



INDIA

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

24 November 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY Indian Red Cross Society



1,260

National Society branches



2,641

National Society staff



4.9M

National Society volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



12,000

Disasters and crises



27,000

Health and wellbeing



23,000

Migration and displacement



5,000






Values, power and inclusion



639

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW








in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total	Funding requirements		3.3M
IFRC	Longer-term Funding requirements		625,000
	Income		721,000
Participating National Societies	Funding requirements		2.7M
	Income		461,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal number **MAAIN001**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	 12,000
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups	Applicable data not available
	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Applicable data not available
Disasters and crises	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 27,000
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	63
Health and wellbeing	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 23,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	 14,000
	People donating blood	 2,000
	People trained in first aid	250
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	 5,000
	Advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move?	1
	Data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move are available	Yes
Values, power and inclusion	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	 639
	People reached by National Society educational programmes	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

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
	One National Society Development plan is in place	Applicable data not available
National Society Development	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	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
Accountability and agility	National Society has strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Applicable data not available
	PSEA Action Plan is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors	Applicable data not available
	PSEA policy is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors	Applicable data not available

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support					
		Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
American Red Cross	●						
Australian Red Cross	●						
British Red Cross	●						
Canadian Red Cross Society							●
Danish Red Cross	●						
Italian Red Cross	●	●			●		
Korean Red Cross	●						
Netherlands Red Cross	●						

■ Planned ■ Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

India, with a total population of 1.42 billion and a growth rate of 1.1 percent, is experiencing a demographic dividend with a rapidly increasing young workforce combined with an accelerated growth in the size of its middle class. As an established technology powerhouse, India is on its way to becoming a digitally advanced country. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its August Monetary Policy Statement raised its projected CPI inflation rate for the current fiscal year (2023-24) to 5.4%, compared with its 5.1% year-over-year projection made in the June Monetary Policy Statement. This nevertheless represents a significant moderation from the 6.5% rise in CPI inflation in fiscal year 2022-23.

After real GDP contracted in FY20/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, growth bounced back strongly in FY21/22, supported by accommodative monetary and fiscal policies and wide vaccine coverage. Consequently, in 2022, India emerged as one of the fastest growing economies in the world, despite significant challenges in the global environment – including renewed disruptions of supply lines following the rise in geopolitical tensions, the synchronized tightening of global monetary policies, and inflationary pressures.

India is expected to be the fastest growing nation in 2023 among the G-20 grouping of the world's largest nations that attended the G-20 Leaders' Summit hosted by India in New Delhi on 9th -10th September. After rapid economic growth of 7.2% in the 2022-23 fiscal year, economic momentum has remained strong in the April-June quarter of 2023, with GDP growth of 7.8% year-on-year.

India has also become an increasingly attractive location for multinationals across a wide range of industries, with foreign direct investment inflows (FDI) having reached a new record high of USD 85 billion in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

India's GDP growth rate rose to a pace of 7.8% y/y in the April-June quarter of 2023, compared with growth of 6.1% y/y in the January-March quarter of 2023, according to data released by India's National Statistical Office. The strong growth rate was despite high base year effects after GDP growth of 13.1% y/y in the April-June quarter of 2022.

In FY22/23, India's real GDP expanded at an estimated 6.9 percent. Growth was underpinned by robust domestic demand, strong investment activity bolstered by the government's push for investment in infrastructure, and buoyant private consumption, particularly among higher income earners. The composition of domestic demand also changed, with government consumption being lower due to fiscal consolidation.

Since Q3 FY22/23, however, there have been signs of moderation, although the overall growth momentum remains robust. The persisting headwinds – rising borrowing costs, tightening financial conditions and ongoing inflationary pressures – are expected to weigh on India's growth in FY23/24. Real GDP growth is likely to moderate to 6.3 percent in FY23/24 from the estimated 6.9 percent in FY22/23. (Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/india/overview>)

In recent years, India has witnessed intensified weather patterns, with the monsoon season becoming more erratic and less predictable over time. The current period of heavy rainfall is occurring closely on the heels of an intense heatwave that also affected much of northern India. While various factors contribute to flooding, experts point to climate change as a significant driver of increased occurrences of heavy rainfall. Heavy rainfall during the 2023 monsoon season resulted in severe flooding and landslides across the northern India, primarily affecting residents of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi.

