



Barbados Red Cross Society

Annual Report 2022



Message from Leadership

2022 was a year of both challenge and opportunity for the Barbados Red Cross Society (BRCS). Coming out of the acute phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Society deepened its role in community health, resilience, and disaster preparedness. From expanding our Meals on Wheels service to reinforcing our capacity in First Aid, warehousing, and psychosocial support, the BRCS has continued to serve as a visible and trusted partner to government and civil society.

As COVID-19 recovery merged with heightened disaster risks, our teams of staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to support the most vulnerable, strengthen community preparedness, and sustain humanitarian services.

Despite financial challenges and volunteer shortages, our commitment to the Fundamental Principles remained steadfast. Through the support of international donors, corporate partners, and the unwavering dedication of our staff and volunteers, the BRCS advanced its mission of alleviating human suffering in Barbados and the wider Caribbean.

About Us

The Barbados Red Cross Society (BRCS) was incorporated on 24 July 1969 by an Act of Parliament as a Voluntary Aid Society auxiliary to Government. It became a full member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 1984. Guided by the **Seven Fundamental Principles**, the BRCS delivers core services such as Meals on Wheels, First Aid training, Disaster preparedness and response, Psychosocial Support, and Community Outreach.

In August 1984, the Society was approved as a member of the International Red Cross and became a full member of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (now known as the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, IFRC or the Movement) with all the privileges afforded to its Member Societies.

The Barbados Red Cross is now a part of the world's largest humanitarian network, with nearly 117 million members, volunteers and supporters in 192 National Societies.

Governance and Structure

The Governing Board comprised six members in 2022, across multiple age categories. The members of the Governing Board are listed as follows:

President	Winston Waithe
Treasurer	Samantha Hazlewood-Ermay
Youth Director	Tremaine Rouse
Member	Taitu Heron
Member	Fabianna Alexander
Member	Roger Deane
Secretary (Ex-officio)	Danielle Toppin, Director General

Board meetings highlighted financial oversight challenges, membership engagement, and preparations for the 2023 General Assembly.

Human Resources and Volunteers

The Barbados Red Cross Society continued to rely on a small but committed team of staff and volunteers who form the backbone of its humanitarian operations. In 2022, six full-time staff members provided vital programme and administrative support, while approximately 30 active volunteers gave their time and expertise across key services including First Aid, Meals on Wheels, disaster preparedness, and community outreach. Youth engagement remained a priority, with focus being placed on the revitalisation of Youth Links in schools and new opportunities for professional development through internships and training. Together, staff and volunteers ensured that the Society could deliver essential services despite limited resources, rising costs, and increasing demand.

Highlights:

Staff: Six full-time staff supported programme and administrative operations.

Volunteers: Approximately 30 active volunteers were engaged in training and the provision of services and outreach across the areas of health, first aid, Meals on Wheels, and disaster response.

Youth Engagement: Youth Links activities expanded to schools including Codrington College and Princess Margaret, with additional interest from Garrison, Graydon Sealy, and Springer Memorial.

Strategic and Operational Priorities

The Barbados Operational Plan 2022, developed within the IFRC 2021–2025 framework, guided the Society's work around four core goals:

- Strengthening community resilience (climate change adaptation, community disaster response teams, food security).
- Youth development, particularly through Youth Links and volunteer engagement.
- Building a strong National Society with emphasis on financial sustainability, governance, and volunteer management.
- Alignment with global flagship initiatives, including anticipatory funding (DREF), cash leadership, health security, and digital transformation.

Governance and Institutional Development

The Governing Board continued to strengthen governance practices, including earlier report circulation and succession planning for the March 2023 General Assembly.

The Government of Barbados subvention was restored to its full level of BBD \$40,832 following a formal request, helping to stabilise the Meals on Wheels service.

The BRCS remained a key partner in government-led disaster preparedness and health platforms, including shelter coordination, Ministry of Health planning, and emergency management.

Health & COVID-19 Recovery

With technical and financial and support from the IFRC and the Coca-Cola Foundation, the Barbados Red Cross Society was able to continued its work from 2021, when the NS supported many of the Ministry's vaccination sites by setting up volunteer stations and providing water, sanitizers, masks and public education materials to 1,232 people attending these sites.



BRCs staff and volunteers donating PPE and hygiene equipment to Nurse Michelle Williams, Edgard Cochrane Polyclinic.

In recognition of the government's shift towards a return to 'business as usual' the BRCs donated hygiene equipment and public awareness materials (posters) to (9) polyclinics. Each clinic received (4) automatic hand sanitiser (wall mounted) dispensers (with alcohol solution); (1) handheld fogging gun (with solution); public awareness materials and a standing banner.

Donations were made to the Eunice Gibson, Branford Taitt, The Glebe, Edgar Cochrane, St. Philip, David Thompson, Sir. Winston Scott, Maurice Byer and Randall Phillips Polyclinics.



Peterson Yearwood and Danielle Toppin donating items to the David Thompson Polyclinic.

In June 2022, the BRCs entered into a community outreach partnership with Ross University; offering clinics across the island designed to provide free primary healthcare screenings. In total, the BRCs coordinated and supported (8) clinic outreach activities in 2022, linking medical students with over 500 people living in vulnerable communities.



