



BENIN

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 2M**

Appeal number **MAABJ002**

In support of the Red Cross of Benin



79

National Society branches



50

National Society staff



12,600

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



24,000

Climate and environment



36,000

Disasters and crises



2.5M

Health and wellbeing



10,000

Migration and displacement



678,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction
- Climate change adaptation and nature-based solutions
 - Health
- Water, sanitation and hygiene

Capacity development

- Branch development
- Financial sustainability
- Communications and advocacy

Key country data

Population **12.5M**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **152**

Human Development Index rank **166**

Population below poverty level **38.5%**

Hazards



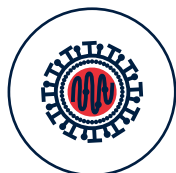
Floods



Drought



Strong winds



Disease outbreaks



Population movement



Violence

Funding requirements

Total 2M CHF

Through the IFRC

1.8M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

168,000 CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

223,000 CHF
Climate and environment

243,000 CHF
Disasters and crises

569,000 CHF
Health and wellbeing

159,000 CHF
Migration and displacement

68,000 CHF
Values, power and inclusion

546,000 CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

Belgian Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross Society*

Italian Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*

Turkish Red Crescent Society

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Red Cross of Benin is a humanitarian association, recognized by decree as a public utility since 1963 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) the same year. Its mission is to prevent and alleviate all human suffering, impartially and without discrimination on the grounds of nationality, race, sex, class, religion, language, or political opinion.

In its role as a humanitarian actor, the Benin Red Cross seeks to improve the condition of those who are most vulnerable and exposed to situations that threaten their survival or ability to live with social and economic security and human dignity. In doing so, the National Society supports target groups to live with dignity in a society that values them.

The National Society has a clear vision for consolidating its actions over the 2022–2026 period and has adopted a strategic development plan. The plan includes four strategic focus areas:

- Health and social actions
- Crises, disasters, and adaptation to climate change
- Communication, values, power and inclusion
- Organizational development

Key areas of the National Society's interventions include disaster preparedness and response; risk reduction and adaptation to climate change; emergency care; first aid; community-based health; psychosocial support; water, sanitation and hygiene; community social actions; support for women in Mothers' Clubs (through income-generating activities); support to migrants; social and youth mobilization; and promotion of international humanitarian law.

The Benin Red Cross is present in 79 municipalities in Benin through 79 local branches, and it engages more than 12,000 volunteers nationwide.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Located on the Gulf of Guinea, Benin is a West African country bordered with Niger, Burkina Faso, Togo and Nigeria. It covers an area of 114,763 sq. km and is 700 km long, with valuable wetlands and fisheries and a high potential for tourism. Benin has invested in the refurbishment of its port and other infrastructure, and sustains an economic growth rate of about 5.5 per cent. However, much like other countries in the region, the people of Benin face a number of challenges – for example, more than a third of the population lives in poverty. Benin ranks 166 out of 187 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index.

Like other West African countries, Benin is negatively affected by climate variability and change, which

increase the frequency of extreme climatic events such as floods, long droughts, heat waves and torrential rains. These natural hazards often provoke waves of cross-border migration, causing social conflicts between herders and farmers in several municipalities across the country. To address the ongoing effects of climate change, Benin adopted Law No. 2018 relating to climate change in 2018, which applies to continental, coastal and marine ecosystems as well as related waters and human settlements.

Elections in recent years have caused some tension in Collines, Borgou and Alibori, as well as in the Littoral. The security situation in Benin is also worsening due to the presence of non-state armed groups in northern areas.

Communities in Benin are frequently confronted with epidemics of viral haemorrhagic fever, malaria, cholera, meningitis, measles, yellow fever and, most recently, monkey pox. In the absence of quality health care, human resources and health care infrastructure, these infections spread rapidly.

The safe disposal and treatment of human waste is a major issue in Benin, primarily due to a lack of sanitation

services and infrastructure. There is not enough space to build household toilets in densely populated areas, including informal settlements, and many households do not have access to adequate and affordable sanitation facilities. In urban areas, 75 per cent of people do not use improved sanitation facilities, 37 per cent use shared facilities, and 27 per cent of the population practise open defecation.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Temperature rises and increases in rainfall caused by climate change are likely to exacerbate the challenges already faced by the agriculture and forestry sectors, while communities in coastal areas will suffer from the effects of rising sea levels. As a significant driver for the Beninese economy, the agricultural industry will need to adopt adaptive measures to respond to the impacts of climate change and reduce food insecurity.

