



BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022

*Belize Red Cross Youth Volunteers conducting needs assessments in the aftermath of Hurricane Lisa*



*Photo Courtesy of BRC*

**INTRODUCTION:**

Implementation of the Belize Red Cross Society's (BRCS) National Strategic Plan 2021-2025 entered its second year in 2022. An Annual Operational Plan aligned to the National Strategic Plan was developed for the first two years to guide the implementation throughout the year. In 2022 the National Society's focus was placed on strengthening internal policies, strategies, management structures, systems and procedures, and infrastructure. This focus, therefore, entailed the further development of volunteers, with particular emphasis on youth, and support to branches for their reactivation, after a long closure due to the COVID pandemic.

The year 2022 was a continually active year at the Belize Red Cross Society Headquarters as their 27-months COVID-19 response came to an end in July 2022 having provided relief and support to approximately 150,000



**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

persons (over 30,000 families) affected by the virus, in one way or another, and 11 months of supporting the Ministry of Health & Wellness with the roll out of their vaccine program. New programs were introduced, and existing program were being promoted to build back momentum that was lost during the 27 months of response to the pandemic, e.g., First Aid training & certification, Home Care Givers training & certification, the reopening of the national society’s modest snack shop, and daily social assistance, which continued throughout the year. The Community Resilience Building in the Caribbean Program (CRB) concluded after 3 ½ years of implementation in 7 communities (5 in Cayo and 2 in Belize City) and neighboring communities.

The year 2022 also presented the National Society with opportunities to establish new partnerships and to strengthen existing ones as well as to work more focused in areas, e.g. Migration and Eco-DRR that the National Society had previously only touched the surface of.

After approximately 15 years of fundraising efforts, a new building was acquired for the BRCS headquarters. The current building has become very unsafe, unhealthy and a risk to those who work and visit the offices due to its advanced state of disrepair. Fundraising continues to renovate this existing building to support the National Society with income generation activities, storage and branch activities.

The year ended with Staff and Volunteers, led by the Headquarters and Surge Delegates from the IFRC, with all hands-on-deck in the response to Hurricane Lisa, providing relief in food, non-food items, and a cash and voucher program to over 1,000 families affected by the storm.

The following reports on the progress made on the outputs of the Operational Plan 2022.

**Progress report – Operational Plan 2022**

**Pillar # 1: Organizational Development.**

**Outcome # 1: Belize Red Cross HQ and Branches are effectively responding to humanitarian needs.**

**Output # 1.1: Belize Red Cross has a sustainable Management Structure and adequate facilities to efficiently address the needs of the vulnerable people.**

- After several years of fundraising efforts, the BRCS has managed to acquire a new (second-hand) building (**Photo right**) for its Headquarters. The building is presently undergoing a few remedial renovations to accommodate the transition from the existing building. The existing HQ building has been in a serious and dangerous state of disrepair, posing risks to staff, volunteers, and visitors to the offices. Additionally, the building’s dilapidated state presented an unhealthy, unsafe, and demoralizing environment for





**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

everyone housed within. Funding for the building was made possible with the support of the Government of Belize through their charitable portfolio. Additionally, through the IFRC’s Capacity Building Fund, financial support was secured towards furnishing the new offices. The existing building **(Photo below)** will be undergoing renovations to allow for income generation through rental of training and conference spaces, much needed storage space, and the execution of branch activities for the Belize District. The HQ transition is expected to take place in June 2023.



- In November 2022 BRCS received 2 40’ containers containing prepositioned relief items. The containers were placed in two strategic locations for ease of service to the West, South, North and central Belize communities. BRCS also rents 3 other containers in Belize City monthly to store additional relief items to service the Belize District and the cayes, since the national society does not own their own warehouse.





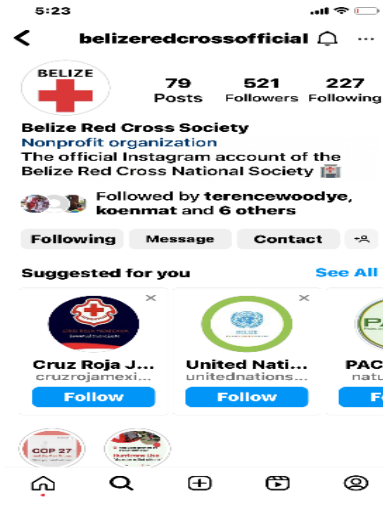
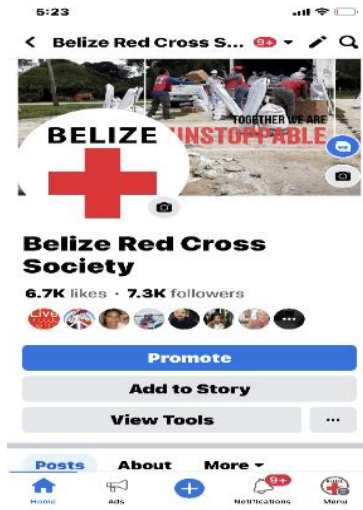
**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

