



GABON

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 3.2M**

Appeal number **MAAGA002**

In support of the Gabonese Red Cross Society



9

National Society branches



52

National Society staff



1,500

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



268,000

Climate and environment



268,000

Disasters and crises



268,000

Health and wellbeing



268,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk management
- Climate change adaptation
- Community-based health and immunization

Capacity development

- Resource mobilization
- Volunteer management
- Branch strengthening
- Information management

Key country data

Population **2.3M**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **173**

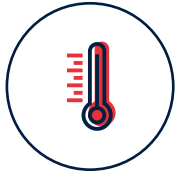
Human Development Index rank **112**

Population below poverty level **33.4%**

Hazards



Floods



Rising temperatures



Drought



Disease



Food insecurity

Funding requirements

Total 3.2M CHF

Through the IFRC

3.2M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

- 584,000** CHF
Climate and environment
- 645,000** CHF
Disasters and crises
- 940,000** CHF
Health and wellbeing
- 300,000** CHF
Values, power and inclusion
- 730,000** CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross*

Japanese Red Cross*

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Gabonese Red Cross Society was founded in 1996, recognized by Decree in 1997 as an association of public utility and voluntary relief society, and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1999. The National Society acts at all times in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and is inspired in its actions by the principles of International Humanitarian Law and its status as an auxiliary to the public authorities. The Gabonese Red Cross is present throughout the national territory, with nine provincial committees, and a network of 1,500 volunteers.

The Gabonese Red Cross Society's Strategic Development Plan 2022–2026 is aligned with the IFRC's Strategy 2030, and also incorporates national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals. It has two strategic objectives:

- To build a National Society which is efficient, competitive, proactive and innovative
- To establish a network of health, environment, crises and disaster management preparedness and response, that is creative, operational and corresponding to the needs of communities, by relying on our network of volunteers, intergenerational and intercultural, reflecting the cultural diversity of our National Society, and which has a lasting impact on communities and allows people to live with dignity

The Gabonese Red Cross enjoys a strong identity with representatives of the State and humanitarian and development organizations. The essential services that the National Society provides to vulnerable communities include the following:

- **First Aid:** Training in community based health and first aid, and in workplaces, health topics related to health and safety in the workplace; first aid coverage at public events; life-saving support in the case of accidents; and the ambulance service

- **Disaster management:** Disaster risk reduction; preparing for and responding to natural disasters, health emergencies and conflict; improving food security, household livelihoods, and access to decent emergency shelter
- **Humanitarian assistance:** Assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons, irregular migrants, victims of conflicts, floods and landslides; social assistance to the most vulnerable
- **Family links:** The restoration of family links in situations of conflict, natural disasters and migration
- **Access to drinking water and adequate means of hygiene and sanitation:** promotion of adequate practices in water, sanitation and hygiene, contributing to sustainable development
- **Health and care:** Community health; epidemic disease surveillance and response; integrated management of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, Ebola and COVID-19; curative care for people in vulnerable situations; care for survivors and victims of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse; and functional rehabilitation (kinesitherapy)
- **Promotion of humanitarian values and human rights:** Popularization of the principles and ideals of the Movement; promotion of International Humanitarian Law; prevention of child trafficking and exploitation; promotion and protection of the social status of women, and prevention of gender-based violence
- **Reinforcement of the social status of specific vulnerable groups:** Supervision of women's groups; various services for people living with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and people affected by gender-based violence
- **Youth:** Promotion of youth training in civics and citizenship, and promotion of youth volunteering in various Gabonese Red Cross activities, aimed at encouraging and maintaining healthy lifestyles among young people

Joint situational analysis

Gabon, officially the Gabonese Republic, is located on the west coast of Central Africa, bordered by the Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and the Gulf of Guinea. The country has a total area of nearly 270,000 square kilometres, and a total population estimated at almost 2.4 million, which makes Gabon one of the least densely populated countries in the world. More than 70% of the total population live in the coastal areas, which are also home to the majority of economic activities. Almost one fifth of the population lives in the capital and largest city, Libreville. The country has one of the highest urbanization rates in Africa (89.7%) and this is expected to increase to 92% and 95% by 2030 and 2050, respectively.

