



# CONGO

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

23 November 2023

## IN SUPPORT OF THE CONGOLESE RED CROSS SOCIETY



12

National Society branches



20

National Society staff



13,000

National Society volunteers

## PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



2,047

Disasters and crises



15,000

Health and wellbeing



12,744

Migration and displacement



16,700

Values, power and inclusion



18,000

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

<b>Total</b>	Funding requirements		780,000
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term Funding requirements		512,000
	Income		963,000
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	Funding requirements		100,000
<b>Host National Society other funding sources</b>	Funding requirements		168,000



[Click here for more IFRC financial information](#)

Appeal number **MAACG002**

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response	2,000
	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	2,000
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	2,000
	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
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	15,000
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	9,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	350
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	1%
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	13,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	8,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	7,000
	People reached with immunization services	3,000
	People trained in first aid	401
<b>Migration and displacement</b>	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	17,000
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes	Applicable data not available
	Data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move are available	Applicable data not available
	Advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move?	Applicable data not available







## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (CON.)

<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	 18,000
	People reached by National Society educational programmes	 3,000
	People whose access to education is facilitated through National Society programming	 2,000
	Percentage of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information	Applicable data not available
	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 formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC network is part of	1
	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
<b>National Society Development</b>	One National Society Development plan is in place	Yes
	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Applicable data not available
<b>Humanitarian diplomacy</b>	Domestic advocacy strategies are developed, aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Applicable data not available
	National Society is participating in IFRC-led communication campaigns	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							
American Red Cross							
French Red Cross							

 Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

Due to its physical, geographical, geological, and climatic conditions and its population's cultural and risk acceptance levels, the Republic of Congo faces a heightened risk from natural and man-made hazards. The region experiences frequent disasters, which are made worse by various physical, functional, and structural vulnerabilities. These natural hazards encompass rising sea levels, coastal erosion, flooding, and landslides. Furthermore, rapid economic, social, and environmental changes further compound this growing vulnerability. These include:

## Key achievements

As a component of the 2023 unified plan's execution, the **Congolese Red Cross** has received comprehensive assistance from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). This support is part of their initiative to enhance the development of the National Society. It includes peer support from the Burundi Red Cross, which conducted an in-depth assessment of the National Society's organizational capacities and developed strategies for addressing identified issues.

Thanks to the multifaceted support from the IFRC, National Society staff and volunteers have acquired expertise in digital data collection tools, data literacy, and data-driven decision-making. This empowerment has allowed them to integrate new technologies and social media into their advocacy efforts and position themselves as vital partners at the national level, providing high-quality services to vulnerable communities. The technical and financial support received by the Congolese Red Cross from the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, in Kinshasa played a pivotal role in initiating the transformation process across all levels. Activities like the digital transformation workshop and the organization of the Congolese Red Cross's prioritization workshop for development were made possible through this support.

As a beneficiary of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) programme within the Central Africa consortium, the Congolese Red Cross takes the lead in the risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) pillar, alongside other implementation partners within the government of Congo. These two projects aim to develop the skills of operational teams/local branches in using RCCE tools and approaches while facilitating the ongoing process of institutionalizing RCCE within the projects and programmes of the Congolese Red Cross.

## Changes and amendments

The unified plan for 2023 has yet to undergo any modifications so far in its implementation.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

As climate change continues to manifest its effects across diverse development sectors, collaborative efforts with the Government of Congo are now in motion to collect hydro-climatic data essential for developing risk and disaster forecasting models.

In response to these challenges, the Congolese Red Cross, in partnership with government authorities, has proactively initiated tree-planting programmes, a vital step in preparing for climate change-related disasters.

Recent years have seen a significant rise in disaster risks, chiefly driven by the increasing occurrence of extreme weather events. In parallel, we are working closely with the government to implement modern strategies for disaster risk reduction, with a strong focus on climate risk management. These initiatives encompass tree planting and community awareness campaigns, collectively aimed at mitigating climate change risks.

Nonetheless, the climate change threats observed in Congo are intrinsically linked to shifts in the seasonal calendar, contributing to vulnerabilities in coastal regions, soil degradation, erosion, and subsequent flooding.



