000	●	●	●			●		

Total Funding Reported **CHF 848,000**

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

The most significant events affecting the humanitarian situation in the Dominican Republic during 2023 were related to public health and the effects of climate change.

Although significantly underreported, the cholera outbreak of late 2022 has been spreading in the Dominican Republic. According to the [Pan American Health Organization's](#) situation report on the cholera outbreak in Hispaniola in 2023, as per data from May 2023, the Dominican Republic had 99 cholera cases of which 74 were in the capital, Santo Domingo.

The World Bank's Dominican Republic Overview indicated that "A comprehensive adaptive social protection strategy has been disseminated and considered for inclusion in the reform of the natural disaster risk management law. The strategy aims to increase the resilience of poor and vulnerable households, through social policies and programmes to support and strengthen their ability to prepare for, cope with, and recover from a disaster. Also, in the past months, advice and capacity building support have been provided for the preparation of a general water law that will reform the sector's institutional framework. Also in place is an ongoing dialogue with the government to support the design of a national water sector modernisation programme to achieve the vision of the Water Pact."

ACAPS country analysis states that around 122,900 Venezuelan migrants and refugees were hosted in the Dominican Republic as of the beginning of 2023. Most have come to the country because of the economic collapse in Venezuela. Further, according to a [field report by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies \(IFRC\)](#), migration between Haiti and the Dominican Republic is an issue that requires a comprehensive vision and binational cooperation for its management. It is necessary to recognise the structural causes that give rise to this phenomenon, as well as its consequences and impacts on both countries. It is also essential to guarantee respect for the human rights of Haitian migrants and to promote their social and economic integration in the Dominican Republic.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

In response to Hurricane Fiona in September 2022, the Dominican Red Cross launched climate-smart livelihood projects using the [Nexus Environment Assessment Tool \(NEAT+\)](#). These projects focused on environmental sustainability and improving communities' resilience to future climate-related events. A total of 290 heads of households were trained in regenerative agriculture, crafts with recyclable materials, and cash transfers to boost community productivity. The initiative aimed to enhance resilience to future climate-related events and promote the replication of knowledge within communities.

### Disasters and crises

In 2023, the Dominican Red Cross responded to emergencies, including two major floods and Hurricane Fiona, in various provinces. These interventions were supported by the [IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#). The response incorporated climate-smart livelihood projects using NEAT+ assessments, leading to two micro-projects and cash grants in communities like Los Dos Ríos and Arroyo Santiago. Additionally, the Dominican Red Cross provided [cash and voucher assistance](#).

### Health and wellbeing

In 2023, the Dominican Red Cross health teams conducted 37 rapid assessments across various provinces, identifying needs related to health, water, sanitation, and hygiene ([WASH](#)), psychosocial support, food, and supplies. They provided [mental health and psychosocial support](#) to children and adolescents and promoted community-based epidemiological surveillance. Through talks and community forums, people were reached with health and hygiene promotion messages, while EIC materials on disease prevention were distributed. Additionally, mosquito nets, vector control kits, and chlorine bottles were distributed to prevent waterborne and vector-borne diseases.

## Values, power and inclusion

In 2023, the Dominican Red Cross reached 2,000 women with prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) initiatives as part of its health activities. Over 24 volunteers were trained in PSEA, aiding in sensitization and case identification. PSEA materials were distributed alongside hygiene kits to beneficiaries.

## Enabling local Actors

In 2023, the Dominican Red Cross received support from the [Capacity Building Fund](#) (CBF) to strengthen its systems for accountability and agility. This included the creation of a comprehensive manual addressing procedures in accounting, budgeting, internal control, and financial reporting to improve efficiency and regulatory compliance. The National Society also participated in leadership coordination meetings with the Latin Caribbean Country Cluster Delegation, discussing the Humanitarian Corridor and migration approaches. It coordinated with partners like WFP and USAID to develop the logistics hub, and despite border closures, facilitated the transport of urgent medical supplies to Haiti.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

An operation was launched for the Dominican Republic in [response to Hurricane Fiona](#) in late September 2022, as a part of which the Dominican Red Cross reached people through climate and environment programming.

The response actions by the Dominican Red Cross incorporated the implementation of [climate-smart](#) livelihood projects developed using the [Nexus Environment Assessment Tool](#) (NEAT+), an environmental screening tool designed for humanitarian practitioners. The analysis of livelihood needs was conducted to focus on solutions with environmental sustainability perspectives.

