



Overview

IFRC support to Panamanian Red Cross

“Working to achieve and maintain an organization that consistently delivers, through volunteers and staff, relevant countrywide services to vulnerable people sustained for as long as needed, and that contributes to the strength of IFRC Network and the Movement.”

The IFRC has played a strategic role in supporting the Panamanian Red Cross' overall institutional transformation and the National Society's capacity to address key humanitarian challenges and trends, ensuring that the support provided enhances its relevance and influence in-country.

Key Areas of Support

Auxiliary Role:

- The IFRC has been supporting the Panamanian Red Cross (PRC) with the revision and update of its statutes in compliance with the IFRC global Guidance for National Society Statutes, which has increased efficiency and capacity to adapt to the changing humanitarian needs and context.

Disaster Risk Management:

- The IFRC has been guiding the National Society in the implementation of the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER), to assess, measure, and analyze the strengths and weakness of its response system, reflected in a plan of action to improve its overall response.
- The National Society has been supported in setting up the new Emergency Operation Center (EOC) with equipment and strengthening of staff and volunteer capacities at the central level and in high-risk branches.
- The restructuring of the new Disaster Risk Reduction unit of the National Society was supported with technical guidance for different strategies, such as the development of the PRC Response Plan.
- Ongoing training has been provided for PRC staff and volunteers on a great variety of topics, such as the Minimum Protection Approach, Distribution of Humanitarian Assistance, Community Health and First Aid, amongst others.

Programs and Operations supported in Panama

Programs

Migration

- Since 2019, the IFRC and the PRC have delivered more than 70,000 humanitarian services to over 20,000 people and produced more than 8.5M liters of safe water to those most vulnerable transiting through the Migration Reception Stations in Darien.
- Due to the complexity of this crisis, the IFRC technical and operational staff work hand in hand with the PRC assessing and guiding the response and building the capacity of the local team to attend to people's needs.
- The IFRC supports the PRC in national and international advocacy efforts to raise awareness about the migration crisis in Panama and supports coordination with other actors.

Operations

COVID-19

The IFRC global emergency appeal to support National Societies response to the COVID-19 Pandemic worldwide included the PRC. Through the appeal, the PRC reached 1,699 million people through COVID-19 vaccine promotion (logistics, information, and communication campaign), epidemic prevention and mitigation measures. The National Society played a key role within the Panama authorities COVID-19 Vaccination Digital PANAVAC operation, thereby strengthening the PRC's auxiliary role.

Mexico & Central America Migration Emergency Appeal

Due to the migration crisis in Mexico and Central America, in August 2022, the IFRC launched an emergency appeal for CHF 18 million, of which CHF 3.2 million are proposed for Panama to address the increasing migration flow.

DREF Mechanism

- For the past 2 years, the PRC has been supported through of IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to assist people affected by floods, storms, social unrest, and the migration crisis, enabling a fast locally led response.
 - Civil Unrest (2022): assisted 2,100 people.
 - Floods (2021): assisted 4,000 people.
 - Population Movement (2021): assisted more than 6,000 people.

- Hurricane ETA (2020): assisted more than 3,000 people

Operations	DREFS	Programmes	IFRC National Society Development Funds
COVID-19: CHF 352,522 Central America and Mexico Migration Appeal: To date, CHF 150,252	2020: Hurricane ETA CHF 149,755 2021: Floods CHF 224,391 2021: Population Movement CHF 481,430 2022: Civil Unrest CHF 75,695	Pilot Programmatic Partnership PPP with DG ECHO (DRR, Epidemic and Pandemic, Humanitarian Assistance, CASH, CEA): 994,000 Eur AECID: Humanitarian assistance to migrants in the Darien region, with a focus on resilience and community participation: CHF 521,192	CBF Project on Digital Transformation: CHF 50,000 NSIA Project on Strengthening organizational Structure and admin processes: CHF 50,000

National Society Development

OCAC Organizational Capacity Certification

The IFRC has supported the National Society to assess its performance and development capacities using the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) tool. Based on the outcomes, the PRC is taking steps towards improving core capacities.

Policies

The IFRC has assisted the National Society with the development of several Policies and Plans aimed at strengthening its internal strategic and regulation system, such as a Policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Digital Transformation

The IFRC is supporting the National Society by assessing and funding the plan to achieve digital transformation within PRC.

Volunteering and Youth

The IFRC supported the development of the volunteering solidarity mechanism, which ensures PRC volunteers can immediately access medical care when needed because of their service with the National Society.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

The PRC has received IFRC support to set up the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) unit and technical guidance to facilitate the institutionalization of this approach as a crosscutting area to be incorporated in all operations.

Disaster Law, Legislative Advocacy

With support from IFRC, an International Disaster Risk (IDRL) Law draft bill for the facilitation of humanitarian aid in Panama has been proposed by the PRC. Its purpose is to establish the procedures, functions, and responsibilities related to the facilitation of International Assistance in the Republic of Panama.

The PRC received technical and legal advice from the IFRC to develop a proposal for the recognition of a new Red Cross Law in the country.