



13,000,000

CHF funding requirement

220,000

people to be reached

24

local branches of country Red Cross

2,600

volunteers country-wide

124

years of experience reaching the most vulnerable

VENEZUELA

IFRC Country Office

BACKGROUND

Main challenges in country

In 2017, Venezuela had a total population of approximately 31.977,000 with an annual growth rate of 1.3%. Of this population 88.2% is urban and 11.8% rural. However, these figures have been affected by the increased in the exodus of Venezuelan citizens.

The national context has had an impact on the provision of basic services, supply and reserve of foreign currency, as well as access to fundamental goods and services. Unable to fulfil their basic needs, large sectors of the population face situations of vulnerability and are at risk.

The situation of internal tension in Venezuela has been increasing in recent months and continues to evolve rapidly. The recent developments have led to a deterioration of the previously challenging economic and social situation. Many in the general population do not have access to food, medical care and employment. Approximately 3.8 M people had left the country.

The worsening public health system is a central concern. Health professionals experience difficulties to deliver needed medical assistance, particularly in urgent cases. Shortages of medicines and medical items, and a lack of health personnel cause severe limitations in access to health care.

The National Society Role and Profile

The Venezuelan Red Cross (VRC) has provided 124 years of humanitarian assistance in Venezuela and has more than 2,600 volunteers across the country, including 50 first aiders.

The Venezuelan Red cross has 8 hospitals and 33 outpatient clinics throughout the country. Approximately 1 million people were treated at Venezuelan Red Cross Health facilities or reached through Community- based activities in 2018.

Over the past decade, the VRC has worked with communities to jointly design and implement community resilience actions, including emergency response in coordination with local disaster management authorities. Working collaboratively with local authorities through regular communication and based on the principles of Neutrality and Independence of the Red Cross, the National Society has played an important role in assisting authorities as first responders in disasters. The auxiliary role of the Red Cross gives it a special status that allows access to communities where civil protection authorities, including fire or police forces, may not be allowed in times of civil unrest.

IFRC support provided to the National Society

The IFRC country cluster support team (CCST) office for the Andean countries has created a strategic plan for 2019-2020 in coordination with the VRC with the aim of supporting the National Society's development capacities. The CCST supports capacity building in disaster risk reduction (DRR), livelihoods and basic needs, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) promotion, and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI). This approach allows for the promotion of a shared vision of priorities that facilitates the development of interventions, the establishment of alliances, and the securing of resources to speed up the response to identified needs, while also collaborating with emerging partners.

AREAS OF FOCUS

AREA OF FOCUS
DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION

50,000

PEOPLE TO BE MADE RESILIENT AGAINST DISASTERS

AREA OF FOCUS
LIVELIHOODS AND
BASIC NEEDS

20,000

PEOPLE STABILIZE THEIR NET INCOME THROUGH SKILL BUILDING, IMPROVED ASSETS, MICRO-FINANCE SUPPORT, AND JOB CREATION.

AREA OF FOCUS
HEALTH

125,000

PEOPLE ACCESS NATIONAL SOCIETY HEALTH PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES

AREA OF FOCUS
WATER, SANITATION AND
HYGIENE

125,000

PEOPLE ARE PROVIDED WITH SAFE WATER SERVICES

AREA OF FOCUS
PROTECTION, GENDER
AND INCLUSION

25,000

PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

» STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION «

- STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES ●
- ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT ●
- INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS ●

AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In recent years, Venezuela has been impacted by the El Niño and La Niña phenomena, which have caused droughts, floods, and landslides. Indirect consequences include an increase in diseases, such as malaria and dengue. These situations have also led to losses in local agriculture production. Considering these circumstances, it is critical to find innovative ways of supporting the most vulnerable people in the country and strengthening the capacity of the Venezuela Red Cross to provide support and respond to these events.

The Venezuelan Red Cross has integrated a social inclusion approach into DRR, livelihoods, and health. The IFRC is supporting the VRC branches to deepen their knowledge and improve skills in these areas. Similar actions are being conducted with local authorities and organizations to strengthen a DRR inter-institutional coordination platform, which will be incorporated into the disaster risk management system. Due to the vulnerability of the region, efforts will be made to continue working on this area for 2019-2020.

1,983,617
SWISS FRANCS
BUDGET



COMMUNITY CONTINGENCY PLANS ARE IN PLACE

10

PEOPLE ARE REACHED THROUGH COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAMMING

50,000

OUTCOME

COMMUNITIES IN HIGH RISK AREAS ARE PREPARED FOR AND ABLE TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS.

