



BOTSWANA

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

15 December 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE BOTSWANA RED CROSS SOCIETY



22

National Society branches



67

National Society staff



10,000

National Society volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Health and wellbeing



450,000




Migration and displacement



5,000

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total		Funding requirements	 2.1M
IFRC	Longer-term	Funding requirements	 1.3M
Participating National Societies		Income	 93,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal numbers **MAABW003**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Health and wellbeing	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	450,000
	People reached with immunization services	360,000
	People donating blood	681
	People trained in first aid	620
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	5,000

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

National Society Development	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Yes
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OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Botswana is located in Southern Africa, between South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. One of the world's poorest countries at independence in 1966, it rapidly became one of the fastest-growing economies. Significant mineral (diamond) wealth, robust institutions, prudent economic management, and a relatively small population of about 2.5 million (2022) have made it an upper-middle-income country with an aspiration of becoming a high-income country.

Botswana has been quoted to be one of Africa's most robust economies according to the International Monetary Fund and regularly ranked first among African countries for governance and transparency. However, statistics have, as of the beginning of 2023, noted that Botswana's growth is expected to slow to 3.8 per cent due to a projected decline in diamond production, before picking up over the following two years. This will adversely hurt people's socio-economic endeavours as they now face loss of income, increased food prices, etc. It has been noted that supply-side structural reforms are necessary to support the diversification of the economy and increase the relative size of the private sector. This will help boost the economy's growth potential, reduce unemployment and enhance resilience to external shocks.

Botswana is considered one of the most stable democracies in Africa, and it has been dominated by a single party since independence. Three crucial elections will be held in Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries during 2023 and 2024, and their results will offer insight into political stability, democratic consolidation and trade relations within the region.

Key achievements

The Botswana Red Cross Society reached more beneficiaries from January to March compared to April to June. This is because quarter one recorded a high peak in funding and the number of beneficiaries reached due to the Polio Campaign funded by the Ministry of Health. There was also an increase in trainees by 28 percent and more business by the trainings department compared to quarter one. Further, since January, the health and care department reached the highest number of people compared to other departments.

Okavango district has been experiencing food insecurity. To address this, the National Society has been distributing food packages for over four months to 250 families. To address climate change challenges, the Botswana Red Cross partnered with the Netherlands Red Cross for a water management innovation project.

Botswana Red Cross intensified the risk communication and community engagement activities for COVID-19. A total of 88,556 people have been reached through COVID-19 vaccine deployment risk communication and community engagement activities.

Changes and amendments

There were no notable changes in the programme's planned activities.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Of the 10,000 people targeted for 2023, the Botswana Red Cross reached 483 people. The National Society had planned several activities to be undertaken to increase the capacity of communities to address the evolving impacts of climate change.

The water management innovation and partnership programme targets existing challenges in Botswana and solicits solutions through the establishment of suitable and participatory partnerships and bringing in technological, process, social, and mind change innovation. Activities undertaken to date include participation of four officers from the National Society at a global innovation summit and hosting of a national seminar on community-based disaster risk management that was attended by 50 participants.

IFRC network joint support for the programme: The Netherlands Red Cross Society supports the Botswana Red Cross, both technically and financially. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC's) country cluster delegation in Pretoria facilitated a partnership between the Netherlands Red Cross and Botswana Red Cross.

Since its inception in 2022, the Gweta community farm has remained a symbol of collaborated efforts and a community learning ground for food production in the Tutume district. Local subsistence and commercial farmers visit the farm for technical assistance daily, recording at least 3 to 5 farmers daily. Local schools utilise the farm as an outdoor teaching platform for their agricultural studies. So far, at least three schools are using the farm. Additionally, the produce is sold to fund the farm operations and also support local community initiatives, for example providing schools with vegetables to support graduation ceremony events. So far, 400 students have been reached and four farmers have been supported.

IFRC network joint support for the programme: The IFRC country cluster delegation in Pretoria played a role in the initial project resource mobilization in 2021 from the Japan Embassy.

Botswana Red Cross volunteers at branch level carry out waste collection/cleaning campaigns in their respective areas around the country.

IFRC's disaster management team has engaged with the National Society on the Green Response initiative, which aims to implement environmental sustainability through humanitarian intervention. There is an interest in taking this initiative forward in the future.



Disasters and crises

The Botswana Red Cross had targeted to reach 100,000 people affected by crises and disasters with relief materials to address their needs. To date, about 13,314 people have been met through different interventions.

The National Society held workshops on disaster risk management law for 106 government officials. The objectives were to educate government officials on disaster law, particularly the Botswana Red Cross Society Act and general national disaster risk management laws, as part of sensitisation on the expected Botswana Red Cross Society Act review process. This was supported technically and financially by the disaster law unit.

