



SOMALIA

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

15 December 2023

Funding Requirement **CHF 41.35M**

In support of the Somali Red Crescent Society



19

National Society branches



1,183

National Society staff



5,169

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



560,000

Ongoing emergency operations



341,000

Climate and environment



600,000

Disasters and crises



2.4M

Health and wellbeing



20,000

Migration and displacement



66,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- hunger crisis including health, water and sanitation, cash and livelihoods

Longer term needs

- health
- recurring disasters • resilience
- protection, gender and inclusion

Capacity development

- innovation
- branch development
- financial sustainability

Key country data

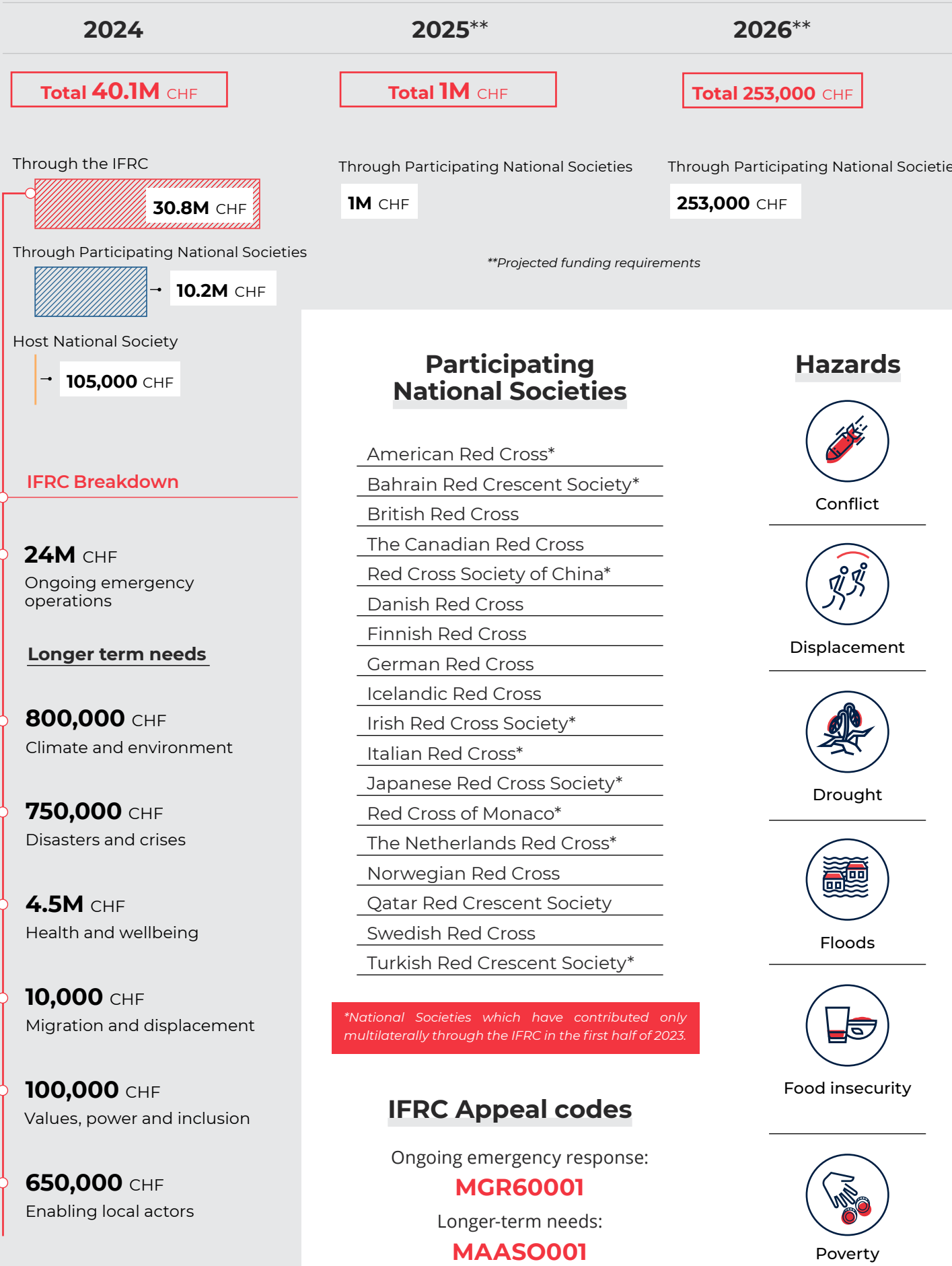
Population **17.6M**

INFORM Severity rating **very high**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **8.8**

Population below poverty level **54.4%**

Funding requirements



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Somali Red Crescent Society is an independent, non-political humanitarian organisation. It was established in April 1963, became a legal entity by presidential decree in 1965, and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1969. The Somali Red Crescent has operated continuously during the country's period of civil war and political divide and is credited for its unity as one National Society notwithstanding the fragile nature of the country. It operates through a network of 19 branches, with activities spread across the country and has unique and continued humanitarian access to areas heavily impacted by inter-clan and regional armed conflict.

More than 5,000 active Somali Red Crescent volunteers are well-placed to engage communities due to their diversity, and the high degree of trust afforded to them. The Somali Red Crescent's Integrated Health Care Programme (IHCP), with its network of static and mobile health clinics across the country, is a critical provider of health care in the country. In 2022, a total of 61 fixed clinics and 26 mobile clinics provided comprehensive primary health care and nutrition services to more than 1.6 million people, most of whom were women and children ([Somali Red Crescent Society annual report 2022](#)).

As an established, well-networked national actor and through its permanent local presence, the Somali Red Crescent plays a crucial role in reaching most vulnerable populations including internally displaced people, and remote and hard-to-reach communities throughout the country with the delivery of humanitarian aid. In 2022, owing to the devastating drought conditions across the country, the Somali Red Crescent embarked on lifesaving assistance to mitigate the suffering of the vulnerable people and reduce the impact of the drought and other climate related disasters. The National Society branches reached 190,850 households with cash grants, 551 households with micro-economic initiatives and 18,190 individuals with agro recovery projects. 1,459 households benefitted from non-food items distributions, and 110,000 sandbags were distributed to

Jowhar, Bardere and Beledweyn for flood protection activities ([Somali Red Crescent Society annual report 2022](#)).

The [Somali Red Crescent Strategic Plan](#) defines four strategic goals, with protection, gender and inclusion as a cross-cutting theme:

- Develop, promote and strengthen community-based health care programs focusing on preventive, promotive, and basic curative health services
- Strengthen preparedness, response and recovery services capacities contributing towards saving lives, and reducing the impact of disasters and crisis
- National Society Development Initiative contributing towards building a strong and resilient National Society
- Mobilize communities for inclusive and peaceful environment promoting human dignity, protection, safer access, participation, and safety

In 2024, the Somali Red Crescent will further focus on long-term planning for natural hazards and building community resilience and enhancing its Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) strategy and policy. The National Society's newly-developed resilience and disaster risk management strategies will be rolled out throughout the branches, as will the IFRC approach on Preparedness for Effective Response ([PER](#)). The Somali Red Crescent aims to further strengthen its initiatives on National Society Development, the strengthening of Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), safeguarding, capacity building of staff and volunteers, revision of National Society statutes, and development of information technology guidelines. The National Society will also focus on branch capacity development to generate income that can cover core costs.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Officially the Federal Republic of Somalia, this eastern most country on mainland Africa is situated on the peninsula known as the Horn of Africa. Somalia borders the Gulf of Aden in the north, Djibouti in the northwest, Ethiopia in the west, Kenya in the southwest. In the east, it borders the Indian Ocean and shares maritime borders with Yemen. The country covers an area of 637,657 km² and has a population of about 17.6 million people, with around 80 per cent of its population comprising the youth. The capital and largest city is Mogadishu, and the official spoken languages are Somali and Arabic. Northern Somalia is divided up among the autonomous region of Puntland and Somaliland. In central Somalia, Galmudug is another regional entity that emerged south of Puntland.

