



SOUTH AFRICA

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

19 December 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RED CROSS SOCIETY



70

National Society branches



338

National Society staff



60,000

National Society volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Ongoing emergency operations



728

Climate and environment



136,000

Disasters and crises



719,000

Health and wellbeing



895,000

Migration and displacement



23,000

Values, power and inclusion



452

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

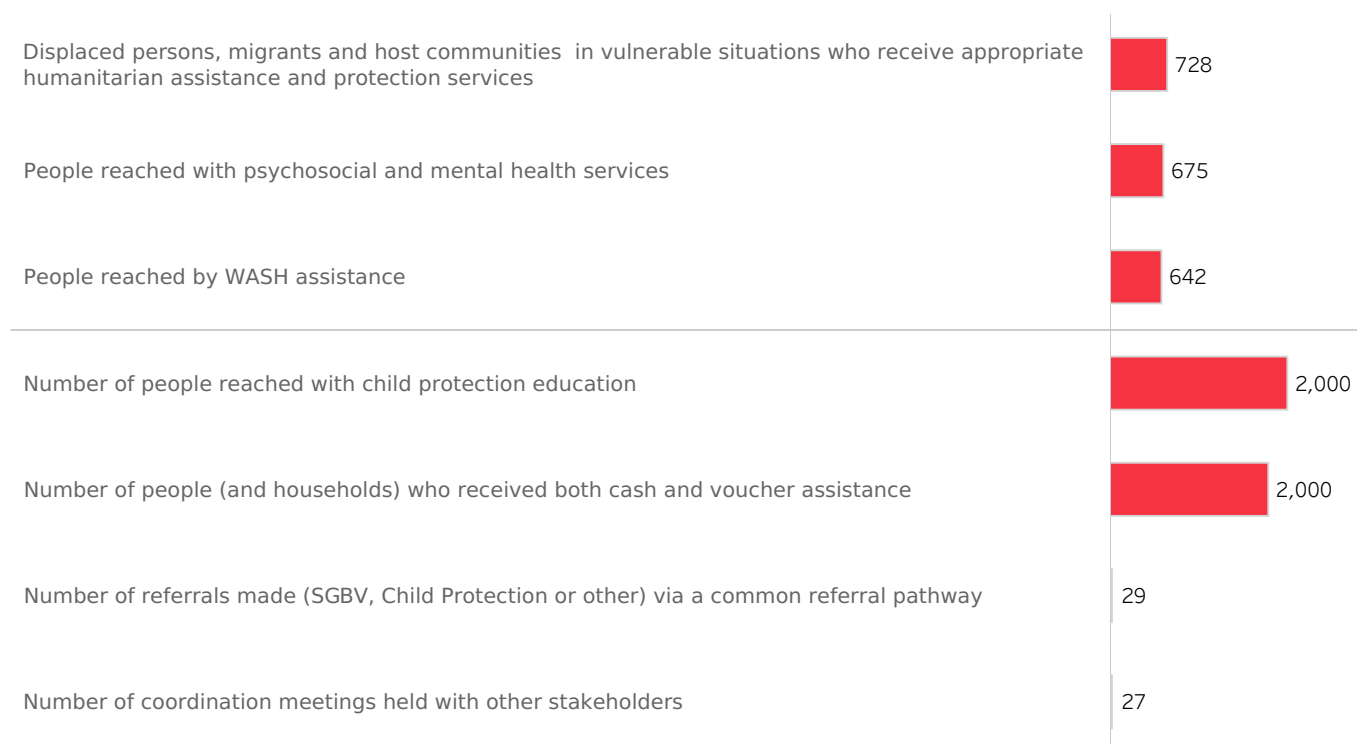
Total	Funding requirements	11.1M
IFRC	Emergency Operations Funding requirements	7.0M
	Income	649,000
	Longer-term Funding requirements	1.8M
Host National Society other funding sources	Funding requirements	2M

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal number **MAAZA003**

ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRZA012 / South Africa / Floods and Landslides



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Accountability and agility PSEA policy is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

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

■ Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

South Africa continues to face the adverse consequences of climate change, leading to exposure of vulnerable communities to various hazards like floods, cyclones, drought, and uncontrolled fires. **The South African Red Cross**, operating through 45 branches across all nine provinces supported by the provincial offices, plays a crucial role to ensure effective response and recovery efforts, saving lives, and rebuilding communities. The South African Red Cross works with the support of 2,834 registered volunteers and 400 staff members. As mandated by South African government statutes, the National Society plays an auxiliary role to the government.