The Botswana Red Cross continues to train individuals, companies and communities on first aid and also provide support with first aid services during events across the country. A total of 620 people have been reached through training and an additional 10,000 people through first aid services during events.

Following the African migratory locust outbreak and recurring droughts, the Okavango district is still reeling from food insecurity. To address this, the National Society has been distributing food packages for over four months to 250 families. The support is implemented along with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition talks to promote hygiene in food handling and balanced dieting. A total of 1,716 people were reached with food support, and an additional 820 people were reached with WASH talks.

Further, over 52 people have been assisted at the branch level, since January 2023, with clothing and bedding following incidences of fires and house destructions due to rains and winds.

The IFRC country cluster delegation in Pretoria continues to support the cash and voucher assistance technical working group, creating a platform for peer-to-peer learning with other National Societies.



Health and wellbeing

Botswana Red Cross participated in the following strategic platforms, among others, where policies, strategies and plans were developed and reviewed:

- UNDP briefing on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in Gaborone, 14 March 2023.
- COVID-19 integration workshop in Maun, 13–17 March 2023
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM) study results dissemination in Gaborone, 21 April 2023.
- Commemoration of “World No Tobacco Day” in Lobatse, 31 May 2023
- Botswana Public Health Institute - Stakeholders meeting in Gaborone, 06 June 2023
- Multi-hazard risk communication and community engagement strategy, 26–30 June 2023

A total of 88,556 people have been reached through COVID-19 vaccine deployment, risk communication and community engagement activities.

The National Society participated in an emergency response activity after identifying circulating vaccine-derived polio type 2. Botswana Red Cross participated in surveillance activities and mobilisation and vaccinated 370 children below 7 years.

The National Society engaged in strategic discussion with the National Blood Transfusion Services Department and Ministry of Health, developing a Memorandum of Understanding that is pending ratification.

Under the Savings Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) project, Botswana Red Cross has the lead role for the risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) pillar. Joint monitoring visits with Ministry of Health and other Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) partners were conducted in Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana and Zimbabwe. Success stories from five member states were featured in the Africa CDC (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention) newsletter from April to June 2023. RCCE partners engaged with high-level policy decision-makers to solicit their support during the implementation of the SLL project. Botswana Red Cross and Zambia Red Cross Society participated in the regional data-sharing validation workshop in Lusaka.

Continuous engagement with Botswana Red Cross on the SLL project implementation and providing technical support in the general coordination of activities with other National Societies in the consortium. This is an ongoing activity.

Botswana Red Cross was identified to participate in a discussion during the commemoration event of World AIDS Day and shared experiences on workplace HIV programmes. IFRC has worked closely with the National Society as the consortium lead and supported them in developing abstracts for the International Conference on Public Health in Africa. This would be an opportunity to showcase the success stories of the SLL project.



Migration and displacement

To strengthen engagements with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to assess, understand and respond to their priority needs more effectively, the National Society has had several engagements to facilitate migrants to receive mainly COVID-19 services like vaccines and messages. The project was funded by the International Organization on Migration (IOM).



Values, power and inclusion

- Promote youth engagements and representation in decision-making forums – The Youth President, female, sits in the National Executive Committee and regional youth meetings and is elected the Chairperson of the South African Youth Network of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- More youth inducted into the Red Cross and are engaged in public health emergency response activities, primarily women.
- Botswana Red Cross continues to provide education for children and youth with disabilities. This is a measure to promote the inclusion of this vulnerable group of people. Youth are trained in horticulture and textiles, with boarding facilities and all needs met. Children are benefiting from early child learning services.
- Since January, the Botswana Red Cross provided physiotherapy to the elderly and people with disabilities across the country.

Botswana Red Cross nominated the health and care coordinator as the protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) focal point in July 2023. During the period under review, the community engagement and accountability (CEA) and PGI teams communicated proposals to the focal point, programme manager and secretary-general to support the National Society to implement the following activities:

- Conducting a PGI induction training for headquarters (functions like human resources, finance, communications, legal, etc.) staff and branch staff and then undertaking a PGI organisational assessment and applying for the IFRC Capacity Building Fund for the activity.
- Conducting Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) induction training and an organisational self-assessment and beginning to develop a policy in hopes that Botswana Red Cross becomes the 8th (out of 10) National Society in southern Africa with an approved policy.
- Conducting a child safeguarding policy for similar reasons as above. Donors increasingly require National Societies to have PSEA policies and child safeguarding policies in place as a condition for funding. Therefore, priority was placed on safeguarding policy development. Efforts will be made to support implementation in quarters three and four.

The Master Card Foundation-funded Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) project aims to set the foundation for quicker roll-out and uptake of pandemic vaccines since many of the approaches, tools and best practices for supporting community-led action on vaccine demand and uptake will already be in place. Botswana Red Cross led the Southern Africa consortium of National Society in implementing this project. The IFRC continued to hold coordination calls and offer technical support to the project lead.