Gabon has more than 20 million hectares of forest, making it the largest per capita forest area in Africa. The country consists of a narrow coastal plain, with central African mangroves, a hilly interior, and grassy and forested savannahs in the east and south. The country's coastline has numerous rivers, providing important marine and inland fish stocks.

Gabon is rich in extractive natural resources, mainly manganese, oil, and its timber and forest reserves. In addition to its oil and mining potential, Gabon is the second-largest manganese producer in the world and

one of the continent's largest producers of tropical wood. It is a high-income country with one of the most developed economies in sub-Saharan Africa. Abundant oil, foreign private investment, and low population density have helped make the country one of the most prosperous in sub-Saharan Africa, with the third highest GDP per capita in the region. Gabon has the highest human development indices in sub-Saharan Africa.

The majority of its revenue comes from oil revenues, which contribute 45% of GDP. It is the fifth largest oil producer in Africa and has experienced strong economic growth over the past decade due to its manganese production. The service sector provides about 66% of employment, agriculture 19% and mining just 5%; tourism is estimated at about 4%. Employment in the manufacturing sector is limited but growing sub-sectors such as agribusiness and wood manufacturing promise to generate more jobs in the future. Agriculture dominates the rural labour market; the public sector and related formal services dominate in Libreville and Port-Gentil.

However, despite abundant natural resources, Gabon is dependent on imports of food and capital goods and is lacking infrastructure (transport and electricity). It is also facing high unemployment rates, endemic poverty, poor wealth distribution, and has an informal economy (estimated at between 40% and 50% of GDP).

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Given Gabon's geographical location, hydrographic layout and the fact that the majority of the population and economic activities are located along the coast, the country is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Rising temperatures, rising sea levels and changing rainfall patterns are putting significant pressure on vulnerable groups, urban infrastructure and the economy. In addition, Gabon relies on rain-fed agriculture for its agricultural sector and food security.

The consequences of rising temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns will include the prevalence of new disease vectors and increased scarcity of water resources. In addition, flooding in the coastal zone is expected to cause significant economic losses. For

example, the city of Port-Gentil is only 4 metres above sea level.

The Gabonese forest is the second largest forest ecosystem in the Congo Basin. A total of 88% of the country is covered in rainforest and it has limited deforestation rates, less than 0.1% over the past 30 years. Gabon is a so-called high forest, low deforestation country – one of only 11 in the world to claim this status. The government received funds from a performance-based emission reduction payment from the Norwegian government as a result of the above efforts.

The country's adaptation priorities include the protection of its coastal zone, agriculture, fisheries and the forestry sector. The country is committed to improving its agricultural sector to support the country's ongoing economic development efforts.

Main actions and areas of support

In its action to address the climate and environmental crises, the Gabonese Red Cross aligns with the Government's efforts. It will provide staff and volunteers with the skills to carry out mobilization and urgent actions to address the climate crisis in Gabon, and it will ensure a systematic review of its efforts. It will also carry out information, communications and emergency actions with the populations of communities to ensure that they are capable of coping with the evolution of the impacts of climate change, and that they take ownership of the programmes to combat climate risks.

In 2023, the Gabonese Red Cross plans to:

- Develop contingency plans that take into account climate change and its impact on target areas
- Develop action plans to adapt to climate change for the areas most exposed to climate risks, particularly floods (Libreville, Njolé, Mouila, Fougamou, Franceville) and integrate them into local development plans
- Sensitize young people to biodiversity and climate change by training focal points in 50 Red Cross clubs and 50 schools
- Reach a minimum of 10% of the country's total population (over 260,000 people), with communication activities promoting a change in behaviour in the face of climate change, in particular for people living in areas at risk
- Advocate and encourage communities to plant trees and protect the forest
- Advocate with authorities for reforestation through programmes such as "one student, one tree", to plant approximately 50,000 trees, in line with the IFRC Pan-African initiative on Tree Planting and Care
- Participate in coordination meetings at the national level on adaptation to climate change and in the process of renewal and revision of the national plan for adaptation to climate change

The IFRC will support the Gabonese Red Cross in the dissemination of climate forecasts at branch level and information on climate-smart programming. It will also provide support in implementing environmental and climate campaigns focusing on behavioural change, plastic reduction and clean-ups, and in making their offices climate-smart. The IFRC will ensure the Gabonese Red Cross is well represented and involved in climate change platforms at the national and regional level, and ensure the National Society's participation in various

webinars, and in online and face-to-face trainings on climate change.