Rising sea levels threaten the southern coastal region of Benin, where more than 50 per cent of the population lives on the coast and in the city of Cotonou. Rapid urbanization has exacerbated the vulnerability of coastal cities, and communities there are unprepared to deal with increased flooding caused by sea level rise and coastal erosion. Demand for land, water and other natural resources has also increased due to urbanization, while infrastructure of military origin and sand extraction have contributed to coastal erosion.

Over the last 40 years, the coastline of Benin has eroded more than 400 metres in certain areas, causing severe damage to coastal populations where homes and infrastructure have been engulfed and swept away. Poor development of services and infrastructure in urban areas, such as sanitation facilities, have worsened the impact of coastal erosion on urban populations.

Climate change is likely to accelerate desertification in the north of Benin and increase the frequency of torrential rains and floods in the south. The most notable

climate risks in the country include droughts, intense rains, floods and extreme winds.

To address the ongoing effects of climate change, the country has adopted Law No. 2018. The legislation applies to continental, coastal and marine eco-systems, as well as related waters and human settlements. The Government has also adopted an action programme for 2021–2026, in which it has committed to improving integrated biodiversity management.

Main actions and areas of support

The Benin 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.

In support of the Government's efforts, the Benin Red Cross will implement reforestation activities and tree planting and maintenance campaigns. It will also encourage good practices and improve knowledge

about the planting and maintenance of trees among communities, young people and school children. This work forms part of the IFRC Pan-African initiative on Tree Planting and Care.

Activities in 2023 include:

- Reviewing and updating climate and environmental risk mapping and priority interventions for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Promoting knowledge of the risk, adaptation and mitigation of climate change among communities
- Promoting improved cropping techniques in crop production and climate-smart and nature-based solutions
- Promoting environmentally sustainable practices in communities and Benin Red Cross offices, including reduce, recycle, reuse; the environmentally-friendly management of water and energy resources; and environmentally sustainable practices in communities and National Society offices
- Reforestation and the prevention of deforestation

Disasters and crises

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

Benin is susceptible to several hydrometeorological hazards, which are exacerbated by climate change. Floods, the most frequently recurring hazard in Benin, are becoming increasingly severe and more destructive, especially in coastal areas. Recurrent floods in urban areas such as Cotonou, Porto Novo and Parakou pose significant challenges to Benin's inadequate water supply, sanitation and waste collection systems.

Throughout September 2022, heavy rains fell across several areas in Benin; 27 of the 77 municipalities were flooded, and the rivers Mono, Oueme and Niger broke their banks. The sudden increase in water levels, which occurred when the waters of the Nagbéto dam in Togo were released and intense rains fell, left a total of 39 people dead – four from drowning and 35 as a result of water-related accidents – and three others went

missing. Many villages and social and community facilities were flooded, while more than 50 primary schools and 12 colleges were also submerged by the influx of water. The Benin Government reported that more than 73,000 people were affected and close to 1,400 homes were damaged by the waters, including at least 670 that were completely destroyed. Significant crop and livestock losses were recorded, affecting thousands of hectares of land across 22 municipalities. Among the most hard-hit municipalities, 71,270 people were affected by the floods and 1,328 households were rendered homeless due to the destruction of their homes.

Communities in Benin also experienced heavy rainfall from September 2021, when 38 out of 77 communes suffered loss and damage as a result of rising water levels and flooding, and the rains were expected to last at least another month. Extreme weather events such as these also inhibit access to vital infrastructure, such as markets and safe sanitation facilities.

Recurring droughts are also likely to continue to affect Benin. The agricultural and water resource sectors are particularly vulnerable to the unpredictability of climate change, due to their reliance on weather patterns. A lack of effective early warning systems will increase their vulnerability, threatening food security and livelihoods. The Benin Government's action programme includes the strategic objectives of improving food security and nutrition in rural communities, creating jobs for women and young people, and increasing people's incomes.