A monsoon surge, coupled with a western disturbance (a type of tropical storm), has led to the highest rainfall in decades in some parts of the region, causing nearby rivers to overflow, with flooding and landslides washing away vehicles, destroying bridges and roads, and disrupting power and electricity.

Key achievements

Indian Red Cross Society, with its state and union territory branches, responded to the COVID-19 operation throughout the country. With prepositioned stocks at strategic locations, Indian Red Cross has been able to provide a timely response to disaster-affected states. It also continues to be an essential service provider thanks to its blood services across the country. Indian Red Cross trained Social Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV) who provided support to the state and local administration throughout the disaster response. Indian Red Cross has been working in close coordination with the Health Ministry, and the local administration, Government of India.

India's Unified Plan for 2023 was developed to implement activities under the strategic priorities of climate and environmental crises, evolving crises and disasters, growing gaps in health and well-being, migration and identity, and values, power, and inclusion.

The implementation of most planned activities under the Strategic Approaches and Enabling Actions could not be carried out due to the unavailability of resources. Activities under the ongoing Flood Early Warning programme, supported by Google, are being implemented in Assam and Bihar. The state branches continued their regular activities like Health and Hygiene Awareness campaigning, Blood Services, and other health services.

Indian Red Cross implemented an IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operation for floods in the state of Assam. The DREF was successfully implemented and closed in the month of January, with an implementation rate of more than 105 percent, reaching out to 10,500 households (52,500 individuals) against the target of 10,000 households (50,000 individuals). Activities such as the distribution of tarpaulins, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits to 10,500 households were covered under the DREF. The DREF also included epidemic control training for volunteers. The items that were distributed were then replenished as requested by the National Society.

No additional funding was received for the implementation of the operational plan apart from the Google project.

Indian Red Cross is continuously striving to strengthen the communities, as well as its own institutional capacity, to face the dynamics of evolving crises and disasters and to enhance its auxiliary role to government authorities.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Indian Red Cross is promoting nature-based solutions, and leveraging the Indian government's development programmes at the local level in collaboration with village-level panchayats (self governance bodies) and urban local bodies.

Indian Red Cross is identifying issues relating to increased vulnerability, established linkages with mainstream actors in early warning and early action, and utilizing weather alerts to support the agriculture and fisheries sectors. Indian Red Cross is continuously working to build local knowledge on climate related risks, restore natural resources, land and water management, vegetation, green technology activities and to conduct dialogue with local authorities to integrate climate risks into development planning.

The Indian Red Cross continues to work closely with the Indian Meteorological Department to disseminate impact-based forecasts to the public and reach the 'last mile' in community response. Climate risk reduction and environmental protection modules are part of the Social Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV) training curriculum. Through the outreach programmes, Indian Red Cross is helping to ensure a climate resilience approach, as well as carrying out information sharing and communication in 36 states and union territories.

IFRC and National Society staff and volunteers have raised levels of awareness, knowledge and capacities as change agents for disaster preparedness. Indian Red Cross staff and volunteers fully understand and implement forecast-based action in areas that are especially vulnerable to extreme events like floods and heatwaves. There is increased recognition and use of both rural and urban communities' own insights, knowledge and ideas on adapting to environmental and climate risks. The National Society is recognized and invited as a key partner in efforts to support communities and governments in scaling up climate action and working with the most at-risk communities.

Indian Red Cross state branches coordinate with the national meteorological service to ensure that up-to-date information related to rainfall, heatwaves, and cyclones is being disseminated in a timely way to the district branches

and that volunteers assist them to prepare well in advance for disasters. Under the Flood Early warning project, more than 1,200 Red Cross volunteers are being trained on Google alert systems in eight districts of Assam and Bihar. These trained volunteers from the Indian Red Cross continue to receive flood alerts and disseminate these alerts in the hard-to-reach communities where no other medium of information reaches. .



Disasters and crises

Indian Red Cross continues to strengthen its disaster response intervention through the building of local capacities, i.e. trained Social Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV) and Surge capacity, by prepositioning essential stocks for humanitarian assistance and by working as a first responder. There is a pool of trained resources for the SERVs and for the National Disaster Response Team and District Disaster Response Teams, who are all ready to be deployed when required.