Disasters and crises

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

Gabon is exposed to a high degree of natural hazards, which are expected to affect mainly the agriculture, water, energy, oil and mining sectors, through seasonal flooding, extreme winds and landslides. Floods affect an average of 0.21% of the total population. The areas most affected by flooding are concentrated in the central part of the country, along the Ogooué River.

Approximately 21,000 people are affected by drought each year in Gabon, representing a potential impact of US\$185 million per year. Temperatures are already rising, and Gabon is likely to experience more extreme weather events in the near to medium term. This is expected to have a primary impact on the agriculture and water sectors, as well as on the health of the general population. Vulnerable groups, such as rural communities, the poor and the elderly, are particularly exposed to natural hazards.

Other risks include industrial, traffic and maritime accidents.

Many sectors in Gabon do not have risk assessments (for example, partial flood risk assessments) or strategic climate risk adaptation plans. The country has yet to establish a functional data flow mechanism to have a comprehensive understanding of natural hazards across all sectors. In addition, Gabon does not have a central national database to systematically collect and analyze data on disaster losses. To increase its resilience to natural hazards and the impacts of climate change, Gabon is striving to build scientific and technical expertise within disaster management agencies. At the operational level, the country's Disaster Department needs to strengthen its operational capacity and collaboration with existing sectors, and put in place emergency plans and procedures. The development of early warning systems is crucial to improve the country's preparedness and resilience.

Main actions and areas of support

In such an operational context, it is important for the Gabonese Red Cross to consolidate a permanent disaster management team, to continue with operational capacity building to respond to disasters of all kinds, and to train new rescue workers and provide them with adequate equipment for improved response capacity.

The National Society will focus on the establishment of early warning systems and proactive actions to mitigate multi-hazard risks that affect the lives, livelihoods, homes and living conditions of vulnerable communities. It will also enhance collaboration with the Ministry of Interior (in charge of civil protection), as an auxiliary to the public authorities. The focus on preparedness of the Gabonese Red Cross is in line with the IFRC Pan-African Red Ready initiative.

In 2023, the Gabonese Red Cross plans to:

- Set up early warning systems in three pilot communities
- Map risk areas (urban areas) and areas to be targeted for a pilot phase by the Gabonese Red Cross, in collaboration with the authorities
- Develop multi-risk contingency plans followed by simulation exercises in three targeted pilot communities
- Support four target communities to put in place community emergency plans developed in collaboration with local government, authorities and communities
- Support small-scale water pipeline works and install drainage mechanisms during floods
- Provide direct support to 400 vulnerable households whose livelihoods have been affected by a disaster through the purchase and/or pre-positioning of emergency stocks
- Ensure stakeholder preparedness, including training of staff and volunteers in disaster preparedness and response, including training of 60 community staff in disaster preparedness and response (community disaster response teams)
- Create a national network of first responders across the country from a permanent core team, and establish rescue teams in each branch
- Provide training for 20 instructors in vulnerability and capacity assessments and train 60 volunteers to conduct vulnerability and capacity assessments, with community engagement and accountability and protection, gender and inclusion training modules
- Provide training for 10 professionals in the preparation of emergency needs assessments and development of action plans for emergency action in the event of a disaster (five days training on vulnerability and capacity assessments and post-disaster assessments)

- Train 34 volunteers in the implementation of emergency needs assessments
- Purchase and pre-positioning of pre-identified kits/equipment in the three pilot areas identified as being at risk
- Strengthen collaboration with the agency in charge of disaster risk reduction and other organizations working in disaster management, to carry out evacuation and assistance simulation exercises

The IFRC will support the National Society in preparedness to crises and disasters, and in developing funding proposals on disaster risk reduction. The IFRC will also support the management of the National Society's disaster management platform, and facilitate peer-to-peer collaboration with the disaster management units of other National Societies, as well as its participation in webinars, online and face-to-face trainings in disaster risk reduction and other areas of disaster management. It will ensure the National Society is well represented and involved in disaster risk coordination platforms, and vulnerability and capacity assessment working groups at regional, national, and local levels, and ensure the support of the disaster management and vulnerability and capacity assessment platform. The IFRC will support the Gabonese Red Cross in its collaboration with Civil Protection, as an auxiliary to the public authorities, and its participation in humanitarian coordination at national and local levels.

