



Venezuela

STRENGTHENING OUR HUMANITARIAN PRESENCE IN VENEZUELA AND THE CARIBBEAN



ICRC

In 2025, the ICRC strengthened its action to protect and assist the most vulnerable people in Venezuela and the Caribbean, within the framework of its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian mandate.

Using an approach focused on human dignity, resilience and sustainability, the ICRC has worked closely with the Red Cross Movement in Venezuela and the Caribbean, national and local authorities, and other civil society actors. This joint effort has maximized the impact of the ICRC's humanitarian action, responding to the most pressing needs and promoting sustainable solutions for affected communities.

In 2025, this work reached **354,623 beneficiaries**, mainly in communities, health centres, essential service infrastructure, and forensics.

Promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) and international standards In Venezuela

- **576 officers of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB) and police forces** participated in training on the use of force, IHL and international human rights law. In addition, **170 members of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service (SEBIN)** received training in IHL and humanitarian principles.
- **267 members of the authorities increased their knowledge** of international standards, such as the Nelson Mandela Rules and Bangkok Rules.



Protecting vulnerable populations and community resilience

Our work protected and reunited hundreds of families in Venezuela, turning suffering into tangible hope for persons affected by violence, emergencies and separation.

- **We trained 250 people in Capital District and the states of Bolívar and Zulia in safe behaviours**, thereby reducing their exposure to risks; **we provided 86 individual assistance services, 23 mental health and psychosocial support services** in collaboration with other organizations; and **we carried out one community consultation with 118 participants in the municipality of Jesús María Semprún, Zulia**, following a community protection approach.
- **We delivered 6,464 connectivity services, collected and distributed 286 family messages** (including 171 messages to relatives of persons detained at the Terrorism Confinement Center (CECOT) in El Salvador), **supported 209 relatives of persons reported missing with comprehensive support in their search, and helped 182 families obtain information on the whereabouts of their loved ones**, which led to nine successful repatriations of human remains.

Dignified management of deceased persons and their families

- **94 forensic workers participated in workshops on the dignified management of deceased persons and the accompaniment of their families.**
- **19 institutions of the National Service of Medicine and Forensic Sciences (SENAMECF) and three Homicide Investigation Brigades of the Scientific, Criminal and Criminalistic Investigations Corps (CICPC) received the donation of 193,028 items** for the dignified management of deceased persons.
- **893 members of the security forces and 70 members of the Venezuelan Red Cross** were trained in forensic matters. Likewise, **15 forensic specialists** from SENAMECF offices in eight Venezuelan states received training in forensic odontology.

Note: the data provided were being verified at the time of writing (19/02/2026)



Community health and protection of healthcare personnel

- **235,224 people** accessed essential preventive and curative health services in **eight ICRC-supported primary health centres** in priority areas. In addition, strengthening the hospital network allowed **130,313 patients** to receive dignified care, particularly in sexual and reproductive healthcare services, thereby providing more than **4,800 women** with access to prenatal care and safe childbirth services.
- **495 people** (including relatives of missing persons, former detainees and their families) received direct care through **1,280 mental health and psychosocial support sessions** to help them develop coping mechanisms. This approach was reinforced with awareness-raising sessions that reached hundreds of community members, promoting early identification of mental health needs in critical contexts.
- **1,718 health workers and Venezuelan Red Cross volunteers** were trained in trauma care, emergency management, basic psychosocial support, and “caregiver support” tools.
- The autonomy of the Venezuelan Red Cross was boosted through the delivery of supplies to **13 branches** and the inauguration of a clinical simulation room in Caracas. This facility allows for the continuous training of volunteers in a controlled environment, reinforcing local emergency response capacity.
- The health strategy integrated the protection of the medical mission by raising awareness on **Protection and Respect for Health Care** and installing “gun-free zone” signage in health centres. Mental health services were also expanded, providing self-care and stress management tools to both communities affected by violence and healthcare personnel.

