

## IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS OF BENIN



**79**

National Society branches



**50**

National Society staff



**12,600**

National Society volunteers



## PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



**98,687**

Health and wellbeing



**99,555**







Values, power and inclusion



**7,233**

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW


*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements	 2.0M
		Income	 96,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 1.8M
		Funding requirements	 168,000
<b>Participating National Societies</b>		Funding requirements	 168,000
		Income	 39,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal number **MAABJ002**

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	 99,000
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	 99,000
	National Society is implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Yes
	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups	Yes
	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Yes
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	 100,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 57,000
	People donating blood	2,000
	People trained in first aid	868
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	589
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	 7,000
	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	90
<b>National Society Development</b>	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
<b>Humanitarian diplomacy</b>	Domestic advocacy strategies are developed, aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
	National Society is participating in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Yes
	National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
	National Society has functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes
<b>Accountability and agility</b>	National Society has strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes
	PSEA Action Plan is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes
	PSEA policy is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support					
		Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
National Society							
Belgian Red Cross						●	●
British Red Cross	●						
Canadian Red Cross Society	●						
Italian Red Cross					●		
Turkish Red Crescent Society					●		

■ Planned      ■ Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

Located on the Gulf of Guinea, the Republic of Benin is a country in West Africa, bordered in the north by Niger, in the northwest by Burkina Faso, in the west by Togo, in the east by Nigeria and in the south by the Atlantic Ocean. The country holds valuable wetlands, fisheries, as well as high tourism potential. However, these areas are affected by strong pressures. Rapid urbanization along the coast has increased the demand for land, water and other natural resources. Military infrastructure and sand extraction have contributed to significant coastal retreat. In addition, like other West African countries, it suffers from the adverse effects of climate variability and change, the manifestations of which result in variability and increased recurrence of extreme weather events (devastating floods, long droughts, heat waves, torrential rains, etc.).

As far as crises and disasters are concerned, the situation has been bleak in recent years. The threat of non-state armed groups in the Sahel region has increased in the border areas of Benin with Burkina Faso and Togo. Recent attacks in these neighbouring countries have caused forced displacement of populations there and an increase in the number of internally displaced persons and refugees from Togo and Burkina Faso in Beninese border towns. Since January 2023, raids of armed groups have spread to communes bordering the Pendjari and the W national parks in Benin, notably in Matéri, Cobly, Tanguiéta, Banikoara, Malanville, Karimama and Kerou. Assessments conducted by local authorities in May showed that from 3 April to 13 May 2023, approximately 28 people were killed in the communes of Matéri, Tanguiéta and Kérou and 6,852 people were displaced and refugees moved to other localities in these communes. In May, the local authorities requested the help of the Benin Red Cross Society to assist these households in need.

With support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC's) Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF), the **Red Cross of Benin** started implementation of a five-month DREF operation in May 2023, to respond to the needs of these displaced populations.

In the area of health, Benin is facing epidemics of viral haemorrhagic fever such as that of lassa, malaria, cholera, meningitis, measles, yellow fever and, most recently, monkeypox. About 37.8 per cent of deaths of children under the age of five in Benin are due to malaria, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections. The health situation in the country highlights the unsatisfactory quality of healthcare, poor development of human resources and poor planning for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of infrastructure and equipment.

The vulnerability and social needs of Beninese are not adequately being met due the various crises and disasters that the country is experiencing. The Beninese government has launched several public health initiatives to improve health indicators and meet the needs of the population. This includes immunization programmes for children, promoting family planning, fighting malaria, improving access to safe water and sanitation, and raising awareness of hygiene practices. Partnerships with international organizations and NGOs are also being established to strengthen public health efforts.

The National Society also implemented longer-term activities during the first half of the year, in accordance with its 2023 country plan. It worked closely with other components of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the area of organizational development, as well as with external partners for the achievement of objectives in the National Society's Strategic Development Plan.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

The implementation of activities under this component were primarily carried out through a climate change risk reduction project in 10 municipalities, supported by the USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance/IFRC. Through this project, 110 volunteers (29 women and 81 men) were trained to raise awareness on the adverse effects of climate change. They, in turn, created awareness on this issue among around 19,900 people (approximately 12,230 women and 7,670 men).

In support of the government's efforts and under the IFRC Pan-African initiative on Tree Planting and Care, the National Society trained 304 people (230 men and 74 women) in the production of multipurpose plants (nutritional, anti-erosion, forestry, and fertilizer). In addition, 12,940 plants, including seedlings of three different species, were planted during tree planting efforts (300 banana trees, 3,090 palm plants, and 9,550 moringa plants). Further, 190 people benefitted from the distribution of short-cycle seeds (maize and tomatoes).