- Following an extensive and in-depth review of the national society’s financial systems and procedures by an external finance committee led by the Treasurer of the Board in 2020, the BRCS updated its audits to Y/E March 2020. Audits to Y/E March 2021 and 2022 are now in progress. This has strengthened the accountability and transparency of the National Society and increased human resource complement of the Finance Department by 100% (total of 2 persons). This allows better segregation of duties and clearer-defined lines of responsibility and authority. Quick Books account reconciliations are being maintained, updated regularly, and reported in a timely manner, which enables informed decision making.
- A Finance Consultant was recruited in early September to assist with resource mobilization initiatives and to continue updating accounts in QuickBooks for financial accountability.
- A Volunteer & Youth Development Manager (VYDM) was recruited and tasked with the responsibility for Volunteer recruitment, induction, engagement, mobilization, and retention. Th VYDM has since commenced engagement of 6 branches countrywide, several of which remained inactive during and after the pandemic period of 2-3 years. The aim is to strengthen networking among branches and between branches and the HQ as well as to provide opportunities for leadership and youth development through increased involvement.
- Volunteer Focal Points were established in each branch to improve communication and networking between the branches and the Headquarters. Monthly meetings were introduced with branch leaderships and have so far been instrumental in updating headquarters of branch activities, and branches of developments in the headquarters. A collective Volunteer Plan of Action was also developed with contributions from each branch.
- The VYDM also met with five high schools in Belize City, to present the work of the Belize Red Cross, and to establish BRCS youth groups. One new youth group in Wesley Junior College is presently very active. **(photo right)**
- The National Society collaborated with the Crime Stoppers organization to create a commercial that builds awareness among the youth of alternative activities that they may engage as a diversion from a life of crime. **(Photos below)**





**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**



- A Communications and Community Engagement & Accountability (CEA) Officer was recruited to increase visibility, strengthen partnerships, improve communication, and increase accountability to our communities, partners, stakeholders and among all levels of the National Society. The National Society’s Social Media pages have also been reactivated and are kept updated with the latest news and actions of the National Society.

**Output # 1.2:** *HQ and Branches are using the BRC National Strategic Plan 2021-2025 to design and guide their planning and program implementation.*

- The NS’s National Strategic Plan 2021-2025 was approved by the Executive Committee and has been socialized across all levels of the National Society. An Operations Plan for 2022 was also developed at HQ level and approved by the Executive Committee.
- Branches have been working with the Volunteer & Youth Development Manager to develop their Operations Plan. Monthly meetings to discuss the plan and activities conducted within the month are held with the branches. Networking and communication have particularly improved between the headquarters and the branches. Orientation sessions have been held for HQ new staff and new branch volunteers.

**Output # 1.3:** *Belize Red Cross has updated, and Board approved Staff & Volunteer Policies and Staff & Volunteers are aware of the documents.*

- Belize Red Cross Staff Policy was reviewed, updated, and socialized within the National Society.
- Belize Red Cross Volunteer Policy was reviewed, updated, and socialized within the National Society. The policy reinforces the importance of the role of volunteering at the Belize Red Cross and outlines the basic



**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

values and attitudes of the organization towards volunteering. The policy further explains the role & responsibilities of the volunteers.

