



LIBERIA

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 1.3M**

Appeal number **MAALR002**

In support of the Liberian Red Cross Society



93

National Society branches



41

National Society staff



3,700

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



20,000

Climate and environment



10,000

Disasters and crises



10,000

Health and wellbeing



20

Migration and displacement



1,500

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

- Epidemic preparedness and response
 - Disaster risk reduction
 - Food security

Capacity development

- Institutional capacity building
- Resource mobilization and sustainability

Key country data

Population **5.2M**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **164**

Human Development Index rank **178**

Population below poverty level **50.9%**

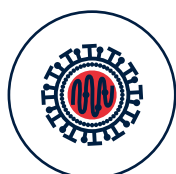
Hazards



Floods



Windstorms



Diseases

Funding requirements

Total 1.3M CHF

Through the IFRC

710,000 CHF

Through Participating National Societies

515,000 CHF

Host National Society

75,000 CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

- 100,000** CHF
Climate and environment
- 100,000** CHF
Disasters and crises
- 150,000** CHF
Health and wellbeing
- 50,000** CHF
Migration and displacement
- 75,000** CHF
Values, power and inclusion
- 235,000** CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Swedish Red Cross



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Liberian Red Cross Society was created in 1922 and admitted as a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1959. An amended Recognition Act passed in 2008 recognized it as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field.

The Liberian Red Cross has proved to be a dependable and reliable partner to the Government, with wide coverage across all 15 country regions and more than 3,700 volunteers. As an auxiliary to the authorities, it works with the most socially excluded groups to improve their preparedness and response to disasters, crises and emergencies. In these communities, the National Society also promotes positive social, mental and physical health, enhancing sustainable community safety, resilience and livelihoods.

The National Society's role as a recognized and impactful actor was demonstrated in its involvement in the response to recent emergencies and disasters, including the ongoing measles outbreak, COVID-19, the New Kru Town stampede, and the Lassa fever outbreak in early 2022.

In its Strategy Plan (2022–2025), the Liberian Red Cross emphasizes trending global humanitarian threats and challenges as a key focus for its operations and objectives, and plans to align its priorities to address crises and disasters in a comprehensive way. For the next four years, the National Society's priorities will be driven by, and focused on, two strategic directions:

Humanitarian service delivery

- Health and well-being interventions, including actions to address gaps in health and well-being; water, sanitation and hygiene; community-based health; maternal, new-born and child health; public health emergency preparedness and response; and health-based rights
- Disaster risk management and disaster operations, including actions to address the climate and environmental crises; disaster risk reduction; food security and livelihoods; and emergency preparedness and response
- Values and protection interventions, including actions to address gender and inclusion; the promotion of Red Cross values; women's empowerment; issues related to migration and identity; and the restoration of family links

National Society development and sustainability

- Institutional capacity building, including actions to develop human resources and finance management; youth and volunteer management; governance support; strengthened management policies; communications and humanitarian diplomacy; and chapter and branch development
- Resource mobilization and sustainability, including actions to implement asset management; fundraising; and strengthening partnerships and membership

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Liberia is situated in the centre of the Upper Guinea rainforest region on the west coast of Africa. This is a highly biologically diverse region that was originally covered by continuous, dense tropical rainforest. Liberia has a predominantly equatorial climate, with three distinct topographical belts: the low coastal belt, forested hills, and a series of low mountains and plateaus.

About 4.7 million people in Liberia are exposed to various natural hazards including floods, coastal erosion and windstorms, all of which are expected to become more frequent with the impact of climate change. The

population is also exposed to disease outbreaks, most recently an outbreak of measles.

Liberia has enjoyed almost 20 years of peace and stability since the end of the second civil war in 2003. For the first time in 74 years, power was transferred peacefully between leaders of opposing parties when, on 28 January 2018, the current administration of George Weah was sworn in, succeeding the outgoing administration of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. Women, however, continue to be poorly represented in national politics and very few hold leadership positions.

