



Americas Region Overview

The IFRC network responds to complex humanitarian needs from sudden onset and also cyclical disasters while focusing on climate change as a main driver of current and future crises.

Context

The Americas region is the second most disaster-prone in the world. An estimated 152M people were affected by 1.2K disasters between 2000 and 2019, of which there were 26.4M people in need in 2021. Although many are cyclical in nature, those most likely to require a major humanitarian response in the region are sudden-onset disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods. The collective impact of recurring climate crises, particularly prolonged droughts followed by seasonal floods, also leads to complex humanitarian needs.

The increase in the number of people in need is partly due to the rising frequency and intensity of sudden-onset disasters and recurrent climate shocks and challenging socioeconomic conditions. 800K people were affected by the earthquake in Haiti in August 2021 and 7.5M people were affected by hurricanes in the region in 2021. Despite only 8.4 percent of the world's population living in the region 18.5 percent of global COVID-19 cases and 30.3 percent of all deaths occurred in the region making it the world's most severely affected. Together, these factors have left 287M people in poverty or extreme poverty, and moderate-to-severe food insecurity affected 267M people. Other significant challenges included gender-based violence towards women, child protection, growing internal displacement flows, and migration.

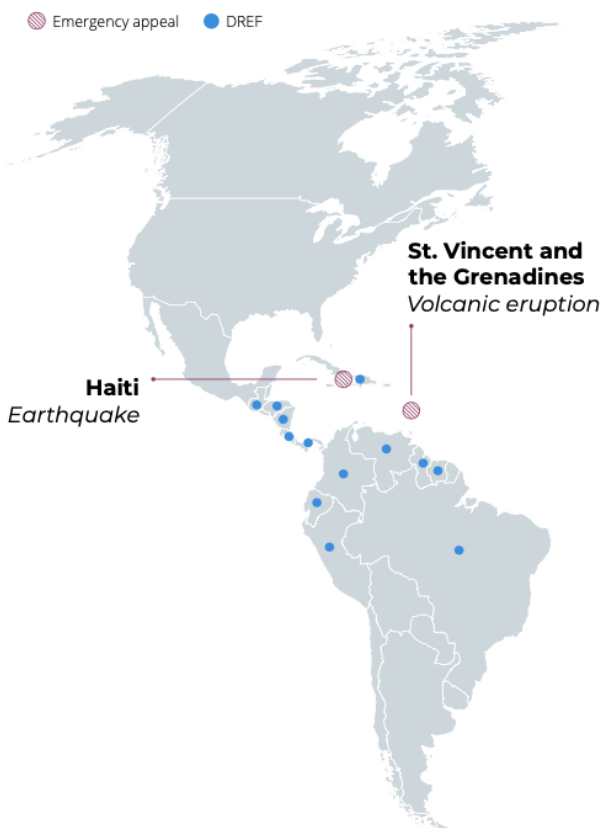
2021 progress

Climate and environmental crises

Hurricanes bring the most significant risk to island communities in the region. The Bahamas Red Cross Society launched the Resilient Islands project in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy for communities affected by Hurricane Dorian. Global support from the IFRC saw the programme rolled out in numerous islands, including Grenada and Jamaica. The project uses Climate Change Adaptation and Ecosystem-based Approaches in targeted communities to understand vulnerabilities and build resilience.