People in Benin also face the risk of fires breaking out on a daily basis, due to overcrowding and the nature of housing. The practice of slash-and-burn cultivation and burning, as well as poor maintenance of industrial facilities and equipment, also contributes to the problem. Additionally, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear accidents can occur in Benin, caused by uranium transport convoys from Niger to the port of Cotonou.

Benin is routinely exposed to socio-political conflicts caused by the seasonal moving of livestock (transhumance), disputes over election results and security risks related to radicalization and violent extremism. Security in northern Benin has continued to deteriorate,

mainly due to the resurgence of attacks by non-state armed groups in almost all the municipalities bordering Burkina Faso and Niger. This has prompted population movements towards areas that are considered to be more peaceful, posing further challenges for the authorities to protect people and property and operate basic social services.

At the national level, there are mechanisms and systems in place to prevent risks and better manage disasters should they occur. In this context, operational entities in Benin work with the national disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation platform, of which the National Society is a member. The platform brings together sectoral ministries, the UN, humanitarian NGOs, and people capable of intervening promptly in the event of crisis or disaster situations. The National Policy for the Prevention and Integrated Management of Disasters, the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and other national plans have also been developed, to be implemented by various protection and relief entities.

Main actions and areas of support

The Benin Red Cross responds to disasters and crises in line with its auxiliary role and strives to increase its capacities. It participates in the IFRC Red Ready Pan-African initiative, which aims to strengthen disaster operations, management, coordination and accountability, while promoting the localization of humanitarian responses by strengthening the capacity of local branches and volunteers. The Benin Red Cross takes the entire disaster risk management cycle into consideration to ensure that prevention, preparedness, response and recovery contribute seamlessly to community resilience.

In the recent 2022 floods, with support from an IFRC [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) allocation](#), the Benin Red Cross worked with the authorities at a national, municipal and local level to coordinate humanitarian assistance to those affected. From the onset of the flooding alerts, the National Society delivered water-borne disease prevention messages and led sensitization sessions on the key risks faced by communities during the flooding season. It reached

10,102 people with awareness messages on health and hygiene promotion.

Fifty volunteers from 10 local committees were stationed in the affected areas, conducting awareness sessions on water, sanitation and hygiene and assisting the authorities with temporarily relocating people. This included preparing the relocation site before shelters were constructed, providing psychosocial and mental health support to communities, and providing relief assistance to a total of 9,000 people. 100 volunteers delivered 1,280 shelter kits and assisted communities with the construction of 1,023 shelters and 800 emergency shelters. The volunteers also helped repair and rehabilitate 223 severely damaged houses and built 51 latrines.

Activities for 2023 include:

- The provision of support to communities for the development of better, more resistant housing solutions, in close partnership with local actors
- Introducing food security and livelihood programmes under the IFRC Pan-African Zero Hunger initiative
- Strengthening the capacity of volunteers and disaster risk reduction platforms on risk prevention and disaster management
- Contributing to contingency plans and mitigation initiatives from municipalities
- Training and increasing the preparedness of communities to better anticipate emergencies through simulation and anticipation measures
- Strengthening the capacity of local volunteers to deliver needs assessments and community development
- Extending the number of warehouses for the pre-positioning of emergency kits
- Establishing and training disaster response teams
- Advocating for communities and supporting authorities to develop policies and regulations for protection in crisis situations

Health and wellbeing

The top 10 causes of death in Benin are neonatal disorders, malaria, lower respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, ischemic heart disease, stroke, road injuries, tuberculosis, congenital defects and HIV/AIDS. In Benin, approximately 38,122 children under the age of five die each year, and 38 per cent of these deaths are due to malaria, diarrhea and acute respiratory infections.

More flooding and higher temperatures due to climate change will have an impact on the spread of infectious diseases across Benin. Prolonged dry seasons and hotter days and nights will give vectors more time to breed and spread disease – with stagnant water providing them with habitats – putting the population at a greater risk of vector-borne infections. There is an especially high risk of malaria, which accounts for about 40 per cent of all visits to health facilities.