Institutions exist in Liberia that were established, and are devoted, to fighting corruption, but they lack the resources and capacity to function effectively. Corruption, therefore, remains pervasive. For example, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission was established in 2008 but, due to a lack of financial and non-financial resources, has struggled to carry out its mandate. The Commission conducted only two prosecutions between 2008 and 2017.

The UN estimates that there are about 5.3 million people in Liberia, and there is a population growth rate of 2.4 per cent. Approximately 51.6 per cent of the population currently live in urban areas and this is projected to increase to 57.3 per cent by 2030, and 68.2 per cent by 2050. The country's GDP is dominated by the agricultural sector, including fishing and forestry, which accounts for 42.6 per cent of GDP. The industrial sector, including mining, construction, electricity, water and gas, contributes 11.7 per cent of GDP, according to 2020 data.

Despite increasing global fuel and food prices, inflation was contained in 2021 and into the first half of 2022. Growth is expected to slow to 3.7 per cent in 2022, reflecting increased global uncertainties and commodity price shocks, but reach an average of 5.2 per cent over 2023–2024. However, the effects of the war in Ukraine and the 2023 elections could pose significant risks.

Poverty in Liberia remains widespread, with 35 per cent of the population living below the international extreme poverty line (set at US\$2.15 per person per day in 2017) in 2022. This has risen from 31 per cent of the population in 2019, and 28 per cent in 2016.

Social security spending is equivalent to 1.6 per cent of GDP. The vast majority of expenditure comes from external donors and focuses on short-term project-related assistance such as food for work, cash transfer and youth empowerment projects.

In its 2018–2023 Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, the Government of Liberia set out aspirations to establish a national social protection floor comprised of four social security guarantees: access to essential health care; basic income security for children; basic income security for working-age people who are unable to earn enough money; and basic income security for older people.

Two major issues have been identified as barriers to achieving social protection in Liberia. Firstly, the sheer number of people living in poverty, and secondly, the depth of the issues faced – 16 per cent of the population live with a disability, 7.2 per cent of all children are orphaned, there are more than 100,000 demobilized former soldiers, and more than 12,000 demobilized children. The number of adults and children who have been subject to trafficking is unknown.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environmental crises

The Environmental Performance Index, which ranks countries on environmental health and ecosystem vitality, ranked Liberia 180 of the 180 countries surveyed in 2020. The country received a score of 22.6 per cent, and was also ranked 46 of the 46 countries surveyed on the African continent. The key environmental issues in Liberia were identified as degradation of natural resources including forestry, land and water, and loss of biodiversity including forests, ecosystems, marine, wetlands and mangroves. Climate change is expected to exacerbate the existing stresses and enhance the vulnerability of communities to external shocks and crises.

Climate change will increase rainfall intensity and flood risks, and the potential for water-borne disease outbreaks in urban areas, especially in informal settlements. Rising sea levels will lead to more intrusive seasonal storms and tidal surges. These have the potential to

destroy infrastructure, displace coastal populations, and threaten the vitality of coastal wetlands and mangroves. It has been predicted that the country will see an annual temperature increase of up to 2.6°C by the 2060s, alongside more high-heat events, increasingly extreme wet and dry seasonal precipitation, increasingly irregular rainfall, and a sea level rise of 0.13–0.56 meters by 2100.

The Government of Liberia has outlined climate change mitigation actions in national laws and policies, action plans and projects.

Main actions and areas of support

The Liberian Red Cross is part of the [IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build

community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Liberian Red Cross has been working with the Swedish Red Cross to develop a three-year climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction project, targeting three counties in the southeast of the country.

In 2023, with IFRC network support, the Liberian Red Cross plans to:

- Implement nature-based solutions, including tree planting and greening, in line with the IFRC's Pan-African Tree Planting and Care Initiative
- Set up anticipatory mechanisms through forecast-based financing to enable communities to act ahead of predicted disasters
- Mainstream [green responses](#) into long-term and community-based programmes
- Mobilize volunteers to conduct environmental community clean-ups
- Establish climate- and environment-friendly clubs in schools
- Promote community awareness for climate change mitigation and sustainable environmental practices
- Build the knowledge and capacity of staff and volunteers as agents of change, equipping them to address the climate and environmental crises
- Enhance coordination with relevant local actors and authorities such as the Environment Protection Agency, the National Disaster Management Agency and the Ministry of Mines and Energy, to engage in climate action

Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page [Liberia](#).