Through four core programmes, namely disaster management, health and care, organisational development, volunteer recruitment and management, the South African Red Cross helps to promote good health, alleviate human suffering, and enhance wellbeing within communities. Under the Disaster Management programme, the National Society focuses on disaster prevention, preparedness, response, recovery and food security. The Health and Care programme involves risk communication and community engagement, water, sanitation and hygiene, mental health and psychosocial support services, peer education, HIV testing and screening, home based care, old age homes, early childhood development and Restoring Family Links (RFL) services which include phone call services, internet connection, phone charging, and referral for further assistance through other agencies.

Organisational development includes training, dissemination, volunteers' management, youth development and marketing. These have been possible through consistent support from international and in-country partners, as well as donors including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Agency (UNDP) and the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (Movement), participating National Societies such as the Belgian Red Cross, American Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, in country private donors including Santam, Old Mutual, L'Oreal South Africa, Food forward, Food on Wheels, and the corporates, Standard Bank and Nedbank as well as the Department of Social development (DSD), Department of Health (DOH). The combined support enables South African Red Cross to effectively implement its integrated programmes.

Key achievements

The National Society has worked with the Community Engagement and Accountability approaches to involve communities and ensure they actively participate in National Society programmes, rather than become passive aid recipients.

Notably, the South African Red Cross successfully executed two major operations funded by the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) in six provinces, (Gauteng and North-west December 2022 and Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape and Free state mid-February 2023) and an Emergency Appeal responding to thunderstorms in the Eastern Cape earlier in 2022 and floods in KwaZulu Natal in the same year. Before these events, the National Society conducted public awareness campaigns, disseminating early warning messages to vulnerable communities through door-to-door distribution, community radio, social media and loudspeakers. The South African Red Cross carried out interventions and distributions related to health care, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Psychosocial Support Services (PSS), Protection of Family Links (PFL) and relief materials.

South African Red Cross also carried out training to address Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in all nine provinces, with an emphasis in the seven provinces hit hardest by thunderstorms and floods: Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Free State, Eastern Cape, Northwest and Kwa-Zulu Natal (KZN).

During the emergency, communities sought refuge in evacuation centres where, sadly, children, youth, older people and people living with disabilities are vulnerable to abuse. Through the Restoring Family Links (RFL) program, 3,809 people were reached through phone calls, Red Cross Messages (RCM), and dissemination. South African Red Cross ensured that there were prepositioned food stocks and hygiene packs in the affected provinces. The Psychosocial Support (PSS) teams were also activated to offer support as the early warning caused stress and anxiety to the at-risk communities.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Emergency Appeal Name	South Africa Floods and Landslides
Appeal Code	MDRZA012
Duration	18 months (21 April 2022 to 31 October 2023)
Funding requirement	Through IFRC Appeal: 8 million Swiss francs
Link to Appeal	South Africa Floods and Landslides Emergency Appeal