## Disasters and crises

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For several years, the Republic of Congo has grappled with a series of natural and man-made disasters, population movement and epidemics. The recurring impact of these events has significantly disrupted economic, political, environmental, and social systems, leading to multiple humanitarian needs.

Among these challenges, floods have proven particularly damaging. In 2019-2020, over 200,000 people were affected, followed by 182,486 in 2022 and 164,749 in 2023. The Government of the Republic of the Congo, in collaboration with ministries like Social Affairs, Solidarity, and Humanitarian Action, and with the support of humanitarian partners, including the Congolese Red Cross, is actively aiding those affected by flooding.

To address the aftermath of floods, the Government has developed a three-year Contingency Plan in partnership with the DG ECHO project led by the Congolese Red Cross and the French Red Cross. This plan is updated every three years under the leadership of the Ministry for Humanitarian Action, in coordination with various humanitarian partners, including the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. It aims to prevent and manage flooding while enhancing community resilience for post-flood recovery.

Despite substantial efforts and initiatives undertaken by the National Society in partnership with the Congolese Government, the overall post-disaster recovery efforts still need to be more adequately covered. The current state of disaster risk management in Congo can be attributed to several factors. These include the need for a well-defined and permanent national inter- and intra-institutional coordination mechanism, both in general and for each component of disaster risk management. This needs a more precise delineation of organizational structure, operation methods, mandates, and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders. Additionally, the shortage of technical, material, and financial resources, coupled with limited capacity to fulfil each stakeholder's mandates, roles, and responsibilities for various disaster risk management components, further compounds the situation.

Between January and March, as well as from March to June 2023, the IFRC supported the National Society in implementing two DREF operations. These efforts included responding to the population movement from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Ngabé and addressing flooding in the Likouala and Sangha departments in the northern region of the country. For more details, see all reports related to these DREF operations [here](#). Additionally, through the IFRC, the Congolese Red Cross received funding from the American Red Cross to bolster the risk communication and community engagement in its response to COVID-19 in the departments of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire.



## Health and wellbeing

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As part of implementing humanitarian assistance activities for vulnerable populations affected by various recent disasters in the Republic of Congo, the National Society has conducted community health and welfare activities for the population.

The persistence of diarrhoeal diseases remains a public health problem. Thanks to various DREF operations, the National Society has carried out routine awareness-raising activities despite the inadequacy of current measures to protect water catchment, storage and distribution. In the field, 45 per cent of households use tap water and improved

springs, 15 per cent use boreholes/pumps, 17 per cent use protected wells and springs, insufficient appropriate collection structures, and 23.7 per cent use unshared improved sanitation facilities.

Since the beginning of this year, several cases of water-borne diseases have been reported in flood-prone areas, and with the help of departmental health services, eradication solutions have been put in place.

Community awareness-raising, hygiene promotion and psychosocial support reached as many people as possible during the recent flooding in the Sangha and Likouala regions.

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation supported the National Society in accessing emergency funds to assist vulnerable populations affected by disasters in targeted areas.

The CEA approach in CRC's joint projects and programmes underwent testing in emergency operations at the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023. This testing was conducted as part of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) project, which received support from the American Red Cross in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. The project entailed a three-month community awareness campaign.

Around one hundred Congolese Red Cross volunteers and supervisors were engaged and deployed across two departmental branches. This deployment included 55 volunteers, five supervisors in Brazzaville, 37 volunteers, and three supervisors in Pointe-Noire.

The German Red Cross-DG ECHO project, in partnership with the French Red Cross and Congolese Red Cross, harnessed the RCCE component to train community intervention teams in Brazzaville (Djiri, Madibou and Mfilou) and Cuvette (Mossaka and Loukoléla). Their mission involved mobilizing over 150 community agents in villages and neighbourhoods affected by flooding in two of the country's departments. These 150 community intervention team members were deployed for community awareness sessions, addressing disaster risks such as flooding, erosion, and violent winds. Additionally, they undertook activities such as tree planting and constructing barriers and river water pipes in at-risk areas from June 2022 to June 2023 in Congo.

Community engagement and accountability were also integrated into the National Society through the Saving Lives and Livelihoods CDC Africa project for COVID-19 vaccination in the Republic of Congo. This project extended to Brazzaville, Île M'bamou, Pointe-Noire, and Tchamba-Nzassi departments and engaged nearly 290 volunteers and 12 supervisors over one year.

