



BAPHALALI ESWATINI

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

14 December 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE BAPHALI ESWATINI RED CROSS SOCIETY



5

National Society branches



66

National Society staff



3,800

National Society volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Disasters and crises



7,000

Health and wellbeing



61,000

Values, power and inclusion



200

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total	Funding requirements		3.6M
IFRC	Longer-term Funding requirements		1.7M
	Income		2M
Participating National Societies	Funding requirements		915,000
	Income		383,000
Host National Society other funding sources	Funding requirements		518,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal numbers **MAASZ003**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Applicable data not available
	People reached with livelihoods support	7,000
Disasters and crises	People reached with disaster risk reduction	939
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	358
	People reached with shelter support	4
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	Applicable data not available
Health and wellbeing	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	61,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	14,000
	People trained in first aid	10,000
	People reached with immunization services	5,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	74
Values, power and inclusion	People reached by National Society educational programmes	200
	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	Applicable data not available
	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Applicable data not available

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC network is part of	Applicable data not available
	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	Applicable data not available
National Society Development	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Yes
	One National Society Development plan is in place	Applicable data not available
Accountability and agility	National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Applicable data not available
	National Society has functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Applicable data not available
	National Society has strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Applicable data not available
	PSEA Action Plan is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors	Applicable data not available
	PSEA policy is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors	Applicable data not available

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support				
		Climate	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
National Society						
American Red Cross	●					
Belgian Red Cross						●
British Red Cross	●					
Finnish Red Cross		●	●	●	●	●

Planned
 Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

In the face of a weak and deteriorating economy, high unemployment rates, rapid population growth and an uneven distribution of resources have created conditions which have worsened poverty rates and increase food insecurity, in particular in rural areas. Erratic weather (frequent droughts, intermittent heavy rains and flooding), overuse of small plots, overgrazing of cattle, and outdated agricultural practices reduce crop yields and further degrade the environment, exacerbating Eswatini's poverty and subsistence problems.

The Baphali Eswatini Red Cross Society is part of the Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the IFRC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). This partnership benefits from the support of the Finnish Red Cross as lead EU National Society, as well the Belgian Red Cross and the IFRC for the implementation of activities in Eswatini in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, cash and voucher assistance, and community engagement and accountability.

Key achievements

During the reporting period, the Baphali Eswatini Red Cross achieved the following:

1. Promoted livelihood asset-building programmes to build vulnerable groups' resilience to current shocks while concurrently building their ability to cope with future shocks.
2. Strengthened innovative and cost-effective ways to improve food diversification, including small-scale backyard gardens to address low household diversity score, especially in the rural areas.
3. Awareness raising amongst vulnerable communities on addressing the impact of El Nino.
4. Promoted climate-smart agricultural practices.
5. Encouraged sustainable water management practices, such as reducing water usage.
6. Strengthened the health system for preparedness, surveillance and response to emerging pandemics, including cholera.
7. Scaled-up programmes aimed at Increasing access and use of improved sanitation facilities.
8. Strengthened the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate shocks and market fluctuations by capacitating them with knowledge on improved seeds, water harvesting and irrigation strategies, extension services, and access to credit and insurance.
9. Addressed underlying factors such as poverty, inequality and lack of access to essential services, including healthcare, to ensure long-term improvements in livelihoods and food security in the zone by providing cash for livelihood activities.
10. Conducted hygiene education: Conduct intensive hygiene education campaigns to improve awareness about the importance of sanitation and hygiene.

Changes and amendments

No changes to the initial plan have occurred, more activities will be reported in the next reporting period.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society undertook assessments in four communities (Etjeni, Mafutseni, Ntuthwakazi, and Nyakatfo) spread across the four regions where the principal aim was to evaluate the current state of early warning mechanisms in the country from a community perspective. This exercise was carried out under the CAP project.

To address climate-related risks, the National Society has just developed an Early Action Protocol (EAP) for drought to implement proposed early actions in anticipation of drought impact.

Desk-based simulation of EAP was carried out with relevant stakeholders. Field simulation was carried out in the second quarter of the year. The draft EAP was endorsed by the stakeholders (which include the forecast-based financing (FbF) technical working group (TWG)) during the simulation/validation that took place between 27–31 March 2023. The other key stakeholders (also part of the FbF TWG) who did not participate during the simulation/validation session endorsed the draft EAP on the 18 April 2023. Seventy-six volunteers have been trained in data reporting using mobile platforms. These volunteers have been deployed for continuous data collection through community-based surveillance surveys. Piloting of community-based surveillance was supposed to be implemented in Silele Clinic, the pilot area. However, it was not carried out because assigned volunteers were still collecting secondary dataset. However, this activity has been scheduled for implementation after the dataset have been thoroughly analysed. The first dataset was collected in May 2023, and the volunteers were deployed again to collect the second data set in June 2023.

One rain gauge has also been set up in the Silele Clinic, whereby the nursery caretaker was trained on taking readings on the rain gauge by Eswatini Met Service.

