



GHANA

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

23 November 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE GHANA RED CROSS SOCIETY



10

National Society branches



54

National Society staff



77,625

National Society volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



361.233

Disasters and crises



30,521





Health and wellbeing



19,437

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total		Funding requirements	 6.5M
IFRC	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 4.5M
Participating National Societies		Funding requirements	 1.2M
Host National Society other funding sources		Funding requirements	 860,000

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

Appeal number **MAAGH002**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	361,000
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	Applicable data not available
Disasters and crises	People reached with disaster risk reduction	31,000
	People reached with shelter support	36
Health and wellbeing	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	19,000
Values, power and inclusion	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Yes

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Accountability and agility	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

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support			
		Climate	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
National Society					
British Red Cross	Supported				
Italian Red Cross		Supported			
Netherlands Red Cross	Supported				Supported
Red Crescent Society of the Isla..					Planned
Swiss Red Cross		Supported	Supported	Planned	Planned

Planned
 Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Ghana is situated on the Atlantic Ocean and borders Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso. Its population is about 32.8 million (in 2021). In the past two decades, it has taken major strides towards democracy under a multi-party system. However, there are two dominant political parties: the National Democratic Congress and the New Patriotic Party.

On climatic condition, Ghana is tropical and there are two main seasons: the wet and the dry seasons. North Ghana experiences its rainy season from April to mid-October while South Ghana experiences its rainy season from March to mid-November. This also has implication on the tree planting and care initiative. At the time the tree planting and care project took off in the upper west region, which is in the northern belt of the country, the rains had gone halfway. This affected the plants as most seedlings could not establish their roots on the grounds before the last rains, which resulted in communities watering the plants during the dry season.

World bank reported that GDP growth was estimated to have slowed to 3.2 per cent in 2022, down from 5.4 per cent in 2021. The slowdown affected mostly the non-extractive sectors, as the recovery in gold exports supported extractives growth. The agriculture and services sectors experienced slower growth in 2022 than the year before. High inflation and interest rates depressed private consumption and investment. Government demand was weakened by lack of access to capital markets and high debt service obligations. This affected internal fund mobilization to support the plan. According to the World bank, growth is expected to slow further to 1.6 per cent in 2023 and remain muted in 2024, before returning to its potential. This paints a bare picture in internal fund raising with partners and local companies in the ensuing years to support the plan.

Key achievements

The key achievements during the first half of the year are:

- **The Ghana Red Cross Society** engaged with the government in the revision of its Act to strengthen its mandate to meet current humanitarian challenges in the country. The Act has been reviewed by parliament and was sent to cabinet. Currently it is with the Attorney General's office.
- Ghana Red Cross Society has a strong representation in the Interagency Coordination Committee and National Working Group at all levels (National, regional and district) in all public health response platforms. This is a statutory representation which gives the National Society an opportunity to be part of national decision making. Through this representation, the government and development partners recognize the role of the National Society as a major partner in humanitarian services provision in the country.
- With support from the Netherlands Red Cross through IFRC, the Ghana Red Cross has undertaken evidence-based research in urban water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the Ashanti region in partnership with Ghana Water Company Limited.
- Ghana Red Cross, through support from the Italian Red Cross, planted 15,000 seedlings in the Upper West Region as part of IFRC's 10 million Pan-Africa Tree Planting Agenda.

Changes and amendments

There have not been changes to the unified plan during the period of reporting.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

IFRC Secretariat and National Societies adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation

During the first half of 2023, the Ghana Red Cross pursued the objective of reducing the current and future humanitarian impact of climate and environmental crises and environmental degradation through planting and care of trees in collaboration with communities and stakeholders and building local capacities on climate change.

With support from the Italian Red Cross, the Ghana Red Cross initiated a tree planting and care project which was launched in June 2022. The project in 2022 planted 15,000 tree seedlings of different species in phase one to bring multiple benefits to the beneficiary communities. The second phase of the project was executed in June 2023, also planting 15,000 different species of multipurpose trees. In view of the above, 30,000 different species of trees were planted in three districts and 15 communities of the Upper West Region. The seedlings from the last visit are showing over 75 per cent survival rate.