These volunteers conducted door-to-door household awareness campaigns, collected community feedback, and hosted interactive radio and TV programmes to foster local community support for COVID-19 vaccination, ultimately reducing community-level transmission.

Critical stakeholders in the Saving Lives and Livelihoods CDC Africa project included journalists, personnel from the expanded programme on immunization, the Congolese Red Cross, and the Department for the Promotion of Hygiene and Health. In addition to these, opinion leaders, religious leaders, neighbourhood chiefs, town criers, and National Society volunteers received training in risk communication and community engagement, with support from the IFRC, the Ministry of Health and Population, in partnership with CDC-Africa, Mastercard, and the Congolese Red Cross.

Furthermore, the National Society has conducted communication, education and information activities for communities in Pool, Sangha and Likouala on good hygiene practices and prevention of gender-based violence.

Also, in Sangha and Likouala, with the support of the Departmental Health Directorate, midwives from the various integrated health centres benefited from three educational sessions on maternal, neonatal and infant reproductive health to ensure the safety of newborn babies.



## Migration and displacement

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Since 2010, the Republic of Congo, which shares borders with the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has been facing significant influxes of people fleeing inter-ethnic conflicts in these two countries.

Currently, these displaced populations number over 45,000 in Likouala, 9,761 in Bouemba within the Plateaux region, and 13,835 in Pool-Nord and its adjacent communities.

Notably, the Government of the Republic of Congo has been actively integrating these migrants into the local communities without discrimination, as Congo has become their primary destination.

As an open and accommodating country, the Republic of Congo has, for years, welcomed migrants and refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central Africa Republic in the departments of Likouala, Pool-Nord, Cuvette, and Pointe-Noire. These individuals from these two border countries receive various essential services, including protection, housing support from UN partners, nutrition, basic healthcare, and reintegration procedures.

At present, displaced persons from Yumbi and Kwamunth in the Democratic Republic of Congo, now residing in Makotimpoko and Bouemba in the Plateaux, and Ngabé in the Pool, are in the process of community integration rather than being classified as refugees.



## Values, power and inclusion

The Congolese Red Cross is highly recognized and embraced by the community for its implementation of humanitarian aid activities and for promoting humanitarian principles and Values.

The National Society actively engages in various initiatives to foster awareness of values, empowerment, and inclusivity to enhance community harmony and coexistence.

Through the DREF operations, the Congolese Red Cross conducts community awareness campaigns focused on peace, tolerance, non-discrimination, and respect for human dignity.

Within its efforts to assist vulnerable individuals and at-risk populations, the National Society is committed to upholding human dignity and protection without any form of discrimination. Diverse, disadvantaged groups, including people with disabilities, those living with HIV, indigenous populations, pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and elderly individuals, have equal access to the services and humanitarian aid the Movement in the Congo provides.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

Following the Organizational and Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) evaluation done in March 2022 and the commencement of the transformation of the National Society in January 2023, three strategic priorities have been identified for the development of the Congolese Red Cross:

### Branch development

After the OCAC evaluation, the Congolese Red Cross devised a strategy for recruiting and retaining volunteers. The organization plans to conduct targeted membership and recruitment campaigns in the coming months.

### Resource mobilization strengthening

Since the beginning of 2023, the Congolese Red Cross has been updating its administrative, financial, and logistical procedures manual. Both internal and external audits are scheduled to ensure effective management.

### Strengthening of humanitarian diplomacy

Collaborating with Movement components, the National Society has established mechanisms to advocate for the disbursement of grants from public authorities and opinion leaders. Furthermore, it is enhancing its presence within the national emergency response coordination, jointly with other humanitarian partners and the government.



## Strategic and operational coordination

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As part of its strategic and operational coordination, the National Society is involved in:

### External coordination

The Congolese Red Cross is a national disaster response coordination committee member, serving as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field within the Republic of Congo. It actively participates in various preparatory and response meetings to effectively assist vulnerable populations. Additionally, it receives support from several partners who have committed to assisting with these interventions in the first quarter of 2023. These partners include CDC Africa, WHO, UNICEF, and UNFPA. To achieve these objectives, the National Society has collaborated with community and civil society organizations, the inter-ministerial committee, UN agencies, and development agencies to deliver the desired results.

