

CONTEXT

Population: 5,094,114.

Climate Risk Index

- Costa Rica appears as the 89th country worldwide in terms of its [Climate Risk Index for 2000-2019](#), with an even lower ranking considering only 2019 (130th).
- In the [World Economic Forum Global Risk Report 2022](#), extreme weather events appear as the fifth most relevant risk identified for Costa Rica.

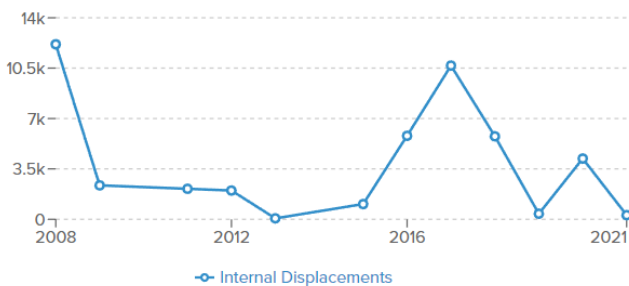
Major hazards and impacts

- From the [IOM Policy Brief Human mobility in contexts of disasters, environmental degradation and climate change in Costa Rica - Evidence and policy analysis](#): "The Registry of Ecological Threats (IEP, 2021), considers that despite the fact that Costa Rica is among the best classified countries in the region regarding the risk of facing an extreme threat of food risk and water risk, it continues to be qualified as a country extremely exposed to disasters due to natural hazards. Costa Rica sits between two highly active tectonic plates, making it prone to constant tremors and earthquakes, as well as rainy and flooding seasons (IOM, 2021a)".
- The [World Bank Costa Rica Risk Profile](#) notes that "Costa Rica is highly vulnerable to extreme hydrometeorological conditions and water scarcity, and climate change will increase the level of exposure and vulnerability of the country. Its young geological formation renders the country's territory additionally vulnerable to tectonic and volcanic activity, as well as the associated landslides, avalanches, water and mud dams, and rising sediment loads." Additionally, "77.9% of Costa Rica's population and 80.1% of the country's GDP reside in areas at high risk of multiple hazards".

Internal Disasters Displacements from 2008 to 2021

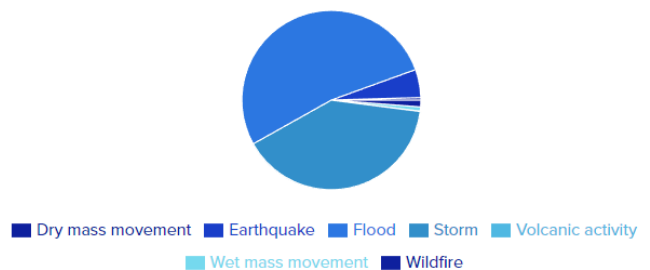
46,900

Internal Displacements ⓘ (2008 - 2021)



43

Disaster Events Reported (2008 - 2021)



Source: IDMC

INSTITUTIONAL PRESENCE

[IOM's office in Costa Rica](#) has 96 staff members. In addition to the IOM Country Office, Costa Rica hosts as well the IOM Regional Office for Central, North America and the Caribbean.

POLICY SCENARIO



Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policies

- The updated [National Determined Contribution \(NDC\)](#) submitted in December 2020 has no human mobility references.
- In the [National Climate Change Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) 2022-2026](#), submitted in May 2022, there are very limited mentions to human mobility. Migrants appear as a vulnerable population to be assessed in terms of climate impacts.
- From the [IOM Policy Brief Human mobility in contexts of disasters, environmental degradation and climate change in Costa Rica - Evidence and policy analysis](#): Migration law and disaster risk reduction (DRR) law do not include references to environmental migration. [Política Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo 2016-2030](#) of 2015 includes migrants as a category requiring attention. [Plan Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo 2016-2020](#) foresaw the establishment of a mechanism for migrant populations affected by disasters. [Política Nacional de Adaptación al Cambio Climático 2018-2030](#) mentions the possible impacts of climate change in terms of migration. Costa Rica is involved in the SNLD and has identified planned relocation as an area of priority.

International Migration Review Forum 2022

- The statement available at the [Migration Network IMRF](#) mentions that Costa Rica has traditionally been a country of destination of migrants, including due to environmental factors.

Specific Human Mobility Instruments

- While the migration law (8764 of 2010) does not include specific language on disasters and climate change, the category of "humanitarian reasons" can be used to facilitate entry or stay in disaster settings. In the past, the country has used its immigration legislation to provide protection to thousands of irregular migrants residing in Costa Rica and whose country of origin has been affected by natural disasters. Such is the case of the 1998 immigration amnesty based on Decree number 27457-G-RE after hurricane Mitch. Bilateral agreements also exist with Panama and Nicaragua to facilitate work in the coffee industry, among others.

A more detailed analysis is available in Spanish [“Movilidad humana en contextos de desastres, degradación ambiental y cambio climático en Costa Rica: Análisis de evidencia y de políticas”](#) (June 2022).