Further, support was provided to municipalities in the development of emergency plans and environmental protection plans in collaboration with stakeholders. These included the Directorate General of Environment and Climate, Directorate General of Forests and Hunting, the ministry in charge of infrastructure (METEO Benin) and the National Agency for Civil Protection. Emergency plans in five Benin communes were also revised. It was planned to have beacons installed in 16 flood-prone locations, including the municipalities of Zogbodome, Zagnando, Abomey-Calavi, Adjohoun, and Athieme.



### Disasters and crises

During the reporting period, IFRC continued support to the Red Cross of Benin under the following two DREF operations:

#### **DREF funded floods operation**

The floods operation was launched in October 2022 to assist 20,000 people (3,300 households) affected by heavy rainfall and floods.

The emergency assistance comprised emergency health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, as well as material assistance through provision of shelter and immediate food aid to 1,328 households among the most vulnerable. The following most affected municipalities and most vulnerable households were identified based on the result of an assessment conducted in September 2022 - Ouesse, Savalou, Zogbodomey, Zagnanado, Tchaourou, Karimama, Dangbo, Bonou, Ze, Athieme, and Adjohoun.

The operation timeframe was extended to cover a period of six months. Follow this link to the most recent Operation Update [MDRBJ017 Operations Update](#).

Post-distribution monitoring missions were organised to ensure the quality of the implementation of activities. Support was provided for the updating of contingency plans in five communes of Benin for crisis and disaster preparedness.

The Red Cross of Benin conducted a lessons learned workshop to evaluate the operation's implementation process and results. The workshop made it possible to engage in discussions with stakeholders to identify the achievements of the operation and challenges faced during its implementation. It also provided an opportunity to share the following recommendations for the improvement of future interventions:

- Increasing the number of target beneficiaries and improving the criteria for identifying beneficiaries

- Pre-positioning non-perishable emergency kits close to communities
- Servicing relocation sites
- Review of the shelter construction policy
- Developing a specific procedure for emergency procurement
- Promoting on-site acquisitions
- Revitalising risk and disaster management platforms.

### **DREF funded population movement operation**

The population movement operation, funded by DREF, was launched in May 2023 to assist 6,000 people affected by displacements in the communes of Matéri, Tanguiéta and Kérou due to attacks by non-state armed groups.

This is being done through the provision of immediate food and material aid to the most vulnerable households for immediate needs in shelter, basic necessities and access to drinking water. Around 3,000 of them are benefitting from humanitarian aid to cover the needs of their households and assistance in relocating and accessing a more dignified shelter. The timeframe of the operation is five months.



## **Health and wellbeing**

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During the first half of 2023, the Red Cross of Benin, in partnership with UNFPA, carried out two rounds of distribution of kits for people displaced by attacks by non-state armed groups. During the first round of distribution, 121 dignity kits were distributed to fifteen 15 adolescents, 28 pregnant women, 42 breastfeeding women and 36 elderly people in the commune of Matéri. During the second round of distribution, 309 households were assisted in Tantéga and Gouandé divisions of Matéri, through the distribution of kits consisting of essential hygiene equipment for physical, oral and intimate needs.

Overall, during the first half of the year, the National Society provided first aid training to 2,562 people and psychosocial support to 4,829 people. Around 806 health camps were organised and 742,732 people were reached through awareness raising on health issues. Benin Red Cross volunteers supervised the vaccination of 63,911 people.

As part of its partnership with Médecins de Monde, the National Society carried out capacity building for municipal vigilance actors, namely communal and volunteer facilitators. A total of 43 people were trained through three training sessions in the communes of Djiiidja, Agbangnizoun and N'Dali. This capacity building effort made it possible to train and equip different actors on sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as gender-based violence.

In turn, the trained teams were able to raise awareness, especially among adolescents, on sexual and gender-based violence, gender equity, personal hygiene, sexually transmitted infections and family planning. These were conducted through educational talks, focus group discussions, home visits and counselling sessions, reaching 7,233 girls between the ages of 10 to 24 years.

Capacity building on these areas was also carried out for 20 volunteers in the communes of Tanguiéta, Matéri and Cobly, under UNFPA funding.

With support of the Belgian Red Cross Flanders, the Red Cross of Benin celebrated World Blood Donor Day alongside the National Blood Transfusion Agency and the Association of Voluntary Blood Donors of Benin on 14 June 2023. To commemorate the day, the National Society organized several mobile blood drive sessions through its local committees. With the support of National Society volunteers and staff, 3,244 blood bags were collected.

In addition, the Red Cross of Benin provided emergency first aid assistance, including psychosocial support, to around 100 households affected by fires in some communes of Benin. This assistance also included the distribution of first-aid kits.

With support from the Kuwait Red Crescent, the Red Cross of Benin assisted 180 households during the month of Ramadan in the six communes of Saketé, Kétou, Bohicon, Djougou, Banikoara and Malanville. The assistance comprised the distribution of basic foodstuff such as rice, oil, sugar and milk, along with a financial envelope.