To address environmental issues, the National Society is also drafting the first Environment Policy under the IFRC's Green Response Initiative in order to ensure that response and prepositioned items comply with local environmental standards and do not harm the environment.

■ IFRC network joint support

The IFRC disaster management team, with support from the IFRC Coordinator for Green Response, is assisting the National Society in developing an Environmental Policy, which will focus on integrating environmental sustainability into the National Society's humanitarian interventions.

Through the ECHO PPP, the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society adopted a climate-smart agriculture (CSA) approach adapted to the Swazi context. A CSA feasibility study was conducted to identify vulnerabilities and the potential of farming techniques and technologies to increase agricultural productivity under difficult climate conditions.



Disasters and crises

Progress by the National Society against objectives

A workshop took place from 24–26 April 2023, where officers from different departments/units were consulted on the Disaster Response and Management (DRM) strategy and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) developed in March 2023.

3,742 smallholder farmers have been trained in different livelihood activities. Examples of the livelihood activities carried out include the provision of farming inputs (seeds), vegetable production and small animals such as goats and chicken. The Ministry of Agriculture provided training to all benefiting households before receiving assistance.

■ IFRC network joint support

The Finnish Red Cross, British Red Cross, UN agencies (WHO), IFRC and the government have collectively been supporting this priority. The Finnish Red Cross, together with IFRC network partners, has been supporting the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society in responding to the food security crisis through interventions funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, DG ECHO and Finnish Red Cross funding. The activities have mainly focused on immediate food assistance through a cash modality with limited focus on livelihoods and resilience-building activities such as the promotion of keyhole gardens, distribution of seeds and addressing gaps in both knowledge and capacity to respond to issues related to maternal and child nutrition.

Through the ECHO PPP, the National Society completed a national multi-hazard contingency plan for three major hazards: drought, storms and civil unrest. The National Society has begun to increase its response capacity through the delivery of a Master Trainer training in first aid and the pre-positioning of emergency stock. The Finnish Red Cross has provided technical support in warehouse management and the development of a stock control and reporting system. The National Society has also increased its capacity to provide multi-purpose cash assistance through a mobile money service. Conditional and restricted cash transfers have been provided for livelihood recovery support.

The IFRC Disaster Law team held a two-day working session with the Eswatini Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO) and the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society in June. During this working session, the participants discussed the comments to the DRM Act and were trained on critical areas of disaster law, including the importance of pre-disaster agreement.

At the above-mentioned working session, a plan of action was prepared for future developments on reviewing the Eswatini DRM Act. The National Society has been tasked to work alongside the DPMO in hiring a consultant and reviewing the draft Bill prepared by the consultant. The action plan provides the IFRC to support the National Society in its work in reviewing the Eswatini DRM Act.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society has an existing agreement with the National Blood Transfusion Services through the Ministry of Health. Twelve community members were trained on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), water project cycle, Oral e. Coli routes and sanitation, construction of waste supply system, water harvesting. This has strengthened the National Society's capacity to reach and train communities on the prevention and transmission of diseases. Communities have increased knowledge of health and well-being.

■ IFRC network joint support

The Belgian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, UN agencies, IFRC and the government have been collectively supporting the National Society on this priority.

The National Society, with support from IFRC, primarily utilises the existing IFRC 2030 Health and Care Strategy as the guidance document for strategic priorities; this is done in conjunction with annual work plans.

The National Society has been coordinating with the National Cancer Control Unit under the Ministry of Health and with Roche, a Belgian-based pharmaceutical company. This collaboration was facilitated through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) established by the IFRC. Through this MOU, Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society has been included in expanding a patient navigation programme that will support screening, testing and care for breast and cervical cancer.

Furthermore, with support from the participating National Societies and IFRC, the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society has engaged with the National Blood Transfusion Services.

Through the ECHO PPP, the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society is increasing its capacity to prepare and respond to epidemics. Staff and volunteers are trained in community-based health and first aid in order to carry out health promotion and prevention activities in target communities.

The National Society has an active first-aid portfolio. The IFRC has been facilitating engagements on behalf of the National Society to ensure participation in two major first-aid meetings in September. One with a focus on upscaling and managing first aid activities for income generation and another meeting focusing on first aid as part of the emergency response network.

Through ongoing engagements with the technical partners, the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiatives (REPSSI) and the IFRC Psychosocial Support Centre have been advocating for the integration of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) into all of the National Society's existing programmes. The National Society has received a capacity-building session orientation on the key aspects around prioritizing MHPSS into their programmes, as well as support with mapping critical partners in the country for future engagements.

Through the ongoing support from the HIV/OVC projects funded by the Japanese Red Cross Society and the Lars Amundsen Foundation, two clinics under the custodianship of the National Society have been able to provide care to a large population of Eswatini. A critical success noted is the high level of drug adherence noted by patients within the facilities.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Migrants at Malindza refugee camp have made 991 calls with support from the National Society. The facility is made available for the migrants to assist them in coping with both the emotional and psychological trauma of being detached from relatives so that they can at least have telephone access to their relatives, which may also assist in the repatriation of the migrants.