There are a large number of rivers, catchments and aquifers in Liberia, as well as low-lying coastal zones, meaning changes in precipitation are likely to cause high-risk flooding in both coastal and urban areas. Projected increases in rainfall and floods, combined with poor access to health facilities, poor hygiene

practices and a lack of access to safe drinking water, will make communities – particularly in rural areas – more vulnerable to outbreaks of malaria, cholera and diarrhoeal diseases. Climate change is also expected to increase the risks and severity of multi-hazard disasters in Liberia, through more intense temperatures and changing rainfall patterns.

Liberia has developed and adopted key disaster management and risk reduction frameworks, including the National Disaster Management Policy, the National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction, the National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan, and the National Multi-hazard Contingency Plan. These legal and operational frameworks guide the preparedness and response strategies of both the Government and the Liberian Red Cross. All of the National Society's preparedness and response actions will be focused on supporting the Government's strategies and actions on disaster and crisis preparedness and response.

The Liberian Red Cross works in close collaboration with, and provides technical support to, the National Disaster Management Agency to prepare for, and respond to, disasters and emergencies. With a strong cohort of more than 3,500 volunteers trained in diverse skills, it is a trusted and responsible partner to the Government of Liberia, especially in humanitarian interventions. At county and district level, the National Society is well represented in disaster management structures, enabling chapters and branches to be at the frontline of disaster responses.

Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC will work with the Liberian Red Cross to increase staff and volunteers' understanding of the IFRC Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative, including its goals, intermediate objectives and outcomes, to enable them to better work in accordance with their mandate as auxiliaries to local authorities. The National Society will also develop integrated interventions that support basic needs, prevent asset depletion and protect, recover and strengthen livelihoods.

The National Society will develop a Communities Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan, alongside capacity-building interventions to increase community resilience. Community-based early warning systems will also be established, as well as increased engagement with communities to adopt environmentally sustainable practices. These objectives will be supported by the Swedish Red Cross's three-year climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction project.



Mirva Helenius / IFRC

The Liberian Red Cross will improve its preparedness and response for disasters, crises, contextual conflicts and emergencies, in accordance with the IFRC's Pan-African Red Ready initiative. The National Society will put a greater emphasis on building capacity, aided by developing the knowledge and resources of staff and volunteers to respond to crises and disasters. This will include coordinating with key national actors to identify risks and hazards, alongside developing appropriate strategies for preparedness and response. To strengthen its auxiliary role in disaster risk management, the National Society will increase its participation in national platforms, and advocate for effective and protective disaster-related laws, policies and regulations.

In 2023, the Liberian Red Cross plans to:

- Establish community-based early warning systems
- Conduct a hazard mapping exercise in 15 chapters
- Update or develop disaster risk reduction action plans in communities and conduct regular simulation exercises
- Carry out micro-disaster risk reduction projects such as tree planting and school safety, in seven chapters
- Provide livelihoods assistance and support to people affected by crises and disasters
- Mainstream the themes of cash and voucher assistance, community engagement and accountability, and protection, gender and inclusion in response actions

- Train staff to deliver cash and voucher assistance, and build knowledge around food security and livelihoods
- Procure essential household items at regional and chapter level
- Procure and pre-position basic emergency response equipment at headquarters and chapter level
- Establish and train disaster response teams at local branches
- Establish and equip an Emergency Preparedness and Response Operating Centre at headquarters
- Meet with legal professionals to further establish the importance of disaster law in Liberia
- Conduct disaster law in-country assessments on legal preparedness
- Establish an international disaster relief law network, focused on advocacy, with the National Disaster Management Agency

Health and wellbeing

The health system in Liberia has improved in the last decade, with the help of development partners, resulting in modest gains in the health status of the population. However, there is increasing demand for, and expectations of, accessible quality health care.