In late March, the IFRC CEA delegate participated in a meeting with the Botswana Red Cross, Africa CDC and the Botswana Ministry of Health to assess progress and agree on the way forward. In June, the IFRC programme manager for the SLL project visited Botswana to engage with the National Society and undertake a field visit to a project site. Further, support was offered to Botswana Red Cross to deploy the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting officer to Lesotho to support the Lesotho Red Cross to prepare for a data quality audit convened by Deloitte and Touche in early June, as well as to participate in the microplanning process in Mozambique in late July. Following the completion of the Mozambique micro plan, the IFRC availed funds to have the contract translated from Portuguese to English.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

The Botswana Red Cross has, over the years, developed strong partnerships with different stakeholders at national, regional, and international levels. It has a multisectoral partnership with government ministries and departments such as the Ministry of Health, Office of the President, National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Affairs, Ministry of Defence and Justice, Mastercard Foundation, Netherlands Red Cross, UN agencies (UNICEF, IOM). It also closely works with local organisations such as Palms for Life, Botswana Council for the Disabled and Botswana Chamber of Mine.

The National Society participates in regional coordination meetings through the Secretary-General, President and the Youth President.

Through the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Project, in which Botswana Red Cross partnered with Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC, significant progress was reported in the midyear. Botswana Red Cross has a lead role in the risk communication and community engagement activities for the country cluster delegation.

The IFRC has a delegate based in Botswana who can support the National Society with any necessary coordination support.



National Society development

Following the approval of the reviewed Botswana Red Cross constitution in December 2022, the National Society started the induction of members on the revised constitution. A total of 276 members were reached for orientation through group meetings during the inductions. The National Society also ensures compliance with the constitution by encouraging different structures to meet as per the constitution.

Support visits to various sub-branches are also conducted to ensure continued communication.

Between January and June, the Botswana Red Cross prioritised resource mobilisation to increase funding and received funding from six partners.

The National Society is in the process of redefining its branches and branch structures with the support of IFRC. It has a National Society Development plan, and its strategic plan is still valid and under implementation.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Botswana Red Cross uses various mediums to ensure presence and increased visibility. Daily, different updates and reports for activities are posted on different social media platforms. The National Society communications unit also publicises activities on radio, television and newspapers.

To ensure that the National Society remains relevant and actively plays a humanitarian role, it continually works with different strategic partners to deliver its mandate. More than 30 courtesy visits were conducted to various ministries of the Government of Botswana and other key stakeholders.

As an auxiliary to the Government of Botswana, the Botswana Red Cross has the advantage of special seats in technical committees at the national and district levels and focusing on specific areas such as health, disaster management, first aid, or youth. For example, the National Society sits in the Public Health and Emergency Committee, Botswana Public Health Institute committee, and COVID-19 structures, including the Presidential Task Force, District Multi Sectoral AIDS

Committees meetings, District Disaster Management Committees, and Health Council. These committees provide an opportunity for the National Society to provide expertise, guidance, and support in their respective fields to ensure the quality and effectiveness of delivery. The country cluster delegation continues to support the National Society through the National Society Development team.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Human resources

Botswana Red Cross has a human resources department that ensures that the National Society recruits and retains competent and experienced employees across all the priority areas to deliver its mandate. The National Society also reviewed all human resource policies in 2022, and between January and June 2023, all employees were oriented on the revised policies.

All the employees are covered with life cover insurance. During recruitment, inclusiveness and equal representation by all genders is ensured to promote PGI of employees.

The human resource and operations manager is also the custodian of the Botswana Red Cross risk register and, consequently, will be actively monitoring the project risks and mitigation measures for this project. Botswana Red Cross has a risk register, and it is monitored periodically. The human resource and operations manager will provide technical support to sub-grantees to ensure they have the policies and documents to monitor and mitigate risks.

The National Society has a risk management framework in place through the support of IFRC, and they are currently implementing the resource mobilisation strategy as well. The country cluster delegation continues to offer and respond to human resource queries.

Finance

Botswana Red Cross has a finance department led by the finance manager, grants coordinator and finance officers. There is also the operations manager who oversees the administration management of the National Society. There is also the resource mobilization policy, fraud and anti-corruption policy used by all employees.

To promote transparency and accountability, the office has adhered to the Finance and Procurement Policy and has an independent Finance Committee for the overall oversight of the department. The National Society also conducted the 2022 financial year audits.

Digital transformation and innovation

The IT policy and the monitoring and evaluation framework guide data management in the Botswana Red Cross. During this reporting period, the National Society utilised the DHIS, Kobo Toolbox and ODK information systems to manage and process data. We have a server to assure data safety, which has restrictions to access.



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](#)

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Botswana Red Cross Society

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