



E. Vivas / ICRC 2024

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMANITARIAN ACTION

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ICRC'S ACTIVITIES IN VENEZUELA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN 2024



ICRC

In 2024, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continued to carry out neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian work to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in Venezuela. In collaboration with the Venezuelan Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and public and private sector partners, we supported **265,000 people in the states of Apure, Aragua, Bolívar, Miranda, Táchira and Zulia**.

In the Caribbean, in particular Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago, we continue to work closely with the authorities and the National Red Cross Societies there to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) and increase the presence of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the region, thereby helping to protect the most vulnerable.

BOLSTERING THE IMPACT OF OUR HUMANITARIAN WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH THE VENEZUELAN RED CROSS



The Venezuelan Red Cross and the ICRC signed a framework cooperation agreement to deepen their joint humanitarian action, strengthening the capacities and leadership of the National Society in the country.



6,582 services were provided by the Venezuelan Red Cross and the ICRC to ensure separated family members stay in touch with their loved ones.



365 volunteers received training to boost their skills in areas such as first aid, health care, protection, economic security, project management, and water, sanitation and hygiene.



36 branches of the Venezuelan Red Cross received support to strengthen their capacity for humanitarian action, their security and the well-being of their volunteers. 11 of these branches also received technical and financial support to train volunteers in the Restoring Family Links programme.

LOWERING RISK TO PROTECT VULNERABLE PEOPLE



104 people in Bolívar, Miranda and Zulia took part in three community consultations, enabling us to build a humanitarian response that is tailored to the real needs of the communities there.



55 people learned what safe behaviours to adopt to lower the risk of being involved in dangerous situations or emergencies.



20 people received individual assistance to mitigate the impact of violence in their lives or lower the risk.

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

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974 officers of the National Bolivarian Armed Forces, and various police and investigation units, participated in training sessions to raise awareness of the progressive and differentiated use of force.



22 members of the Ombudsman's Office and the Public Prosecutor's Office received training on the basic principles of IHL.



The ICRC and the Andrés Bello Catholic University signed a **cooperation agreement** to teach, raise awareness of and carry out research on IHL. Awareness-raising sessions were held in other public academic institutions, which will continue in 2025.

GUARANTEE ACCESS TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE WITH THE HELP OF BETTER TRAINED PROFESSIONALS



As many as 196,141 people received medical treatment in nine ICRC-supported health centres.



718 people, including community residents, health workers and Venezuelan Red Cross volunteers, took part in 597 psychosocial support sessions.



473 health workers were given training on treating patients with advanced traumas, basic emergency care, mental health-care tools and basic psychosocial support.



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REBUILDING COMMUNITY MEMBERS' LIVELIHOODS SUSTAINABLY



179 cocoa producers from Apure received technical training and supplies to boost their income while also strengthening the cocoa value chain and bolstering the local market. **40 women and one civil society association from Apure received training and supplies** to develop handcrafted chocolates and confectionery that will enable them to improve their livelihoods.



62 people from an indigenous community in Zulia received technical training in the management and cultivation of palm oil to raise incomes in the community.



7,099 people received hygiene items to help them improve their living conditions.



70 teachers from five educational and agricultural institutions in Apure and Bolívar received technical support and funding to help them run more efficiently and produce more food.



28 people from Miranda received training and mentoring in entrepreneurship and job skills; in addition, 49 people took part in cookery and clothing courses with the support of INCES, which will help them improve their livelihoods.



The National Institute of Training and Socialist Education (INCES) and four other organizations received equipment and supplies to help them carry out their work and train more people for employment.

STRATEGIC SUPPORT TO BUILD RESILIENCE IN BASIC SERVICES

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61,641 people had better access to water in Apure, Aragua, Bolívar and Zulia thanks to the work done by the ICRC in collaboration with the authorities and the water utilities.



20 facilities, including health centres, schools and forensic centres, have better infrastructure thanks to ICRC support, which will ensure that essential services are provided and improve the quality of life for communities in Apure, Aragua, Bolívar, Miranda and Zulia.



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REDUCING UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE IMPACT OF FAMILY SEPARATION AND DISAPPEARANCES



The ICRC provided individual guidance and support to 67 relatives of missing people. 33 families received information on what had happened to their loved ones.



More than 150 prosecutors from the Public Prosecutor's Office took part in technical discussions on protecting family links and the role of the families of missing people in the search for their loved ones.



A local group of relatives of missing people received support from the ICRC to discuss their experiences regarding search, self-care, finances and their support network.



ENSURING RESPECTFUL TREATMENT OF THE DEAD AND THEIR FAMILIES



688 people from five military and civilian institutions took part in sessions to review issues related to management of the dead



30 relatives of missing people were supported by the forensic team, providing guidance and support regarding forensic processes



24 forensic services in different states across the country received 187,474 supplies, including personal protective equipment and

THE ICRC'S COMMITMENT TO THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY



8,457 people deprived of their liberty were visited by ICRC delegates in seven civilian and military places of detention.



40 prosecutors from the Public Prosecutor's Office deepened their knowledge of international standards regarding detention, such as the Mandela Rules and Bangkok Rules, which will benefit people deprived of liberty and their families. In addition, 174 workers from the army's prison service (DISPEMIL) also took part in two training courses on the Mandela Rules.



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BOLSTERING THE MOVEMENT'S PRESENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN



In Cuba, the ICRC together with the Cuban Red Cross, carried out various awareness-raising and training activities on international humanitarian law for 75 university students and civil servants.



21 professionals from various countries took part in the HELP course to be trained on managing health emergencies, carried out in collaboration with Cuba's National School of Public Health and the Cuban Red Cross.



The ICRC helped strengthen seven National Societies (Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago), working with their staff to prepare for and participate in various forums around the world. The main topics covered were international humanitarian law, safer access and restoring family links, as well as participation in the statutory meetings of the Movement.



In the Dominican Republic, the ICRC participated in a joint training session with the Specialized Border Security Corps (CESFronT), promoting dialogue on international humanitarian law and the role of humanitarian action in border security operations.



Working with the Dominican Red Cross, several training sessions were held on safer access, communication, raising awareness of the Fundamental Principles and protection in the Movement, enabling 85 attendees to take part, including staff and volunteers from the National Society.



We help people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything we can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. We also seek to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.



In 2024, our Community Contact Centre was contacted 1,219 times, which enabled us to better understand the needs of affected communities and adapt our humanitarian action to provide a more effective response.

You can contact us through the following channels:

(0424)-172.13.64 / (0412)-636.50.15 or by e-mail to **centrocontactoVE@icrc.org**.

Our office hours are Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

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