Providing access to essential services and strengthening infrastructure

- **75,652 people benefitted from improvements in access to drinking water** and sanitation with the rehabilitation of seven water systems – work that we carried out with two water utilities, Hidrollanos and Hidrobolívar.
- **724 people in communities and schools participated in water hygiene promotion sessions**, ensuring good practices at home.
- **47 workers from five hydrological companies and three ministries received technical training**, contributing to capacity building. In addition, **23 Hidrobolívar workers** received first aid courses through the Venezuelan Red Cross.
- **20 employees of the Fondo Nacional para Edificaciones Penitenciarias (FONEP)** were trained in key detention and infrastructure concepts.
- **4 clinics and 2 schools were rehabilitated** to provide safer and more resilient spaces for the institutions' members of staff.
- **697 inmates benefitted** from donations for rehabilitation within a prison infrastructure





Sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurial communities

- More than **6,600 people** received personal hygiene products as part of the response to emergency events in Venezuela.
- **Five local institutions** were supported with supplies in the emergency preparedness phase, which directly benefitted more than **1,500 people**.
- **618 displaced persons or returnees**, together with their family groups, received support to meet their immediate basic needs.
- In Petare, **105 people from 24 households** strengthened their livelihoods through vocational training, seed capital and mentoring; **39 children, adolescents and young people from these households** received vocational training to develop their entrepreneurial skills and achieve their professional goals.
- In Eje Nula, Apure, more than **900 people from 204 cocoa-producing households** received agronomic and financial training, as well as legal advice to create a cocoa producers' association. Additionally, **43 family groups** received agricultural tools for cultivation, and **53 households** received tools and training in chocolate confectionery.
- In an indigenous community in Zulia, **34 people were trained in agronomic** management and palm production, in addition to receiving tools for cultivation. Moreover, **31 families from two other communities** participated in training courses on pig farming and diagnosis of palm crops, and two community infrastructures were supported with furniture to improve their spaces.
- In José Félix Ribas, Petare, we strengthened the capacities of a community library to conduct vocational workshops, and **17 teachers were trained to deliver entrepreneurship training**.
- In Aragua, **113 students from a high school** received training in entrepreneurship to strengthen their skills and the institutions educational programme.
- **34 volunteers from 24 Venezuelan Red Cross branches** were trained in livelihood project management, as well as in project evaluation, implementation and monitoring.
- In Apure, two Agricultural Technical Schools (ETAs) were strengthened. At the José Manuel Sánchez Osto Agricultural Technical School, **402 people expanded their productive capacities** through agricultural and entrepreneurship training, which enabled the creation of two production units to produce animal feed and cassava. In addition, at the Héctor Caro Agricultural Technical School, located in La Victoria, more than **200 people participated** in workshops on nutritional habits and received equipment, materials and supplies to strengthen their productive activities.

Strengthening joint humanitarian action with the Venezuelan Red Cross

In 2025, we drove a unified humanitarian response with the Venezuelan Red Cross that transformed thousands of lives, showcasing the power of collaborative work amid the challenges we faced over the year.

- **We trained 431 volunteers in first aid, health care, protection, economic security, project management, water, sanitation and hygiene, and Safer Access**, enhancing their capacity to respond quickly and save lives in vulnerable communities.
- **We supported 29 branches to strengthen their humanitarian response** and the wellbeing of their volunteers. **The Maracaibo and Ciudad Bolivar branches also received technical and financial assistance for livelihood initiatives, and a new office was inaugurated in Guasdalito.**
- **The Venezuelan Red Cross, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies signed a tripartite agreement** to strengthen coordination among the three components of the Movement, ensuring that humanitarian assistance reaches the most vulnerable people in a timely, efficient and unified manner throughout the country.





Beyond Venezuela:

- **In the Caribbean, the ICRC has strengthened its collaboration with the authorities and with eight National Red Cross Societies in countries such as Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago, among others.**
- **International humanitarian law (IHL) was promoted and capacities in Safer Access and Restoring Family Links (RFL) were strengthened** through technical support to 17 National Red Cross Societies, mainly in the areas of data protection and preparedness and implementation of RFL response in emergencies and disasters.
- **In the Dominican Republic, a specialized workshop on IHL and Use of Force as well as two keynote lectures were delivered for the graduate programme in IHL of the Graduate School of IHL and International Human Rights Law (IHRL).** In addition, in collaboration with the Army's Joint Doctrine Graduate School, a comprehensive workshop on IHL and IHRL was held.



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been on the front line for humanity since 1863, working to preserve human dignity and relieve human suffering whenever war or armed violence strikes.

Present in over 90 countries worldwide, we act resolutely to provide humanitarian assistance to whoever needs it most, regardless of race, religion, gender or politics. In collaboration with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners around the world, we do everything we can to deliver life-saving aid across front lines, reconnect families and locate missing people. We press authorities to give us access to detainees and strive to improve their living conditions.

-  www.icrc.org
-  facebook.com/CICRVenezuela
-  x.com/CICR_ve
-  instagram.com/CICR_ve



ICRC

International Committee of the Red Cross
Caracas Regional Delegation
ICRC Building / Av. Mohedano,
La Castellana, Caracas 1060, Venezuela.
©March 2026, ICRC