Micro projects were formulated for the communities which took into consideration the recovery and strengthening of livelihoods with the NEAT+ tool. An environmental sustainability approach was provided to respond to the emergency and improve the resilience of communities to future climate-related events. The heads of households were trained and qualified for the development of these climate-integrated micro-projects with the objective being that their knowledge would be replicated within each of the families and the community. A total of 290 heads of households were directly trained with an outreach of approximately 1,450 people in the communities. The main activities included the use of regenerative agriculture, crafts with recyclable materials and cash transfers to boost community productivity. With the support of the NEAT+ tool, two micro-projects and a cash transfer programme were defined and implemented.

#### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Dominican Red Cross with technical and financial support for various climate-related programmes which were part of the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF).



### Disasters and crises

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

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



1.

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	Hurricane Fiona
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRDO014
<b>DURATION</b>	6 months (23 September 2022 to 31 March 2023)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 383,552
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	49,253
<b>LATEST OPERATION UPDATE</b>	<a href="#">DREF Operation Final Report</a>

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 383,552 in September 2022 supported the Dominican Red Cross in assisting 49,253 people affected by Hurricane Fiona. Following the initial assessment of affected communities, national intervention teams were deployed to ensure an effective response in communities. The Dominican Red Cross provided support to communities affected through assistance with shelter, livelihoods, basic needs, health, WASH, and disaster risk reduction.

2.

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	Dominican Republic - Floods
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRDO015
<b>DURATION</b>	5 months (19 June 2023 to 30 November 2023)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 498,654
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	10,000
<b>LATEST OPERATION UPDATE</b>	<a href="#">DREF Operation Update</a>

Through this DREF Application, the Dominican Red Cross aimed to provide humanitarian assistance to families affected by floods and the TS Franklin in the provinces of Azua, Bahoruco, Barahona, Dajabón, Elías Piña and Independencia. The National Society aimed to assist a total of 10,000 people (2,000 families) through the implementation of actions under Shelter, Health, WASH and Multipurpose cash assistance as well as dissemination of key messages with a Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and Community, Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach.



The Dominican Red Cross distributed foods and kitchen utensils to the people affected by the hurricane in country, 21 April 2021. (Photo: The IFRC)

### 3.

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	Dominican Republic - Floods
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRDO016
<b>DURATION</b>	5 months (29 November 2023 to 30 April 2023)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 465,386
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	7,500
<b>LATEST OPERATION UPDATE</b>	<a href="#">DREF Operation Update</a>

The DREF allocation of CHF 465,386 in November 2023 supported the Dominican Red Cross in providing humanitarian assistance to 1,500 families (7,500 people) affected by the floods through the implementation of actions under Shelter, Health, WASH and Multipurpose Cash Assistance, as well as the dissemination of key messages with a Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community, Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach in the provinces of Santo Domingo, Duarte, Distrito Nacional, Azua, San Cristobal, Barahona, San Pedro de Macoris and Monte Plata.

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Dominican Red Cross Society responded to several emergencies such as the two instances of floods in the in the provinces of Santo Domingo, Duarte, Distrito Nacional, Azua, San Cristobal, Barahona, San Pedro de Macoris, Monte Plata, Bahoruco, Barahona, Dajabón, Elías Piña and Independencia. It also supported people during Hurricane Fiona. The National Society interventions were carried out as part of different response mechanisms such as the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)).

During the DREF operations, the response actions also incorporated the implementation of climate-smart livelihood projects developed using the [NEAT+ assessments](#). This resulted in two micro-projects and cash grants benefiting the communities in Los Dos Ríos, Arroyo Santiago, and the Guarapitos. Additionally, the Dominican Red Cross was able to provide [cash and voucher assistance](#) to 2,390 people.

#### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society through timely review and processing of the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) requests.



## Health and wellbeing

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

During its assistance with the floods, the Dominican Red Cross conducted activities related to supporting the health and wellbeing of communities through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services throughout life.

The National Society health teams conducted 37 rapid health assessments in temporary shelters and communities living in the provinces of Barahona, Dajabón, Santo Domingo, Distrito Nacional, Elías Piña, San Cristóbal, Azua, La Altagracia, La Romana, San Pedro de Macorís, Monte Plata. The teams identified needs related to health, [water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\)](#), psychosocial support, food, mosquito nets, medicines, materials, and basic supplies. In the context of cholera, rapid water, and WASH need assessments were carried out at the migrant care centre in Dajabón and Elías Piña, Pedernales, Barahona, Distrito Nacional and Santo Domingo Este. The National Society also supported [mental health and psychosocial support \(MHPSS\)](#) in communities affected by floods. Psychosocial support was provided in communities prioritized for interventions in affected provinces, supporting 3,664 children and adolescents under 12 years of age.