Approximately 60 per cent of the people lead a nomadic or semi-nomadic pastoralist lifestyle, and a similar proportion reside in rural areas. Somalia is recognized as one of the world's most impoverished nations, as more than 54 per cent of its population lives below the international poverty threshold. Climate change is leading to more frequent and intense extreme weather events such as severe droughts and floods and contributing to worsening community tensions and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Somalia's human development is particularly fragile. There are notable risks including the adolescent birth rate, age dependency ratio, human inequality, prevalence of stunting, and the proportion of youth not engaged in employment, education, or training (NEET). Somalia exhibits weak coping capacities, which hinder its ability to withstand and recover from these risks. This weakness is evident in indicators such as access to basic water, access to immunization services, the gender gap in secondary school enrolment, primary school completion rate, and social protection coverage.

The people of Somalia consistently encounter challenges that affect their livelihoods, food security, and overall well-being, exacerbating a delicate situation that gives rise to severe humanitarian emergencies. In Somalia, approximately 8.25 million people (50 per cent of Somalia's population) need humanitarian and protection assistance, and over 3.2 million people are displaced (UNOCHA, 2023). Somalia has seen three decades of conflict. The major towns in Somalia are under the control of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), with support from the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM). However, in the southern rural areas, the Islamist militia Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen (Al-Shabaab) has firmly established its presence. Al-Shabaab holds control over important supply routes to the towns and exercises influence even in areas controlled by the FGS. Insecurity and violence continue to threaten the population, as well as creates challenges to humanitarian aid.

Somalia is also facing a significant level of economic instability. The country is highly exposed to severe risks, particularly in terms of its heavy reliance on limited resources, high unemployment rate, and a substantial current account deficit. On a positive note, Somalia is making steady progress towards achieving the end of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative – this is anticipated to materialize by late 2023. This progress has been made possible due to renewed engagement with the International Development Association (IDA) and the resolution of arrears owed to international financial institutions. The Somali Government through the [Somalia National Development Plan 2020-2024](#) aims to improve nutrition and food security. The government plans to partner with development agencies to scale up responses to climate shocks and drought and ensure the most vulnerable receive enough food in terms of quantity and quality, as nutrition worsens during crises. The Somaliland [National Development Plan III 2023 –2027](#) also aims to improve food and nutrition, and increase the resilience of the Somaliland people. ([WB Somalia Country Overview, 30 March 2023](#)).

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency Appeal name	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal 2023-2024
Appeal number	MGR60001
Duration	Operation start date for Somalia: 15 May 2021, with operation extended to 31 December 2024
People affected	People affected/at risk: 157 million people across sub-Saharan Africa (143m in the 25 countries covered in this operation/watch list)
Funding requirement	Total funding requirements through the Appeal: CHF 232.5 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 318 million Funding requirement for Somalia for 2024: CHF 24 million to assist 560,000 people
Emergency Appeal	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Operational strategy	Somalia Country Plan of Action

Following an initial IFRC-DREF allocation in May 2021, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal in July of the same year to support the Somali Red Crescent's response to the critical food security situation in Somaliland and Puntland, due to an exceptional period of poor and erratic rainfall, flooding, and desert locust infestation. A further deterioration of the food security in a number of countries in Africa, prompted the IFRC to launch a Regional [Africa Hunger Crisis](#) Emergency Appeal in October 2022. Due to the prolonged and deepening food crisis across the region and an urgent need to sustain and increase resources, this appeal has been extended until the end of 2024, in order to continue to provide an overarching structure for hunger crisis responses across the continent.

This Revised Regional Emergency Appeal is built on a foundation of strong, national country response plans. Through a series of coordinated activities in the sectors of WASH, cash, health and nutrition, and livelihoods support, it will ensure that National Societies in the region meet the urgent needs of people facing what has been classed as a Red-level Emergency in many countries of the region, including Somalia.

The number of people to be assisted under the Revised Regional Emergency Appeal in Somalia will be 560,000, with a funding ask of CHF 24 million. On top of the impact of conflict and climatic shocks affecting the country, Somalia has been highly affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflict with 63 per cent of wheat imports in Somalia coming from Ukraine in 2022.

The Revised Regional Emergency Appeal is fully aligned with the IFRC's Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative, which informs the long-term food security and livelihood plans of National Societies in Africa.

The IFRC has mobilized a 'Zero Hunger Cell' tasked with overseeing the operational coordination of the Hunger Crisis response across the African continent. The Cell supports all countries under this Revised Regional Emergency Appeal and the regional services provided by the IFRC and partners include: 1) Operations coordination and technical support; 2) Surge deployments (where applicable for new countries added to the Revised Regional Emergency Appeal); 3) Information management, foresight, and analysis; 4) Regional and global level advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy; 5) communications and visibility; 6) Federation-wide Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) tailored support to National Societies on implementation, development, and accountability; 7) Resource mobilization, including national resource mobilization plans.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The operation targets six regions of Somaliland (Maroodijex, Sahil, Awdal, Togdheer, Sool, Sanaag) and the three regions of Puntland (Bari, Mudug, Nugaal). It is articulated on three response pillars:

Enhancing Food Security and Strengthening Livelihoods

- Lifesaving basic needs assistance which includes multipurpose cash transfers, vouchers, or in-kind assistance to address acute food insecurity in affected households. The primary modality is multi-purpose cash transfers, coordinated with National Cash Working Groups.

- Comprehensive approach integrating various actions such as awareness-raising, information dissemination, training, provision of inputs and tools, linking to essential services, and strengthening community safety nets. This includes complementing with existing safety net and social protection systems.
- Safeguarding livelihoods through emergency production inputs and tools, particularly for crops and livestock, to sustain primary household production. This also includes support to prevent the sale or exchange of these assets to cover food gaps, especially during crises such as production loss, food price hikes, or lean periods. Anticipatory information will be shared to assist households to pursue informed livelihood options and for early warning and early response to shocks and stresses.

Nutrition surveillance, knowledge-raising and health promotion

- Nutrition surveillance and health promotion: nutrition monitoring, particularly in vulnerable populations where children are at risk of acute malnutrition. This includes regular community-based screening, referral of malnourished children to therapeutic feeding programmes, and follow-up and defaulter tracing to ensure continuous care.
- Nutrition education and access to essential health services through nutrition awareness and education, particularly on infant and young child feeding practices. It also includes ensuring that cash and voucher assistance recipients can effectively access health services.
- Preventive health services through providing community-based promotional and preventive health services, crucial for preventing and controlling main childhood killer diseases and epidemics, with a focus on the links between malnutrition and infectious diseases.
- Health and hygiene promotion, focusing on promoting health and hygiene practices in the community, to prevent the spread of diseases and ensure the overall

well-being of the population, especially in contexts where malnutrition and infectious diseases are interconnected.