**Output # 1.4: BRC branches are developing proposals and implementing projects.**

- Volunteer-led sessions were organized to enable Belize Telemedia (Digi) to register beneficiaries and distribute telephones for a Cash Plus program, supported by UNICEF. This was a positive step towards ensuring that there was inclusion and equal opportunity for all. The teams worked with the selected participants in three separate stations, Bella Vista, Santa Cruz in the Stann Creek District, and San Ignacio in the Cayo District, where they were guided



through the application process and provided instructions on



how to use the Digi wallet to access Cash. The plus component of the project entails capacity building workshops in sewing, soap making, barbering and backyard gardening. **(Photo above right shows Staff and Volunteers who led the program)**

This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cash program implemented by the Belize Red Cross, although this time through a tripartite agreement between BRC, UNICEF and Digi Wallet (telephone company). Using Digi wallet was

easy and straightforward. Once the App was downloaded, one links his bank account or credit/debit card and adds money to their Digi wallet account. Digi wallet

is designed to make quick and simple digital transactions, convenient, and hassle-free for everyone. Bills may be paid, airtime bought, and goods and services purchased at Digi Wallet merchants countrywide. The user-friendly interface of the app makes it easy for anyone to navigate it effectively.

Twenty-nine people successfully benefited and received. The volunteers ensured that the participants were well-informed and equipped with the necessary knowledge to benefit from the Cash Plus program.

- There is a need to train Staff and Volunteers at branch level in proposal writing and finance management to attain an increase in development of proposals and programs coming from the branches and implemented within the different district jurisdictions, thus, increasing community engagement and accountability (CEA). With the support of the Volunteer & Youth Development Manager and the Communications/CEA Officer, the BRCS is expected to see growth in this area.

**Output # 1.5: Financial transactions at every level are transparent, accountable, including effective management of program and project spending.**

- The National Society's bank accounts are being reconciled monthly and Quick Books is kept up to date. The accounting for large projects, including DREF, is managed separately from the headquarters finances



**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

for improved management and transparent and accountable reporting. Audits were completed to Y/E March 2021. Auditors have commenced the audit for Y/E March 2022 and March 2023.

**Outcome # 2: Belize Red Cross programs and activities are supported by an active, strong, and diverse pool of well trained and equipped Volunteers.**

- The National Society’s orientation and induction program for new members, volunteers and staff has been revised, updated and is effectively being provided to branches and headquarters. The intent is to have all people engaged actively and productively with the National Society, having understood how the Movement works and the role it plays in the country as well as withing the wider Movement. Through this program, the Belize Red Cross Staff and Volunteer Policies are presented as well as the role and responsibilities of the volunteers and the different levels withing the organization.
- Sixteen Volunteers and Staff were trained in Volunteering in Emergencies and in Communication and CEA in 2022. Their knowledge was put to the test during the recent Hurricane Lisa response operations in November-December 2022. Approximately 67 volunteers supported the national society’s response in various capacities, e.g., DANA, logistics and warehousing, relief distributions of food, non-food and cash, reception, sorting of donations and managing requests for assistance at the office. A total of 1,105 families or at least 5,500 people were reached, assessed, and assisted in one way or another. This was the Belize Red Cross’ third Cash & Voucher Assistance (CVA) led by the IFRC. Lessons learned revealed that recipients prefer Cash to in-kind although some still prefer a hybrid assistance relief program. The distribution of Cash impacted the affected population in a positive way, and this was expressed by several upon receiving their cheques (the modality preferred by the recipients). Most expressed the need to repair their house, purchase schoolbooks and supplies, pay bills and purchase medication.
- Lessons Learned post distribution revealed the need for more training in Cash & Voucher Assistance for the Volunteers and Staff, particularly in conducting the Market Analysis and preparation of the questionnaire in KOBO.

***Staff & Volunteers responding to Hurricane Lisa – November and December 2022***





BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022



*Staff & Volunteer conducting DANA*

*Distribution of mattresses.*



**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

- Ten volunteers received training in the application Survey Solution in the San Ignacio Belize Red Cross Branch. The focus of the training was application of the questionnaire with the use of KOBO on cell phones for Cash and Voucher programs. The youngest attendee was 18 years old, and the oldest attendee was 60 years old. The session was participatory, and the volunteers gained a better understanding of how to complete the questionnaire and use the application in the selection of cash recipients.
- The Youth Engagement Strategy was re-introduced to volunteers and branches and discussions on same are currently being held with branches. The YES, which aims to articulate an approach that supports young people to do more, do better, and reach further in their local communities and beyond, is key to the future of our National Societies. Belize Red Cross has taken a special interest and focus on engaging youths within and with the organization. The need for stronger support in several areas of the organization’s work calls for youth engagement. Support in areas such as Information Technology, Communications, use of digital devices for program implementation and management, e.g., assessments, Cash & Voucher Assistance, are urgent for the National Society to remain relevant and competitive. MOUs are being established between BRC and the Academia as well as with youth organizations like the Belize Scouts Association for partnership in community work internships.
- The revised Volunteer Policy has provided the opportunity for better understanding of the Volunteer’s role within the national society and a better-defined purpose for their engagement.
- Dedicated and outstanding volunteers were recognized via social media commemorating International Women’s Day. Additionally branches also highlighted and saluted volunteers from their branch for their outstanding contribution to the work of the Belize Red Cross in Belize.
- A small recognition and award ceremony was held in Belize City in December 2022 to thank those volunteers who selflessly worked with the Belize Red Cross to conduct damage and needs assessments and relief distributions to the most affected population in the Belize District in the aftermath of Hurricane Lisa.





BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022

**Outcome # 3:** Belize Red Cross is positioned to meet the unmet needs of vulnerable or marginalized groups, through health programs, particularly in vulnerable communities especially those, affected by Climate Change, conflict, disasters, and other hazards.

**Output # 3.1:** A Comprehensive Health Strategy and Action Plan provides guidance on coordination, collaboration and/or implementation of health.

- BRC’s Health Policy is scheduled for revision in 2023. In the meantime, staff have attended workshops during PAHO’s consultations on the Development of their National Health Strategy. This provided a space for the national society to contribute to, and work with health stakeholders and partners, discovering and prioritizing the country’s health needs at a national level and to get a closer view and clearer understanding of where the national society fits into the national plans.

- Three First Aid Instructors (*in photo right*), including the National First Aid Coordinator, attended an intense First Aid training course in Trinidad & Tobago organized by the IFRC Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean Regional Office, from April 24<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The course covered Psychosocial First Aid, Wilderness First Aid and Medical First Aid. The objective of the training was to prepare the National Societies in the Caribbean to better benefit from Financial First Aid. Participants were equipped with the knowledge and necessary skills to deliver Emergency First Aid and programs to support the territories through training in the most recent American Red Cross programs, the standard for the region. This will further expand the national society’s income generation capacity. The National Society’s First Aid Policy will be updated to include these new capacities.



- With support from 4 active branches and the Headquarters, 1,200 persons received training and certification in First Aid and CPR in 2022. (*Photos right*)



- Staff and Volunteers received further training from the Ministry of Health & Wellness in the importance of the receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Belize Red Cross staff and volunteers supported the Ministry of Health from April 2021 to July 2022 in their vaccine roll-out program in Belize City and in remote communities. This support included provision of PPEs, promotional material, registration and



**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

navigation of patients, and mobilization of the health teams and BRC volunteers into remote and vulnerable communities to administer the vaccine.

- In response to Hurricane Lisa in November 2022, 1,105 house-to-house assessments were conducted and approximately 5,525 persons received nutritious food packages for two weeks. Additionally, 293 people received livelihoods assistance via cheques of \$600.00 from a cash and voucher assistance program through DREF. Target number of recipients was originally 300, later revised to assist 352 people. The program concluded in March 2023. ***(Below, recipients receiving cash and participating in the Exit Survey).***



***(Youth volunteer managing child friendly space during cash distribution)***



**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

- A Home Care Givers program is offered to the Belizean public five times per year and the demand for it increases with every course. Each cohort certifies approximately 30-34 new Home Care Givers and a yearly total of some 150-170. Facilitators are all skilled professionals who specialize in the different subjects taught, e.g., Diabetes, the Cardio System, the human anatomy, etc., and includes good ethics and conduct becoming of a professional Home Care Giver.



***Home Care Givers (below) in training to care for bed ridden patients and the use of PPEs.***

**Output # 3.2:** *A National Society Health Policy is aligned to the IFRC’s Health Policy and is in line with Belize’s National Health Policy and includes Mental Health and Conflict Management.*

- Belize Red Cross needs to develop its Health Policy by December 2023. The policy will be aligned to the IFRC’s Health Policy, and the Ministry of Health & Wellness National Health Policy. First steps were taken working with PAHO on the National Health Policy for the Ministry of Health, which provided the opportunity for proper integration of the Belize Red Cross in the National Policy.
- The Belize Red Cross First Aid Policy is also scheduled for revision in 2023 by the First Aid Steering Committee to ensure integration of pandemics, Psychosocial First Aid and Wilderness First Aid.



BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022

**Outcome # 4:** *The National Society's local response and preparedness capacities are enhanced alongside international support mechanisms and their network responds effectively to any emergency. People anticipate, respond to, and quickly recover from crises.*

**Output # 4.1:** *The National Society implements integrated risk management programs that promote the resilience of vulnerable families and communities and strengthens effective preparedness and response capacities and mechanisms.*

- During 2022, the Belize Red Cross Disaster Response Plan was revised to incorporate response to health emergencies, e.g., pandemics. The plan will be updated to further integrate the use of Cash and Voucher Assistance as an option for response to disasters and emergencies. The National Society is currently seeking support for the development of a National Contingency Plan in 2023.
- The national society updated its CDRT training curriculum to include Pandemics.
- Sixteen days of CDRT training was conducted in three communities in the Belize District, one in the Village of Freetown Sibun and two in Belize City. After certification, these teams were presented to the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) to strengthen the national response system. As a part of ECHO funding received under the IFRC's Country Plan, two micro-projects will be implemented to improve movement in and out of the village to boost outreach and productivity and to improve the community's capacity to respond during floods.

***(Freetown Sibun CRDTs on Certification Day)***





BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022



*(CDRT training in session during the visit of ECHO monitoring visit)*



*(Left presentation of certificate to the Village Chairperson; right signing for donated equipment)*



**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**



***(Equipment donated to the CDRT)***

- In partnership with the Canadian Red Cross and the National Hydrology Department, the Belize Red Cross installed an automated Early Warning System with river gauges in More Tomorrow, Cayo District. This was a part of the ***Community Resilience Building in the Caribbean*** project implemented by the Belize Red Cross in five communities in the Cayo District and 2 in the Belize District. The project was funded by Global Affairs Canada. The system in place is operational and serves the entire Belize River Valley in the Belize District as well. Training of the readers was conducted by the Government of Belize Hydrology Department. ***(Photos below of the National Hydrology Dept. installing the Early Warning System in More Tomorrow, Cayo District)***





**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

- Belize Red Cross developed and submitted a Concept Paper entitled ***“Enhance rural community climate resilience through a Disaster Risk Management perspective in Belize”*** to the Green Climate Fund in December 2022. The concept proposes to create climate resilient communities in Belize by promoting climate-responsive planning, improved health, hygiene, and livelihood-centered climate change adaptation to improve community well-being and build resilience to climatic stress. The project will further address the climate change adaptation needs and overcome barriers to the large-scale implementation of climate-smart Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to transform Belize into a greener safer, healthier, and more resilient country. Environmental sustainability will be achieved with the introduction of proven climate-positive hygiene and sanitation transformation. Together with environmentally friendly sustainable livelihoods the activities will contribute to resilient communities.

**Outcome # 5: People mobilize for inclusive and peaceful communities.**

**Output # 5.1: BRCS’ work with partners and people of all ages is aligned with humanitarian approaches to address and support behavior change.**

Psychosocial Support and Conflict Management training sessions for 20 migrants were held on January 15th and 16th 2023 in the Cayo District. These courses aimed at equipping the participants with the necessary skills to manage conflicts that may arise in their daily lives and to apply the knowledge the rest of their communities. The approach was participatory using group discussions, role-play and experience sharing. ***(Photo right of participants at training venue)***



The group comprised of both male and female between the ages of 28 and 65 years. Their occupational background was head of



household, agriculture labourers, construction workers, and vendors. The level of education of the participants was basic low literacy, and they mostly spoke Spanish. The sessions were conducted in Spanish to ensure that all participants could fully understand and participate in the program. The training sessions were designed to be interactive, with a mix of presentations, group discussions, and practical exercises. The participants also learned to handle different cases that may arise in their communities, such as gender-based violence, substance abuse, and

mental health issues.



**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

**Output # 5.2: BRC Migration Hub at the San Ignacio Branch facilitates information sharing and guidance for migrants in partnership with IOM through their IRM and WHP programs.**

- Two new Program Agreements were signed in October 2022 with IOM renewing the work of the Migrant Information Hub located in the San Ignacio Branch in the Cayo District for the Integrated Response for Migrants program (IRM) and the Western Hemisphere Program (WHP) for the period October 2022 – September 2023. The Hub supported the Government of Belize’s Amnesty Program that ended February 2023 by providing migrants with information on how to apply for amnesty, advising whether they qualify under the government’s set criteria and how to complete the required forms for application.
- BRC also entered into a Program Agreement with UNICEF to serve migrant children through a Cash Plus program. Cash was distributed in December and again in January. In addition to the PSS and Conflict management training, migrants received skills building trainings to improve their income generation capacity in soap making, sewing, barbering and back yard gardening.