Under the disaster risk reduction activities of the Ghana Red Cross, supported by the Swiss Red Cross, the Community Disaster Preparedness and Response Teams (CDPRTs) continued to sensitize communities, in the Upper East Region, on the various risks and hazards and the measures to adopt if there is an occurrence. This was done together with the key stakeholders at the government and community levels, such as the National Disaster Mobilization Organization and Fire Service.

Risk mitigation initiatives outlined in the community plans were implemented in 160 communities.

In the various project beneficiary communities, the CDPRTs in the project villages ran education and sensitization campaigns. The majority of the topics covered in the discussions included house retrofitting, environmental protection, and climate change adaptation strategies, bushfire prevention and management, the need to plant trees and clean-up campaigns. The CDPRTs built fire belts at one of the events, to stop raging fires from a bordering community. The CDPRTs are mobilizing and disseminating disaster risk reduction messages to beneficiary communities.

Community members expressed their gratitude for the creation of community information centres in all project districts, saying that it allowed them to hear and learn more about disaster risk reduction messages. However, windstorms have caused several of these centres to malfunction.

The tree planting and care project was initiated with the aim of promoting environmental sustainability and reducing the effect of climate change by increasing the green cover and encouraging community engagement in tree planting and care activities. These goals will be accomplished by increasing the green cover and by fostering community engagement in tree planting and care activities. Planting and care of multipurpose trees is aligned with the IFRC's Tree Planting and Care Pan-African Initiative 2021-2030. The purpose of the project was for the Ghana Red Cross to make its contribution to the larger-scale efforts in adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change.

The objective of the tree-planting and care initiative was to make a contribution towards reversing the existing trends of rising greenhouse gas emissions caused by the degradation of forests. The Ghana Red Cross, with support from the Italian Red Cross, was able to achieve its goal of sustained tree planting and care for reforestation. This was because the National Society has a network and presence of volunteers in the communities, as well as connections with governments owing to its auxiliary role to the government. This allowed the National Society to take advantage of the unique niche it occupies in public.

Currently, the project aimed to help 15 communities as well as three districts in the Upper West Region. The second group of people targeted were the young who volunteered in schools and mothers' clubs. Within the scope of the

project, educational campaigns on climate change adaptation, tree planting and care, and other topics were delivered to nine schools throughout all three districts. To date, 30,000 trees have been planted under the initiative. It is hoped that the National Society will be able to get other partners involved in the tree planting and care project.



Disasters and crises

Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards

Awareness and education sessions on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation were undertaken in 89 communities. Awareness sessions facilitated by CDPRTs continued in the first quarter of the year and over 30,521 people (15,576 males, 14,945 females) were reached through interactive sessions conducted in the 89 communities. At least three awareness raising topics, geared towards the prevention of hazards in the communities, were picked for use in educating the communities. Among the topics covered during interactive sessions with the communities were prevention of bush fires, preparation for floods, retrofitting of houses, COVID-19 risk communication and proper hand washing.

The CDPRTs conducted awareness raising sessions on health and environmental hazards through community durbars and house-to-house education. CDPRTs used the community information centres provided by the project for continued education and interaction with the communities. At the community level, volunteers organized 128 clean up exercises between January and March 2023 to demonstrate the need for clean and proper environmental hygiene.

People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through access to assistance and support that is timely, adequate, flexible and strengthens their agency

A conflict between Fulani settlers and the natives of Shirugu, a Bolgatanga suburb, led to a widespread exodus of Fulani to the Bolgatanga Divisional Police Station to take refuge. Women and children endured the brunt of this conflict the most because they were left exposed to the elements. The Bolgatanga Regional National Disaster Mobilization Organization called on the Ghana Red Cross to provide emergency tents to assist the displaced families who were sent to the Bolgatanga sports stadium. The Upper East Regional branch mobilized six emergency family tents to complement other shelter facilities available at the reception centre to cater for 41 families. The district assembly supplied the reception centre with water and restrooms, as well as security personnel. Food items and bedding materials were made available by the National Disaster Management Organisation for the displaced families.