The National Society also reinforced community-based epidemiological surveillance actions including home visits and identification of cases of acute febrile illnesses. The identified cases were provided with necessary information and recommendations to avoid complications by going to the nearest health centre in a timely manner.

During these efforts, the focus was on developing community awareness as a key element in a healthy lifestyle while promoting health, basic hygiene, and disease prevention. Through talks, meetings, and community forums, over 19,238 people were reached. Also, 3,867 information, education and communication (IEC) materials were distributed containing information on health promotion, menstrual hygiene, and the prevention and control of acute communicable diseases among others.

To further prevent and control the spread of vector-borne diseases, the National Society distributed 2,914 kits and 2,680 mosquito nets. It also distributed other supplies and materials as part of the “Cloro Untao, Tanque Tapao” campaign to properly store water in tanks and prevent vector-borne diseases for families in affected territories. In addition, larvicides were applied in 2,914 homes. During home visits, the containers used for water storage were observed, of which, 18 per cent were positive at the time of visit and were eliminated as a result.

The National Society also ran a campaign to prevent waterborne diseases and acute diarrheal diseases (ADD), including cholera. A campaign for the prevention and control of cholera and other waterborne diarrheal diseases (WDD) was carried out. The outreach was for 2,500 families with the distribution of cholera prevention and control kits that included oral rehydration salts, containers for their preparation and conservation, soap, chlorine, and IEC material on chlorine dosage for water treatment according to the container and use. In addition, the Dominican Red Cross distributed 6,288 bottles of liquid chlorine and 3,398 disinfectant sprays.

#### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC supported the National Society through technical assistance.



## **Values, power and inclusion**

#### **Progress by National Society against objectives**

In 2023, the Dominican Red Cross reached 2,000 women with prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) as part of its health activities. The National Society trained over 24 volunteers in PSEA, which supported the work of sensitization and identification of possible cases. In addition, PSEA material was handed out to the beneficiaries during all hygiene kit distributions.

#### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC will support the National Society in aligning its work with the PGI minimum standards in emergencies and also support the efforts under PSEA.

## **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.

The National Society in the Dominican Republic, along with other National Societies in Central America, also receive support from the [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 by 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 Dominican Red Cross:

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.

The **Haitian Red Cross** and **Cuban Red Cross** support 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.

### **Movement coordination**

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 the Dominican Republic. 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.

### **External coordination**

The **Dominican Red Cross** is actively represented at national, provincial, and municipal levels and works closely with the National Council for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response, the National Emergency Commission, the Emergency Operations Centre, the National Technical Committee for Risk Prevention and Mitigation, and 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.



## National Society development

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Dominican Red Cross was supported by the [Capacity Building Fund](#) (CBF) in 2023. The National Society is working on an initiative to strengthen its financial management through several actions which include the creation of a comprehensive manual that addresses the procedures in areas such as accounting, budgeting, internal control, financial reporting, and donations management. This manual will improve decision-making, increase efficiency and ensure regulatory compliance.

The National Society was also part of a tripartite leadership coordination process within the three National Societies of the Latin Caribbean Country Cluster Delegation. During the meetings, the National Society presidents and staff discussed strengthening the Humanitarian Corridor and a shared migration approach.

Several coordination meetings were held with partners such as the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the coordination and further development of logistic hub (part of the Humanitarian corridor).

The Dominican Red Cross, along with the IFRC, facilitated the transport of urgent medical items such as medicines and blood bags to Haiti through the border despite its closure.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** supported the Dominican Red Cross with National Society Development with technical assistance and guidance for the continuation of organizational development processes, especially through the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#). It supported the National Society governance and management initiatives as well as the Red Cross Movement induction for elected members.

Further, the IFRC supported a tripartite leadership coordination process within the three National Societies of the Latin Caribbean Country Cluster Delegation. It also assisted the Dominican Red Cross facilitating the transport of urgent medical items to Haiti.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Dominican Red Cross continued to strengthen humanitarian [disaster law](#) initiatives linked to the management of the logistics warehouse in Santo Domingo and Humanitarian Corridors procedures and protocols.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** supported the National Society with technical assistance.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Dominican Red Cross will be applying to the Capacity Building Fund in 2023 to strengthen its systems for accountability and agility.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** supported the National Society with technical assistance.



**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 Cuba 2023 Financial Report](#)  
**Note:** For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRCU008](#)
- [IFRC Dominican Republic 2023 Financial Report](#)  
**Note:** For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRDO014](#), [MDRDO015](#), and [MDRDO016](#)
- [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](#)

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