

The work of the Venezuelan Red Cross and the ICRC in Venezuela



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has had a regional delegation for Venezuela and the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) since the 1970s. In 2000, the ICRC signed an agreement with the Venezuelan government to formalize its presence and activities in the country; this agreement was approved by law on 6 November 2001.

The ICRC carries out its humanitarian work in accordance with its principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. In Venezuela, it works together with the Venezuelan Red Cross, communities, academia and other organizations. It also develops and maintains a constructive dialogue with various authorities.

Joint activities

The ICRC has been helping the Venezuelan Red Cross increase its ability to respond to emergencies, such as those arising from disasters or violence, thus improving the services the Venezuelan Red Cross provides to individuals and communities.

In addition, the ICRC supports the Red Cross health-care brigades on the border with Colombia and works with the Venezuelan Red Cross to provide first-aid training to communities affected by violence.

Throughout the demonstrations between April and July of 2017, the ICRC was able to help the Venezuelan Red Cross to administer first aid by, for example, helping transfer volunteers and providing water and basic surgical supplies.

Venezuelan Red Cross

The Venezuelan Red Cross provides first aid and other health-care services in its hospitals. It also helps in other types of emergencies, sometimes in support of the civil protection or other institutions in charge. The National Society also works in community development, water

and sanitation, community disaster prevention and preventive health care.

During the demonstrations, the Venezuelan Red Cross was able to assist 1,005 people by the end of July 2017. Its adherence to the principle of impartiality allowed the National Society to administer first aid to 19 members of the armed and security forces. In addition, the Venezuelan Red Cross transferred 51 patients to various health-care centres and donated emergency surgical supplies to 24 hospitals. It also provided drinking water to demonstrators and members of the security forces.

Work with communities

In communities affected by violence, the ICRC provides easier access to health care through community first-aid workshops and safe-behaviour programmes to prevent accidents and injuries when shootings and street fighting occur.

These programmes are run in schools, and get teachers, students, parents and community leaders involved.

Work with the authorities, academics and health-care personnel

With the Venezuelan authorities, the ICRC:

- carries out activities to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law and the rules on the use of force and to incorporate these rules into the regulations of armed forces;
- funds and provides training for health-care personnel on surgery for people injured by firearms and explosives;
- promotes not interfering with personnel and facilities involved in providing health-care services; and
- encourages proper use of the Red Cross emblem and safeguarding the people and facilities that display the emblem.



ICRC