Although neonatal, infant and under-five mortality has reportedly declined over the last decade, rates remain very high for infants (at 37 deaths per 1,000 live births) and children under five years of age (approximately 78.3 deaths per 1,000 live births).

Disease outbreaks include malaria, cholera and diarrhoeal diseases. The country continues to face challenges around structural and epidemic preparedness. Poor community health preparedness and response capabilities, coupled with poor living conditions and inadequate health systems, pose a serious threat during outbreaks.

A measles outbreak was declared by the Ministry of Health in July 2022, affecting 14 of the 15 counties in Liberia. Measles is endemic in the country; however, the geographical scope of the outbreak and the rapid increase in the number of cases was unusual, demonstrating the need to increase and enhance the vaccination rate of children under five years of age. The median age of the population affected by measles was six years old, and the full age range was one month to 67 years old. The Liberian Government identified the outbreak as a result of low immunization rates, due to the disruption caused by COVID-19 immunization activities. Immunization misconceptions are linked with parental fears of having their children inoculated with the COVID-19 vaccine, rather than measles.

A rapid assessment conducted by the National Society, with IFRC support, in late May 2022 identified the following gaps in health and well-being:

- Lack of awareness, especially among people in remote locations, of the availability of measles vaccines and ways to access them
- Weak social mobilization and risk communication systems
- Lack of accurate information from the Ministry of Health on measles vaccine stock in the country, preventing development partners from planning responses accordingly
- Low capacity, in terms of logistics, personnel and equipment, of local health structures to respond to outbreaks
- Weak community-based structures (such as mothers' support groups, community health development committees and youth groups) that lack the resources to identify and refer measles cases within existing referral systems
- Inadequate awareness and sensitization materials for measles
- Misinformation and misconceptions around the COVID-19 vaccine

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene remains a major problem in Liberia. Only 30 per cent of the population have access to safely managed water, and 65 per cent to basic water. Just 21 per cent of people have access to safely managed sanitation, and 33 per cent to basic sanitation. Seventy per cent of people practice open defecation. Climate change has heavily affected the water cycle and availability of water in Liberia.

In 2016, Liberia's National Community Health Assistant Programme was launched, with the initial goal of preventing disease outbreaks.

Main action and areas of support

As part of the [response to the 2022 measles outbreak](#), the Liberian Red Cross is working to strengthen its coordination with national actors, including the Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute of Liberia at national and county level. The National Society plays an active role in incident management system meetings, hosted by the Ministry of Health at the National Public Health Institute's Emergency Operation Centre. The National Society is also a permanent key member of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Taskforce for epidemic preparedness and response. It has provided technical assistance to the revision of the measles information, education and communications resources used by the Government in its response to the outbreak.

The Liberian Red Cross capitalizes on its auxiliary role to ensure it is effectively positioned to contribute to country-level public health strategy, advocacy, policy platforms and mechanisms. The National Society's health programme contributes to national efforts to build healthier, safer and more resilient communities, while reducing vulnerabilities. In order to mitigate the impact of disease outbreaks, it seeks to empower communities to address their health needs, reduce injuries and improve safety nets.

The National Society is also working to strengthen community-based surveillance, health promotion and disease prevention in both communicable and non-communicable diseases. The health and care approach in operations focuses on the provision, availability and maintenance of safe and potable water. It also prioritizes the development of public health awareness and addressing sexual reproductive health and rights, including maternal and child health.

