



BAPHALALI ESWATINI

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 3.6M**

Appeal number **MAASZ003**

In support of the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society



5

National Society branches



66

National Society staff



3,800

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



20,000

Climate and environment



121,000

Disasters and crises



177,000

Health and wellbeing



600

Migration and displacement



9,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction
- Food security and livelihoods
- Climate change adaptation
 - Health
- Water, sanitation and hygiene

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
 - Branch development
- Internal systems strengthening
 - Financial sustainability

Key country data

Population **1.2M**

INFORM Severity rating **medium**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **107**

Human Development Index rank **144**

Population below poverty level **58.9%**

Hazards



Drought



Floods



Storms



Food insecurity



Social unrest

Funding requirements

Total 3.6M CHF

Through the IFRC

1.7M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

1.5M CHF

Host National Society

517,000 CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

31,000 CHF
Climate and environment

1.2M CHF
Disasters and crises

160,000 CHF
Health and wellbeing

5,000 CHF
Migration and displacement

92,000 CHF
Values, power and inclusion

206,000 CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

Belgian Red Cross

British Red Cross*

Finnish Red Cross



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society started operating in Eswatini in 1933, as a branch of the British Red Cross. His Majesty King Sobhuza II, then Patron, named it the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society in 1970. In the same year, the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Act of Parliament legally recognized the National Society's role as an auxiliary to the public authorities to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. In 1979, the National Society was formally admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Its unique mandate facilitates its cooperation with the Government and the administrative authorities, while it remains independent and guided by the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross works closely with the National Disaster Management Agency of Eswatini and other humanitarian actors, and it is an integral part of the national disaster management and health system. As the main humanitarian organization in the country, its good relationships with state actors and local administrative authorities, along with excellent

knowledge and expertise, enable the National Society to carry out its work.

The National Society provides its services to people in Eswatini through five branch offices and three health facilities. The branches have a total of 159 Red Cross units, 66 staff members and 3,800 volunteers.

In 2021, the National Society provided services in three core areas of disaster risk management, health care and social welfare and first aid to more than 750,000 people. It also has two support programmes: organizational development (covering finance, human resources, procurement, administration and information technology) and corporate communications.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross is governed by a national executive committee of 14 members, two of whom come from the Government of Eswatini (the Deputy Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Finance). Members are elected by the General Assembly and represent all four regions of the country and all five branch offices. His Majesty King Mswati III is the patron.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Eswatini is a landlocked country bordering Mozambique to the northeast and South Africa to the east, west and south. It extends about 110 miles (175km) from north to south and about 80 miles (130km) from west to east. Despite its relatively small size, Eswatini is divided into four unique regions, Highveld, Middleveld, Lowveld and Lubombo, where the climate ranges from temperate to sub-tropical.

The country is home to major perennial rivers with their sources in South Africa, and they flow through Eswatini to the Indian Ocean. Rainfall can be unreliable, and periods of drought occur in the Lowveld and other regions. About 80 per cent of the precipitation falls during the summer months of October to March, usually in the form of thunderstorms and frontal rains, often bringing flooding.

Eswatini has a young population of nearly 1.2 million people, with a median age of 20.5 years. People aged 14 or younger comprise 34 per cent of the total population.

In 2019, 29.6 per cent of the population of Eswatini lived in urban areas, while the majority lived in rural areas. Literacy rates are high at 88 per cent, and there is access to education across the country.

Eswatini is a monarchy kingdom with constitutional provisions and Swazi law and customs. The head of state is the King, or Ingwenyama (which means lion), and King Mswati III is currently on the throne. According to the constitution of Eswatini, the King is a symbol of unity and the eternity of the Swazi nation. For the purposes of local administration, Eswatini is divided into four regions: Hhohho, Lubombo, Manzini and Shiselweni, and each has an administrator appointed by the King. Parallel to the government structure is the traditional system of the King and his advisers, traditional courts, and 59 traditional Tinkhundla chiefdoms.

Government revenue is derived principally from receipts of the Southern African Customs Union, along with sales, corporate and personal tax. The budget is generally in balance, but foreign aid is a major contributor to the

capital or development budget, providing a buffer to help meet any revenue deficit.

