



TOGO

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

15 December 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE TOGOLESE RED CROSS SOCIETY



311

National Society branches



89

National Society staff



65,000

National Society volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



34,000

Disasters and crises



40,000

Health and wellbeing



77,000

Values, power and inclusion



9,000

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

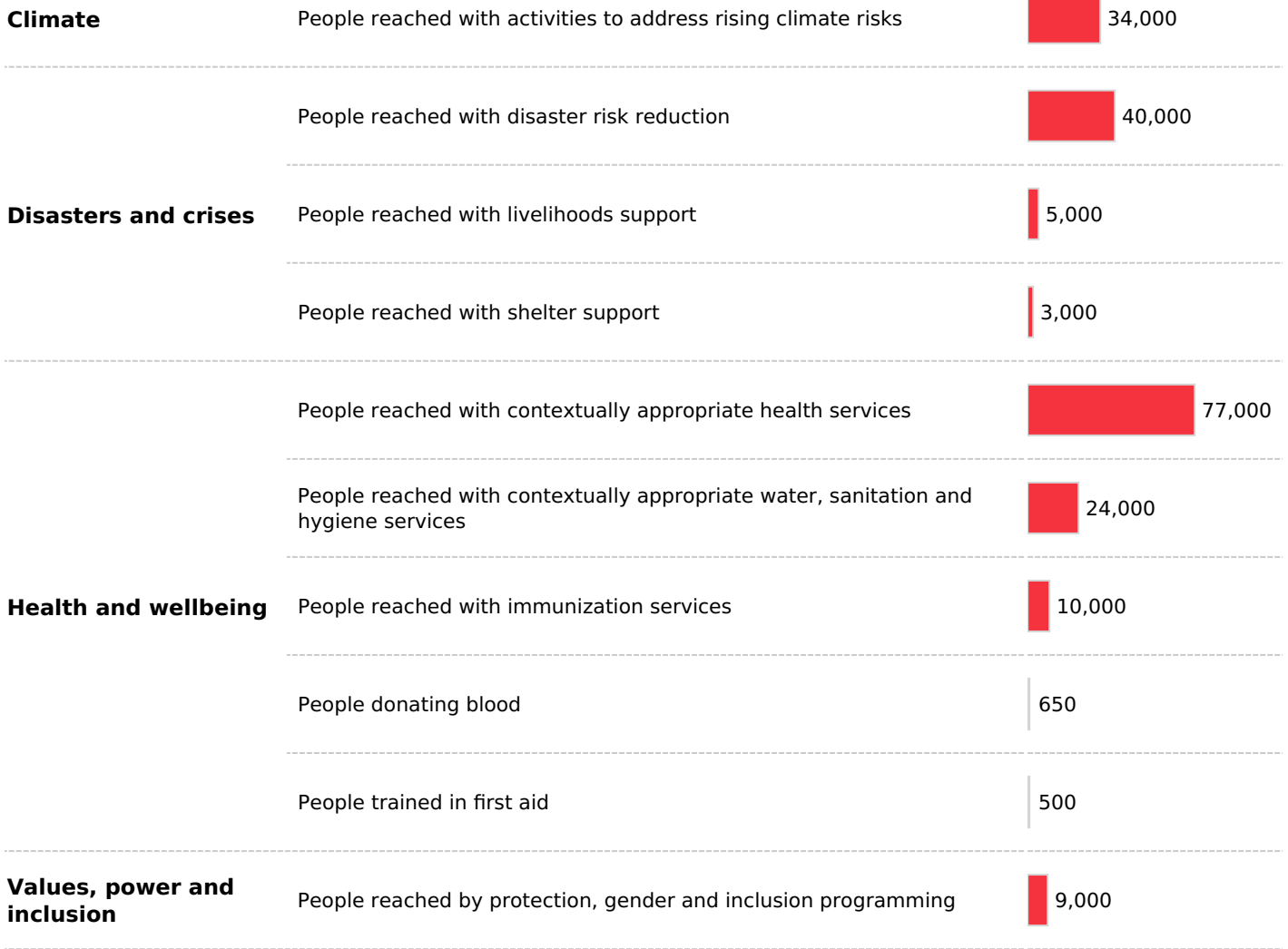
in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total		Funding requirements		2.5M
IFRC	Longer-term	Funding requirements		1.6M
Participating National Societies		Funding requirements		913,000
		Income		371,000