- Supporting health and nutrition through cash and voucher assistance to meet health and nutrition objectives where needed.
- Context-appropriate interventions by recognising the varied needs across different communities, and addressing the specific health and nutrition challenges faced in each area.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Access to essential WASH Services to maintain health, food security, and livelihoods, provision of safe water, and rehabilitation of infrastructure.
- In-kind provision of water treatment products and storage to ensure that water remains safe for consumption and use, even in areas where water quality is compromised.
- Supporting WASH through cash and voucher assistance where needed.
- Multipurpose water supply considerations include, beyond the primary focus of human consumption, looking at the efficient use of water for other purposes such as livestock and agriculture.
- Complementary WASH actions include hygiene promotion campaigns, construction or rehabilitation of sanitation facilities, and community engagement activities to improve WASH practices and awareness.

Cross-cutting approaches: the operational strategy integrates **community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)** as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities span from adhering to PGI standards in emergencies to promoting non-violence and peace. The strategy emphasizes local voice amplification, collaborative engagement, and transparent communication, extending into **long-term resilience building** through initiatives such as the IFRC Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative.



Somali Red Crescent personnel engage with a Somali local in Usgure village, Puntland, addressing the critical food crisis and drought through the regional Emergency Appeal. (Photo: Somali Red Crescent)



Climate and environment

According to the Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification, there is a range of climates in Somalia: arid (in the majority of land areas), semi-arid, hot desert, and tropical wet and dry (tropical savanna). Average temperatures across the country do not vary significantly with the season, and average annual temperatures remain between 25°C and 28°C. According to Gutiérrez et al. (2021), it is expected that average temperatures across the region will rise between now and 2050 by at least 1.5–2.5°C. As global warming increases, there will be more extreme temperatures in Somalia, and heatwaves will intensify in duration.

The rainfall and temperature in Somalia are influenced by many factors, including the inter-tropical convergence zone, monsoonal winds, ocean currents, jet streams (including the Somali jetstream or Somali Current), easterly waves, tropical cyclones, the Indian Ocean's variable sea surface temperatures, and the El Niño Southern Oscillation cycle. During El Niño periods, parts of Somalia experience weather conditions that are wetter than usual, with drier than usual weather occurring during La Niña periods.

The two main rainfall seasons in Somalia are from April to June (Gu) and October to December (Deyr). Rainfall varies widely, with considerably less in the northern and central parts of the country than in the south, apart from in the Northern Plateau. Rainfall in some parts of the central semi-arid areas is as low as 50 to 150mm per year, while parts in the south can have more than 400mm. Rainfall is highest in the southwest with around 600mm per year.

Across the whole Horn of Africa, seasonal variations lead to either extreme droughts or devastating floods. This is a growing trend that affects both rural areas and cities, the latter being particularly vulnerable to flash flooding. A report from Haile et al. (2020) predicts that the duration, frequency and intensity of droughts will increase by the end of the 21st century under all scenarios. Droughts are reducing the availability of ground and surface water resources and increasing competition for available water. It is expected that water shortages and disputes over access will lead to tension and conflict, while poorer communities will suffer most as a result of increased water prices.

Failed rains and prolonged drought over multiple seasons have had a major impact on livelihoods and food security in the country. The recent Gu rains failed in most parts of Somalia, combined with the prolonged drought affecting a livestock population of over half a million, has led to large-

scale displacements. Displacement in Somalia is increasingly climate-driven - in the first half of 2022, more than 745,000 Somalis were displaced by drought. It has also been reported that a significant number of migrant families and their livestock mainly from the neighbouring countries or states, have come to Somalia in search of pasture, water, and assistance. UN DESA forecasts that climate-induced migration will fuel Somalia's already rapid urbanization rate, with 65 per cent of the population expected to live in urban areas by 2050.

A recent environmental study by the World Bank states that Somalia's natural resources are experiencing significant strain. The study indicates that approximately 20 per cent of Somalia's soil has been degraded due to droughts and unsustainable land-use practices. The primary cause of deforestation is the export industry, particularly the trade of charcoal, which is the second-largest export commodity following livestock. While there has been a decrease in charcoal exports during the reporting period, partly due to the UN Security Council ban, charcoal production appears to persist without hindrance.

Water scarcity is exacerbated by extensive deforestation that contributes to groundwater shortages. The unregulated and often illegal fishing activities of foreign fleets have also led to a decline in Somalia's marine biodiversity. The exploitation of natural resources, whether from land or water, including recently discovered oil reserves, has become a source of ongoing conflicts that frequently escalate into violence ([BTI Somalia Country Report](#)).

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- The Somali Red Crescent is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and most marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.
- The Somali Red Crescent aims to support communities in taking the lead in strengthening their resilience to respond to climate-induced hazards. It promotes linkages with existing programmes investing in nature-

based solutions, such as adopting agroecological food production practices, environment conservation, and promoting technologies that can help store emissions, protect communities from extreme weather events, and provide food, a source of livelihoods, and habitats. The National Society supports branch staff and volunteers to acquire knowledge and skills through tailor-made training on climate change adaptation, disaster reduction and resilience programming.

- The Somali Red Crescent plans to engage in climate mitigation activities including tree planting, afforestation, and environmental advocacy. It will carry out public campaigns on tree planting, and plastic usage and disposal. Tree planting will be carried out through school environmental clubs. This will be done alongside the promotion of energy saving solutions, seedling production, community engagement on protecting and restoring natural resources, and strengthening community ownership of tree planting and care. The National Society has already planted 800 trees (200 in Somaliland and 600 in Puntland).
- The Somali Red Crescent will develop an environmental policy in collaboration with relevant line ministries including the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. It will use this policy to advance efforts in environmental protection and management, and climate change adaptation.

Planned activities in 2024

The Somali Red Crescent will conduct the following activities, amongst others:

- Establish community committees for the protection of the environment and conduct awareness on adapting to and reducing climate-related risks
 - Train community committees on the use of climate-smart farming and other practices to conserve the environment
 - Promote diversification of crops (inter-cropping) and crop rotations to support sustainable livelihoods and prevent land degradation
 - Rehabilitate degraded farmlands in areas where water run off occurs mostly when there are rains or floods
 - Plant more than 20,000 tree seedlings (Puntland 10,000 & Somaliland 10,000) to fight deforestation and climate change
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will ensure that its tools such as the Emergency Appeal and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) in support of the National Society's response to emergencies, incorporate activities which support climate change adaptation and the adoption of environmental practices. The IFRC will support the Somali Red Crescent's activities that increase the resilience of communities most vulnerable to climate change.

It will also support the National Society in working with stakeholders, including the Government, to enhance knowledge-sharing. It will work to strengthen the society's auxiliary role on climate change and protection of the environmental, increasing its capacity to advocate in this area.

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), with implementation support from EU National Societies and the IFRC, the Finnish Red Cross will support the National Society for environmental assessments and trainings, and the installation of solar panels in offices and clinics. The Somali Red Crescent also plans to draft an environmental policy.

The **Canadian Red Cross** will support the Somali Red Crescent in ensuring that traditional knowledge on climate change as well as science-based approaches are integrated into plans, and this includes the technical training of staff, volunteers and networks. This will include a variety of proposed interventions to the existing natural and built environments.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support the Somali Red Crescent's awareness raising and training of its volunteers working on community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation activities in the targeted Somaliland regions.