In April 2022, devastating floods hit KZN, with Durban being hit hardest, especially in the informal settlements built close to rivers, beneath flood lines, and steep hillsides where there was little to no infrastructure to protect people from the elements. Many of the houses were made of basic materials like tin sheets, wood (often salvaged) and mud. Rushing floodwaters led to the collapse of riverbanks and hillsides and homes were completely washed away along with all their belongings. The rains and floods came at night when everyone was sleeping, which made the event even more frightening and deadly. A total of 5,704 houses were reported destroyed and 9,659 damaged and 6,814 people were made homeless and forced to live in 50 evacuation shelters across eThekweni Municipality. The eThekweni metropolitan municipality reports that most of its 1,152 formal businesses were impacted by the flooding. Small-scale and commercial farmers suffered R20 million in crop and infrastructural damage because of the flooding. Critical infrastructure, including major roads, transportation, water treatment and supply lines, communication, and electrical systems, were also impacted by the flooding. Extensive damage to community infrastructure, included four schools, and health facilities. 270,000 learners were adversely affected, and over 600 schools were damaged and shut down along with 66 public healthcare facilities. Flooding also disrupted operations one of Africa's busiest ports in Durban. Parts of KwaZulu-Natal are still without power and water, and this poses logistical challenges with damaged bridges, roads, and rail lines. The KwaZulu-Natal provincial government estimated that damage runs into billions of rand.

Heavy rains are still occurring, and parts of KwaZulu-Natal were again struck by devastating floods and thunderstorms as El Niño-like conditions persisted. Forecasts showed a continuation of extreme weather conditions ranging from heatwaves to floods and heavy rains which hit the province of KZN in January and February 2023. Thousands again had to rely on evacuation shelters faced with an uncertain future. People lost family members, homes and livelihoods.

The government identified suitable land to resettle the displaced and thousands of people, made homeless by the disaster are currently living in temporary residential units provided by the government across the province.

South African Red Cross, guided by its [Operational Strategy](#), responded to the humanitarian needs by providing relief and ensuring that affected people were safe and their basic needs were met. The National Society assisted affected communities by raising awareness and advocating for safe shelter and livelihood initiatives and building community resilience through sustainable food security and livelihood support.

Through all these phases, South African Red Cross promoted collaboration and coordination with partners and Government agencies which helped 37,000 people affected by the KZN floods in 2022 to meet their essential needs safely and dignity..

SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



Shelter, Housing and Settlements

Objective: *Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions*

South African Red Cross assisted over 500 displaced households in evacuation centres through procurement, distribution, and monitoring of essential household items (blankets, mattresses) and additional materials and tools for divisions for privacy and securing doors and windows. South African Red Cross also supported the community members' transit from evacuation shelters to temporary government shelters. Additionally, South African Red Cross continued to raise awareness of building safe shelters and advocated long-term solutions to aid the affected population. The National Society continued to work with government agencies by leveraging existing by-laws on disaster risk reduction to ensure people obtain safe shelter. It also continued to build partnerships to support and develop an advocacy strategy for long-term urban resilience, providing valid technical solutions by attending Joint Operations Committee (JOC) meetings with other agencies.



Livelihoods

Objective: *Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods.*

The South African Red Cross supported 14 community projects: food gardens, a bakery, clothes making (sewing project), and small-scale businesses.

The National Society provided hot meals to ensure people did not go hungry and oversaw the installation of 2 solar-powered boreholes in two gardens, in Empangeni and Sibusiso Mahlangu, which provided the community that were experiencing water storage, with a system that generated 750 litres an hour.

The South African Red Cross collaborated with United Nations agencies and other partners in assisting communities to recover through the restoration of livelihoods to help build long-term self-reliance.



Multi-purpose Cash

Objective: *Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs.*

The South African Red Cross assisted 1,500 households through the Emergency Appeal and 602 households with American Red Cross support to reach a total of 2102 households reached. Out of these, 1991 households, were provided with a one-off contribution of R2,258 cash. Unfortunately, 111 people were unable to redeem their cash and amongst the challenges that the National Society observed was that the mobile money notification that people received did not include the name 'South Africa Red Cross' and as a result, some people dismissed the messages as spam.

The National Society addressed this concern with the service provider who agreed to include the name of the South African Red Cross Society in the mobile money notification. South African Red Cross used Nedbank as the Financial Service Provider for the cash voucher transfer. The National Society continues to engage with both the financial service provider and provincial offices to ensure that all the cash and voucher assistance (CVA) recipients can receive their entitlements and redeem their vouchers. After the cash voucher distribution, the South African Red Cross conducted a post distribution survey and a lesson learned workshop and most of the people showed satisfaction with the method of unrestricted cash voucher as it allows them to buy what they need most.