Food security is precarious across Benin, and households in northern rural areas are particularly affected by malnutrition. A lack of good quality food products and balanced, nutritional meals leads to dietary deficiencies that affect the health and growth of children. Pregnant women and nursing mothers are generally unaware of their families' dietary needs, and vulnerable people are often unable to prepare their meals properly or safely. Access to adequate healthy food is also limited by low purchasing power and inadequate levels of domestic food production.

The need for palliative care is increasing in Benin because life expectancy is going up and non-communicable diseases are increasing. Many people reach the end of their lives in physical, psychological or spiritual distress, and these patients are sometimes forgotten and left to die alone. Cancer, for women in particular, is the primary reason for needing palliative care. In a study carried out at the CNHU-HKM in Cotonou, 17 per cent of hospitalizations were due to cancer; 34.6 per cent of cases were breast cancer, and 12.2 per cent were cancer of the cervix. In 71 per cent of cases, the cancers detected are in their advanced stages III and IV.

Main actions and areas of support

The National Society seeks to ensure that people living in Benin, regardless of their race, nationality or other factors, can benefit from adequate health care and appropriate psychological support.

The Benin Red Cross supported the Government's response to COVID-19, conducting social mobilization and community awareness activities with 12 volunteers deployed in each municipality. The National Society carried out awareness-raising sessions in existing schools and systems where focal points had received training previously, including Mothers' Clubs. The National Society helped maintain preventive measures and helped people gain access to vaccination centres. The Benin Red Cross also distributed protection kits to the population in some municipalities. The Benin Red Cross supported the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 campaign in 76 local committees across the country. With the support of local authorities and community leaders, volunteers supported communities to mobilize for vaccination. A continent-wide initiative between the IFRC and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to invest in building resilient public health security infrastructure on the continent will reinforce the fight against COVID-19. Under the US\$39 million Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative funded by the Mastercard Foundation, the IFRC and African National Societies are building a programme to ensure that 60 per cent of African people vaccinate themselves against COVID-19. The partnership between the Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC will support the procurement and delivery of tens of millions of COVID-19 vaccines and hasten economic recovery on the continent. Under this programme, the Red Cross of Benin will deliver critical risk communication and community engagement activities to vulnerable communities in support of COVID-19 vaccine uptake. Other programme partners will provide procurement and logistics services to a central warehouse (UNICEF), in-country logistics (World Food Programme), managing COVID-19 vaccination centres (Amref Health Africa and GHSS) and safety surveillance (Akros).

Other activities in 2023 will include:

- Raising awareness of community health, nutrition, good hygiene practices, pandemics and epidemics, including cholera, as part of the IFRC [One WASH](#) initiative
- Improving access to water infrastructures and sanitation facilities for communities
- Providing appropriate sexual and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services
- Supporting prevention and care services related to gender-based violence
- Conducting awareness-raising campaigns for vaccination and blood donation
- Setting up four support teams to implement the palliative care programme in community settings
- Setting up a support programme for people in vulnerable situations following emergencies
- Participating in and contributing to coordination platforms for public health emergency preparedness and response
- Developing the National Society's capacity to manage, analyze and evaluate data related to health
- Advocating for public health to authorities
- Training 100 volunteers and providing basic psychosocial support to communities in need

Migration and displacement

There is relative political and social stability and economic potential in Benin, which makes it an attractive host country for migrants from neighbouring countries and West Africa in general. In 2019, there were 390,112 migrants, according to the UN. The main countries of origin were Togo, Nigeria, Niger, Ivory Coast and Ghana, and there was a considerable increase in Asian immigration between 2013 and 2019 too.

Benin is also a destination country for migrants who need protection after leaving their home countries because of armed conflicts or political crises. UNHCR figures show that, in 2020, Benin registered 1,396 refugees

and 464 asylum seekers. Most of those with refugee status (75.21 per cent) came from the Central African Republic (CAR), 11.96 per cent were from Ivory Coast, 2.58 per cent originated in Mali, and 2.51 per cent came from Cameroon. Of the asylum seekers, 36.85 per cent came from CAR, 13.79 per cent from Cameroon, and 11 per cent from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