The **German Red Cross** will continue supporting the Somali Red Crescent's development and implementation of forecast-based financing (FbF). The National Society is responsible for risk monitoring, triggering, and implementation of the early actions and evaluation of impact. Funding for early action activities is automatically allocated once a specific pre-agreed threshold or trigger is reached.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** will support the National Society's integrated community-based resilience efforts aimed at promoting environmentally sustainable humanitarian response and recovery operations.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** will support the Somali Red Crescent in the greening of health facilities, as well as tree planting and care, and the rehabilitation of waste management in Puntland and Somaliland.



Disasters and crises

Somalia's diverse and varied geography means that it is exposed to a wide range of hydrometeorological and geophysical environmental hazards. Its environmental hazards are caused by severe droughts, followed by flash floods – a climate anomaly increasingly prevalent across the Horn of Africa. Since January 2023, the drought situation has steadily deteriorated following five consecutive rainy seasons with below-average precipitation. Severe to extreme drought conditions were experienced in over 80 per cent of the country.

Between January–March 2023, nearly five million people experienced acute food insecurity in the country, including 1.4 million facing Emergency Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 levels and 96,000 facing Catastrophe or IPC Phase 5 levels. By June 2023, it was projected that the current numbers would increase to 6.5 million people classified under IPC Phase 3 or worse outcomes, of whom 1.9 million people will face IPC 4 and 223,000 will face IPC 5 levels. According to information from the Somalia Food Security Cluster, 4.5 million people were reached with emergency humanitarian food assistance in March 2023, despite previous plans to scale down to reach only 2.7 million people that month.

The [Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit](#) reports that most of the country's internally displaced people and urban poor are experiencing food shortages, because of poverty, low incomes, the rising price of staple food items, and diminished household purchasing power. The localized depletion of pastures – with 10–30 per cent affected – is causing the loss of livelihoods and forcing the migration of livestock. A desert locust infestation, although now largely under control, nevertheless continues to threaten crop production and food security in Somalia especially in the northern parts of the country. Moderate crop loss affects agro-pastoral and river-based livelihoods, and 20 to 50 per cent of the cereal harvest lost in the Gu season is due to desert locusts. Between five and 30 per cent of the Gu season's cereal harvest is lost due to flooding in riverine areas. An estimated 10 to 30 per cent of agro-pastoral households are unable to cope on their own, while 10 to 30 per cent of rural internally displaced people are threatened by famine.

Somalia is vulnerable to river and flash floods. River floods typically occur along the Juba and Shabelle rivers in Southern Somalia, and flash floods are more common in northern areas. On 14 May 2023, [OCHA](#) reported that floods caused by the ongoing Gu rains left a trail of destruction especially in Belet Weyne district, Hirshabelle State, and Baardheere in Jubaland State; inundating homes and farmland, washing away livestock, temporarily closing schools and health facilities, and

damaging roads. Thousands of people were forced to abandon their homes and move to higher ground.

While rains are expected to recharge surface water sources and enable vegetation to regenerate, it will require much more rainfall to effectively alleviate the impact of drought. The national Flood Preparedness and Response Plan has been operational but needs urgent funding to meet increasing needs.

Since 2012, when the new internationally backed Government was installed, Somalia has been moving slowly towards stability, but its authorities still face challenges from Al-Qaeda-aligned Al-Shabaab armed groups. Despite being ousted from most of its key strongholds in south and central Somalia, Al-Shabaab continues to launch deadly attacks against the Somali Government and African Union forces across large parts of the Horn of Africa nation. According to ACAPS, clan disputes, political tensions, national and foreign military campaigns against Al-Shabaab, and continuing Al-Shabaab attacks on civilians, cause insecurity and instability across the country. Al-Shabaab controls parts of southern Somalia, particularly rural areas, and has attempted to disrupt the electoral process through targeted attacks. National and foreign security forces are also reported to have carried out human rights abuse against civilians, including arbitrary killings and arrests.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Somali Red Crescent has developed a Disaster Management strategy and policy which will be used to strengthen its preparedness, response and recovery services capacities. The National Society will support branch staff and volunteers through training in disaster management using tools such as the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment ([VCA](#)). It will develop sustainable Early Warning Early Action Protocols (EAP) for different climate-related hazards such as floods, and disease outbreaks to enable effective response to the wide spectrum of evolving disasters and crises. With the support of participating National Societies, the Somali Red Crescent has established warehousing in each branch with emergency stocks prepositioned for timely response to disasters and crises. This will continue in 2024. All of these actions are aligned with the Government of Somalia's National Development Plan 2020 – 2024 which includes Disaster Risk Management as one of its key pillars. The government has also published a National Disaster Policy and aims to strengthen the Somali Disaster Management Agency and establish early warning systems as a priority. The Somali Red Crescent's actions will also contribute towards the Somaliland [National Development Plan III 2023](#)

–2027 which aims to improve food and nutrition, and increase the resilience of the Somaliland people.

Planned activities in 2024

The Somali Red Crescent will focus on the following activities, among others:

- Provide unconditional cash grants and cash and vouchers for household items and emergency shelter, to vulnerable people affected by disasters
- Provide food and non-food items, as well as shelter tool kits to vulnerable people affected by disasters
- Strengthen the disaster management capacities of branches, specifically in preparedness, prevention and response including building community resilience through disaster risk reduction activities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), with implementation support from EU National Societies and the IFRC, the National Society will continue to provide effective and adapted local response to communities in need, while increasing the reach, quality and impact of its services.

At-risk communities and disaster responders will receive actionable risk information including on multiple hazards and combined threats, and risk of displacement, through information management and monitoring systems (such as risk assessments and analysis; monitoring of hazard/threats and impact forecasts; dissemination and communication of warnings; collaboration to build national and community Early Warning Systems). The Somali Red Crescent will support communities and disaster risk management local and national institutions in the development, effective communication and implementation of risk informed and multi-risk contingency plans and response mechanisms, building capacities for a coordinated, efficient, and timely preparedness and response.

The National Society will protect communities from the impacts of predictable extreme events by supporting the development and testing of Early Warning Systems/Early Action triggers and standard protocols, through a bottom-up strategy linking community, local and national level, and integrating risk/impact projections (including displacement). It will ensure people affected by crises and disasters receive timely and appropriate cash and voucher assistance, and support affected populations with medium and longer-term cash assistance as part of recovery efforts. Efforts will also be geared towards playing an active role in coordination of

cash and voucher assistance through participation in the cash working groups, and to strengthen cash preparedness by ensuring minimum requirements are in place for multipurpose cash interventions. The National Society will also strengthen its Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) capacities that enable National Societies to respond better and faster to crises and disasters (sudden onset, slow-onset, time-bound and protracted), taking into account the needs of people affected by multiple hazards.

The IFRC will support the Somali Red Crescent to enhance its readiness and effectiveness to provide timely, effective, appropriate, and accountable response to crises and disasters. These include being able to monitor and analyse risks, vulnerability, and capacities of communities, undertake early action, and strengthen its emergency response systems, including trained disaster response teams and swift deployment capacity in at-risk or affected areas. This will be done in cognizance of the fact that Somalia is a priority country within the IFRC Pan-African Initiative on Preparedness and Readiness.

The IFRC will also continue to support the Somali Red Crescent in designing medium-term food security and climate-smart livelihoods activities to increase preparedness, sustain recovery, and strengthen resilience in post-emergency and chronic food insecurity settings. This will also be aligned with the IFRC Zero Hunger initiative. In this connection, the National Society has prepared a country development plan on food security, nutrition and resilience, aimed at contributing towards humanitarian assistance and community sustainable development programmes for five years.