Health and Care

(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)

Objective: *Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community level interventions and health system strengthening.*

A total of 35 volunteers were provided with refresher training sessions on health promotion and Psychosocial first aid (PFA). Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Service (MHPSS) was also provided to 675 people. The health care services managed to reach 728 through sensitization on measles, cholera, and other communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS and this work continues. The National Society has collaborated with the Department of Social Development (DSD) in all its response interventions to ensure a clear referral pathway for Mental health and psychosocial support interventions that require advanced counselling and further intervention. South African Red Cross volunteers and staff collaborate with DSD social workers and authorities to strengthen Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Service (MHPSS) to affected communities and further support is needed for the National Society to reach other affected communities. Additional follow-up sessions were conducted to ensure affected people recover from the trauma they experienced because of the floods.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Objective: *Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions.*

The South African Red Cross, through the WASH programme in emergencies, has distributed hygiene-related materials such as hygiene kits to address the immediate needs of the vulnerable communities. Through this support, 642 affected people were reached. The hygiene kits catered to women, men, children, pregnant women, lactating women, and people living with disabilities. The funding support came from Old Mutual and L’Oreal South Africa.

Safe water was provided in evacuation shelters by distributing household water treatment products, safe storage items, water tanks and distributing treated water. The evacuation shelters were provided with emergency toilets designed in consultation with the community.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Objective: *Communities identify the needs of the most at risk and particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups, due to inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs.*

South African Red Cross has ensured that Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) is integrated into all programmes by organising Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and child safeguarding awareness-raising campaigns in evacuation centres and in the wider community at large. Through these campaigns, 2,235 people were reached. Thirty-five volunteers participated in the PGI briefing session on Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies to be able to support the affected communities. The National Society plans to add a confidentiality element to the feedback mechanism in order to handle and respond to sensitive complaints including reports of SGBV and potential sexual exploitation and abuse and PSEA by National Society staff and volunteers. Currently the National Society has a strong working relationship with the Department of Social Development (DSD) that provides support in the areas of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and PSEA service through the referrals if any case arises during interventions with the affected communities. During this operation there have been no recorded cases of abuse, however in this period, 29 people were referred for services in other organisations. The National Society has provided hygiene kits, targeting affected people especially women, children, and SGBV survivors on a need basis.



Community Engagement and Accountability

Through the application of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approaches, the National Society ensures the involvement of all stakeholders during assessments which helps to ensure the quality of information obtained and used for programming. Thirty-five volunteers deployed for this operation participated in a refresher CEA orientation session to equip them with the skills they need to support affected communities during intervention. The National Society carried out three field missions and provided technical support to the team working actively in operations. New approaches of community engagement were incorporated into the programme which included holding a community meeting and providing loudspeaker early warning indications when conducting assessments.



Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery

One of the aims of the South African Red Cross' Operational Strategy is to advocate for the application of 21 existing by-laws to promote disaster risk reduction in informal settlements. The second is to develop an advocacy strategy for long-term urban resilience building. The types of approaches promoted in the community by the South African Red Cross will be, contingency planning, simulation drills, early warning messages in communities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The National Society has integrated climate change and adaptation initiatives in project planning and implementation in a gender sensitive way. Activities have been aimed enhancing climate-resilient agriculture and economic diversification, and specifically creating opportunities for female farmers as well as supporting men, women and youth to work together to address development needs. A total of 136,034 people (77,291 female and 58,743 male) were reached through this work focused on floods and cold fronts and on the promotion of sustainable livelihoods in the face of these threats. The National Society provided timely early warning messages to communities through community radio jingles, forums and gatherings, which reached around 2,200,000 listeners. In all its work, South African Red Cross promoted the use of indigenous knowledge on climate change in the nine provinces in which the National Society operates. Farming groups were encouraged to use environmental measures that curb pollution such as plants and herbs to deal with pests instead of using pesticides which pose a detrimental impact to the environment.