Health and wellbeing

The health sector in Gabon is faced by malaria, premature births, acute respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS, as well as diarrheal diseases, which are the leading causes of death among children under five. The country has experienced an increase in the prevalence of non-communicable diseases, particularly cardiovascular disease, diabetes, renal failure and cancers. Gabon bears a double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, each with a high mortality rate.

As well as COVID-19, Gabon has faced epidemics of other viral diseases in the recent past, including Ebola, Chikungunya and Dengue epidemics. Climate change also brings an increase in certain waterborne diseases, particularly those related to high water levels in the case of flooding, and eye and ear problems in the case of drought and the consequent increase in haze caused by dust from the desert area of the African continent.

In 2010, a new national health policy was adopted with the objective of improving public health by reducing

maternal, infant and child mortality and the prevalence of malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases and non-communicable diseases. The country's health system still faces many challenges: some health departments are not operational, the quality of health care is poor, essential drugs are scarce, information systems are dysfunctional, and communities are not involved in the management of health issues. The main challenges facing the health system are the reduction of maternal and infant mortality, and the control of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Immunization coverage for children aged 12 to 23 months has increased by more than 90%. In 2000, 17% of children were fully immunized, and in 2012, 32% of children were fully immunized. However, there is still a lot of work to be done in this area.

Main actions and areas of support

The Gabonese Red Cross has a long history of interventions in providing primary health care to vulnerable populations. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, WFP and other stakeholders, the Gabonese Red Cross provides support to vulnerable communities in the prevention of malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, including providing information for sensitization of parents and guardians of children under five years of age.

One of the main activities of the Gabonese Red Cross is the provision of food, health care and shelter to elderly people abandoned by their families, which is a recurrent phenomenon. In recent years funds have been decreasing, while demand has been increasing, hence the National Society will need support to be able to continue these crucial activities in the coming years.

The main objective of the Gabonese Red Cross is to contribute to the progressive and sustainable improvement of the health conditions of vulnerable communities throughout the country, and the strengthening of the National Society's capacities in water, sanitation and hygiene programming.

In 2023, the Gabonese Red Cross plans to:

- Organize first aid services at all levels and promote their efficiency, including provision of basic supplies for first aid
- Establish a community-based epidemic and pandemic alert system based on district focal points
- Set up a system of functional mobile clinics ready to be deployed in the event of an emergency or disaster (each clinic equipped with an ambulance, drugs and first aid supplies)

- Train 400 Red Cross volunteers, 200 community leaders and 200 religious leaders, to work together to combat epidemics in all health districts
- Establish a system to deal with rumours, including misinformation about vaccines
- Train 10 volunteers in rumour tracking for the COVID-19 information system
- Establish and manage psychosocial support listening centres in targeted neighbourhoods
- Train at least 20 volunteers in water, hygiene and primary health care, to contribute to gradually reducing communicable diseases
- Provide communities with access to adequate, appropriate and safe sanitation facilities
- Co-design messages and approaches on prevention of different diseases
- Support the construction of 100 improved toilets and latrines in the most disadvantaged communities
- Raise awareness and promote positive behavioural changes in hygiene and in the prevention of diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis
- Conduct vector-borne disease prevention interventions, including distribution campaigns for insecticide-treated bed nets for effective malaria prevention
- Train psychosocial support trainers in selected districts and train 200 additional volunteers in psychological first aid in emergencies
- Organize a blood donation campaign
- Participate in awareness campaigns on the importance of vaccination against COVID-19
- Participate in campaigns for parents and guardians for the vaccination of children under five years old
- Participate in coordination bodies for epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response
- Develop a defined and active health and water, sanitation and hygiene strategy, with the support of the IFRC

The fight against COVID-19 will be reinforced through a continent-wide initiative between the IFRC and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to invest in building resilient public health security infrastructure in Africa. Under the USD 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% 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 and hasten economic recovery on the continent. Under this programme, the Gabonese Red Cross 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).