The Hunger Crisis [Emergency Appeal](#), which was launched by the IFRC in support of the Somali Red Crescent Society's response in Somaliland and Puntland, has also contributed to the IFRC's Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative, which aims to lift the most vulnerable people in Africa out of poverty and eradicate dependence on food assistance. The [Revised Hunger Crisis Appeal 2023-2024](#), detailed above, will continue and expand support across these and other areas of Somalia throughout 2024.

The IFRC also provided an imminent [Disaster Response Emergency Fund allocation](#) in October 2023, in support of the Somali Red Crescent's assistance to 25,000 people considered to be most at risk to floods and flash floods in Somaliland and Puntland. The National Society is supporting the targeted communities over a six-month period with CHF 611,685 in funding from the IFRC's DREF. See the [Operations Update](#) for details.

The following participating National Societies have been supporting the Somali Red Crescent's activities under disasters and crises, and have committed to continuing support in 2024, as below:

The **Danish Red Cross** plans to provide support in reference to community resilience.

The **German Red Cross** will continue to support the community resilience interventions of the Somali Red Crescent. This comprises cash and voucher assistance (CVA); water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), disaster risk reduction (DRR) and forecast-based financing (FbF). Funding from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) will be utilised on resilience, livelihoods and DRR-oriented support for communities affected by drought.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** will support the Somali Red Crescent through the IFRC, on the promotion of

environmentally sustainable humanitarian response and recovery operations. This will be focused on protecting the ecosystems and natural resources that communities rely on for their livelihoods, health, and wellbeing.

The ICRC will also support the Somali Red Crescent's relief and livelihood interventions focusing on the provision of cash and voucher assistance for the most vulnerable drought-affected populations in Somaliland and Puntland, in all the three regions of Mudug, Bari and Nugal. It will also help the National Society build the capacity of staff and volunteers in the Solo, Sanaag and Buhoodle targeted regions through training.



Health and wellbeing

Three decades of poor governance, a weak economy, continued armed conflict and the disintegration of the health system and other public services are taking their toll on Somalia. About 6.5 million Somalis are in urgent need of life-saving health care and nutrition assistance. High mortality rates and increased morbidity are caused by malnutrition, conflict and diseases such as COVID-19, cholera, measles and malaria. Access to health care is precarious, and only 19 per cent of Somali districts benefit from appropriate primary health facilities. Secondary health care centres that respond to complicated medical cases are all located in cities, making access difficult for rural communities.

Climate-related crises will lead to a rise in heat-related health conditions, psychological stress, and increased food insecurity and malnutrition. It is expected that the population affected by heatwaves will increase by 21.1 per cent by 2030, while heat-related deaths will increase from 1.3 to 3.2 deaths per 100,000 people annually until then. Hunger and malnutrition, especially in the central and southern regions and particularly among children, are expected to increase, as the changing climate disrupts agricultural production.

Twenty per cent of Somali children do not survive past the age of five. More than one third are underweight, and nearly half experience stunted growth due to factors such as malnutrition and repeated infections. The under-five mortality rate in Somalia is among the highest in the world, and acute malnutrition has been prevalent for decades. It is estimated that more than half of the deaths in children under five are caused by malnutrition. In this regard, about 1.8 million children under the age of five are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition over the course of 2023, and nearly 478,000 of this number will be severely malnourished ([ACAPS](#)

[Thematic Report Somalia](#)). Other diseases, such as diarrhoea, pneumonia and neonatal illnesses, affect a large proportion of Somali children.

Despite high levels of multi-sectoral assistance, the ongoing drought claimed the lives of an estimated 46,000 people in 2022 alone. Most deaths attributable to the drought did not occur in the relatively small pockets categorized as Catastrophe, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - IPC phase 5, but in the much larger sections of the population exposed to IPC phases 3 and 4 over protracted periods.

Rising temperatures and flooding will increase the incidence of water-borne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea. Breeding areas for mosquitoes, which spread vector-borne diseases, will expand into previously uninhabitable areas. Skin diseases and respiratory infections, such as pneumonia, asthma and other lung infections, are also expected to increase.

Drought and protracted conflicts are the main drivers of WASH needs causing mass displacement and communal conflict over water points among IDPs, non-displaced and urban/rural communities. Needs have also been exacerbated by protracted conflict and a continued rise in acute watery diarrhoea/cholera and malnutrition in children under five, mainly in the worst drought-affected areas. Periodic [OCHA](#) data on the health situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Afgooye Corridor, Baidoa, Diinsor, Galkayo, Kismayo, and Dollow between February and March 2023 found the following, among others: the disposal of faeces is a continued and significant problem; and an uptake in acute malnutrition prevalence was observed in most areas.

Other climate-induced water risks include decreased water quality, rising water prices as it becomes scarce, infrastructure

damage, and the salinization of coastal aquifers caused by rising sea levels. Somalia lacks proper drinking water systems, and more than 33 per cent of people lack access to drinking water. Furthermore, 42 per cent of households do not have appropriate water and sanitation facilities.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

One of the key priority areas for the Somali Red Crescent is the provision of primary and secondary health care. The National Society aims to provide quality, promotive, preventive and curative health services through fixed and mobile health facilities network. It will provide primary health care by giving communities affected by pandemics and epidemics, increased access to affordable and appropriate health services. It will also enhance and strengthen the capacity of its health professionals and volunteers as front-line health service providers. In reference to secondary health care, the National Society will provide quality surgical care, and obstetric and neonatal health care services through referral facilities. Additionally, it will support the rehabilitation of persons living with disabilities, special needs and ensure community integration. Another priority will be to provide quality First Aid services through the enhancement of skills of staff and volunteers, and the provision of adequate First Aid equipment and materials.

Planned activities in 2024

The Somali Red Crescent will focus on the following activities, among others:

- Develop its Health Strategy 2024-2029
- Provide mental health and psychosocial support to affected communities
- Strengthen the uptake of routine immunizations through all Somali Red Crescent fixed and mobile clinics.
- Provide home-based care for people living with communicable diseases in most at-risk areas.
- Conduct refresher training for clinic staff to enhance their technical skills in providing quality sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health services to targeted communities
- Pre-position important supplies such as cholera and Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) kits for response to disease outbreaks
- Train Somali Red Crescent volunteers and staff on Psychosocial First Aid to enable them to meet the mental health and psychosocial support needs of communities affected by emergencies/disasters
- Provide refresher training to Somali Red Crescent clinic staff on clinical management of rape
- Provide initial psychosocial support and treatment for survivors of sexual abuse
- Procure rape kits for clinics, for the management of survivors of sexual abuse
- Extend the WASH programme to hard-to-reach locations where there are limited WASH services, and improve the quality of its services
- Undertake community awareness sessions on the causes and prevention of cholera and other communicable diseases during outbreaks
- Carry out health education sessions on personal and menstrual hygiene management in schools and communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** is supporting the Somali Red Crescent's 14 clinics in Somaliland and 5 in Puntland. In 2024, it will continue supporting all 19 clinics and mobiles with integrated healthcare services. The IFRC will also continue its support to the Somali Red Crescent with the following:

- Capacity building and training in health; and water, sanitation and hygiene services
- Mainstreaming mental health and psychosocial support across other sectors, through training and workshops
- Reviewing its water, sanitation and hygiene strategy
- The rehabilitation and construction of water sources and provision of household and institutional latrines
- Effective networking and building links with other actors like UNICEF, WFP, CDC and DG ECHO around health, nutrition, immunization and public health
- Increasing visibility and representation on coordination platforms

Under the DG ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) initiative, the **IFRC**, **Finnish Red Cross** and **Norwegian Red Cross** are supporting the Somali Red Crescent in helping communities prevent, detect and respond to outbreaks. This is being undertaken through community health promotion, WASH activities and services, community-based surveillance and the implementation of epidemic control measures through the prevention of communicable diseases, water and food diseases and respiratory tract infections. In alignment with the National Society's role as auxiliary to the Government of Somalia, this effort will also focus on supporting the

authorities in the strengthening of relevant national plans, strategies, policies, and laws related to epidemic, pandemic and disaster preparedness and response. This will include international best practices and recommendations.