In 2023, the Liberian Red Cross plans to:

- Establish community early warning and alert systems on priority diseases at community level
- Develop community health action plans for epidemic preparedness
- Mobilize communities for immunization
- Participate in national epidemic preparedness and response actions
- Work with national stakeholders and advocate for equal access to new vaccines, especially for vulnerable people
- Reactivate the National Society emergency ambulance service
- Establish and train national emergency first aid responders, conduct refresher first aid training in chapters, replenish first aid kits for all 15 chapters, and hold a national first aid competition for World First Aid Day
- Conduct community health promotion and education sessions
- Link communities with clinics or health facilities to enable access to treatment for sexually transmitted infections and malaria
- Conduct effective awareness and education campaigns on the prevalence of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, through activities such as radio talk shows, focus groups and theatre demonstrations
- Establish and train mothers' clubs to increase access to sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health services in their communities
- Provide family planning services, including access to contraceptives
- Conduct community-level maternal, neonatal and child health activities
- Integrate psychosocial support assessments in disaster management and emergency health assessment tools
- Conduct water, sanitation and hygiene needs assessments in vulnerable communities across all chapters
- Construct 50 new water points mounted with hand pumps in 25 communities, followed by a water quality test on each water point constructed
- Conduct routine chlorination of hand pumps, rehabilitate 40 damaged hand pumps in 30 communities, and procure and distribute pump repair kits and hand tools
- Train community health volunteers to conduct house-to-house visits, identify and report priority disease triggers
- Train community water point management committees in 25 communities
- Procure and distribute safe water storage at household level
- Procure and distribute community clean-up tools to 50 communities
- Rehabilitate 30 water points at schools, market places and orphanages across 10 chapters
- Construct 20 institutional latrines in schools and market places
- Establish health and hygiene committees in schools and train on epidemic prevention and control
- Procure and distribute safe school hygiene materials, kits and clean-up tools
- Conduct hygiene education and school-based water, sanitation and hygiene activities in targeted schools

Migration and identity

The Liberian economy is sustained by the rural production of iron ore, diamond, gold and agricultural products; however, rural areas do not have adequate infrastructure. Road networks, hospitals and schools are needed to enable rural communities to develop further. Government transformational policies and programmes to create opportunities are usually implemented in urban areas, which leads to an increase in rural to urban migration.

Poverty in rural areas stands at 71.6 per cent, which is more than twice as high as in urban areas (31.5 per cent). The need for employment and sources of livelihood are the main drivers of internal migration in the country, with more than half of the country's population living in urban areas – in particular, Greater Monrovia, which is comprised of the cities of Monrovia and Paynesville, the townships of Congo Town, Westpoint, Garwolin, Gardersville and Barnersville, and harbours in the Borough of New Kru Town. High unemployment, delayed payments and comparatively low salaries for professionals in Liberia make emigration particularly attractive for young people and skilled professionals.

There were 94,448 immigrants in Liberia in 2019, mostly from Guinea (28,963), Ivory Coast (20,090), Sierra Leone (18,099), Ghana (8,081) and Nigeria (4,689). Liberia also hosted 8,746 refugees and asylum seekers, with 98 per cent from Ivory Coast (8,623), who were fleeing political instability. The Government of Liberia reported that, with the new arrival of 27,920 Ivorian refugees between 2020 and 2021, the total number of refugees in 2021 stood at 31,944, with 18,208 opting to voluntarily return to Ivory Coast.

Refugees reside in three camps (Bahn, PTP and Little Weibo), in host communities and the urban location of Monrovia. The UN recommends a general cessation of the Ivorian refugee status from 30 June 2022, and this will increase the number of returnees over the coming years.

Main actions and areas of support

The Liberian Red Cross will work to strengthen its institutional capacity to collaborate and coordinate with civil society groups, government ministries and agencies, to provide durable and sustained solutions to the needs of migrants. The National Society will seek to work with these partners to map out the key challenges and needs of migrants, sharing its high level of knowledge and experience in restoring family links. All categories of migrants will be included in work undertaken to establish identities and links to family members. Public awareness messages and media engagements will be carried out to sensitize local communities to the situation faced by migrants.

The National Society must strengthen its networks and explore new sources of support for migration and restoring family links services. It will engage with the IFRC and other partners to galvanize sustainable support for this programme. Lastly, it is crucial for the programme to be strengthened and improved through robust capacity-building and enhancing the National Society's ownership of it.