On arrival in Benin, most refugees tend to settle in the south, particularly Atlantique and Mono. People with refugee status have the right of movement and they are entitled to the same access to labour markets, education, social welfare and scholarships as nationals. However, when they arrive, they are often subjected to discrimination. In Benin, some conflict arises because school fees for immigrant children are higher than those of Beninese citizens. The informal market for the migrant population is mainly in the industrial, agricultural and commerce sectors. However, Benin is primarily a country of origin – 666,357 left in 2019 (5.65 per cent of the population). Emigration to other countries is driven by poverty, informal employment and access to education, with many people leaving in search of work opportunities and better living conditions. People tend to emigrate from Benin to Nigeria, Togo, Ivory Coast, Gabon and Niger. Others try to reach European countries such as France, Italy and Germany, or travel to other countries such as Canada.

Migrants are exposed to many risks and vulnerabilities on their journeys, including exploitation, kidnapping, detention, mental and physical abuse, sexual and gender-based violence and environmental hazards. Some migrants are also exposed to smuggling and human trafficking while on the move.

In terms of internal migration in Benin, the primary drivers of migration from rural to urban areas are climate change and a lack of economic opportunities, and movement is usually from northern to southern areas. Recent insecurity in the northwest and northeast of the country has triggered further population movements.

Main actions and areas of support

The Benin Red Cross is part of the IFRC three-year [Global Route Based Migration Programme](#), which aims

to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The IFRC focuses on the needs of vulnerable migrants irrespective of origin, ethnicity, legal status or gender. The Benin Red Cross, with support from the IFRC, addresses the vulnerabilities of migrants through three main areas of response: assistance, protection, and public awareness and promotion of respect for diversity, non-violence and social cohesion. The Benin Red Cross also proposes key actions, to support the Government with mitigating the migration and internal displacement of people and its effects on human well-being.

Activities in 2023 include:

- Conducting a national and regional context analysis based on available data and relevant primary and secondary sources
- Collaborating with the International Organization for Migration, migrant associations, diaspora associations and representatives of local embassies to assist and protect migrants
- Strengthening and intensifying advocacy, awareness-raising and community mobilization for migrants' rights, and peaceful co-habitation between migrants and local populations
- Developing a National Society strategy on migration

Values, power and inclusion

There is still significant gender inequality in Benin, where only 8.4 per cent of the seats in Parliament are held by women (February 2021). According to UN Women, women of reproductive age are often unable to access their sexual and reproductive rights and health care; only 28 per cent had their family planning needs

satisfied with modern methods in 2018. In the same year, 14.6 per cent of women aged 15–49 years said that they had experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the 12 months prior; 30.6 per cent of women aged 20–24 were married or in a union before the age 18, and the birth rate among women aged 15–19 was 108 per 1,000 in 2016 (up from 94 per 1,000 in 2014).

It is estimated that 10 per cent of Benin's population lives with a disability, although official statistics are unreliable and there is a lack of data about the number and range of barriers they face in terms of participation in social, economic and cultural life. It is estimated that 13 per cent of the people living with disabilities have experienced discrimination. Women and children with disabilities are the most affected, and most illiterate people with disabilities are women. Discrimination takes many forms, including exclusion, marginalization and social stigma. According to UNICEF (2015), children with disabilities are profoundly disadvantaged by discrimination and a lack of access to basic and specialist services.

In every segment of the population, child abuse and violence against children is widespread and remains a significant issue. The many challenges to ending it include deep-rooted cultural and social norms and traditions, along with other social factors. The proportion of children aged 11–14 that have experienced physical punishment, harmful methods of discipline or some other form of violence increased from 89 per cent in 2012 to 91 per cent in 2018. There is a significant disparity in levels of violence against children between rural and urban areas, and between different areas of the country.

Main actions and areas of support

In its emergency responses and programmes, the Benin Red Cross seeks to identify the urgent basic needs and the protection needs of specific groups such as women, children, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. It streamlines community engagement during emergency responses and uses different mechanisms to engage communities at different stages – from targeting to distribution.

The Benin Red Cross has defined several channels for the collection of community feedback. These include phone calls and text messages to the National Society's open phoneline; local committee discussions facilitated by Benin Red Cross volunteers; suggestion boxes at decentralized government structure levels; and surveys to collect feedback during post-distribution monitoring and initial assessments. The National Society community feedback management committee will process the feedback, reverting to the complainant or adopting corrective measures depending on the nature and scope of the feedback. This process includes procedures to handle sensitive feedback related to sexual abuse, other kinds of abuse, exploitation and other sensitive issues.