The **Canadian Red Cross** and **Icelandic Red Cross** will continue to support the Somali Red Crescent's work on epidemic preparedness and response, and community-based surveillance in Somaliland. This will entail the provision of quality health education and protection services, while strengthening the National Society's health emergency response system to ensure strong delivery of health services by its branches. The strengthening of the system will help meet the immediate and longer-term health and protection needs of communities and individuals resulting from the concurrent threats of drought and floods, as well as increased female genital mutilation, and sexual and gender-based violence.

The **Danish Red Cross** will continue its support to the Somali Red Crescent in reference to non-communicable diseases, focusing on prevention, treatment, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles and awareness raising among communities on risks and trends of non-communicable diseases.

The **German Red Cross** will continue to support the Somali Red Crescent's WASH programming in emergency and resilience contexts to alleviate the problems arising from poor hygiene, sanitation and inadequate water supply in Somaliland and Puntland.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** and the **Norwegian Red Cross** are supporting the Somali Red Crescent's WASH programming in emergency and resilience contexts. This is being done through the construction or rehabilitation of water points and sanitation facilities, the provision of health education, distribution of WASH non-food items (NFIs) and hygiene kits, and awareness raising on the importance of WASH with the objective of improving the health of people in Somaliland and Puntland.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** will support seven static mobile and two mobile clinics in the Mudug region, Puntland; three clinics in Nugal, two clinics in Bari, five clinics in South Central Somalia and three clinics in Sool Somaliland. It will continue to support the National Society's primary health services such as outbreak-prone diseases, safe-motherhood, and exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. In addition, it will support community health activities in the regions including disease surveillance (through community-based surveillance), health education and awareness, and reporting.

The Norwegian Red Cross will also continue to provide financial and technical support to the Somali Red Crescent to maintain added value and strong relationships with the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Somalia.

The **Qatar Red Crescent** will continue supporting 2 clinics in Somaliland.

ICRC is seeking partners to support some of the 34 mobile and static clinics they have been supporting.



Migration and displacement

For three decades, conflict and violence have been the primary causes of internal displacement in Somalia, as people have been forced to flee their homes due to ongoing clashes between the military and non-state armed groups. At the end of 2021, Somalia was among the top 10 countries of destination for the largest number of people displaced by conflict and violence in the world. By February 2023, conflict, insecurity, and drought had displaced 520,000 more people, bringing the total number of displacements to a new high of 3.8 million people.

The situation of populations fleeing Somalia is distressing. In just a few weeks at the start of 2023, close to 100,000 refugees arrived in remote, drought-affected areas of Ethiopia after fleeing fresh conflict across the border in the city of Laascaanood, Somalia. Most are women, children – many of them unaccompanied – or the elderly. Many arrive in shock,

telling stories of loved ones lost during flight or killed in the clashes. The refugees have arrived in a remote area, heavily affected by drought, and are in urgent need of food, nutrition screening, water, shelter, medical care and relief items ([UNHCR Emergencies](#)).

In recent years, natural hazards such as droughts and floods have emerged as significant factors contributing to displacement in Somalia. Increasingly, the number of displacements triggered by these disasters exceeds those caused by conflict and violence. There is increasing evidence that climate change is affecting traditional nomadic and pastoral groups movements and even expanding their geographical areas to more insecure regions in search of more suitable lands. The impact of drought was particularly severe, affecting nearly half of the population and resulting in 1.2 million internal displacements in 2022, which is almost

seven times higher than the previous year, making Somalia the most affected country in the Horn of Africa region. In Somalia, the majority of displaced populations live in more than 2,400 densely populated informal settlements, where access to essential services such as healthcare, water, housing, and food is posed with significant challenges. Returning to their places of origin is unlikely for most displaced individuals, and they face difficulties in assimilating into their new communities. At the same time, UNHCR reported that over 92,000 refugees have voluntarily returned to Somalia with UNHCR assistance, the majority coming back from Kenya, Yemen, Djibouti, Libya, Sudan and Eritrea.

The continuous influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, resulting from recurrent climate emergencies, is an immense challenge in Somalia. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has called for donor investments into solutions to prevent further displacement, and to address the dire living situation of the millions affected by the ongoing drought and conflict.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Somali Red Crescent supports migrants and displaced people through its country-wide humanitarian services. It aims to design a strategic approach to population movement and

provide more tailored services and humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants and displaced people.

Planned activities in 2024

The Somali Red Crescent will continue to enhance its presence at migrant entry points and engage migrants with effective needs-based interventions.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Somali Red Crescent in the design of a strategic approach to population movement, and the provision of services and humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants and displaced people. The IFRC also provided a [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) allocation in February 2023, in support of the Somali Red Crescent's assistance to 10,200 displaced people arising from violence in the capital city of Laascaanood in the Sool region. The National Society supported the targeted communities over a five-month period with CHF 500,587 in funding from the IFRC's DREF.

ICRC will continue to support the Restoring Family Links (RFL) work of the Somali Red Crescent.



Values, power and inclusion

The opportunity for substantive equality is lacking in Somalia, where gender discrimination prevails within a clan-based and patriarchal social environment. Somalia remains one of the most unequal countries with the Gender Index standing at 0.776 (1 – complete inequality), placing Somalia at the fourth-highest position globally. The labour force participation rate among females is 21.2 per cent and among males is 46.9 per cent for 2022, while vulnerable employment among women is 96.5 per cent and among men is 88.8 per cent in 2019 ([WB Gender Data](#)).

The percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18 is 35.5 per cent in Somalia. The percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is 99.2 per cent in Somalia ([UNFPA Statistics](#)). Girls face parental restrictions on education, resulting in a primary education enrolment rate of only 30 to 40 per cent, with a significant gender disparity favouring boys. Completion rates for schooling are low, and the enrolment percentage further declines, exacerbating gender disparities, in secondary

and tertiary education. Overall, in a society fragmented by prolonged civil war, one's chances of advancement depend heavily on individual and family background, as well as geographical location, with more schools concentrated in urban areas and the northern regions of the country ([BTI Somalia Country Report](#)).

Domestic violence is widespread in Somalia and continued to increase in 2022. Vulnerability is further heightened by factors such as illiteracy, poverty, family disintegration, and unemployment, among various other circumstances. A considerable number of gender-based violence incidents go unreported and unaddressed as women and girls fear social isolation among their families or communities. Other factors are the apprehension regarding divorce or coerced marriage, and obstacles to marriage. Additionally, some gender-based violence survivors are unaware of available support services and formal mechanisms for seeking justice ([Global Protection Cluster, Somalia Feb. 2022](#)).