Pan Africa Initiative: Tree Planting and Care

South African Red Cross continues to promote the planting of trees and encouraging communities to adopt a green approach towards disaster mitigation. During the implementation of this tree planting initiative, South African Red Cross collaborated with local communities, schools, and other organisations of interest to ensure a sense of ownership. In this quarter, South African Red Cross planted 583 trees across all nine provinces, distributing them among community members and encouraging tree planting at home. The organisation remains committed to fostering the 'Tree planting initiative' throughout the provinces. However, the expansion of this effort on a larger scale is impeded by financial constraints, limiting the support available to eager community groups who have already been sensitized about the importance of this initiative.

Climate campaign

A Climate campaign was carried out to raise awareness on the importance of cleanliness and how it can positively impact lives and the environment. It typically involved activities like litter picking, street sweeping, and educating people on proper waste management practices. Cleaning campaigns not only beautify the surroundings but also contribute to better health, reduced pollution, and an overall improved quality of life for everyone involved.

Other activities

The IFRC supported the South African Red Cross with National Response Training (NRT) to ensure their capacity to respond to disasters. A Preparedness for Emergency Response (PER) was carried out with the National Society and the National Society Development (NSD) team to support programming and discussions on developing simplified Early Action Protocols (EAP) are in process and will be reported in the next reporting period. .



Disasters and crises

In this reporting period, the South African Red Cross responded to major crisis and disasters which included thunderstorms, floods, cholera outbreak and fires, among others.

The IFRC assisted this work by ensuring that the two funding applications that the South African Red Cross applied for were supported. This included the Emergency Appeals for KwaZulu Natal floods and the DREF fund for the seven provinces affected by floods were secured.

Because of the upturn in the number of disasters and crisis, the National Society revived its National Response, Provincial and Branch Disaster Response Teams (NRT, PDRT and BDRT) to effectively prepare and respond to disasters.

Pan Africa Initiative: Zero Hunger

The South African Red Cross ensured that the affected people receive timely and appropriate support and reached 718, 841 people (513,386 female and 205,455 male) through hot meals and distributed 2,167 food parcels, 2,645 hygiene packs and 2,167 cash vouchers.

The challenge which was faced during major operations was limited stock due to limited funds and this presented a great challenge to the National Society's ability to respond.

Pan Africa Initiative: Red Ready

Through the Red Ready initiative, and with support from the IFRC and the ICRC, the South African Red Cross trained 1,343 staff and volunteers (922 female and 421 male) in disaster management, health promotion, cash transfers, first aid, Protection, Gender, Inclusion (PGI), Restoration of Family Links (RFL), Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Psychosocial support (PSS), Community Engagement Accountability (CEA), reproductive health, peer education, contingency planning and Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessments.

The IFRC country cluster delegation has a strong relationship with the South African Red Cross and is always available to give technical support especially in disaster response.

The National Society is currently implementing the [floods and landslides Emergency Appeal](#) which the IFRC is helping to monitor (see Ongoing Emergency Response section above).

The IFRC holds regular coordination meetings with the South African Red Cross to support its disaster management work as well as assist the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) working group. .



Health and wellbeing

The South African Red Cross has actively participated in health and care initiatives focused on promoting well-being. These interventions include health and hygiene promotion, adherence, outreach, risk communication and community engagement, home based care, early childhood development, psychosocial support, HIV testing and screening. This work has been supported by the Department of Health, Department of Social Development, the IFRC and other donors. Through this health care work, the South African Red Cross reached 895,175 people (521,951 female and 373,224 male). These interventions addressed multiple health risks prevalent in communities, including screening and raising awareness about HIV, Tuberculosis (TB), chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure and other communicable diseases.