Health and wellbeing

The health and dignity of communities in emergencies are maintained by providing access to appropriate health services

During the reporting period, training on Oral Rehydration Points (ORP) and Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) was conducted for 110 staff and volunteers (13 staff and 97 volunteers) from the field, five staff from headquarters, six regional staff (Central, Greater Accra and Ashante regions) and two staff from the Ministry of Health. The activities were supported by the Netherland Red Cross through IFRC.

The complementary role of primary health care facilities and community-based volunteers is formalized nationwide to ensure a continuum of service. A primary eye care manual has been produced and is ready for use. Due to the ongoing project audit, no training has been conducted yet for the heads and volunteers at the primary health care facilities. These activities have been supported by the Swiss Red Cross.

The role of community volunteers is strengthened and enhanced to undertake community mobilization, awareness raising, eye health promotion, to improve community uptake of eye health services nationwide.

A total of 1,500 volunteers were trained and equipped to undertake community mobilization, awareness creation and health promotion in 520 communities in Northeast, Savanna and Northern regions. During the period under review, community mobilization, awareness creation and health promotion were carried out by community volunteers in their respective communities. Volunteers referred community members with various eye conditions to the health facilities.

OPD cataract cases recorded were 13,286 people (5,838 males and 7,448 females); community outreach recorded was 3,490 people (1,414 males and 2,076 females); school outreach recorded was 681 school children (313 males and 368 females). No surgery was conducted due to an ongoing audit on the project by the Swiss Red Cross.

The youth department of the Ghana Red Cross embarked on a blood donation survey exercise, which took place in the Upper West Region on 25 January. The purpose of this survey was to present the findings of a blood donation exercise conducted among 309 individuals in the Wa West district by the youth caucus of the Ghana Red Cross Upper West Region, in collaboration with the Wechau district hospital. The exercise aimed to gather information on the willingness for non-remunerated blood donation and to promote awareness about the importance of regular blood donations. Young people in the district are now aware of the need to donate voluntarily non-remunerated blood to save lives.

The youth department of the Ghana Red Cross held a sports festival organized by the Upper West Region, which took place from the 7-10 March 2023 at Tendaamba Park. The sports festival aimed to promote physical fitness and health awareness among the youth, as well as foster a sense of camaraderie and teamwork. The event featured various sports, including football, basketball, volleyball, and athletics. Participants from different schools and communities across the region gathered to compete and engage in friendly sports competitions. Free first aid training was provided for Smart Kids, which is a group of talented children between the ages of 7 to 15 years, engaged in acting, music, poetry and journalism. This was a memorable and successful event.

Communities at risk from pandemics and epidemics have increased access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services in emergency settings

Oral rehydration therapy (ORT) or treatment is important during cholera and acute water diarrhoea outbreaks. It does not only reduce the caseloads in the health facilities during outbreak but helps in the management of cases at the community level before cases reach the health facilities. Ghana Red Cross received support from the IFRC to train volunteers on the set up of ORTs and the management of cholera cases during outbreaks at community levels before referring patients to the health facilities. The National Society also benefited from OCV training. There are 20 ORT trained trainers who trained 45 volunteers in Greater Accra, Central and Ashanti regions, which are considered cholera prone regions.

The Ghana Red Cross, in partnership with Ghana Water Company Limited, with support from the Netherlands Red Cross/IFRC, provided sustainable water to urban poor households in Manpong in the Ashanti region. During the period, Behaviour Change Communication training was provided to the regional manager, health focal persons, district organizers, a project officer, a driver, agents from the Ghana Water Company Limited and staff from Ghana Red Cross headquarters.



Migration and displacement

National Society is able to engage with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to more effectively assess, understand and respond to their priority needs

More than 4,872 asylum seekers, including Ghanaians and mostly children, fled a trouble spot hit by violence in Burkina Faso to seek refuge in Ghana. These asylum seekers were hosted in different communities in the Upper East region including Sapalega, Bawse Seitinga, Issakatam, jentiga and Banse.