The IFRC will also support the Gabonese Red Cross in developing its health and water, sanitation and hygiene strategy, and to adapt and expand its health programmes to meet the growing needs associated with climate change. It will support the National Society in strengthening its auxiliary role towards the Ministry of Health and positioning itself as a key public health actor. This includes supporting the National Society to advocate to the government to systematically include National Society staff and volunteers in national plans and strategies related to human resources for health and health systems strengthening, and to clarify their roles and responsibilities.

The IFRC will support the Gabonese Red Cross in community engagement for vaccinations, both routine and campaigns, as well as for COVID-vaccines. It will support [community-based health and first aid](#), and epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, by providing continuous training.

Migration and displacement

The Gabonese State has been confronted, for decades, with a long and active tradition of human mobility, translated into a vast migratory movement, which finds its foundation in the disasters and insecurity faced by the populations in neighbouring countries, searching for socio-economic opportunities or a better way of life, or searching for a transit point to emigrate to Europe.

In 2021, Gabon registered 752,000 migrants, and in 2022, the country recorded a migratory flow of nearly 300 migrants per month. To deal with this phenomenon, the country is seeking financial assistance from its partners and private donors, to materialize the measures taken to protect vulnerable people on its territory. Some of these migrants are young people, victims of trafficking for domestic and/or sexual exploitation, particularly young girls who are exploited as servants

or by prostitution networks, or young boys exploited in precarious jobs. “To deal with it, the Government of the Republic is making considerable efforts, in accordance with international minimum standards in terms of human mobility and the fight against human trafficking,” said Erlyne Antonela Ndembet Damas, Minister of Justice, in charge of Human Rights and Gender Equality, at the 2022 New York Migration Forum. (source: [Gestion de la migration : le Gabon enquête de financement extérieur, 24 mai, 2022](#)).

Main actions and areas of support

The Gabonese Red Cross supports people in need through its main programmes on disaster risk management and health and wellbeing. Hence support to vulnerable migrants is embedded into the other sections of this plan. The National Society does not yet have a policy on migration, and in view of the migration challenges in the country, it seeks to increase its action, in line with its auxiliary role.

In 2023, the Gabonese Red Cross plans to:

- Continue to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced persons, refugees and host communities in accordance with their needs
- Continue to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to all migrants, regardless of their status, and to host communities, in vulnerable situations
- Improve access to quality health care and strengthen the resilience of displaced populations, refugees and vulnerable host communities
- Support host communities, displaced persons and migrants to strengthen social cohesion and inclusion
- Develop a feedback and complaints management mechanism
- Provide training on protection, gender and inclusion, and human rights, including awareness-raising on human trafficking, unaccompanied minors, sexual exploitation and abuse
- Strengthen the National Society's national and local capacity on migration through training of the National Board members, 10 headquarters staff and 30 branch managers
- Develop the Gabonese Red Cross policy on migration

The National Society is also considering to join 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.

Values, power and inclusion

Gabon has ratified most of the international treaties related to human rights, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Despite the ratification of all these instruments, gender inequalities persist in the economic, social, cultural and political areas. Gender-based violence is considered a taboo, and is wide-spread, and most of the perpetrators of such violence are found among people close to the victims or within their families. According to UN Women, in 2018, 22% of women aged 15–49 years reported that they had been subject to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, and 21.9% of women aged 20–24 years old were married or in a union before the age of 18.

The enrollment rate in school for young children aged 6 to 15 is estimated at 94% according to the demographic and health survey; 65% of young people between 16 and 20 years old are in secondary school, and 35% of young people between the ages of 21 and 24 are educated at different levels of general and higher education. An important priority is to minimize the risks of illiteracy in the country. The survey also indicates that from secondary school, there is a high school dropout rate among young people. The absence of a real policy on professional reintegration leads uneducated young people towards negative and unsafe behaviours.