The staple crop in Eswatini is maize, and the people grow other crops such as sorghum (mainly used for brewing beer), pumpkins, beans, peas and other vegetables. Crop yields are generally low, but the more progressive farmers produce similar quantities as in the large-scale commercial sector. The livestock population in Eswatini is relatively high because cattle are traditionally used as a store of wealth.

Eswatini's economy is very closely linked to the economy of South Africa, from where it receives more than 90 per cent of its imports and to where it sends about 70 per cent of its exports. Sugar and soft drink concentrate are the largest foreign exchange earners, although COVID-19 restrictions in 2020–2022 decreased sugar production and exports. Beyond domestically generated income, Eswatini's economy benefits from worker

remittances from South Africa – Swazis migrate there for work in the mines and other industries to help sustain their livelihoods.

Despite Eswatini being classified as a lower middle-income earning country, economic challenges persist, and these prevailing economic challenges have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Poverty remains a challenge due to stunted economic growth, which is expected to be -0.9 by 2026, adverse weather patterns, a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and high unemployment (25.8 per cent in 2021, up from 25.5 per cent in 2020). Poverty levels have remained high over the last five years.

The 70 per cent of the population that live in rural areas are subsistence farmers. There is limited investment in this sector, and low productivity. The unemployment rate is high at 23 per cent, and 47.4 per cent of young people are unemployed.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Eswatini's overall climate is sub-tropical, with hot wet summers when about 75 per cent of the annual rainfall occurs (October to March) and cold dry winters (April to September). There are different climatic conditions in different areas, ranging from sub-humid and temperate in the Highveld to semi-arid and warm in the Lowveld.

The four recognized ecosystems of Eswatini are the montane grasslands, savanna-woodland mosaic, forests and aquatic systems. The dominant ecosystem is the savanna woodlands, which cover the central and lower parts of the country, followed by the montane grasslands, predominantly in the Highveld. Drylands – which cover 944,000 hectares (54 per cent of the country) – are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, so adaptation is essential in dryland management.

Climate change in Eswatini is expected to lead to overall warming and increased aridity, with a greater frequency and intensity of droughts and floods. It is expected that there will be considerable negative impacts on the agricultural and water sectors. Yields of staple food crops such as maize, sorghum and beans are likely to decrease, threatening national food security. Surface flows in rivers and streams are likely to have greater variation, with lower base flows in the dry season, potentially resulting in water shortages for domestic, industrial and agricultural use. In addition, groundwater

reserves, which are an important source of water for many rural communities, may be reduced as a result of increased rainfall intensity and associated increases in surface run-off.

Variable precipitation patterns, droughts, desertification, higher temperatures and increased storm intensity have already affected Eswatini's main economic sectors, and the consequences of recent severe droughts have left 25 per cent of the population vulnerable. This population is currently food and water insecure, and many households are reliant on social welfare and safety nets. Besides vulnerability to drought, according to the Eswatini National Disaster Management Agency, the country is prone to climate-related disasters such as cyclones, flash floods and windstorms. Of all these disasters, droughts cause the most hardship and deaths.

The negative impacts of climate change will be further exacerbated by widespread land degradation as a result of deforestation, alien plant invasions and the overstocking of livestock.

Economically, climate change has already had an adverse impact on Eswatini. The Government has expressed concern that it is exacerbating existing social challenges such as poverty, a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and food insecurity, and this will drastically restrict the country's ability to develop.

Through its National Development Plan for 2019–2020 and 2021–2022, Eswatini's Government emphasizes that the environment is strategically important in the areas of tourism growth and development, environmental sustainability and climate change, and the management of natural resources. This includes sustainable forest management, wildlife and culture conservation, meteorological services, and building a climate-resilient nation ready for growth and development for the present and future generations. The national plan also recognizes that there are only weak regulatory frameworks and institutional arrangements in place for addressing climate change issues.

Eswatini recently launched a national tree planting campaign entitled Hlanyela Sihlahla, Wonge Imvelo (Plant a Tree and Save the Environment). The campaign aims to plant 10 million trees of indigenous and high-value species in Eswatini over the next five years, to help mitigate the effects of climate change. The tree planting will support improved livelihoods, reduce land degradation, improve nature conservation, increase biodiversity, build resilience to climate change and contribute towards COVID-19 recovery.