The outreach efforts of South Africa Red Cross have been commendable in helping to educate people about health risks and diseases. The South African Red Cross health teams have organized workshops, seminars, and even social media campaigns to share information in the widest possible way. Health promotion and disease prevention work for vulnerable groups has also been reinforced with support on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and chronic illnesses. Childhood cancer awareness in collaboration with Childhood Cancer Foundation (CHOC-SA) has also been carried out within communities. Work has revealed that communities do not know enough about childhood cancer and efforts are being made to engage with clinics, schoolteachers, and other youth institutions to educate youth workers on this important topic.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions, including infectious diseases, good health and hygiene practices, have been promoted during this reporting period in all nine provinces including in the evacuation centres where people who are affected by flood and thunderstorms were sheltered. Through awareness raising in schools, villages, townships and busy places like shopping centres, the South African Red Cross has provided training and knowledge on health in the community reaching 81,834 (47,784 female and 34,049 male).

This work also helped with the recent cholera outbreak which required the National Society to train its volunteers and community members on how to minimise the spread. These activities assisted 24,149 people (14,291 female and 9,858 male) in the districts in KZN that were affected by floods. Twenty-five WASH stations have also been installed across all 9 provinces in evacuation centres, schools, health centres, public places, and informal settlements to promote good hygiene practices and provision of clean water, including in the cholera and floods response areas.

The South African Red Cross' Eastern Cape branch has received training on non-communicable diseases particularly focussed on childhood cancers. The Lars Amundsen Foundation funding has supported community engagement with a total reach of over 1600 people through key messaging. Consequently, several referrals have been made to hospitals with one confirmed case currently being treated.

Ongoing coordination with the South African Red Cross focal point in MHPSS has been a key part of the IFRCs work. The National Society has been supported by the IFRC to conduct a mapping assessment of partners who may support future activities in this area. Currently, there are more needs in the communities served, than there are willing funders but it is hoped that partnerships in the future will increase on this important topic.



Migration and displacement

The South African Red Cross continues its efforts on RFL and assisting vulnerable people to reconnect with immediate family members following separations or loss of contact due to disaster, migration, and other humanitarian crises. This assistance is offered through various means, including three-minute phone calls, provision of internet connection and the utilization of Red Cross messaging services (RCM) nationally, and internationally. The focus of the South African Red Cross efforts has been intensified in specific regions, notably Limpopo (Musina Municipality) and Mpumalanga (Nkomazi Municipality) due to the high influx of migrants from neighbouring countries, facilitated by proximity of these provinces to borders. During this reporting period South African Red Cross facilitated the reconnection of 22,536 (12,624 female and 9,912 male) migrants with their loved ones through phone calls services and internet provision.

South African Red Cross also referred 276 migrants to other institutions that specialize in migrants' support. South African Red Cross reached out to 2,641 people (1,648 female and 993 male) through awareness raising programmes focused on migration related issues. The South African Red Cross enhanced its working relationship with other partners and agencies for migration services like the ICRC, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA), Democratic Development project for Migrants, Scalabrini of Cape Town, Unity Zimbabwe, Save the Children and many other relevant stakeholders.

The IFRC is part of the Global Migration Taskforce Team, which supports Migration initiatives in the Movement and strives to support the South African Red Cross with necessary technical support. However, apart from the transfer of funds for the Australian Red Cross project that the South African Red Cross is currently implementing, the National Society has not received any other support.



Values, power and inclusion

South African Red Cross focuses on ensuring that its programmes and operations support the access, participation, and safety and dignity for all affected people. In addition to the work mentioned above in PGI integration, SGBV, PSEA, and Child Safeguarding awareness-raising campaigns, the South African Red Cross is providing youth with mentorship and skills transfer from National Society volunteers in communities who excel in farming. At the same time, the South African Red Cross is reviving its youth structures at all levels and continues strengthen its work with youth.