A joint visit of Ghana Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was conducted to these sites. The National Society conducted a field trip to the affected areas in Binduri, Bawku and Zibilla districts of the Upper East Region to assess if there were unaccompanied children and restoring family links needed. The National Society assembled six emergency family tents at Sapelega and Issakatam communities to house 36 people, mostly children and old people. These activities were supported by the ICRC.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

National Societies and the IFRC Secretariat have strengthened their engagement with partners within and outside the network in order to work collectively on the key challenges facing communities

The Ghana Red Cross is a member of the interagency coordination platform in the areas of Health and Disasters. During the reporting period, the National Society and IFRC were represented at the Risk Communication Sub-Committee on COVID-19 vaccine roll-out meeting. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the National COVID-19 vaccination days campaign scheduled from 19-23 July 2023. Also, the IFRC and National Society were represented at the risk communication sub-committee meeting on the malaria vaccine implementation programme. The main purpose of the meeting was also to update partners on the current status of the programme and plans for expansion, as well as planned communication activities towards the expansion.

The National Society and IFRC were represented at the inter-agency coordination meeting with the Ministry of Health and UN agencies and development partners. A coordination meeting was held between UNHCR, ICRC, IFRC and the Ghana Red Cross to update each other and review the humanitarian situation in the northern regions affecting the Burkina Faso asylum seekers. It was agreed that the Red Cross could play a role and support in the setting up of activities related to Restoring Family Links and identify resources to support needs in the areas of WASH, health and shelter.



National Society Development

The IFRC Secretariat has renewed partnership with its members and developed a new financing architecture to increase financial resources for the benefit of National Societies

The IFRC supported the Ghana Red Cross Act review, through support of the Africa regional International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) office and Geneva National Society development department, under the Capacity Building Fund. The National Society also engaged the chair of the parliamentary sub-committee to facilitate a smooth and speedy processing of the bill once it is tabled in parliament.

National Society leadership strengthening

The regional director from the Africa regional office visited the Ghana Red Cross to understand the operations of the National Society, the humanitarian context and to reassure government officials of the auxiliary role of the National Society and the support which the IFRC Secretariat provides to its membership.

The regional director attended a board meeting and staff meeting during his visit, from which a nine-month roadmap was agreed and endorsed by the National Society President and Secretary General as a summary of key priorities which the Ghana Red Cross must implement during the second half of the year. The National Society secured funding for this under IFRC's Capacity Building Fund.



Humanitarian diplomacy

The IFRC team, with the Secretary General of the National Society, met with the diplomatic community in the country to share the IFRC mission and explore possible collaboration. The embassies met included the Saudi Arabian, Turkish, Danish, Australian, Korean, Italian, Norwegian, along with USAID. The IFRC/Ghana Red Cross joint team briefed the embassies on the Red Cross work and partnerships that exists in Ghana to address the humanitarian and developmental challenges affecting vulnerable communities, including the auxiliary role of the National Society to the Government of Ghana.

Thematic areas discussed included health/WASH, disaster preparedness and response, climate risks mitigation and resource mobilization. The Danish embassy indicated interest to collaborate with the Ghana Red Cross, through the IFRC, in the area of climate and environmental protection. It expressed willingness to collaborate with the National Society in the roll-out and dissemination of weather-related information to communities for better preparedness. There are also funding opportunities for small-scale projects to support youth and women, which will be launched by the Australian embassy.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

The IFRC network undergoes a digital transformation

The Icelandic Red Cross, through the IFRC Digital Divide Initiative is supporting the Ghana Red Cross with IT infrastructure. During the first half of the year, a management committee meeting was held to review the draft IT policy. This enabled the committee to capitalize on emerging changes on the internet of things for effective management of the National Society's IT infrastructure.

Furthermore, the Ghana Red Cross took delivery of 10 HP laptops with accessories, two HP printers, six HP monitors, three system units, and a projector provided by Icelandic Red Cross. These pieces of equipment have been issued to respective staff who lacked the tools to enhance productivity. There has been an improvement in the internet service, with an annual subscription for the internet service procured, leading to uninterrupted services.



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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