Main actions and areas of support

Since 2019, the Gabonese Red Cross has made gender and inclusion one of its main priorities, which has materialized in the creation of the gender and diversity department. The promotion of gender and diversity will continue in 2023, with particular emphasis on the institutionalization of protection, gender and inclusion in all operations, projects and activities of the Gabonese

Red Cross. In line with the National Society's Strategic Plan 2022–2026, actions of the Gabonese Red Cross will focus on community-based care, in order to prevent and protect vulnerable populations in the poorest neighbourhoods of the capital and the provinces.

The Gabonese Red Cross is also committed to community engagement and accountability, which it mainstreams in all its programmes and operations. The National Society seeks to contribute to positive change in communities through broader understanding, ownership and practical application of humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles, with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills and behaviour of young people.

In 2023, the Gabonese Red Cross plans to:

- Launch sexual and gender-based violence awareness campaigns in 50 schools across the country
- Promote the inclusion of gender and diversity in all its activities
- Include sexual and gender-based violence prevention messages in all its outreach work
- Ensure systematic integration of communications, participation, and feedback and complaints mechanisms within the National Society's programmes and operations
- Train staff and volunteers in community engagement and accountability
- Train 20 youth focal points on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement
- Promote the participation of young people in Red Cross activities in schools and universities
- Train 100 young people in youth work (in nine provinces)
- Create and revitalize 30 Red Cross Clubs, and monitor the activities of the Red Cross Clubs in schools
- Train Gabonese Red Cross staff and governance members on protection, gender and inclusion

The IFRC will support the Gabonese Red Cross in developing its community engagement and accountability policy and strategy, and to integrate community engagement and accountability into all its plans so that it becomes a standard approach for all staff and volunteers.

Enabling local actors

The first objective of the Gabonese Red Cross Society's Strategic Development Plan 2022–2026 is to build a National Society that is efficient, competitive, proactive and innovative. The National Society is faced by challenges around positioning, resource mobilization, capacity building for volunteers, institutional capacity building for managers, and financial management. The IFRC and network partners are committed to supporting the Gabonese Red Cross to become a stronger institution, in line with the priorities it has defined for itself.

Engaged

The Gabonese Red Cross recognizes the need for a strong legal basis. With the support of the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), it will seek to ensure that:

- The legal framework, the procedures manual and other regulatory documents of the Gabonese Red Cross are revised and comply with national and international guidelines and standards, and are respected at all levels of the organization
- The Decree on the Gabonese Red Cross facilitates the mission of the National Society for the mobilization of resources
- The Law on the Protection of the Emblem is known and respected by the public

Despite the gap between the means at its disposal and the demands made on it, the Gabonese Red Cross continues to provide support to vulnerable populations in accordance with its mandate. These efforts are hampered by a number of shortcomings such as poor connectivity between headquarters and branches, weak humanitarian diplomacy and poor digitalization of its services. To be effective, it needs to reinvent itself and be innovative. To achieve this, it seeks to undergo a digital transformation, work effectively as a network, and increase the effectiveness of its humanitarian diplomacy, including the following:

- Undertake advocacy with traditional partners to support the search for new partners
- Engage in sub-regional and regional exchanges and cooperation between National Red Cross Societies
- Create a website for Gabonese Red Cross
- Provide the resources for the operationalization of the Gabonese Red Cross website

- Procure material means of communication and dissemination (one laptop, one camera, one internet modem), necessary for a better execution of its activities.

The IFRC will support the National Society in its digitalization, training staff and volunteers on data protection and computer security, including promoting the training of National Society volunteers and staff on computer security on the IFRC's e-learning platform. It will also support the National Society in improving its visibility.