AREA OF FOCUS

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

In 2016, Venezuela was affected by the worst drought in almost 50 years. The government took special measures in the face of this drought to reduce electricity consumption and promote water rationing, as water levels at the Guri hydroelectric dam (the country's main dam that generates more than 80% of the country's electricity) decreased to critical levels. This situation occurred during a severe economic crisis, which started in 2014 due to the fall in international crude oil prices that are the source of 96% of the country's foreign exchange.

This situation has led to an increased number of the population living in situations of poverty and extreme poverty and an increase in severe malnutrition for both children and adults. Approximately 280,000 children are at risk of death due to the food situation, with 50% of children having some degree of malnutrition; and severe malnutrition observed in hospitals has increased from 2% to 14%.

The livelihoods and basic needs approach in Venezuela are a continuation of a two-year project aiming to contribute to the capacity building of vulnerable communities affected by the country's current situation. Through community resilience in the context of climate change, priority is being given to the most vulnerable families, so they can engage in productive activities and increase their access to food. The project will continue to be implemented in 2019 in the states of Carabobo, Falcon, Lara and Miranda and Capital District. IFRC will continue supporting the strengthening of Venezuelan Red Cross capacities to implement food security actions and support income-generation activities through skill building and livelihoods restoration.

3,177,368
SWISS FRANCS
BUDGET



PEOPLE REACHED WITH FOOD ASSISTANCE OR CASH FOR BASIC NEEDS

20,000

HOUSEHOLDS HAVE ENOUGH FOOD, CASH, AND INCOME TO MEET THEIR SURVIVAL THRESHOLD

4,000

OUTCOME

COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY IN DISASTER AND CRISIS AFFECTED AREAS, RESTORE AND STRENGTHEN THEIR LIVELIHOODS

AREA OF FOCUS

HEALTH

Since 2015, the health system has been affected by the country's socioeconomic situation. Outbreaks of different infectious diseases such as polio, malaria, measles, and diphtheria have been registered. Lack of immunizations in different institutions has led to an increase in infectious outbreaks of immune-preventable diseases. Additionally, many children fail to comply with the immunization plan established by the Ministry of Health.

There is a need to strength health care capacities and services, by improving the availability and access to medical supplies. More medical supplies will allow patients to comply with treatments and undergo surgical procedures.

The IFRC will work with the National Society to provide primary health care, maternal-child health care, conduct communicable disease prevention, engage in health promotion, and implement epidemiological surveillance. The IFRC will also endeavour to ensure access to safe water, electricity, and other basic needs to guarantee that health centres can continue to function. This strategy will target populations with limited access to health services in hospitals, as well as enabling capacity building for the Venezuelan Red Cross. The target population will be selected by prioritizing the urgent needs of the population in the target VRC health facilities. For 2020, this intervention will be expanded to an additional 8 VRC medical facilities.

2,223,941
SWISS FRANCS
BUDGET



HOSPITALS WITH AN ACTIVE OUTREACH PLAN TO REACH KEY MARGINALIZED POPULATION GROUPS

8

PEOPLE REACHED BY NS WITH SERVICES TO REDUCE RELEVANT HEALTH RISK FACTORS

125,000

OUTCOME

THE HEALTH AND DIGNITY OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE ARE IMPROVED THROUGH INCREASED ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE HEALTH SERVICES

AREA OF FOCUS

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

85% of water sources in Venezuela are in the south-east part of the country, an area in which 10% of the population resides. By contrast, only 15% of water sources are in the rapidly urbanized north of the country where the majority of the population lives. In households that stockpile water, there is increased chance of the proliferation of breeding sites for vector-borne diseases.

Access to safe water has been increasingly scarce. This makes it essential to implement community and family-level water treatment to reduce the risks of morbidity and spread of diseases, prioritizing the provision and management of safe water.

This area of focus is closely integrated into that of health and are aligned with the IFRC Water, Sanitation and Hygiene policy, thereby supporting good practices so that the target population engages in healthy water management. Good hygiene habits will be promoted as an indispensable mechanism in disease prevention, complementing actions developed in health.

2,126,357
SWISS FRANCS
BUDGET



**PEOPLE REACHED WITH KEY MESSAGES TO
PROMOTE PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY HYGIENE**

125,000

**PEOPLE REACHED WITH AWARENESS-RAISING
ACTIVITIES ON IMPROVED TREATMENT AND SAFE
USE OF WASTEWATER**

125,000

OUTCOME

**SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES ARE PROVIDED
TO THE TARGETED POPULATION**

**VULNERABLE PEOPLE HAVE INCREASED ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE
AND SUSTAINABLE WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE SERVICES**

AREA OF FOCUS

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

Population needs in Venezuela are diverse, however, factors such as violence, gender, age increase the vulnerability of these groups, especially women, children, people with disabilities and elderly requiring a differentiated approach to promote resilience in fragile contexts. In addition, the separation from families and loved ones, often leading to feelings of powerlessness and increased levels of stress. Therefore, there is a need for psychosocial support and opportunities to strengthen individual and collective resilience.

