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Delivery of materials to repair roofs, optimize storage and connect the aqueduct that supplies water to those affected by the events of 3 January in Caracas. Photo: C. Ortega/ICRC2026

THE ICRC'S RESPONSE TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOLLOWING THE EVENTS OF JANUARY 2026 IN VENEZUELA

As part of its mandate, the ICRC in Venezuela closely monitored the events that took place in the country on 3 January 2026, which caused various damages in areas such as Caracas, Miranda and La Guaira. From the first hours after the events, our teams, in close collaboration with the Venezuelan Red Cross, affected communities, and civilian and military authorities, worked intensively to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs in the most affected areas.

The ICRC acts exclusively in the humanitarian field. Our commitment as a neutral, impartial and independent organization is to focus solely on the humanitarian needs of those affected and on preventing future risks. We therefore **maintain a bilateral and confidential dialogue with all stakeholders, promoting respect for the applicable legal frameworks** and ensuring that our humanitarian work is carried out effectively.

More than 1,000 people benefitted from ICRC humanitarian action during the first quarter of the year as part of the follow-up to the events that took place on 3 January. The activities were carried out in 11 locations, such as health centres, forensic services and vulnerable communities.



Risk management training day at the Dr. Vicente Salias Military Hospital in Forte Tiuna. Photo: E.Vivas/ICRC2026

- In an initial response, the ICRC delivered body bags, emergency care materials and medical supplies to three hospitals in Caracas, with a view to supporting the care of the wounded and strengthening medical capacities.
- The ICRC conducted training sessions on “Mental Health Response in Emergencies”, aimed at psychologists and psychiatrists, with the aim of providing them with technical tools to offer strategic and multidisciplinary care to people affected by situations of violence. These sessions were held at the Dr Carlos Arvelo Military Hospital and were attended by 15 mental health professionals, including representatives of this hospital and other institutions such as the Dr Vicente Salias Military Hospital, the Dr Perdomo Hurtado Naval Hospital, the Dr Felipe Tamariz Military Clinic and the La Rosaleda Military Clinic.
- Working closely with the Venezuelan Red Cross, we provided mental health care and psychosocial support to the most affected populations in vulnerable sectors, such as La Vega, La Guaira and El Junquito.
- 35 professionals from the Dr Vicente Salias Military Hospital in Forte Tiuna (managers, administrative staff and health specialists) participated in a training day on risk management. The programme included vulnerability analysis, passive protection measures and security guidelines to minimize exposure in situations of armed violence.
- Additionally, the ICRC maintains direct technical dialogue with the hospital centres involved to strengthen their response capacity, which includes advising on specialized protocols and monitoring the needs of forensic services, ensuring that they have the necessary supplies to carry out their work with dignity and efficiency. In this context, we have also advised Dr Vicente Salias Military Hospital on the importance of displaying the protective emblem of the Red Cross on its building to enhance its protection.
- Between January and March, hygiene kits, timely support, basic construction materials and water tanks were provided to help families repair their damaged homes.