In addition, with the support of the Kuwait Red Crescent, during the celebration of Tabaski or Eid al-Adha, the Red Cross of Benin assisted 2,250 households in 15 communes of Benin - Bohicon, Malanville, Banikoara, Parakou, Bembèrèkè, Tanguiéta, Natitingou, Djougou, Abomey, Lokossa, Grand-Popo, Abomey-Calavi, Sakété, Cotonou and Porto-Novo. The assistance included solidarity during the distribution of sheep meat and beef to vulnerable Muslim households, reinforcing the mission of the National Society to prevent and alleviate human suffering with impartiality and without discrimination.



## Migration and displacement

Interventions related to this strategic priority have been implemented under the DREF operation.



## Values, power and inclusion

The Red Cross of Benin, with the financial support of UNFPA, has been working for several years to ensure the socio-professional reintegration of adolescent girls and girls who were victims of early and forced marriages in the department of Atacora in the north-west of the country. During the reporting period, the National Society assisted 22 young girls (12 from Cibly, 05 from Matéri and 05 from Tanguiéta) who had been in early and forced marriages.

This period saw the Red Cross of Benin celebrating World Red Cross Red Crescent Day on 8th May, together with 60 years of existence of the National Society. As part of the festivities, the following activities were implemented with the support of partners:

- Official launch of a celebration under the theme 'We Do Everything With The Heart'.
- Torchlight retreat in the city of Porto-Novo held on 10th May.
- Official ceremony to celebrate 60 years of existence, held on 11th May.
- Release of 'Olympiads of First Aid' (1st edition)

As part of the cooperation between the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Red Cross of Benin, information and dissemination on the neutral and impartial action of the Red Cross were held in the Communes of Kandi and Djougou. This activity reached out to 97 participants, including administrative officials, community and political leaders, police officers, teachers and community members. It covered the mandate, Fundamental Principles and key actions of components of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, along with the action of the Red Cross in Benin. The aim was to facilitate the acceptance and access of humanitarian workers to populations in need.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

During this first half of 2023, the Benin Red Cross worked closely with the government as well as organizations working in the humanitarian field in the country such as UNFPA, Enabel, UNICEF, and Handicap International.

There has been a strong will on the part of the National Society to develop a partnership both within and outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. This has made it possible to obtain two new projects - USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and IFRC's Capacity Building Fund - and to work with more actors to achieve the objectives.

In keeping with this, the following visits were conducted to Benin during the first half of 2023:

- IFRC's Africa Regional Director and IFRC's Cluster Manager Abuja, in March 2023
- A delegation from the Swiss Red Cross
- Finance officer from the Belgian Red Cross Flanders. Through this visit, a review of logistics, purchasing, finance and stock management was made.

In addition, an get together was organised for 30 participants from the Red Cross of Benin, partner organizations and donors. This provided an opportunity to present the major results that the National Society had achieved during 2022 and its needs in terms of funding for the year 2023, in an effort to mobilize resources.



## National Society development

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The Red Cross of Benin has shown regularity in the organization of the following statutory meetings:

- Two sessions of its National Bureau
- A session of its Board of Directors

These meetings provided a framework for the consideration and adoption of several documents, including quarterly narrative and financial reports.

During the first half of 2023, the internal audit department carried out several audits on the National Society's accounts to ensure sound financial and accounting management.

The National Society, in its process of modernization and financial autonomy and with funding support from the Japanese Red Cross, established a gastronomic canteen at its headquarters during the reporting period. This canteen offers catering services for the benefit of staff and the public.

The Benin Red Cross also requested and obtained funding under IFRC's Capacity Building Fund for the implementation of a youth and volunteer development project. Through this project, the National Society plans to contextualize and adopt its volunteering policy, as well as set up five training centres for capacity building of 2,000 volunteers and young people. Capacity building will be on knowledge of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, first aid, digital issues and management of humanitarian projects. The actual start of project activities is scheduled for the third quarter of 2023.

During the first half of the year, several staff members from the Benin Red Cross participated in international trainings and meetings including:

- Training on cash transfer programmes from 12-16 June 2023 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Level B training in public health in humanitarian emergencies from 04-10 June 2023 in Kampala, Uganda
- The global communication forum held from 12-14 June 2023 in Amman, Jordan



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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The Red Cross of Benin made efforts to ensure that the execution of its mandate improved its visibility in communities. Visibility is ensured by disseminating the National Society's actions, notably via web channels and social networks. In addition, dissemination sessions on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement are organized at the level of local committees to strengthen community involvement.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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The key interventions under this component were:

- The start of accounting entry in accounting and financial management software
- The development and provision of a digital application for managing mission orders
- The development and provision of a digital application for the management of volunteers and members
- The development of a digital system for the management of service providers
- The supervision of interventions on the various projects implemented
- The organization of post-distribution monitoring missions as a quality control



## The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 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.

### DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

### 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](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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