Main actions and areas of support

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross focuses its climate and environmental action on nature-based solutions at community level. It will train National Society staff and volunteers on community engagement, with a focus on behaviour change approaches for climate adaptation and environmental protection. This includes training local leaders in land and water management challenges such as erosion, deforestation and wetlands preservation, while creating community committees to manage project activities and raise awareness in water harvesting. The British Red Cross supports this work, which also includes the promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices in communities.

The National Society seeks to expand its [forecast-based financing](#) approach, which will lead to activities taking place before extreme weather events occur, particularly droughts. It will continue working with the British Red Cross, the IFRC and other national stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of its forecast-based financing project.

The IFRC Pan-African Tree Planting and Care initiative will support the National Society through the training of its staff, volunteers and community members in all aspects of tree planting and care. The British Red Cross will support it with resources such as personnel, and provide technical support where needed. The National Society

will continue to work closely with the Government as an auxiliary and with the IFRC to achieve its tree planting goals by 2025.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross will also work on its environmental sustainability by assessing the impact of its operations, including its modes of transport and fleet of vehicles, through the IFRC network's [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) with the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). It will identify relevant environmental screening tools, such as the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool ([NEAT+](#)), along with training and piloting.

Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see the IFRC GO page [Kingdom of Eswatini](#)

Eswatini is prone to disasters and crises of different magnitudes. The most commonly occurring natural hazards are windstorms and hailstorms, but drought severely affects the highest number of people.

The regions with the highest prevalence of food insecurity are Lubombo and Shiselweni, the poorer areas that are often marginalized and have been the most affected by drought. According to the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report published in July 2022](#), it was expected that, between June and September 2022, more than 182,000 people (16 per cent of the population) would be facing acute food insecurity and require urgent humanitarian assistance. Of this group, 169,000 people are in a crisis level of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3), and more than 13,500 are faced with emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 4). There are approximately 432,000 people experiencing mild food insecurity stress (IPC Phase 2), and they will also require livelihood support. Many children assessed by Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross health facilities are malnourished because of loss of livelihoods and inadequate nutritional food in rural households.

Eswatini experiences heavy storms every year, usually starting in September. The main impact of these events is on housing, with roofs and other possessions damaged or destroyed. In the summer of 2020–2021, the country experienced five hailstorms covering the Manzini, Shiselweni and Hhohho regions. The impacts included blown-away roofs, damaged livelihoods, and the loss of field crops and poultry. Over the last two years, 318 households were affected on average – 84 per cent lost their roofs and 16 per cent were fully destroyed – and approximately 4,000 people were

affected. Communities affected by hailstorms in the past did receive shelter support, but not all losses were compensated and some people who lost their livelihoods did not receive assistance.

In the Lowveld in November 2022, a hailstorm with strong winds and massive hailstones affected mostly the Nsingizini and Nsubane communities under Hosea and Somntongo in the Shiselweni region. An estimated 1,058 people (213 households) were affected by the storm, with some families losing their roofs, which were blown away or damaged by the hailstones. Windows were also shattered and household furniture, food, documents and educational materials were soaked in water. The people affected were exposed to further danger and had no choice but to remain in damaged property overnight. The community reiterated the need for support with shelter and food, according to the joint assessment conducted by the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross and the National Drought Management Authority. The affected communities are subsistence farmers who thrive on agricultural activities such as crops and poultry. Their economic status categorizes them as the most vulnerable, which means they may struggle to recover from the impact of the storm. Assessments further revealed that food items were destroyed by rainwater after roofs were damaged by hailstones. Households in Shiselweni were already affected by food insecurity – the storm exacerbated their situation and afterwards they needed an even higher level of support.

In mid-2021, social unrest and violent protests broke out in Eswatini, leading to a number of injured people and the destruction of property. Various anti-government protests by students, police forces and trade unions have been organized in recent months to demand better working conditions and pro-democracy reforms. In response, the authorities have increased security at recent protests and deployed the armed forces.

The National Disaster Management Agency's strategic plan aims for a substantial reduction in disaster risk and loss, by harnessing the power of coordination and cooperation. This aligns with its vision and mission. The Government enacted the Disaster Management Act in 2006 and the Disaster Management Policy in 2010, forming a legal framework for disaster risk reduction in the country.