It is likely that people living with disabilities in Somalia add up to as much as 15-20 per cent or more of the population (around 1.5 million). On average, each family has at least one member with a disability. In 2019, the Federal Government of Somalia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – this was a historic moment for Somalis with disabilities and their families, and one that demonstrated their country's commitment to promoting, protecting and ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all.

In the areas affected by conflict and violence, civilians face significant protection issues. The recruitment of child soldiers remains an issue of concern. Displacement of civilians by all parties is also reported, often driven by the desire to control farmland or urban public land. Throughout history, IDPs, especially women, girls, and people living with disabilities, have experienced discrimination and exclusion when it comes to receiving fair access to services in makeshift settlements. Social minorities frequently face limited access to opportunities and services, enduring discrimination across various aspects of their social and economic lives. The living conditions of the substantial number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somalia are dire, with no support structures in place to facilitate access to basic services.

In urban centers of Somaliland, some degree of rule of law has been established. The police force, judiciary, and other government institutions generally function reasonably well. However, in more remote areas, local authorities, primarily composed of elders, govern. In such contexts, the protection of women, children, and local minority groups is often inadequate ([BTI Somalia Country Report](#)).

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Somali Red Crescent adopts a comprehensive protection, gender and inclusion approach across its operations and programmes. It will contribute towards increasing the knowledge and awareness of communities and advocate with public authorities, religious and community leaders to eradicate harmful practices. It will also ensure the participation of women in the planning and implementation of its programming. In reference to the cross-cutting approach of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), the National Society's focus is on institutionalization and accordingly, prioritizing the development of the CEA strategy and harmonising the existing community feedback systems that are in place.

The Somali Red Crescent will continue to seek opportunities to support the youth and volunteer network and expand in geographical areas to bring services closer to the communities.

Planned activities in 2024

The Somali Red Crescent will:

- amplify its activities by mobilizing youth and key community members
- implement protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and hygiene activities in schools to promote conducive environments for girls to access education
- ensure the implementation of its protection, gender and inclusion policy during the formation and the implementation of programming
- educate its health staff on a survivor-centred approach and the appropriate clinical management of rape.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will continue to support the Somali Red Crescent Society in institutionalizing protection, gender and inclusion. This will include assistance in the development of the National Society's CEA strategy. The IFRC will also provide support for the collection, analysis and reporting of community feedback, as well as the designing of programmes for hygiene, and protection, gender and inclusion services in schools.

Under the [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, with implementation support from EU National Societies, the Somali Red Crescent will further strengthen community engagement and accountability, focusing on the capacity building of staff and volunteers through training, collection of community feedback and complaint mechanisms.

The **British Red Cross** is supporting Somali Red Crescent's CEA institutionalization effort. This includes conducting a CEA self-assessment that will provide insights into Somali Red Crescent priorities.

The **Danish Red Cross** is supporting the Somali Red Crescent's social inclusion programming by providing training for communities, and Red Crescent staff and volunteers on PGI and CEA activities.

The **German Red Cross**, through BMZ-funded programming, will support the Somali Red Crescent's organization assessment as well as the development of its CEA strategy.

The **Icelandic Red Cross** is supporting Somali Red Crescent's menstrual hygiene management (MHM) activities (education and distribution of hygiene kits for women and girls). This gives girls improved access to education.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** will continue to support the Somali Red Crescent in strengthening its financial capacity. This is being done through the development of guidelines, policies, and other relevant documents.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Somali Red Crescent is committed to strengthening its institutional standing, and in 2019, it carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process. This is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of a National Society as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Somali Red Crescent will strengthen its auxiliary role, and its positioning in the humanitarian and development arena. It will continue to work closely with various government line ministries and local government, and coordinate with other humanitarian actors. The National Society will be working as part of one global Movement delivering services to communities they work in and will be working to engage collaborations and partnerships in delivering humanitarian response and projects. It will also increase its partnerships inside and beyond the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Somali Red Crescent is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the work plan phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and take the necessary action to improve it.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC and in-country participating National Societies will continue to coordinate closely their support to the Somali Red Crescent in Somaliland and in Puntland, for implementation of their support in an array of areas such as health, disaster risk management and community resilience, as well as through the [Regional Revised Hunger Crisis Appeal 2023-2024](#) (see Ongoing Emergency Response section above), which are essential for the National Society to reach the most vulnerable communities.

The **IFRC** and **ICRC**, with other Movement partners, will work to support the National Society through a Steering Committee chaired by the Somali Red Crescent President and with members comprising the IFRC, ICRC and participating National Societies.



National Society Development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

National Society Development remains a key area of focus in 2024. The Somali Red Crescent will begin income generating programmes to cover core costs and strengthen its volunteer network.

The Somali Red Crescent in Somaliland will undergo a Branch Organisational Capacity Assessment (BOCA). In addition, the National Society will accelerate the development of its CEA and PMER strategies. Human resources have been increased in its PMER and finance departments to reflect its organizational ambitions in 2024 and beyond.

The Somali Red Crescent has applied for a National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) grant to address the lack of capacity-building facilities for volunteers and youth. The NSIA is a pooled funding mechanism, run jointly by the IFRC and the ICRC. This grant will contribute towards long-term resource mobilization activities by offering training to external, paying clients.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** contributes towards the Somali Red Crescent's capacity development through the NSIA, Capacity Building Fund (CBF) programmes and other longer-term interventions. The IFRC supports Somali Red Crescent in actively engaging

in the [IFRC Go](#) platform and other digital platforms. As part of the 2024 IFRC Network Plan, the IFRC will provide tools and guidance to align all external support to National Society priorities and development plans in line with the principles of the [NSD Compact](#). The IFRC will support the Somali Red Crescent to build trust with communities, government ministries, partners, and other stakeholders through effective engagement with communities. The IFRC will also support the National Society with the construction of a warehouse in the new Somali Red Crescent Somaliland coordination compound.

The **British Red Cross** provides National Society Development support to the Somali Red Crescent through the ICRC.

This will include funding an NSD Delegate to support the implementation of the National Society's NSD Strategy and Plan of Action 2022-2025.

The **Canadian Red Cross** with the **Icelandic Red Cross** will contribute to the construction of the new Somali Red Crescent Somaliland coordination compound in Hargeisa.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** has a Regional Innovation Delegate to provide support to innovation activities proposed by Somali Red Crescent.

ICRC will continue to facilitate the participation of the Somali Red Crescent in Africa regional initiatives and NSD activities.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Somali Red Crescent will promote the understanding of the Fundamental Principles, International Humanitarian Law, the Emblem as well as Somali Red Crescent activities. It will also further improve its communication and advocacy efforts to enhance impact, build public trust and improve understanding of its role and activities.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will promote humanitarian diplomacy by supporting Somali Red Crescent to be better positioned and have a stronger capacity to protect the most vulnerable and safeguard the humanitarian space. Strategic engagements will continue with regional and international bodies and donors such as the African Development Bank, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the African Union.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Somali Red Crescent aims to construct a training centre which will strengthen volunteer capacity and generate income. It will focus on improving its financial sustainability through investment in its three pillars of accountability and systems development, resource mobilization, and vision and mandate.

The National Society will be supported to apply policy frameworks on risk management, fraud, and corruption; protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH); and child-safeguarding among staff and communities. A risk management framework will be developed along with operational risk registers.