Indian Red Cross has closely worked with the Government of India and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in responding to disasters. During the reporting period, Indian Red Cross provided support to the local administration and the NDRF in a number of incidents such as the major train accident that occurred in the state of Odisha, severe flooding in the state of Himachal Pradesh, landslides and cloud bursts in the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

With DREF support, more than 10,000 household (50,000 Individuals) have been supported by Indian Red Cross in Assam with emergency relief items such as tarpaulins, mosquito nets, hygiene sets and kitchen sets. The response capacity of the National Society will be further enhanced in the coming period through advanced planning, deployment of technical experts, streamlined procurement processes, warehouse management and monitoring.

In this reporting period, at-risk communities prone to floods, cyclones and heatwaves were supported to take active steps and early warning to reduce their vulnerability and exposure to hazards. To improve the early warning, smart phones, digital platforms and other technologies are being used in disaster relief and response which helps to reduce response time, and improves the assessment process and operational planning. Communities are made aware of the impacts of disasters, especially on lives and livelihoods, and how mitigation, response, and recovery actions can be effective. Mobile communication groups are being developed for Social Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV) deployment, which will help with connectivity and feedback.

Indian Red Cross has prepositioned relief stocks such as tarpaulins, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, and hygiene kits and these were immediately used for the disasters that occurred during the months of May and June 2023. The National Society is in the process of replenishing the used stocks, so they can be available for future disasters and help again in reducing the emergency response lead time.



Health and wellbeing

Indian Red Cross continues to be the leading agency and an essential service provider in the area of blood services. First aid and blood services carried out by the National Society are recognized as critical services by the Indian government. The Indian Red Cross national headquarters Blood Centre encourages voluntary blood donations and collects approximately 30,000 units of blood annually. The percentage of voluntary blood collection is 100% in Indian Red Cross and there is 100% component separation of the blood units collected. The Blood Centre provides 90% of the total collection of blood, free of charge, to patients admitted to the general wards of government hospitals in Delhi, as well as to around 1,000 thalassaemic patients registered with it. To ensure the effective utilization of blood, besides supplying 'whole blood', Indian Red Cross also has the facility of component separation that provides different components of blood, like fresh frozen plasma, platelet rich plasma, platelet concentrate, packed cells, cryoprecipitate and platelet aphaeresis.



Values, power and inclusion

There is gender balance within the Indian Red Cross leadership, as well as amongst its staff and volunteers. Many of the state branches have women leadership, and the current managing board has women Board members. Emergency response and development programmes are inclusive, rights based, and built on people's needs and priorities. IFRC supports the National Society during planning and implementation stages of any emergency and development programmes to make sure that community members are involved from the inception of any project. This helps to ensure that their needs are considered and that the programmes are designed in a way that is accessible and inclusive for all. IFRC encourages the National Society to have a quota of 40 percent representation of women in emergency operation response, in the Social Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV), First Aid training, community-level training, and as the beneficiaries of disaster assistance. This helps to ensure that women are more involved in all aspects of emergency operation response, from planning and coordination to implementation and evaluation. This is important because women are often disproportionately affected by disasters, and their involvement in the response is essential to ensuring that their needs are met. Protection, Gender and Inclusion capacity building is mainstreamed in the National Society with disaggregated data available on leadership, the volunteer base and response and resilience-building programmes. IFRC will continue to support Indian Red Cross over the coming months to scale up the youth and education programmes in selected states through bi-lateral collaboration. .

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

Regular coordination meetings are being organised with Indian Red Cross, IFRC, ICRC and Participating National Societies based in the country. IFRC regularly participates in the events organised by Sphere India and other inter-agency networks present in the country. Indian Red cross branches are also active participants in the inter-agency networks present in their respective states.



National Society development

The activities planned under this theme will be implemented in the coming months.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Indian Red Cross is very active on social media. Almost all the branches have Twitter, Facebook and Instagram official accounts. Indian Red Cross shares information regularly on the key activities carried out in their states and districts via these official accounts. IFRC is in the process of hiring a staff member for Humanitarian Diplomacy, who will support Indian Red Cross in strengthening communication and advocacy and in developing strategies and resources for reaching out.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

IFRC provided technical support to Indian Red Cross state branches and national headquarters in financial management. Regular trainings are being organised for Indian Red Cross staff from state branches on the project management cycle.



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](#)

Contact Information

Udaya Regmi

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for
India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives,
Delhi

T +91 96674 38124
udaya.regmi@ifrc.org

Robert Laprade

Head of Strategic Engagement &
Partnerships
IFRC Regional Office for Asia Pacific,
Kuala Lumpur

T 601 2204 3410
robert.laprade@ifrc.org

Indian Red Cross Society website

W www.indianredcross.org