Main actions and areas of support

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross is a first responder to a number of disasters and crises across the country. During the most recent storm event, it mobilized and deployed staff and volunteers to conduct a rapid

household assessment through face-to-face interviews with the heads of households the morning after the storm. It also provided psychological support to the distraught communities. Two days after the storm, a joint assessment was carried out with the National Disaster Management Agency, and tarpaulins and food parcels were disbursed in the following days. The National Disaster Management Agency issued a formal request for support from the National Society six days after the storm, requesting assistance for the affected households, due to the very limited support otherwise available. The National Society furthered its response with support from an IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [allocation](#).

In line with National Disaster Management Agency guidelines, the National Society engages volunteers and other community structures (including leadership, rural health motivators and an inner council) to target and register affected people in emergency situations.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross has five years of experience in cash and voucher assistance, including mobile money and cash in envelopes schemes, which are mostly used in the vulnerable regions of Shiselweni and Lubombo regions for issues related to food insecurity. Currently, the National Society is operating cash transfers in six constituencies in the Shiselweni and regions. The National Society uses mobile money through a three-year contract with mobile telephone company MTN. The National Society's renewable contract with MTN covers the entire country and enables it to carry out cash distributions with ease.

As part of the DG ECHO and IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership, the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross, supported by the Belgian Red Cross (Flanders) and Finnish Red Cross, will use cash and voucher assistance as a way of providing food support to an estimated 800 households (4,800 people) in vulnerable situations. It will also start to create the conditions for recovery for approximately 2,700 households (16,200 people) who have minimal land and manpower resources to engage in livelihood activities.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross also responds to civil unrest, with support from the DG ECHO and IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership, and with additional support from the Belgian Red Cross (Flanders) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with first aid and safer access training respectively. The National Society was seen as the only neutral party during protests when it first provided essential first aid.

In 2023 and beyond, the National Society will focus its efforts on:

Zero Hunger: In line with the IFRC's Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative, the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross will develop integrated interventions that support basic needs, prevent asset depletion, and protect livelihoods for communities affected by disasters and crises. The IFRC will provide technical and resource mobilization support. The Finnish Red Cross is supporting the National Society with an emergency food and livelihood recovery project that will continue in 2023. Through this project, vulnerable households will be given cash grants for livelihood recovery, and selected communities will be supported with seeds, backyard gardens, poultry and livestock projects. The National Society will continue with the Silele Community Programme, with support from the British Red Cross. This aims to ensure that communities have sufficient good-quality food to meet their needs through improved agricultural production and climate-smart livelihood strategies, by implementing training, skill development and awareness raising. The programme will advocate for climate-smart agricultural practices in communities, as well as increasing food production.

Disaster management: The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross will pursue its main activities in the area of disaster management, which includes responding to emergencies such as droughts, fires and windstorms, the distribution of cash, vouchers and relief commodities to people affected, and participating in food security activities. It seeks to strengthen disaster risk reduction committees in disaster-prone areas, scale up community-led disaster risk reduction activities in urban and rural areas, and further develop community-based [early warning and early action systems](#).

As part of the IFRC's Pan-African Red Ready initiative, the National Society will be working with stakeholders including the IFRC and participating National Societies to increase the capacity of staff, volunteers and community members in disaster preparedness and response. It will advocate for the implementation of disaster management laws, policies and regulations at national and sub-national levels with the IFRC's support.

Health and wellbeing

In Eswatini, the main causes of morbidity and mortality are lower respiratory infections, diabetes, tuberculosis and diarrhoeal diseases. The risk factors that drive most morbidities, disabilities and death are unsafe sex, malnutrition, dietary risk, water, insufficient sanitation and hygiene, and intimate partner violence. The under-five

mortality rate stands at 47 deaths per 1,000 live births, while the infant mortality rate is currently 37 children per 1,000 live births. The national health responses are guided by the national development strategy and the multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS strategic framework.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases reported by August 2022 was 73,344, with cases doubling over the previous 10 months. In addition to COVID-19, the Ministry of Health is battling with tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Approximately 37 per cent of all hospital beds in Eswatini are occupied by people with non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer and chronic obstructive respiratory diseases. The Government has a non-communicable diseases programme aimed at addressing these threats.

Eswatini has one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in the world. More than 27 per cent of people aged 15–49 are infected. However, it is one of the first countries to achieve the 95-95-95 goal, a decade earlier than the global target of 2030. This means that 95 per cent of people living with HIV/AIDS know their status, 95 per cent of them have access to treatment, and 95 per cent of those people have a suppressed viral load.