*(Migrants learning soap making left)*



*(Migrants learning barbering below)*

*(Migrant ladies learning to sew right)*





**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

**Output # 5.3:** *Belize Red Cross Social Assistance programs contribute to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people.*

- BRCS entered into a third Program Agreement with Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints church to receive a donation of 339 wheelchairs in April 2023 for distribution to persons living with disabilities and with limited mobility. As in previous programs, staff and volunteers will receive training to become Assessors and Technicians. Clients will be assessed before the chair is custom fitted to suit the person.
- The National Society successfully submitted a proposal to the IFRC's Capacity Building Fund for improvement and increase in the national society's capacity to generate income. This project included the upgrade, re-equipping, and reactivation of a Snack Shop that provides modest funding to support some costs of daily operations for the headquarters. Through procurement of a few digital and electronic pieces of equipment the headquarters has been able to improve networking and communication with the branches, the communities, donors, stakeholders, and partners. The Belize Red Cross is very grateful for this support by the IFRC.
- The Belize Red Cross social assistance programs are continuously ongoing with daily services to "walk-ins", which includes assistance to persons affected by fire, providing clothing, food, non-food items and household items. The national society coordinates with the Ministry of Human development, Human Services Department, which assesses the persons and refers them to the Belize Red Cross for assistance.

**Outcome #6: Greater trust results in greater efficiency and effectiveness of the BRC Humanitarian Actions.**

**Output # 1:** *Monitoring and Evaluation is conducted within each program, project, and service of the National Society.*

- Evaluation and lessons learned activities are conducted with staff, volunteers, partners, and community members as much as possible at the end of all projects or large-scale activities. In December 2022, a lessons learned activity was conducted with the EOC team and field staff and volunteers to discuss lessons learned, identify challenges faced and the solutions applied in and out of the field during the Hurricane Lisa response. The common lesson learned was that in relief distributions, there needs to be clear communication on how the BRCS works with the affected population. Providing relief to selected persons/families that in the national society's estimation, are the most affected and most vulnerable, does not matter to the family that experienced damage or have been impacted to a lesser degree from those selected as most affected. Their perspective is that they are in need no matter the level of impact received from the event as their way of life was disturbed, and they need assistance as well.
- Regular monthly reports are submitted to the Executive Committee on the work of the national society, and progress towards ongoing projects and programs. Monthly reports are also submitted to the IFRC for projects funded by them.



**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

- The national society has one staff member trained in PMER and another with limited exposure. There needs to be more training for staff and branch volunteers in this area to support data collection, monitoring, and reporting.
- A Communications and Community Engagement & Accountability Officer (CEA) was recruited in November 2022 through the ECHO project. This person was scheduled to work closely with the surge PMER delegate to be deployed to Belize in January 2023 to conduct PDM (Post Distribution Monitoring).

**Other: Communication**

The Belize Red Cross is in the process of updating its existing Communication Strategy and developing a Disaster Communication Plan. Communication with the public is conducted through social media (Instagram and Face Book) as well as through representations



on TV talk shows (left) as well as through media coverage at events.

Communication is also carried out with the communities served through engaging them

in programs and project interventions and with partners and stakeholders through meetings, virtual meetings, webinars, and workshops but also by engaging them in program implementation, collaboration and coordination and representation in social mobilization events.



**Staff and Volunteers at a social mobilization events**





**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**





**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

Staff and volunteers also received training in Communications facilitated by the IFRC’s Communications Officer for the English and Dutch Caribbean. *(Photo of participants above)*

**Other: Volunteer Management and Youth Development**

A new Volunteer and Youth Development officer was recruited in August 2022 and since then branches have been meeting virtually monthly to share plans and discuss branch issues and finding solutions together. The Volunteer and Youth Development Officer also made a tour of the branches and met with several Branch Executive Committees to discuss branch plans and needs on a one-and-one basis. This helped to improve communication as well between Headquarters and the Branches. Branches benefit from various training opportunities and programs implemented within their jurisdictions.



***Volunteer Manager’s visit with San Ignacio Branch (above) and with the Corozal Branch (right)***



**Other: Blood Recruitment and Volunteering**

Nursing students from Hummingbird Medical Resources in the USA have been partnering with the Belize Red Cross as Volunteers for several years, interrupted only by the COVID-19 pandemic. They returned in 2022 and traveled to the Stann Creek, San Ignacio, Belmopan and Belize Districts to work with the Belize Red Cross branches in coordinating and implementing blood recruitment drives in partnership with the National Blood Bank.