South African Red Cross encourages communities to start vegetable gardens and other forms of livelihoods and food security initiatives like sewing, baking, and craftwork as a form of income generation and to help eradicate poverty. In some branches, South African Red Cross reached out to the local chiefs who granted them land to expand their projects to maximise production. The South African Red Cross continues facilitating forums to bring together duty bearers and discuss improved processes for protection, gender and inclusion in prevention and responses during emergencies. The National Society is committed to ensuring that its programmes and operations provide dignity, safety, participation, and accessibility to vulnerable people without any discrimination. Staff and volunteers have been trained as Trainer of Trainers in Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) across all provinces.

The CEA and PGI teams supported South African Red Cross' emergency plans of action for DREF, ensuring that the minimum standards for PGI and CEA were included in the proposals submitted in response to floods and for fires during the period under review.

The IFRC supported the junior Health Manager at South African Red Cross to participate in a five-day training on Psychological First Aid funded by British Red Cross, delivered by facilitators from the IFRC Psychosocial Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The South African Red Cross supported 200 adolescent girls in the Girl's Child project in Eastern Cape and provided sanitary pads and hygiene items such as beauty products on World Red Cross Day on 9th of May. The girls were also taken through a session on Menstrual Hygiene Management.

On the 16th of March 2023, South African Red Cross Eastern Cape collaborated with South Africa Police Services-Kwadwesi and Department of Health to conduct a substance abuse/misuse and gender-based violence awareness program at Lungisa High School. Learners were educated about drugs, bullying, teenage pregnancy, and how substance abuse increases vulnerability to GBV, exploitation, and abuse. There were 2,181 people (1,257 female and 924 male) reached.

IFRC, in partnership with UNICEF and WHO, supported the work of South African Red Cross on community feedback, which included setting up an inter-agency community mechanism database coding framework, liaising with the National Society to review its community feedback database and supporting information management (IM). IFRC trains partners on the cleaning and coding frame, helps clean partners' qualitative research data, transposes it to the inter-agency database structure, and updates the dashboard.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

South African Red Cross collaborated with various other humanitarian organisations and institutions to strengthen its efforts towards alleviating human suffering. Additionally, South African Red Cross received funding and support from participating National Societies, American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, and Government departments (including the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Development (DSD). This support was crucial in enabling South African Red Cross to respond effectively to emergencies within communities and aid those who are affected by major disasters fostering resilience and sustainability.



In May 2023, South African Red Cross successfully established new branches and launched Cash and Voucher assistance (CVA) for the first time in Mpumalanga, specifically in Nkomazi at Ehlanzeni district, Limpopo in Sekhukhune at Capricorn district, and Free state in Thabo Mofutsanyana. The National Society has plans to launch three additional branches in Northern Cape in Upington, Springbok and Kurumani, three in Western Cape, one in Beaufort west, George and other in Mossel bay, while Mpumalanga aims to launch two branches, one in Gert Sibanda and the other in Nkangala district. South African Red Cross branches are currently strengthening the volunteer structures, and systems in place to recruit, train, and support these volunteers.

The South African Red Cross board has finally endorsed membership fees to roll out the recruitment of potential volunteers who are reliable and committed to the organization's mission. All branches are encouraged to make budget provisions to train and equip newly recruited volunteers and members with the necessary skills and knowledge for various roles within the National Society.

However, some branches face challenges due to financial constraints and limited budgets, making it difficult for them to effectively carry out their work and attract new volunteers. The South African Red Cross encounters difficulties in retaining volunteers, as many are seeking better financial rewards elsewhere. Currently, South African Red Cross has 2,834 active and registered volunteers in the database, spread across nine provinces. Peer Education plays a role as a fundamental way of mobilizing young people and volunteers in the communities to address social, health and humanitarian issues which affect them such as substance abuse, gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS, and unemployment. Climate change continues to be a focus point of the youth component in the National Society as the South African Red Cross youth works on community clean-ups and participates in various climate change interventions to help address the crises which are having such a negative effect on human lives.