Eswatini is trying its best to meet the minimum recommended distance that patients need to travel when they seek medical assistance in health facilities. In Eswatini, some people still travel more than 15–20km to the nearest health facility, yet the recommended maximum distance is 5km. In addition to this challenge, the country is financially unable to provide adequate drugs and medication in these facilities. Staffing is also an issue, as the country is a long way from matching the recommended patient to health worker ratio.

There is a low level of investment, coordination and partnerships in the health sector, in terms of clean water, basic toilets and good hygiene practices. Achieving universal access to drinking water and sanitation by 2030 will be challenging. Influencing changes in behaviour towards good hygiene practices, while ending open defecation, also remains a national challenge. There is a clear discrepancy in access to water, sanitation and hygiene between rural communities, urban areas and the growing informal settlements around urban centres.

Increasing temperatures and changing precipitation patterns will affect the basic requirements for maintaining a healthy population, which includes clean air, water and sufficient food. Catastrophic weather events, variations in the weather systems that affect food and water supplies and ecosystem changes all pose health

risks. Within Eswatini, these risks may result in increased deaths due to heatwaves and natural hazards such as floods, malaria and other vector-borne diseases, and other existing and emerging infectious diseases.

Main actions and areas of support

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross is active in the areas of health and water, sanitation and hygiene at multiple levels, with support from numerous partners. It provides primary health care through its three clinics in Silele, Mahwalala and Sigombeni. The clinics are supported by volunteers in community-based branches. They build epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response through community-driven actions to prevent, detect and respond to outbreaks, community-based education and the engagement of main community stakeholders such as traditional healers and religious leaders. In 2023 and beyond, these three clinics will continue to provide health education, tuberculosis screening and case management, condom distribution, HIV/AIDS counselling and testing, antiretroviral therapy, child welfare, immunizations, family planning, antenatal and post-natal care.

The National Society provides first aid and blood services which will be scaled up, including with technical support from the Belgian Red Cross (Flanders), and will also continue to provide health services in emergencies and for vulnerable communities. With the IFRC's support, it will deepen its action by training 60 staff and 3,600 volunteers on mental health and psychosocial support, including psychological first aid, to provide appropriate mental and psychosocial support to communities. The IFRC will also support the National Society's health team with developing specific procedures and referrals for the comprehensive and holistic care of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. This includes the clinical management of rape cases, clinical responses and protective care, referrals and procedures.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross is contributing to ensuring the provision of safe and adequate water, health and sanitation services to all vulnerable communities, with a focus on young girls, through its various projects in-country. It seeks to increase handwashing practices in the most at-risk communities and encourage good hygiene protocols. It will support the construction of tippy taps and handwashing facilities in public places such as markets, community halls, care points and shops. It will also support the promotion of ventilated improved pit latrines in rural areas. The National Society will be training community members to protect water sources and springs from pollution, drill or rehabilitate

existing boreholes, and teach communities how to make tippy taps. This includes training on water points maintenance and repair for water, hygiene and sanitation committees with support from the British Red Cross.

The fight against COVID-19 will be reinforced through 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 in Africa. 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 that aims to ensure that 60 per cent of African people are vaccinated 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. This will support economic recovery on the continent. Under this programme, the National Society will deliver critical risk communication and community engagement activities to vulnerable communities, in support of the 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 Global Health Systems Solutions) and safety surveillance (Akros).

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross's focus on community awareness for vaccine rollout will be further strengthened with support from the American Red Cross. The National Society will enhance knowledge, local capacity and local solutions among staff, volunteers and the community at large through community engagement and accountability training, community feedback training and community sensitization. National Society volunteers and staff will be trained on vaccine rollout advocacy through the development, design, production and dissemination of information, education and communications materials, including audiovisual products and jingles.

Migration and displacement

Eswatini has a long history of both internal and external migration. Traditionally, cross-border migration was a male activity, with the majority of male migrants headed for the South African mining industries. Women now also participate in migration, mainly seeking domestic work and selling crafts in neighbouring countries. While a significant proportion of rural households and an increasing number of urban-based informal settlements in Eswatini rely on migrant remittances for their sustenance, high population mobility has been

identified as one of the main drivers of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the increase in migrant vulnerability to xenophobia, human trafficking and drug dealing.