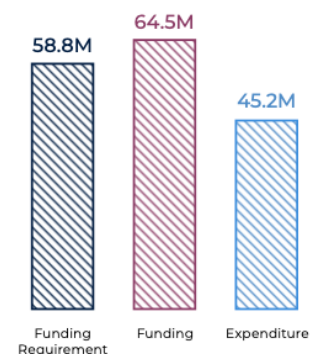
EMERGENCIES IN 2021

▼ Emergencies

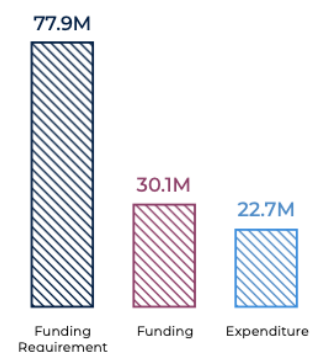


▼ Funding

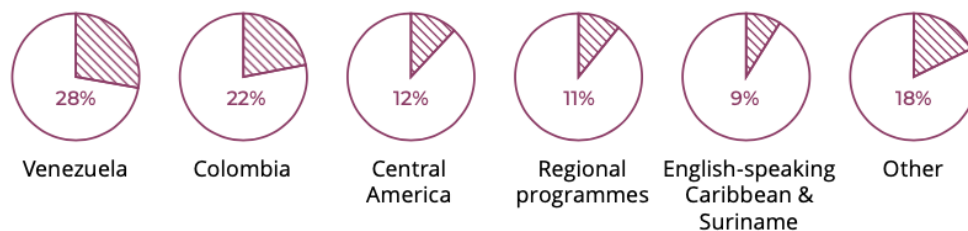
▼ Emergencies



▼ Thematic programmes



▼ Top funding by location



▼ People reached by thematic area



Please note that the emergencies funding graph covers all active emergency appeals. For people reached, while the IFRC tries to minimize the risk, there remains some risk of double counting within strategic priorities. Lastly, top funding by location is based on funding received in 2021.

DREF OPERATIONS IN 2021

Americas
19 operations



In Colombia, the IFRC supported the National Society to develop and reach 1,300 people with reference materials for strengthening the adaptation of agricultural programmes to climate change, such as urban food production gardens.

STATISTICS



7.1K prepaid visa cards

mobilized with a recharge value of CHF 1.5 million.



CHF 14M

was managed through the Americas procurement unit.



918 tons of goods

were dispatched to support emergency operations and programmes.

Evolving crises and disasters

The IFRC supported the Venezuela Red Cross Society to create and train 12 community disaster response brigades in disaster risk reduction, first aid, and livelihoods. An action plan was drafted in each response brigade specific to hazards faced by the community.

In addition, the IFRC initiated the transition process for Venezuela's health emergency and regional population movement operations.

Growing gaps in health and wellbeing

Survivors of human trafficking accessed mental health and psychosocial support in Colombia under the IFRC's Comprehensive Care Programme. The IFRC also provided family and specialized medical services in partnership with the Government of Colombia.

Migration and identity

Migration is a significant issue in the region. The IFRC's Monarch Butterfly programme supported the implementation of humanitarian service points in several countries and promoted community-based activities in transit and host communities.

In Panama, 3.4K children were provided with primary health assistance and nutritional screening through the National Society's humanitarian service points on the border with Colombia.

In 2021, projects for migrants in the border states of Venezuela reached 28K with primary health care, psychosocial services, disease prevention and health promotion, sexual and reproductive health activities, and protection services.

Values, power, and inclusion

Since 2020, the IFRC has supported the Colombia Red Cross Society to implement an integral assistance project for survivors of human trafficking and become a regional reference in the humanitarian approach to human trafficking. The project has helped 48 survivors and strengthened the National Society's anti-trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence capacity, reaching 529 people by December 2021 and promoting learning spaces with other National Societies in the Americas.

Venezuelan migrants were forced to use informal routes due to increasing risks and vulnerabilities and closed borders in Colombia and Brazil. The IFRC supported the Venezuela Red Cross Society to adapt the Protection, Gender, and Inclusion toolkit for volunteers and project teams to use in emergencies.

"In 2021, Red Cross teams not only responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and complex population movements but to the greatest challenge of our generation: the climate crisis. We are particularly proud of the work done by a historically high number of women leading disaster response in the region.

The sheer scale and scope of what they undertake and achieve is truly remarkable."

Martha Keays, IFRC Regional Director for the Americas

Engaged

Honduran Red Cross has created a volunteering development program aimed at creating a talent pool among its volunteers to guarantee generational leadership renewal in the coming years.

Accountable

The Americas Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management Unit supported the response to 20 operations in 34 countries. A total of 918 tons of goods were dispatched to support emergency operations and programmes. 7.1K prepaid visa cards were dispatched to emergency operations and programmes across the region.

Trusted

The IFRC supported the Ecuador Red Cross Society to implement minimum community engagement and accountability commitments in programmes to leverage effective community engagement for greater participation and feedback.