In 2023, the Liberian Red Cross plans to:

- Conduct restoring family links and family links activities such as tracing and sharing Red Cross messages
- Establish information centres along migratory routes in 15 chapters

- Establish migration call centres at headquarters and in five chapters in collaboration with the Liberia Immigration Service, Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, and the International Organization for Migration
- Establish [humanitarian service points](#) at headquarters and in eight major counties with migratory routes
- Establish the identities of migrants who have died along migratory routes, by conducting data collection and safe and dignified body management activities
- Set up first aid and mobile health posts, and offer primary health care services to people on the move
- Procure and distribute household, food, hygiene, shelter and other essential supplies to migrants
- Provide mental health and psychosocial support services to migrants
- Hold engagement and group meetings with migrants to understand their protection needs
- Implement diverse projects in migrant host communities to tackle anti-migrant sentiments and promote social inclusion
- Provide cash assistance to migrants and people on the move
- Provide medical and health care for migrants and people on the move

Values, power and inclusion

In Liberia, like many other countries, a patriarchal culture is entrenched and reflected in all forms of discrimination against women. Unequal power dynamics are apparent in the marginalization of women in decision-making processes. Women are the most uneducated, unemployed and consequently most violated, due to the normalization of discriminatory traditional practices.

Liberia has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.656, ranking it 154 out of 160 countries in the 2017 index. Just 9.9 per cent of parliamentary seats are held by women, and 18.5 per cent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education compared with 39.6 per cent of men. Female participation in the labour market is 53.9 per cent, compared with 57.4 per cent for men.

More than four in ten women have experienced sexual and gender-based violence. Rape is commonplace and the majority of victims are children. Reporting rape has become less shameful than it was in the past, and awareness about violence against women has increased, but the systems and structures that exist to give justice to victims function poorly.

The situation for adults and children living with disabilities in Liberia is particularly difficult. The 2008 National Census found 24,878 children living with a disability, and 57 per cent of them were not in school. The Government of Liberia is taking steps to improve the lives of people living with disabilities since ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2012. It has signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Children, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It also formed a national commission on disability and is reviewing its constitution to address the rights of people living with disabilities.

Main actions and areas of support

The Liberian Red Cross has developed several framing documents that guide its work in the area of gender, inclusion and diversity, as well as community engagement and accountability. It also has policies in place for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, child safeguarding and whistleblowing. People living with disabilities are active volunteers in the National Society chapters' COVID-19 response. The number of women in the Liberian Red Cross increased from 26 per cent in 2016 to 49 per cent in 2020.

The Liberia Red Cross has worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Education to maintain support for the national COVID-19 response through house-to-house visits and schools. A total of 120 volunteers were deployed to raise awareness of COVID-19 and other health promotion campaigns among students and other vulnerable groups of people.

Volunteers and community members have also carried out cleaning exercises in the homes of people living with disabilities, to support them in achieving proper sanitation and good hygiene, reducing the risk of public health infections. To ensure the continuity of these activities, a monthly schedule was established for volunteers and staff. This will also be used as a platform to pass on useful information such as updates on advocating for COVID-19 vaccination uptake. The National Society's psychosocial support unit and the protection, gender

and inclusion unit are working together to provide psychosocial support to people (and their families) who have been affected by both COVID-19 and sexual and gender-based violence.

In 2023, with support of the IFRC network, the Liberian Red Cross plans to:

- Support people who are at risk from, or who are survivors of, sexual and gender-based violence
- Develop programming standards and tools to prevent, respond to, and mitigate risks of gender-based violence
- Implement localized, participatory child protection programming
- Promote the participation of people of all gender identities with diverse backgrounds in disaster and emergency response teams
- Engage community members, in particular women and gender minorities, in decision-making processes about disaster risk management
- Ensure that people living with disabilities are included in, and able to access, National Society programmes and services
- Conduct community town hall advocacy meetings, and awareness and stakeholder discussions, to promote community cohesion and inclusion
- Establish feedback and complaint mechanisms in all National Society projects
- Adopt a comprehensive protection, gender and inclusion approach across operations and programmes
- Develop a community engagement and accountability strategy
- Increase awareness of protection, gender and inclusion, as well as protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
- Implement child safeguarding policies
- Scale up the technical and financial support available for youth-led education and action, building on the Youth Engagement Strategy and other youth-led initiatives
- Conduct youth-led climate actions in communities
- Strengthen or establish strategic partnerships with key actors, including education authorities, to enable collaborative action that improves education during emergencies