Accountable

The Gabonese Red Cross resources come mainly from a state subsidy and support secured from other partners. This situation makes the National Society dependent on these resources, thus limiting its capacity. The coming years will be an opportunity for the National Society to optimize and strengthen the impact of the resources provided by these partners, through the promotion of coordinated actions and the development of its own mechanisms for mobilizing domestic resources and financial viability, particularly in its branches. The Gabonese Red Cross plans to:

- Define and implement a human resources management policy
- Develop job descriptions and the organization chart of the National Society
- Provide five provincial committees with means and equipment for better functioning (desktop computers, printers, tables, chairs, etc.)
- Undertake a mid-term evaluation of the implementation of its Strategic Plan
- Develop an anti-fraud and corruption policy
- Train administrative and financial managers in administrative and financial management, and in the use of accounting and payroll tools
- Train the logistics manager and the human resources manager
- Organize two fundraising activities in 2023 in Libreville and Franville
- Organize two workshops (25 participants per session) to develop a strategy and action plan for resource mobilization

- Organize a training and awareness workshop for 25 employees, managers and volunteers on resource mobilization
- Undertake the joint implementation, with the IFRC, of a risk management plan and ensure a monitoring mechanism is established

The inclusion of a planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) manager in the staff of the National Society requires the constant support of the IFRC, in order to strengthen the PMER capacities within the National Society, and to integrate them into the services, programmes and operations carried out during the course of the year. The National Society plans to:

- Support the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure that results and outputs are achieved as planned and that data is disaggregated by sex and age group as much as possible
- Undertake the revision of the unified plan every six months and according to the evolution of the context, for example during the approval of Emergency Appeals or DREFs
- Support the training of staff and volunteers to encourage them to take online training on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
- Ensure the establishment of a robust system of community engagement and accountability is established, to gather feedback and respond to questions raised about Red Cross operations in the country

The IFRC will assist the National Society in the development of an anti-fraud and corruption policy, and assist in the development of a policy on protection against sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse. It will support the National Society to create a risk management framework and improve understanding of PMER processes through workshops, training sessions and developing a PMER training package.

Trusted

The Gabonese Red Cross is aiming to broaden the scope of its actions, strengthen the participation of young people in decision-making processes, expand its network of volunteers and ensure their safety and security. Equipping Gabonese Red Cross with the knowledge, materials, tools and skills needed, will contribute significantly to the improvement of the National Society's services. The National Society plans to:

- Put in place systems and procedures that ensure diversity and inclusion in the recruitment of volunteers, to reflect their communities
- Develop a volunteer database management system
- Develop a local mechanism to insure Gabonese Red Cross volunteers
- Develop or revise the youth policy of the Gabonese Red Cross by aligning it with the IFRC youth policy

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Gabonese Red Cross from its country cluster delegation based in Yaounde, Cameroon. Its support to the Gabonese Red Cross Society centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including in strengthening its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

The latest capacity building activities supported by the IFRC during the period 2020–2022 have been related to risk communication, community engagement and accountability, communications and advocacy, and governance and leadership. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its [Global Emergency Appeal](#), has supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response.

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, of links with development assistance, and of efforts to reinforce the position of National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

Support to the Gabonese Red Cross by other National Societies is channeled through the IFRC, and there are no participating National Societies present in Gabon.

The Gabonese Red Cross takes part in regional networks bringing together National Societies on various themes, including the Coordination of Central African National Societies (COSNAC) network.

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

Movement coordination

The Gabonese Red Cross collaborates closely with the IFRC and the ICRC, ensuring an aligned approach across the Movement in support of its priorities. 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 regularly collaborates with the National Society from its delegation in Yaounde, Cameroon. In 2022, the ICRC carried out two missions to Libreville (including one with the IFRC), which provided support to the

National Society, including donations of first aid equipment and training for first aiders. The ICRC provides legal support to the National Society, as well as technical and financial support, and undertakes other cooperation and capacity-building activities. In addition to the above-mentioned areas, the ICRC plans to support the National Society in digitization, emergency response, and to support its participation in the Movement Induction Course and Coordination of Central African National Societies (COSNAC) network.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Gabonese Red Cross maintains close coordination with a range of ministries, departments and government bodies. It collaborates notably with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of National Education and Ministry of the Environment, in the areas of disaster preparedness and response, health, climate, community engagement and accountability, and institutional development.

The National Society also partners with UN agencies; such as with WHO on health and community engagement

and accountability; and with UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP on health, climate, community engagement and accountability, and institutional development.

Other partnerships include: UNAIDS on health, community engagement and accountability, and institutional development; OCEAC on disaster preparedness and response, health, climate, community engagement and accountability, and institutional development; and the Global Fund on health and community engagement and accountability.

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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