Poster advertising BRCS/RUSM Community Clinics

Meals on Wheels (MoW)

The programme served 57 recipients daily, five days a week, with demand outpacing resources due to rising food and petrol costs. The programme received donations from the Ross University School of Medicine as well as private companies such as Chefette Restaurants and Chickmont Foods.

Disaster Preparedness & Response

In 2022, the Barbados Red Cross Society (BRCS) made significant strides in strengthening disaster preparedness and response capacities at both national and community levels. Building on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of Hurricane Elsa, the National Society invested in systems, training, and partnerships that positioned it as a key actor in Barbados' disaster management framework.

Institutional Preparedness

Under the **Capacity Building Initiative (CBI) Phase III**, BRCS advanced its Disaster Management and Response Plan, including updated contingency plans, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and warehousing practices.

In October 2022, the NS conducted a simulation exercise to test its EOC Handover procedures.

The Society also aligned its Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessment findings with institutional reforms, enhancing readiness and accountability. Quarterly stock updates were introduced, and a partial overhaul of warehouse management practices was initiated to ensure timely deployment of relief items.

Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs)

Four communities, including **Orange Hill, St. James** and **Belleplaine, St. Andrew**, benefited from training and equipment to improve early warning systems and local preparedness. VHF radio Go-Bags and mobile apps such as the Met Office CAP system were deployed, enabling real-time communication with the National Emergency Operations Centre.

Two CDRTs were newly established or strengthened, while others were integrated into District Emergency Organisations (DEOs).

Logistics and Volunteer Training

Seventeen BRCS staff and volunteers received **Logistics in Emergencies training** following a regional workshop held by the IFRC in Sint Maarten, which was attended by BRCS' Programme Officer, Peterson Yearwood. Volunteers were given hands-on opportunities to roll out a simulated response, increasing their understanding of effective warehouse procedures.

Volunteers were also trained in the CDRT methodology and assigned to national Category 1 shelters, providing First Aid coverage.

Volunteers also participated Mass Casualty Management offered by the Department of Emergency Management and the Ministry of Health.

Emergency Planning and Response

Ahead of the 2022 hurricane season, BRCS pre-positioned emergency supplies, secured its fleet and generators, and alerted MoW beneficiaries of potential service disruptions. Volunteer assignments were made for shelters, and shelter kits and First Aid kits were delivered in advance of storm warnings. BRCS maintained active representation in the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), reinforcing its auxiliary role during national emergencies.

Regional and International Engagement

The Society participated in regional pre-hurricane coordination meetings, IFRC Civil-Military Relations training, and the Regional Responders Network Forum. These engagements strengthened Barbados' linkages to the wider humanitarian system and enhanced knowledge-sharing with partner National Societies.

Summary of 2022 Achievements in Disaster Preparedness and Response

- Developed and advanced a **Draft Disaster Management & Response Plan** and SOPs.
- Conducted **Logistics and Warehousing Training** for 17 volunteers and staff.
- Established or supported **4 communities with CDRTs and early warning tools**.
- Distributed hygiene equipment to **9 polyclinics** under COVID-19 preparedness.
- Assigned trained volunteers to **national shelters** during storm alerts.
- Restocked and reorganised **emergency warehouse supplies**.
- Represented Barbados at **regional disaster management forums**.



Barbados Red Cross Volunteers take part in Warehouse Management Training

First Aid, Training & Commercial Services

With the full reopening of the island after the COVID-19 pandemic, the Barbados Red Cross Society recorded a significant surge in First Aid training and service delivery in 2022. A total of **456 people were trained**, compared to just 72 in 2021, resulting in a marked increase in training revenue.

Commercial First Aid services also expanded through major contracts, including the NCF tender for the provision of First Aid services at Crop Over Festival events, while the National Society introduced specialised training such as Psychological First Aid (PFA) for the first time.

In October 2022, the BRCS trained 20 social workers – members of the Barbados Association of Professional Social Workers in PFA using a blended model (online and in-person).

Communications and Visibility

- A Communications & Media Consultant was engaged to strengthen the NS' visibility.
- The BRCS staged pop-ups at Sky Mall in an effort to promote hygiene and disaster preparedness awareness. This also led to increased interest in the National Society's First Aid courses, and volunteer engagement, leading to the intake of ten new volunteers.
- Donor appreciation and advocacy were integrated into media activities, positioning BRCS as a visible, trusted partner.

Financial Overview (2022)

In 2022, the Barbados Red Cross Society benefited from a diverse mix of financial support that sustained its humanitarian programmes and strengthened institutional resilience. The core government subvention from the Ministry of Health provided a vital foundation for operations, while contributions from partners such as Ross University, the IFRC and the Coca-Cola Foundation supported community health and Meals on Wheels.

Income from commercial services, including First Aid coverage at national events like Crop Over, helped diversify revenue streams. Significant funding from the IFRC bolstered disaster preparedness, volunteer management, and logistics capacity, while additional private donations — including several timely end-of-year contributions — further underscored the trust and confidence of the wider community in the Society's work.

Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2023

- Scale up CVA programming with new banking partnerships.
- Expand Thrift Shop and commercial First Aid services as core income streams.
- Deepen community health services with RUSM and MoH.
- Implement communications consultancy to build public trust and advocacy.
- Strengthen volunteer management with digital platforms and youth engagement.