Incoming migration is mainly from South Africa and Mozambique, with most of these migrants being settled in the Malindza refugee camp. The number of registered migrants is less than 500. The Government of Eswatini provides some support to migrants, in collaboration with UNHCR and Caritas Swaziland.

Main actions and areas of support

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross will continue to assist with restoring family links activities in 2023, especially in the Malindza refugee camp, with the ICRC's support. It provides a telephone service to migrants in the camp, which enables people to communicate with their families back home on a quarterly basis. This service is not provided as frequently as migrants request, but it is viewed by them as a very important service.

The IFRC will support and strengthen the capacity of the National Society with training and needs assessments in migration and displacement, with the goal of ensuring a collective understanding of the IFRC's approaches and strategies. It will link the National Society with other networks in the region to better address cross-border migration.

Values, power and inclusion

The significance of culture in development and well-being is recognized in Eswatini. This was acknowledged by the 2012 ratifications of key international instruments and the adoption of new policies and strategic development priorities, such as the Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture Policy (2009) and the Government Priority Programme (2008–2013). With an average of 10 years of school attendance, the majority of Eswatini citizens can enjoy the right to an education and participate in the construction and transmission of values, attitudes and cultural skills, as well as personal and social empowerment throughout primary and secondary school.

Gender inequalities remain a challenge in Eswatini, as well as other protection and inclusion-related issues. In 2012, the Government of Swaziland passed the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, which strengthened labour protection for children. The Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, No. 15 of 2018, became law in Eswatini in June 2018. The Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act

plays an important role in domesticating its provisions relating to gender-based violence.

Main actions and areas of support

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross has trained its volunteers on [protection, gender and inclusion, community engagement and accountability](#), and the [prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse](#). It seeks to pursue capacity building in these areas. The National Society will use these approaches during assessments and throughout interventions. It will conduct a protection, gender and inclusion organizational assessment, using the revised IFRC protection, gender and inclusion organizational assessment toolkit.

The National Society is using the countrywide World Food Programme feedback mechanism. It seeks to increase capacity for National Society staff and volunteers to also collect feedback and complaints from people affected during the selection process and throughout the course of response operations. This includes a focus on collection and processing of sensitive feedback in accordance with applicable guidelines. Feedback will be used to adapt interventions based on community needs.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross will continue to conduct training on humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles for volunteers and communities. It will provide educational support to 50 children nationwide, establish 50 more youth clubs for teenagers (10 per branch) in schools, and provide psychosocial support services to displaced children or those affected by emergency disasters. The National Society will conduct training for young people on the promotion of life and health, and increase the existing number of youth groups from 83 to 107 to reach more communities.

Enabling local actors

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross is committed to pursue its institutional strengthening, and has carried out the self-assessment part of the [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification](#) process in 2017. The self-assessment part of the 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 National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and

response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

The IFRC and network partners are committed to support the National Society's institutional strengthening in line with its priorities.

Engaged

- **Partnerships:** Enhance the National Society's capacity to coordinate with all partners, including national and international, Movement and external
- **Advocacy:** Train staff on co-creation of key messages for communications and humanitarian diplomacy issues, and develop communications strategies consistent with operational humanitarian diplomacy priorities
- **Digital transformation:** Work with National Society teams on digitizing data collection

Accountable

- **Financial management:** Build the capacity of staff and volunteers in budgeting and finance management policies and conduct an annual audit

- **Project management and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting:** Improve assessments and evaluations of projects, increase quality and frequency of reports as necessary to ensure accountability, conduct monitoring and evaluation capacity building activities through orientation and virtual training, apply innovative IT-based monitoring and evaluation tools (such as Kobo Collect)
- **Risk management framework:** Develop a simple mechanism that focuses on risk analysis and agrees on risk and mitigation measures across partners
- **Financial sustainability:** Expand domestic fund-raising, and carry out donor mapping and training in resource mobilization

Trusted

- **Organizational development, governance and leadership:** Identify National Society development priorities, based on OCAC findings, strategic planning processes, the revision of statutes, and branch development
- **Volunteering:** Create a duty of care by ensuring that volunteers are insured and have the necessary skills to support communities, and develop psycho-social support for volunteers

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC's Southern Africa country cluster delegation, with an office based in South Africa since 2010, currently works with five Red Cross National Societies in the region: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa. The IFRC support to the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including strengthening its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.







