



EQUATORIAL GUINEA

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

15 December 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA



8

National Society branches



26

National Society staff





500

National Society volunteers

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total		Funding requirements		1.1M
IFRC	Longer-term	Funding requirements		1.1M

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal numbers **MAAGQ002, MDRGQ003**

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support					
		Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
Canadian Red Cross Society	●						
Japanese Red Cross Society	●						
Red Cross of Monaco	●						

■ Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Equatorial Guinea has several social challenges, including poverty, inequality, and poor access to basic services. The country has one of the highest inequality rates in the world, with the richest 10% of the population controlling over 70% of the wealth.

Poverty is widespread, with over half of the population living below the international poverty line. Access to education and healthcare is also limited, particularly in rural areas. Equatorial Guinea is a middle-income country, but its economy is heavily dependent on oil and gas exports. The country is also vulnerable to external shocks, such as fluctuations in oil prices.

The economy has grown steadily in recent years, but poverty and inequality remain high. The government has made some progress in reducing poverty, but more needs to be done to improve the lives of ordinary citizens.

On 13 February 2023, Equatorial Guinea declared an outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD), a highly virulent viral haemorrhagic fever. It was the first time the disease had been detected in the country. At the request of the Ministry of Health, several agencies deployed to the affected area in Equatorial Guinea to support the set-up of the response, including the Equatorial Guinea Red Cross Society and IFRC, with an initial IFRC-DREF allocation and later with an IFRC Emergency Appeal.

Key Achievements

The Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea submitted an application for the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#) during this period. The grant will support and strengthen its Finance Management, Risk Management capacity and improve its current income-generating projects. A National Society Development consultant is in the country completing the implementation plan with the National Society.

Changes and amendments

A Programme and Operations manager is expected to come onboard in September 2023 to support the ongoing IFRC Emergency Appeal Marburg Disease and unified country plan. The unified country plan will be reviewed during the second semester of 2023 and first quarter of 2024.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Emergency Appeal name	Equatorial Guinea Marburg Outbreak Emergency Appeal
IFRC Appeal code	MDRGQ003
Duration	10 months from 25 March to 31 December 2023
Funding requirements	Through the IFRC Appeal: 3 million Swiss francs
Link to Emergency Appeal	Equatorial Guinea Marburg Outbreak Emergency Appeal

On 1 March 2023, funds were allocated to the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea through the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF), followed by the launch of an Emergency Appeal on 27 March 2023, aimed at assisting the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea in its response to the Marburg Outbreak. Despite encountering numerous challenges and delays, the planned activities may extend into 2024. Currently, a revision of the Operational Strategy is in progress.

The operation centres on addressing the specific needs of communities. This is achieved through a strategic emphasis on the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar, which encompasses health promotion and prevention, as well as ensuring safe and dignified burials preparedness. Additionally, volunteers play a crucial role in bolstering community-level surveillance capabilities, actively aiding in the identification of cases. Moreover, the National Society and IFRC collaborate on the development of a psychosocial support plan, with volunteers receiving training to assist peers, as well as family members of the deceased or those affected.

The operation also plays a pivotal role in strengthening the National Society's overall capacity, particularly in terms of preparedness, local response, volunteer mobilization, and the operational proficiency of its branches, considering the evolving context of disease outbreaks.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The IFRC is sharing with the National Society the seasonal and weekly weather forecasts and monthly climate watches produced for Central Africa by the Centre for Climate Application and Forecasting in Central Africa.

The IFRC also provided support to the National Society for its participation in the conference on disaster risk reduction by the National Society Disaster Management Director. This meeting took place in Malabo in March 2023.



Disasters and crises

IFRC provided online training on IFRC DREF evolution and new templates for the National Society.



Health and wellbeing

National Society progress reported in the first half of 2023 centred on efforts and resources of the ongoing IFRC Emergency Appeal for Marburg Disease outbreak. Launched in Mar-2023, the timeframe for the Appeal is between February to December 2023. It is envisaged that 380,000 people will be assisted. The launch of the IFRC Emergency Appeal was triggered after the Ministry of Health of Equatorial Guinea received reports of a cluster of deaths due to an unknown illness in two north-eastern districts of the continental region of Equatorial Guinea (Nsok-Nsomo and Ebebiyin). A total of nine people died from January 7 to February 6 with symptoms similar to a viral haemorrhagic fever infection.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In line with its auxiliary role in the humanitarian sphere, the National Society continues to collaborate closely with the authorities in Equatorial Guinea. The Equatorial Guinea Red Cross is part of COMPREC, the Government structure responsible for disaster-related matters. As part of its response to the 2021–2022 floods, the National Society held coordination meetings with the central Government, local authorities and multilateral partners. It also collaborates with a range of other actors, including United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Children’s Fund and the United Nations Development Programme.

■ IFRC network joint support

The IFRC continues to support the National Society in operational coordination and has deployed a Programme and Operations Manager to establish a support office and seek legal status. Support was given to the National Society in the development of proposals such as the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#) and several others presented to the Japanese Government and American Embassy.



National Society development

■ IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#) application which was approved. The IFRC Programmes and Operations Manager and National Society Development consultant in the country are supporting the National Society with a National Society Development plan for the rest of the year and next year, 2024.

There is also a plan to organize two mini-Red Cross Red Crescent Movement induction courses for the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea plans to develop and implement a humanitarian diplomacy strategy. The National Society has established and maintained regular communication channels with the Government of Equatorial Guinea and other stakeholders. The National Society will start to provide trainings to staff and volunteers on humanitarian diplomacy and develop and distribute advocacy materials on humanitarian needs in Equatorial Guinea.

The National Society will focus on capacity building and training on advocacy skills and develop and implement advocacy agendas aligned with the IFRC Global Advocacy Strategy for the rest of the year and next year.

The IFRC is working to foster a culture of humanitarian diplomacy and establish it as an integral part of the daily activities of the National Societies. Work will continue in 2024 to support the Red Cross of Equatorial Guinea with humanitarian diplomacy tools and guidance, as well as capacity building and skill sharing.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the second half of 2023, the National Society, with the support of the IFRC will start revising or developing the administrative, human resources, logistical and financial procedures manual (local or international consultant depending on available resources or IFRC support). A series of training courses will be carried out on the procedure's manual for finance and coordination. Not much progress has been made in the first half of the year, but an IFRC NSD consultant arrived in September 2023 for a 3 month duration to support the National Society in key capacity-building activities.

■ IFRC Network joint support

For the rest of the year, the IFRC will support, coordinate, and plan the priorities following the IFRC's Capacity Building Fund guidelines.



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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