South African Red Cross held its first youth conference after many years of trying to mobilise its youth programme. During the Youth conference, elections for the Interim National Youth Structure were held, with the IFRC Youth desk serving as crucial observers, for newly elected youth board members for the National Society. In the election, one Northwest volunteer was appointed as National Youth Chairperson, the Mpumalanga Provincial Youth Chairperson was appointed Deputy National Youth Chairperson, and the Northern Cape Provincial Youth Chairperson was appointed National Youth Secretary. These interventions continued to be coordinated by the National society development manager, National Society Youth Coordinator and the interim structure consisting of provincial focal persons/coordinators and ex-officio members.

The South African Red Cross has successfully launched CVA in 7 provinces (Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Eastern cape, Gauteng, Northwest, Kwa Zulu Natal and Free State) and is planning to launch CVA in the remaining two provinces of Northern cape and Western cape. The National Society supported by the IFRC National Society Development department facilitated an induction of the branch committee members at the Bojanala Branch in Northwest Province.

During a Board meeting in North West in Bojanala, the following topics were presented; History of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the Movements structure, Emblem and mission, the Fundamental Principles, the Code of Conduct, the structure of the National Society and areas of focus, roles and responsibilities of a well-functioning governing committee, volunteering, and the volunteer's cycle.

The IFRC supported the South African Red Cross to undertake an Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCAC) and developed a turnaround transformational plan. Support was provided to strengthen relations with public authorities especially at the national level. At the provincial level, the relations are already strong with the municipalities. A Humanitarian Diplomacy training is planned.

IFRC is supporting the South African Red Cross to increase visibility in the regional social media web page and conducts visibility missions where possible to collect more content and data.

Funding for the Communications team will be made available for more field visits to improve the profiling of the National Society with 'on the ground' stories.



Humanitarian diplomacy

In this reporting period, South African Red Cross focused on increasing the understanding by authorities of the National Society's auxiliary role. As part of implementing the Plan of Action for Preparedness for Effective Response (PER), South African Red Cross worked on the Disaster Law and policy areas. Efforts were made to establish pre-disaster agreements with relevant government sectors which will strengthen the humanitarian diplomacy engagement. The South African Red Cross participated in regional and in country intergovernmental fora and key events with the United Nations and Pan African Parliament (PAP) civil society forums.

The role of South African Red Cross is now better understood by governments and other key partners including UN agencies. In country, South African Red Cross is viewed as independent, neutral, and trusted humanitarian actor by vulnerable communities, government, and other actors thanks to the Fundamental Principles.

South African Red Cross continues to provide humanitarian assistance to all vulnerable people regardless of race, political affiliation, tribe, migration status etc. This helps make South African Red Cross recognized as leading and key partner in providing humanitarian protection and assistance, including in emergency and non-emergency service provision, in health and psychosocial support, Restoring Family Links (RFL). The established Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) in South African Red Cross branches are recognized by States, partners and vulnerable groups as neutral locations where people can safely access basic services and meet humanitarian needs.

The IFRC continues to support the South African Red Cross leadership in diplomatic engagements as well as linking them up with strategic partners. Stories and impactful pictures are collected in the field, in donor events, to highlight the crisis and actual impact on ground to potential donors and other stakeholders, making use of key documents and social media visibility.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

The South African Red Cross continues to strengthen its planning monitoring evaluation and reporting (PMER) unit to ensure quality design, planning, implementation, and evaluation of programmes. South African Red Cross ensured donor budget reporting and expenses were carried out as per financial guidance and to avoid double reporting. South African Red Cross ensured the safety of archives to avoid the incidents of theft, fire, flooding, and other risks by keeping them in the safe room. Procurement procedures followed IFRCs guidelines and donor requirements were met. Reconciliation and receipts were kept as hard copies and electronic copies also for future reference and evidence, if required by the donor. These efforts have ensured that the South African Red Cross remains a preferred partner, trusted by donors and funders.

The Youth section held an Assembly June 2023 and elected a new youth leadership. The Youth policy is being reviewed currently. The volunteer insurance was paid for by ICRC for 2023. The IFRC is supporting the South African Red Cross to develop a Risk management framework, work with PMER tools and strengthen its Information Management in the next reporting period.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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