The National Society will continue to protect and promote positive change for humanity, delivering more participatory, safe and inclusive humanitarian actions based on the humanitarian Fundamental Principles and values. The challenges that staff and volunteers face in their efforts to support people in need of humanitarian services require the National Society to deliver far beyond the 'do no harm' principle. To achieve this, the IFRC will support the Benin Red Cross to enhance its capacities to reach more local branches and increase awareness and actions, through the powerful influence

of young people on humanitarian action. The National Society will contribute to more inclusive working dynamics, greater diversity, more resilient and peaceful environments, and the ongoing protection of people and their dignity.

Activities in 2023 include:

- Organizing technical workshops and training sessions for staff on the handling of sensitive feedback, and on aspects of community engagement and accountability and protection, gender and inclusion
- Mainstreaming protection, equity and inclusion in education activities
- Strengthening feedback mechanisms
- Celebrating humanitarian days
- Producing and distributing informative materials that promote humanitarian values and principles
- Training broadcasters at various levels to promote key messages on humanitarian values and principles
- Organizing mass communication sessions on the neutral and impartial actions of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

Enabling local actors

The Benin Red Cross is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and has carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification process twice, in 2012 and 2021. 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.

Although the Benin Red Cross has been working for several years to ensure its growth and development, there are still significant organizational challenges to overcome. The first of these is the insufficiency of its equipment and a lack of an adequate working environment. There is also a need to build the capacity of

National Society volunteers to enable them to deal with crisis situations more effectively.

The second challenge is that of the financial autonomy of the National Society. The Benin Red Cross depends on its partners for more than 80 per cent of its funding, making it a challenge to operate, be proactive and intervene in the field.

The third major challenge is the trust that the National Society must inspire in the communities it serves. This requires clear accountability and reporting, both financial and programmatic, that is effective and credible. It is in this context that the National Society has initiated the process of modernizing its management systems.

This process must continue through the effective implementation of management software, the completion of annual audits, and the establishment of a credible database of volunteers.

Engaged

By 2025, the Benin Red Cross will provide all its decentralized structures with computer equipment and a broadband connection, to facilitate their access to information and set up an effective reporting system. The National Society also intends to set up a vocational training centre, with the aim of strengthening the capacities of young people in particular (including digital technology), to facilitate their professional integration and learning. The National Society will set up an incubator to support young people to develop viable projects in the field, and first aid training modules will be put online.

Within its digital transformation, the National Society will strengthen the capacities of its staff to enable them to make changes and move to a complete digitization stage. This work will contribute to reducing pollution and the degradation of the environment. The IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners that will support this action, along with the Government of Benin.

Main areas of support

- Strengthening networking and partnerships within and outside the Movement
- National coordination with the Government and other key humanitarian organizations
- Strengthening the leadership of local committees, staff and volunteers
- Advocacy with the Government and key donors to improve access to basic social services
- Increasing the credibility and visibility of the Benin Red Cross as an auxiliary to the public authorities

- Training staff and volunteers on disaster management and crisis procedures
- Increasing digitalization of the National Society's activities, including cash transfers
- Improving the digital mechanisms for reporting and accountability of branches, and training staff accordingly

Accountable

The Benin Red Cross will equip itself with a modern financial system to produce credible financial data for the needs of all its partners. It will also carry out audits each year to reinforce its accountability. Staff at various levels will benefit from training on integrity and good governance.

The National Society will also put an efficient and effective data collection and feedback system in place, to integrate data coming in from local committees, and it will carry out a regular audit of this data to ensure its quality. Finally, the National Society will focus on the implementation of income-generating activities to facilitate resource mobilization.