IFRC will support the VRC in its commitments to gender and diversity by training VRC' volunteers in "Minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies and IFRC Strategic Framework on Gender and Diversity Issues, 2013 – 2020. This will allow VRC volunteers and staff to implement activities with a differential approach to better respond to specific needs of the population. In addition, VRC will continue developing communitarian activities to strength the social cohesion, working at local level to promote a culture of peace and violence prevention trough friendly methodologies that seeks enhance the local dynamics among the different groups. Likewise, psychosocial support for family members of emigrants in Merida, Tachira, Zulia and protection (information) assistance will be provided.

449,819
SWISS FRANCS
BUDGET



PEOPLE REACHED WITH PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AS A PART OF PROTECTION ACTIONS

25,000

OUTCOME

COMMUNITIES BECOME MORE PEACEFUL, SAFE, AND INCLUSIVE THROUGH MEETING THE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

In the current context, the capacity building and organizational development of the Venezuelan Red Cross is a high priority. IFRC aims to ensure that VRC continues to develop as sustainable, independent humanitarian organization, recognized and credible in their communities, and trusted partners for the delivery of relevant and effective humanitarian action and services. Providing support to the VRC will guarantee that the National Society can increase its actions based on the evolving identified needs in the country. With the rapidly changing scenario, the VRC requires resources to achieve its programmatic and operational objectives.

The IFRC and the ICRC are working with the National Society for a clear and common development plan that encompasses strengthening of the capacities of volunteers and staff, as well as working with the leadership and staff to improve management systems (administration, finance, etc.).

As part of the efforts to support the VRC's actions, the IFRC and ICRC engage in joint capacity building with the governance board and branch level leadership. Leadership training is targeted to branch-level volunteers. Due to the high rotation rate of staff and volunteers, the Secretariat will work with the VRC to adapt and launch innovative options to continue training opportunities in different locations in the country, encompassing attention to the induction process for new volunteers.

In the current situation, the Secretariat is committed to support capacity building in security (including insurance for volunteers), logistics and the implementation of a community engagement and accountability (CEA) approach in its actions.

All actions in this Strategy for Implementation (SFI) contribute to the sustainability of the Venezuelan Red Cross in the near and distant future, as well as, the National Society capacity building and organizational development to ensure support for VRC's programmatic and operational objectives.

1,634,730
SWISS FRANCS
BUDGET

OUTCOME

CAPACITY BUILDING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES ARE FACILITATED TO ENSURE THAT NS HAS THE NECESSARY LEGAL, ETHICAL AND FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS, SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES, COMPETENCES AND CAPACITIES TO PLAN/PERFORM

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The complex country context requires a highly functional emergency response structure and the appropriate human and material resources for its implementation. The VRC's skills in response will be enhanced with technical guidance to implement better information management (IM), logistics, security, monitoring and reporting. As the VRC volunteers and staff are the first responders, the Secretariat will support training sessions and dissemination of Movement standards in integrated response operations. The Secretariat is working with the VRC to ensure performance and accountability standards to enable the fulfilment of its auxiliary role and the compliance with the Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance by the VRC and the Secretariat personnel.

1,054,944
SWISS FRANCS
SOUGHT

OUTCOME

EFFECTIVE AND COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE IS ENSURED

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

In 2019, the IFRC Secretariat is seeking to establish a formal presence in the country. The current situation demands that an IFRC Country Office is opened as soon as possible. This office will enable the IFRC staff to provide close support for National Society Development. All Secretariat work with these NS entails a cross-cutting security focus that ensures the safety of volunteers, leadership and staff from the NS as well as the staff of the IFRC.

349,320
SWISS FRANCS
BUDGET

The IFRC Secretariat with the Venezuelan Red Cross and the ICRC will continue to work together to emphasize Movement Principles and Red Cross capacities, enabling all Movement components to influence discussions and decisions at local, national and international levels. The Secretariat will continue to engage in humanitarian diplomacy in Venezuela and abroad to ensure the respect for the Venezuelan Red Cross's mandate and public understanding of the Movement Principles. Given the situation in the country, the IFRC will continue to support the development of key messages for the promotion and respect of the Fundamental Principles and the auxiliary role of the National Society.

OUTCOME

THE IFRC AND NS USE THEIR POSITION TO INFLUENCE DECISIONS AT LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS THAT AFFECT THE MOST VULNERABLE

IFRC AND NS ARE VISIBLE, TRUSTED AND EFFECTIVE ADVOCATES ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES



Contact information of the IFRC Country office, for partners who wish to find out more

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