**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**



*(Photos of Nursing students at blood recruitment drives)*

**Way Forward – some activities for Operations Plan 2023:**

**1. Organizational Development:**

- Develop Staff Incentive Program (SIP).
- Revise and update HQ and Branch Finance and Administration Guidelines.
- Develop a new Resource Mobilization Strategy and Action Plan.
- Present Staff and Volunteer Policies to the General Assembly for ratification.
- Conduct basic book-keeping training for Branches using the BRC accounting system (Quick Books)
- Train Staff and Volunteers in Participatory Hygiene And Sanitation Transformation (PHAST).
- Train Staff and Volunteers in Vector Diseases.
- Organize PMER Training for key BRC HQ Operations Staff and Branch Volunteers.
- Move into new Headquarters building.
- Fundraise for renovation of existing (old) Headquarters building.
- Continue advocacy with government for a warehouse.
- Continuing branch reactivation and development.

**2. Disaster Risk Reduction:**

- Develop and ratify a National Society Disaster Contingency Plan.
- Train 32 new National Intervention Team (NIT) members countrywide.
- Equip the Belize Red Cross' NITs and NEMO with tools, methodologies, and necessary equipment for effective response to emergencies.
- Establish trained Community Support Groups in partnership with communities and their leaders, including public authorities.



**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

- Train new Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs).
- Reintroduce Disaster Risk Reduction (preparedness and response) to 10 Primary Schools countrywide through the Protected Schools
- Increase the national society's work in the field of Eco-DRR, by strengthening and developing partnerships and collaborating with environmental organizations.

**3. Health & Wellness:**

- Launch a National Society Blood Recruitment Program.
- Expand and improve the First Aid & CPR program with modules for children first aid, first aid for persons living with disabilities.
- Introduce and offer Wilderness First Aid training and certification.
- Provide PHAST training in Schools.

**4. Volunteer and Youth Development:**

- Hold a Volunteer Encounter event.
- Conduct membership and volunteer drives countrywide.
- Establish MOUs for collaboration with partners.
- Work with schools to form and train youth groups.

**5. Communications and CEA:**

- Update the national Society's Communication Strategy.
- Develop the National Society's Communication Plan.
- Strengthen partnerships with the Media.
- Work with branches to increase and/or improve Communications and Community Engagement and Accountability.
- Work with branches to improve reporting.

**6. Inclusion:**

- Provide Conflict Management training to out-of-school youth in partnership with the Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Transportation, and the Ministry of Education.
- Provide Conflict Management training to in-school youth.
- Train technicians and assessors and expand the national society's wheelchair program.



**BELIZE RED CROSS SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

**Acknowledgements:**

The work accomplished by the BRCS is attributed to the hard work and dedication of staff at the headquarters and volunteers from all branches who selflessly gave of their time to work with the national society throughout the year. The following are a few programs they contributed successfully to during 2022.

- ❖ COVID-19 Response
- ❖ Hurricane Lisa relief operations
- ❖ Community Resilience Building (CRB) project
- ❖ Capacity Building Initiatives for Caribbean project (CBI)
- ❖ Country Plan Agreement and the ECHO and CBI project activities
- ❖ Migration (Information Hub)
- ❖ Migration Cash Plus Program
- ❖ First Aid & CPR training and certification
- ❖ Logistics
- ❖ Youth Development programs
- ❖ Office assistance programs

The Belize Red Cross Society thanks the following 2022 donors for their guidance and support throughout the year.

**IFRC** (Financial & technical support for COVID-19 Response, Hurricane Lisa Response, Country Plan Agreement (ECHO & CBI programs).

**ICRC** (staff & volunteer mobilization during Hurricane Lisa Response).

**UNICEF** (Cash assistance to migrant children and their families; skills training to migrant communities).  
International Organization for Migration (IOM) (Assistance to Migrants through the Migrant Information Hub).

**Social Investment Fund (SIF)** (KAP survey on WASH).

**IDB** (Financial support for food and logistics for Hurricane Lisa Response).

**Several other sundry donors and partners** for supporting the NS projects and hurricane response.

**The Belize Red Cross Executive Committee** for their support, encouragement, and mentorship of the National Society's Governing Board throughout the year.

Reported by:

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