Main areas of support

- Developing and ensuring funding streams for annual operational plans
- Promoting a financial strategy for the growth and sustainable development of the National Society
- Developing a risk management framework
- Carrying out the dissemination and application of the code of conduct at all levels of the Benin Red Cross, covering fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse
- Developing income-generating activities such as for education, health care services, accommodation and transport
- Organizing regular financial audits and periodic evaluations

Trusted

The Benin Red Cross will strengthen the skills of both its staff and volunteers so they can better respond to Benin's current challenges. It will also provide its staff and volunteers with adequate means of working, by building a new headquarters at the national level and providing all its decentralized structures with dedicated premises to enhance their visibility. The National Society will consider providing insurance to staff and volunteers as a priority. It will work to ensure the stability of its employees, thereby ensuring the stability of the

organization as a whole. It will also create a framework for recruiting and retaining volunteers.

The National Society will take part in various coordination meetings to share its vision and to coordinate with different partners and reinforce its image as a major humanitarian actor in Benin. It will develop policy documents to ensure its compliance with international standards across the areas of youth, volunteerism, blood and donor retention, gender equality, the environment and data protection.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC, from its cluster delegation in Abuja, which covers Nigeria, Ghana, Togo and Benin, supports the Benin Red Cross on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including strengthening its auxiliary role. The IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme and provides technical support to the National Society in various areas.

In 2021 and 2022, the IFRC supported the Benin Red Cross through two DREF [operations](#) in response to floods. The National Society had not used the DREF for a number of years, and the IFRC supported it to ensure swift access to the funding mechanism and the effective management of the operations. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its [Global Emergency Appeal](#), has supported the National Society throughout its COVID-19 response.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agree common







priorities and co-develop common strategies to address issues such as obtaining humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also involves ensuring that strategies and programmes incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, including links with development assistance, and reinforcing the role of the National Societies in their respective countries.

The Benin Red Cross takes part in the IFRC-facilitated sub-regional network of National Societies called the West Coast Group, which is currently chaired by the President of the Nigerian Red Cross Society.

The Benin Red Cross is also part of the four IFRC Pan-African initiatives focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

The National Society is supported by several participating National Societies to achieve the objectives in its strategic development plan:

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
Belgian Red Cross	CHF 0.17M								
Italian Red Cross									
Turkish Red Crescent									

Total

0.17M

The Belgian Red Cross (Flanders) supports the Benin Red Cross with the implementation of the community resilience project to respond to health risks, particularly for women and children. It also supports National Society development.

The French Red Cross supports the National Society to deliver migration and displacement programmes, and with National Society development.

The German Red Cross supports the Benin Red Cross on climate action and environmental protection.

The Italian Red Cross supports the Benin Red Cross to improve community resilience, and works on National Society development.

The Kuwait Red Crescent supports the National Society on environmental protection.

The Spanish Red Cross supports the National Society with delivering programmes on environmental protection, disaster risk management and community resilience, and migration and displacement.

The Turkish Red Crescent supports the Benin Red Cross to develop income-generating activities for the benefit of young people and women.

Other National Societies provide support to the Benin Red Cross through the IFRC.

Movement coordination

The Benin Red Cross holds regular exchanges with the IFRC, the ICRC and participating National Societies, to align support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergency, information is regularly shared. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening

Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC supports the Benin Red Cross from its office in Lomé, Togo, focusing on strengthening the National Society's capacities to better prepare and respond to situations of crises, and on National Society development.

Coordination with other actors

The Benin Red Cross is recognized as a public utility and an auxiliary of the public authorities. Its first partner is the Benin State. The Benin Red Cross is a member of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, which convenes during emergencies. The platform brings together several international organizations, including United Nations agencies, national organizations and other formally structured associations. It is led by the Benin Ministry of Interior and Public Security through the civil protection agency. The Benin Red Cross is also fully integrated in the national contingency plan for floods, epidemics, wildfires and socio-political crises. It regularly participates in other in-country working group meetings which

comprise Government counterparts and partners. The Benin Red Cross has the support of organizations such as UNFPA, UNICEF and GIZ in the implementation of the maternal and child food security project. It is in close collaboration with the World Food Programme for the distribution of food. The Benin Red Cross is an important partner of the CDC, World Bank, UNICEF, USAID, ECOWAS, DG ECHO, JICA and Nestle, for health and disaster management interventions. The overall objective of the Benin Red Cross is to maintain strengthened partnership engagement with partners within and outside the IFRC network, to work collectively on the key challenges facing communities.

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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