### Inter-agency coordination mechanisms

The National Society collaborates closely with various humanitarian partners in emergency response and addressing vulnerable populations' well-being. This collaboration extends to the Government, UN agencies, international NGOs, and embassies accredited to the Congo. The mentioned partnership is operational and coordinated by the UNDP (OCHA).

### Coordination and cooperation within the Movement

The National Society maintains strong relationships with all its partners within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Given the numerous challenges faced by the Congolese Red Cross since the inception of its transformation process, supported by the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation, the Congolese Red Cross held consultations with the secretary general of the Burundi Red Cross, who assessed the Congolese Red Cross's transformation prospects.

The Congolese Red Cross receives diverse support from the various components of the Movement, particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the IFRC, and participating National Societies.

The ICRC supports the Congolese Red Cross through a renewable three-year cooperation agreement, implemented via annual cooperation action plans. The focus remains on the National Society's emergency plan, with priority given to high-risk areas (Pointe-Noire, Brazzaville, Plateaux, and Likouala) for 2023.

On the other hand, the IFRC Secretariat is assisting the National Society with various disaster preparedness and response programmes. This includes support for the victims of the January 2023 floods and institutional support, specifically emphasising the National Society's transformation.

**The French Red Cross**, the sole participating National Society active in the Republic of Congo, is dedicated to enhancing the capacities of the Congolese Red Cross through several projects. These initiatives encompass the DG-ECHO project focusing on risk and disaster management in the Cuvette department in the country's northern region along the Congo-Oubangui River corridor.

### Resource mobilization

The National Society needs a resource mobilization policy. The government subsidy, which has been unavailable for the past three years, has also been absent. Consequently, the CRC is primarily engaged in short-term projects and programmes.



## National Society development

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Following the Congolese Red Cross's OCAC evaluation workshop held in March 2022 in Brazzaville, the National Society received financial support through the IFRC's Capacity Building Fund (CBF) to implement the workshop's recommendations.

To this end, the Burundi Red Cross' secretary general was identified and deployed by the IFRC to the Congolese Red Cross for one month in January 2023. Their mission was to comprehensively evaluate the National Society's organizational capacities and propose solutions to the identified issues.

Following this consultation, with technical and financial support from the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation, the National Society initiated its transformation process by organizing a digital transformation workshop for technical executives from the national headquarters and the branches. This workshop aimed to strengthen the Congolese Red Cross's digital capabilities and provide recommendations to enhance the working conditions of its managers.

As part of the ongoing efforts to transform the Congolese Red Cross, the local Mossaka branch has been restructured with the support of the French Red Cross under the DG ECHO project. An office and warehouse are in the final stages of being officially handed over to the departmental branch for capacity building.

Furthermore, the Congolese Red Cross has also received support from the French Red Cross through ECHO funding to strengthen the capacities of the Pool departmental branch as part of the OSCAL2 project. Under this initiative, the Congolese Red Cross's Pool departmental branch has successfully developed seven local branches, including rehabilitating headquarters in Kidamba, training volunteers and health staff in Mindouli, Mayama, Kiba, Vinza, Goma Tsetse, and Kinkala. Additionally, the project provided drinking water by constructing boreholes in public schools and a school infirmary in Kinkala. All six local branches selected for this project have also benefited from an income-generating activity under the project.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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Following the National Society's diagnosis in January 2023, humanitarian diplomacy was recognized as a strategic priority for strengthening the Congolese Red Cross. In line with this, it increased its efforts to engage with public authorities and opinion leaders to secure the government subsidy stipulated in the Finance Act. Simultaneously, the organization sought to promote fundamental documents that delineate the roles, profile, and responsibilities of the National Society.

The National Society is also collaborating with public authorities to obtain the necessary administrative and legal documents required for the proper functioning of the Congolese Red Cross, which may include a law or presidential decree.

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation actively supports the National Society's development process, employing a participatory approach in coordination with public authorities.



## Accountability and agility (cross-functional)

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Further details will be reported in the annual report.



## 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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#### National Society

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