In November 2022, the IFRC supported the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross through a DREF [operation](#) in relation to storm surge. A technical support platform has been set up by the IFRC to support the National Society in managing the current emergency and assisting communities in a dignified manner. The IFRC is currently providing technical support to the National Society for rapid assessments, communications, resource mobilization design, and implementation of the response. This

DREF operation will continue in 2023. The IFRC has also supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response since the beginning of the pandemic, through its [global Emergency Appeal](#).

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agree common priorities; co-develop common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilize funding and other resources; clarify consistent public messaging; and monitor progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, of development

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									
British Red Cross	CHF 0.56M								
Finnish Red Cross	CHF 0.92M								
Total									
1.47M									

assistance, and reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross is 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.

Eswatini is part of the DG ECHO and IFRC [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#). The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross is benefitting from the support of the Finnish Red Cross (the lead EU National Society) and Belgian Red Cross (Flanders) for the implementation of activities in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemics and pandemic preparedness and response, and cash and voucher assistance. Risk communication, and community engagement and accountability, will be addressed as a cross-cutting theme integrated in the main pillars of intervention. The partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with greater impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the biggest donor for international aid in the world.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross receives support from the IFRC, the American Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross (Flanders), British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross Society. The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross is working closely with the following in-country participating National Societies in the following thematic areas:

The **Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)** has had an active partnership with the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross

since 2015. During two consecutive regional first aid programmes (2015–2017, 2019–2021), the national first aid capacity of the National Society (both at community level and commercially) was strengthened with a focus on quality, standardization and institutionalization. During the COVID-19 crisis (2020–2021), a project was established to support the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross nationally to raise awareness, promote water, sanitation and hygiene practices and purchase protective equipment. In recent years, the Belgian Red Cross (Flanders) has incorporated its vast national blood expertise in international projects and supported the National Society with blood collection management.

The **British Red Cross** provides support to the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross with forecast-based financing, food security and livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene and National Society development.

The **Finnish Red Cross** maintains an office at the National Society's headquarters in Mbabane and has been providing support in food security, health, community resilience and organizational development since 2001. The support has had a strong focus on food security and HIV/AIDS projects funded by DG DEVCO, drought relief, food security and nutrition funded by DG ECHO, and livelihoods, nutrition and organizational development funded by Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Until 2022, the Finnish Red Cross has directly supported various cash-based response operations in Eswatini, Malawi and Zimbabwe and has been responsible for the Red Cross Red Crescent's largest cash operations in Southern Africa (Eswatini 2016–2021 and Zimbabwe 2019–2020), including with DG ECHO and macro-financial assistance funding.

Movement coordination

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross coordinates with the IFRC and the ICRC to ensure Movement alignment as required. 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 provides support to the National Society in restoring family links, addressing civil unrest and volunteer and staff capacity building.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, all humanitarian interventions of the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross are coordinated with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister through the Disaster Management Department and National Drought Management Authority. In times of emergencies, the National Drought Management Authority coordinates all interventions by humanitarian agencies with support from other UN agencies through the Command-and-Control Centre.

The National Drought Management Authority has several sectoral technical working groups focused on specific areas, and the National Society has a representation in the following: Food security, Agriculture and livelihoods, Health, Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, Social protection, Security and Education.

Close coordination with relevant authorities is ensured at all levels, from constituency to regional and national levels. The National Society has a permanent seat on local disaster management committees. At regional level, the National Drought Management Authority and the National Society's technical officers work together in assessments, response and other support areas. In addition, the National Society engages traditional leadership systems at community level.

Epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response activities are closely coordinated with the Ministry of Health and development partners such as the World Health Organization and UNICEF.

For food security and livelihoods, the National Society sustains a constant operational dialogue with the World Food Programme, which has implemented a significant assistance intervention in Eswatini. Coordination in terms of geographical locations, delivery approaches, feedback and complaint mechanisms, and joint targeting and monitoring tools between the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross and the World Food Programme have been ongoing since 2016.

Another key organization with which the National Society will continue close coordination is World Vision, which plays an important role across the country – particularly in Shiselweni – in supporting longer-term livelihood protection and water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives for communities affected by drought.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross is also working in partnership with Africa Centre for Diseases Control (CDC) and Lars Amundsen Foundation, local corporates, individuals and the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini. Some of these partners provide both financial and technical support to the National Society.

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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Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society

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