■ IFRC network joint support

The British Red Cross, IFRC and ICRC are collectively supporting the National Society on this priority.

IFRC currently has no joint migration projects with the National Society, however, it conducts migration coordination meetings with other National Societies in the Southern Africa region to share experiences on migration initiatives.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society had consultation meetings with IFRC for technical and capacity building support. Volunteer data collection has been planned for the coming quarter. The cards have been procured and the National Society is sourcing funds to complete the process.

■ **IFRC network joint support**

In December 2021, the British Red Cross and IFRC agreed on a regional Safe and Inclusive Action Plan for implementation over three years (2022–2024) with four National Societies in southern Africa, namely Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross, Lesotho Red Cross, Namibia Red Cross and Zimbabwe Red Cross. The IFRC and British Red Cross co-convened a regional meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, in April to review progress in 2022 and agree on the implementation modalities and strategy for 2023. The event was a follow-up to the inaugural meeting of the project, which was convened in April 2022 in Windhoek, Namibia. The safe and inclusive coordinator, programme manager and Secretary General from Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross participated in the meeting.

The safe and inclusive programming meeting was preceded by a five-day training on psychological first aid funded by British Red Cross and delivered by facilitators from the IFRC Psychosocial Centre. The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Safe and Inclusive coordinator participated in the training at the same venue in Johannesburg.

Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross also developed a Child Safeguarding policy, which, at the time of reporting, was final and pending review and approval by governing board members at their next meeting in September.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society participates in formal arrangements and internationally and nationally coordinated clusters. The National Society also participates in the Food Security Consortium and the Global Pandemic Consortium.

The Resource Mobilization Strategy for 2025 is in place. The National Society, through its fundraising strategy of increasing engagement with local companies, has been able to secure donations towards the construction of structures for the provision of shelter to the most vulnerable households. The donations also contributed to the supply and installation of water tanks in selected schools nationwide for water harvesting and promoting hygiene to children.

■ **IFRC network joint support**

The Belgian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, ICRC, IFRC and the government are working on this enabler.

The IFRC is continuously supporting the National Society by sharing their achievements and current activities on its regional social media page, as well as conducting visibility missions where possible to collect the content and data.

The engagement with IFRC, ICRC and other National Societies to ensure adequate resources are available to support the rolling out of the resource mobilisation strategy and provide funding cover until the National Society is able to sustain itself. The cluster also provides technical support towards concept note developments and proposal write-ups.

The partnership with the Finnish Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, and the IFRC through the ECHO PPP has enabled coordinated support to the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross. The National Society is supported to be the main local actor, increasing its visibility among communities and society. There are regular coordination meetings to monitor progress and coordinate the technical support to the National Society.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

- Review of the constitution by the Joint Statutory Commission: the National Society was due to review the constitution and update it from being a British Red Cross Branch to an independent National Society without limitations of operating as a branch.
- Conducted branch elections - the branch committees' tenure had elapsed, and the National Society needed to bring in new leadership for branch governance. This then led to the election of the National Executives (Board). This is all done for the functioning and proper governance of the National Society.
- Conducted induction for branch committees - this is done to capacitate branch committees on their role in their branches and set targets and work plans for the year.

The ICRC supports the National Society with financial resources to cover volunteer insurance services.

■ IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in reviewing the National Society Act, now going through Parliament. The National Society's strategic plan is almost midway through implementation.

The IFRC is supporting the National Society in its Branch Organizational and Capacity Assessment (BOCA) training of facilitators with the help of the Kenya Red Cross Society through peer-to-peer support.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

195,000 people were reached through radio (News Bulletins).

■ IFRC Network joint support

The IFRC supported the work of the National Society through:

- Active participation with IFRC communications advisor
- Peer-to-peer engagements and support
- Capacity enhancement through mentoring and training



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society reviewed its Protection, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and its child safeguarding policies as well as its code of conduct, and HR policy. The engagement of staff and management will assist in buy-in and raise awareness of the policies. National Society staff are now informed on the roles and responsibilities of the different departments. It promotes a culture of social interaction that minimizes any form of gender harassment, abuse and exploitation which can be projected towards the communities the National Society serves.

The National Society has developed a complaints and feedback mechanism terms of reference and SoPs, which details how feedback will be collected, analysed and responded to. This will ensure that community voices are incorporated into its programmes.

An IT assessment was conducted, and the Finnish Red Cross generated an IT mission report. DM assessment tools are available on KOBO. Units need to be trained on how to distribute response material. Volunteers have been trained on cash and voucher assistance and KOBO collect tools for data collection.

■ ***IFRC network joint support***

The National Society is getting technical support from the IFRC and British Red Cross. The British Red Cross has also funded the safe and inclusive programming activities. There is also peer-to-peer support within the National Societies (Kenya, Namibia, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Eswatini).

The IFRC delegation continues to support and guide the National Society's PMER initiatives to ensure high standards of implementation, monitoring and reporting of initiatives beyond IFRC-funded projects.



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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Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society

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