Enabling local actors

The Liberian Red Cross is committed to pursue its institutional strengthening and has carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2014 and 2018. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

The overarching priorities for National Society development are institutional capacity building and resource mobilization and sustainability. The IFRC network is committed to support the Liberian Red Cross in its efforts and in alignment with its priorities. The IFRC network will support the National Society with opportunities for training, peer-to-peer technical support, data literacy and strategy, policy and systems development.

Engaged

The Liberian Red Cross will increase its capacity for humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy, in order to persuade decision-makers to act in the interests of vulnerable people, and with full respect for fundamental humanitarian principles. Through enhanced engagement of its legal base and its auxiliary role in the humanitarian space, the National Society will reach more people and provide much-needed services to vulnerable people.

To foster innovation and evidence-based results, the National Society will enhance its programming profile through better information and data management. With the goal of attracting the most reliable and sustainable partnerships across the spectrum, the National Society will implement its digital transformation through innovative approaches to programming and sustainable National Society development.

In 2023, the Liberian Red Cross plans to:

- Create communications, public advocacy resources and advice to increase the public's understanding of the role of the Red Cross, while building trust in its activities
- Develop humanitarian stakeholder mapping and engagement through different approaches
- Develop and adopt a national action plan for stakeholder engagement

- Hold annual partnership meetings with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other external partners
- Engage in regular media and public communication meetings to update the public on the work of the National Society
- Engage strategically with key actors, international organizations, diplomatic missions, donors, UN agencies and the media through visits and coffee meetings – in order to advocate for support
- Support chapters with substantially widening their involvement in, and leadership of, civil society and other coalitions at national and local level
- Digitalize programmatic approaches in assessment, implementing and reporting
- Increase digital capability through the procurement and installation of equipment and devices
- Using digitalization to increase resource mobilization and fundraising by various means, including online marketing, media and improved marketing communication
- Ensure data protection best practices and information security measures are adopted and implemented in ongoing and new operations

Accountable

The Liberian Red Cross is committed to increasing its activities on sustainable resource mobilization, local fundraising and strengthening system structures, for the next three to five years. It will focus on improving system structures in programme management, human resources, financial risk management, logistics and resource mobilization, as well as planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER).

In 2023, the Liberian Red Cross plans to:

- Conduct an operational risk assessment and develop a risk management plan
- Disseminate fraud and corruption control policy at national and chapter level, and ensure all staff and governance leadership participate in anti-corruption training
- Create a strategy and plan of action to mitigate the risk of fraud, corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse within the National Society

- Roll out compliance policies at all levels
- Establish and maintain an internal audit unit at headquarters
- Ensure that web-based systems are accessible at all levels and that a new web-based system supports globally integrated processes for finance, PMER, human resources, logistics and pledge management
- Conduct finance development training for the finance teams at headquarters and in chapters, and for the logistics focal point and volunteers
- Develop and disseminate an asset management policy
- Support investments in key areas of resource and financial sustainability – including guest houses, sustainable agriculture, clinics, the fleet cost recovery programme, workplace first aid and mineral water production
- Conduct a market assessment for resource mobilization and support chapters to develop a resource mobilization plan

Trusted

The Liberian Red Cross has a network of more than 3,000 volunteers, whose actions are key to building community level trust and community ownership of programmes. The COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing measles responses in Liberia have demonstrated the need for these volunteers, for effective local actions.

Chapters and branches will be supported to prepare volunteers and youth to become catalysts of behavioural change. The National Society will take a decentralized approach to improving its role in local humanitarian actions, achieved by strengthening the structures and

leaderships of all chapters and branches. The National Society will also ensure that they are aligned in their vision and purpose, through consistency in constitutive texts and operational plans.