A functional data management system (database, dashboard) will inform decision making and support monitoring and

reporting on the impact and evidence of the work of the National Society, as supported by the IFRC Network.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Somali Red Crescent to build strong, credible, and well-functioning structures and tools that enable the National Society to deliver relevant, scalable, and sustained quality humanitarian services and strengthen branch structures. The IFRC will continue to support the National Society to transition into Working with Project Partners (WWPP) cash transfer modalities that will improve its financial accountability. The IFRC will also provide a dedicated resource person to provide specific support on risk management to the National Society.

The **German Red Cross** will support the Somali Red Crescent in its implementation of operational procedures for emergency operations.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC, through its Africa regional office and country cluster delegation office in Nairobi, together with IFRC offices in Somaliland and Puntland, supports the Somali Red Crescent with strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, humanitarian diplomacy, and the reinforcement of its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme and provides technical support. The latter support to the Somali Red Crescent is present through a full-time WASH delegate, while the recruitment of a health delegate is underway – both positions are based in Somaliland, with required frequent visits to Garowe. In addition, a project coordinator who will provide disaster management support will be recruited and based in Somaliland. Various other

profiles will be deployed according to the scale of the response and request of the National Society.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Somali Red Crescent through numerous Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations in relation to drought and food insecurity, floods, storms and tropical cyclones, disease outbreaks, population movement and accidents. There are monthly coordination meetings and information is shared on both humanitarian and longer-term National Society programmes. Field operational coordination is delivered through field offices in Puntland and Somaliland.

IFRC Membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and of efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The IFRC and the following participating National Societies are supporting the Somali Red Crescent in Somaliland: **British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross German Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross**, and the **Norwegian Red Cross**.

In Puntland, the IFRC as well as the **British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Kuwait Red Crescent, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross**, and the **Swedish Red Cross**, are supporting the National Society.

Somalia is part of the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between DG ECHO and the IFRC. The National Society benefits from the support of the Finnish Red Cross (the lead EU National Society), the Danish Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross in the implementation of activities in disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, and cash and voucher assistance. Risk communication as well as

community engagement and accountability are cross-cutting themes, integrated into the main pillars of intervention.

The Somali Red Crescent is part of the four IFRC Pan-African Initiatives focusing on: Tree planting and care; Zero Hunger; Red Ready; and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

Many IFRC Network partners support the National Society through IFRC Emergency Appeals, surge capacity deployments, and bilateral and financial contributions.

The following participating National Societies are providing long-term support to the Somali Red Crescent:

The **British Red Cross** has been supporting the Somali Red Crescent since 2018. In developing the technical expertise and resources to implement the National Society's development strategy.

The **Canadian Red Cross** supports the Somali Red Crescent on the Climate Change Adaptation in the Greater Horn of Africa Programme – a multi-country project initiative that aims to increase the resilience of pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and smallholder farmers towards climate change and climate-related disasters. It focuses on women and young people in rural and semi-urban communities in Somaliland, as well as in Ethiopia and South Sudan (subject to approval).

The **Danish Red Cross** will continue in its multi-faceted partnership with the Somali Red Crescent, initiated in 2020, and will support in carrying out feasibility studies for non-communicable disease care.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supports integrated health care and a community-based initiative to improve health, hygiene and sanitation, and the rights and dignity of women and girls. It also advocates for gender and inclusion. The Finnish Red Cross also supported the initiation of the DG ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership in Somalia.

The **German Red Cross** continues to work on building the resilience of the National Society and communities, in addition to supporting water, sanitation and hygiene, disaster risk reduction and forecast-based financing.

The **Icelandic Red Cross** supports the Somali Red Crescent in assessing its capacity for protection, gender and inclusion. This includes strengthening its capacity for protection mainstreaming, including the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, safeguarding, and sexual and gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response.

The **Kuwait Red Crescent** supports the National Society in the response to the food security crisis.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** works in community-based health interventions in Somalia, including community-based health surveillance, protection mainstreaming and health care in danger. It also supports National Society finance and resource mobilization development, the 'greening' of operations, and water, sanitation and hygiene services. The Norwegian Red Cross supports the Somali Red Crescent's health programming – with seven static and two mobile clinics in the Mudug region, three static clinics in the Nugal region, and three in Sool. It also supports the National Society with its health care in danger programming.

The **Qatar Red Crescent Society** supports the National Society with institutional development, well-equipped office facilities and staff training.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the National Society's integrated health care programme.



The Somali Red Crescent health clinic in Badweyn, NER city. (Photo: Somali Red Crescent)

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
British Red Cross	287,000		●			●	●
Canadian Red Cross Society	246,000			●		●	
Danish Red Cross	2.8M		●	●			
Finnish Red Cross	910,000	●	●	●		●	●
German Red Cross	1.4M	●	●				●
Icelandic Red Cross				●		●	
Italian Red Cross	50,000						●
Netherlands Red Cross		●	●	●			
Norwegian Red Cross	4.1M		●	●			
Qatar Red Crescent Society	100,000			●			
Swedish Red Cross	250,000			●			

Total Funding requirement

10.2M

Movement coordination

The IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) coordinate regularly on the situation in Somalia and supporting the Somali Red Crescent Society. A steering committee, chaired by the Somali Red Crescent President, comprising the IFRC, the ICRC and network partners, supports the National Society development initiative. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC is present in the South Central Zone, Hargeisa in Somaliland, and Garowe in Puntland, and focuses primarily on economic security, health, and water and habitat programmes. It works alongside the National Society in areas affected by conflict, responding through rapid assessments, cash and voucher assistance, and water, sanitation and hygiene. The ICRC also works with the IFRC, in collaboration with the Somali Red Crescent, to strengthen the National Society.

Coordination with other actors

The Somali Red Crescent has a well-established working relationship with the respective government line ministries and local authorities, in its role as auxiliary to the Government in the delivery of humanitarian services. This includes the ministries of Health, Agriculture, Disaster Management and Humanitarian affairs, Environment and Climate Change, and Water Management in both Somaliland and Puntland. The Somaliland National Disaster Preparedness and Food

Reserve Authority (NADFORD) in Somaliland and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management of Puntland are responsible for the overall coordination of all responses to disasters and emergencies in the respective regions.

The Ministry of Health in Somaliland has described the Somali Red Crescent as a reliable stakeholder in the health sector, with a strategy that is in line with the vision and priorities

of the ministry. According to the MoH, the Somali Red Crescent's health programme is among the best implemented programmes at grassroots level and in hard-to-reach areas where the need is greatest. The same sentiments have been echoed by the government authorities in Puntland.

The National Society also coordinates with other humanitarian actors such as the UN and I/NGOs by participating in joint assessments, attending coordination meetings, and filling gaps that are raised by the coordination platforms or clusters. The Somalia Food Security Cluster is currently activated, and the

Regional Humanitarian Response Team (RHPT) led by OCHA is following the drought emergency across the Greater Horn of Africa Region. The National Society has, for a long time, been a strategic and preferred partner of the leading UN agencies in Somalia, such as UNICEF, World Health Organization and the UN World Food Programme (WFP). According to a WFP official, "the Somali Red Crescent is an invaluable partner in facilitating targeting of services to those in need, being the largest local humanitarian actor in terms of staffing, knowledge, skills and coverage".



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.

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](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the Somali Red Crescent Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with [IFRC Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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