In 2023, the Liberian Red Cross plans to:

- Conduct training on key policies and manuals
- Develop tools for monitoring the implementation of key policies and framework documents
- Develop an effective management framework with transparent and inclusive processes that are understood by all stakeholders
- Support planning processes for all involved branches to ensure alignment with the goals of the National Society
- Conduct capacity assessments in 15 chapters
- Share and discuss [Branch Organizational Capacity Assessments \(BOCA\)](#) with chapters and branches, followed by action plans to implement the findings and recommendations
- Hold an annual youth summit
- Organize youth career day programmes
- Launch college and university youth engagement programmes
- Conduct volunteers' care training, with volunteer focal points and managers
- Conduct quarterly youth and volunteer debrief sessions
- Digitalize the volunteer database
- Revise the National Society's legal base and amend its statutes











THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC, through its country cluster delegation in Freetown, Sierra Leone, provides overall support for the strategic engagement of the Liberian Red Cross. It also supports capacity building, operations management, and the facilitation of its application to IFRC funding mechanisms, including the [Capacity Building Fund](#) that supports systems safeguarding.

The IFRC's [COVID-19 global Emergency Appeal](#) has supported the National Society's response since the start of the pandemic. In 2022, the IFRC supported the Liberian Red Cross through a [DREF allocation](#) for the measles outbreak. Technical support from the IFRC cluster delegation has included support in the development and implementation of rapid assessment tools, and provided training for National Society staff and volunteers on data collection tools.

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Qatar Red Crescent									
Swedish Red Cross	CHF 0.52M								

Total

0.52M

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and reinforcing the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The **Swedish Red Cross** is the only participating National Society present in Liberia. A three-year National Society development project, funded by the Embassy of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), was due to begin at the end of 2022. The Swedish Red Cross also supports the National Society to implement many of its organizational

development priorities, including finance development, strengthening PMER, resource mobilization, safeguarding, volunteer management, policy development and core costs, including salaries.

The Green, Inclusive, and Resilient Liberian Communities project is a prospective three-year climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction project, targeting three counties in the southeast of Liberia. This would be achieved with the support of the Swedish Embassy in Liberia.

In 2018, the National Society signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the **Qatar Red Crescent Society**. This is intended to foster collaboration in humanitarian service delivery, disaster risk reduction, disaster and emergency preparedness, food security, livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene, and health. The completion and implementation of the agreement was hampered by the outbreak of COVID-19, which also saw the two National Societies sign a cooperation agreement for the COVID-19 response.

Movement coordination

Collaboration between the Liberian Red Cross, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is conducted in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC delegation for West Coast, based in Abidjan, supports the Liberian Red Cross with capacity building, emergency preparedness and response, and organizational development. It specifically focuses on the National Society's auxiliary role, international humanitarian law, restoring family links, finance development, and partnership development and sustainability.

Coordination with other actors

The Liberian Red Cross works in close collaboration and coordination with the National Disaster Management Agency, to ensure its relevance as a key national preparedness and response actor. At county and district level, the National Society is represented strongly in the disaster management structures through its chapters and branches. All preparedness and response actions conducted by the National Society focus on supporting the Government's strategies and actions on disaster and crisis preparedness and response.

The Liberian Red Cross works closely with the Ministry of Health to address disease outbreaks, including the 2022 measles outbreak. The National Public Health Institute of Liberia has been coordinating technical aspects of the response, whereas the Ministry of Health oversees the coordination, monitoring, detection and referral

of cases to health facilities, and conducts testing in various laboratories within the country. Other actors involved in the measles response include the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and the United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, all of which support the Government's efforts. Médecins Sans Frontières, Plan International and Breakthrough Action have also contributed to the response.

The National Society aligned its measles campaign and outreach activities with the Government's strategy and scheduled countywide campaign. The Liberian Red Cross was the Ministry of Health's only partner to carry out social mobilization and community-level outreach and awareness during the measles vaccination campaign, to support routine uptake.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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