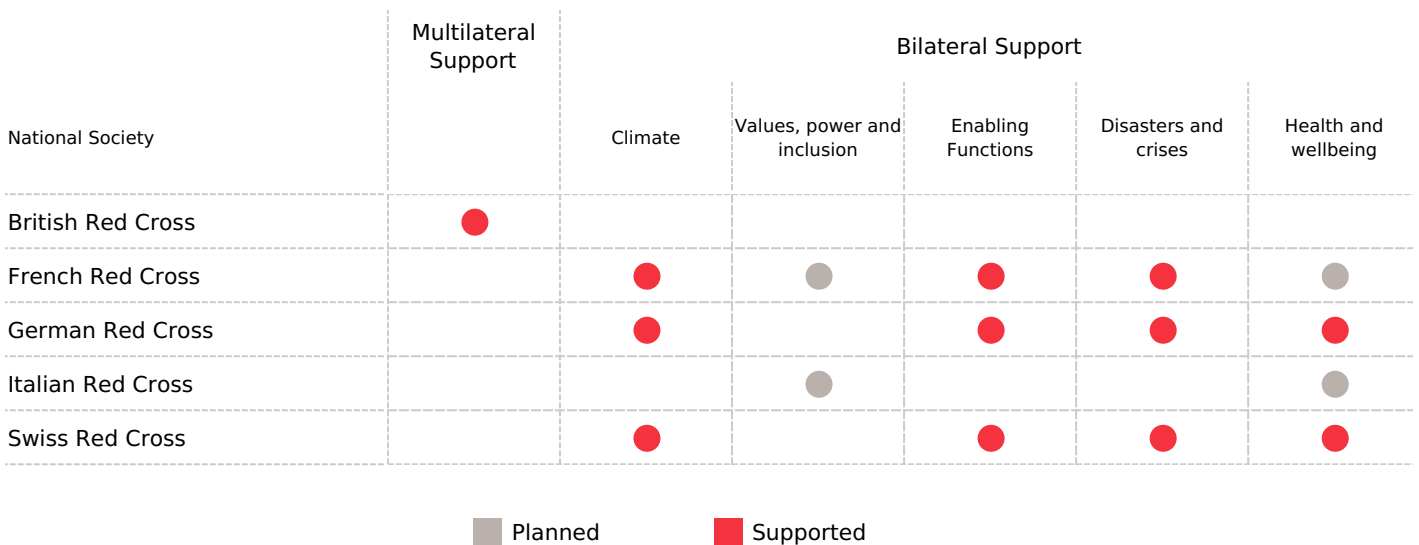
[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal numbers **MAATG002**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES



OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Socio-politically, Togo is relatively stable. Affiliations of political parties are not permitted currently.

Economically, the country has a GDP growth rate of 5.5 percent. The living conditions of the population are particularly affected, among other things, by difficult climatic and environmental factors; very low rates of access to basic services (water, hygiene and sanitation, health, education, etc.); inadequate environmental and disaster protection measures and insufficient livelihood protection and promotion initiatives, exacerbated by the current health situation.

There is a slowdown in economic activity. According to recent studies by the “Caisse de Retraite du Togo” in the Plateaux and Savanes Regions, 76 percent of the population say they are very worried about the impact of COVID-19 on the economy compared to only 57 percent on health. The pandemic is therefore making vulnerable groups increasingly vulnerable and enriching certain social groups involved in corruption and fraud. Inflation has been rising steadily since the COVID-19 crises and the Ukraine crisis.

On the security front, Togo has recently experienced attacks attributed to non-state armed groups. These attacks are recorded in the Savannah Region, a region bordering Benin, Burkina Faso and Ghana. Population movements were recorded in the Savanes region after these attacks. This could have an impact on agricultural production since the period corresponds to the agricultural periods. Burkina Faso and Benin, countries bordering Togo, are regularly hit by attacks. Togo participates in peacekeeping services in some countries (Mali, etc.)

In terms of climatic hazards, climate change remains the main source of economic and ecological disruptions, degrading the living conditions of the population. The resulting negative impacts have become recurrent affecting Togo's resources, in particular, water resources, agriculture, forests, human settlements, health and the coastal zone have become vulnerable to climate change.

At the institutional level, **the Togolese Red Cross Society** has a decentralized organization with more or less autonomous local structures. With a National Steering Committee elected in June 2022, for a period of five years, the Togolese Red Cross also has five regional committees (governance) whose prerogatives are to adopt policies, give orientations and ensure the supervision and effectiveness of the National Society's accountability. To accelerate its transformation after its long period of internal crisis, the Togolese Red Cross recruited in May 2023, a new Secretary General, a Head of the Information and Dissemination Department, a Head of the Disaster Relief and Management Department and a Head of the Finance and Accounting Department. The recruitment of the head of the health department, which was also launched, was ultimately unsuccessful.

The Togolese Red Cross is currently supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), a few participating National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which seek to align their support with the priorities identified by the National Society. The Togolese Red Cross is also making an effort to mobilize funds through mechanisms available at the IFRC level ([funds for National Society development](#), other country-earmarked funding through the IFRC network country plan), but also from non-Movement partners within the country.

The National Society's actions during the first half of 2023 revolved around the Community Resilience projects in the Plateaux and Central regions, and the eye health project in the Plateaux; the project “Institutional Capacity Building in the field of disaster preparedness for climate change adaptation” in the Maritime, and Kara and Savanes Regions.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change are the cornerstone of this strategic priority and are currently being brought to the Togolese Red Cross by the project “Institutional Capacity Building in the Fields of Disaster Preparedness and Climate Change Adaptation in Togo” funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the **German Red Cross**. Through this project, the Togolese Red Cross has supported 60 at-risk villages in three regions of the country (Maritime, Kara and Savanes) to adapt to the long-term effects of climate change through:

- The training/retraining of 887 members of the disaster preparedness teams set up in these localities, including 313 women and 48 people with disabilities.
- Training/retraining of 7,216 members of Mothers’ Clubs and 4,140 members of Men’s Committees on the themes of Associative Life, Natural Resource Management, Essential Family Practices, Hygiene and Sanitation, Disaster Preparedness and Income Generating Activities.
- The organization by these trained volunteers of 558 disaster risk reduction/adaptation to climate change activities at the community level with the participation of 6,903 people, including 3,824 women and 86 people with disabilities.
- The organization of 23 community simulation exercises with the participation of 373 people, including 117 women.
- The organization of 129 natural resource management activities (manufacture of improved stoves and reforestation) with the involvement of 4,696 people, including 2,842 women and 190 people with disabilities.
- Supporting the 60 localities in the development/updating of their risk map. A process is currently underway for the digitization of risk maps for specific particularly vulnerable communities.
- Participation in meetings of the national and regional disaster risk reduction platform.

The “Strengthening Community Resilience” project in the Plateau and Central Regions funded by the **Swiss Red Cross** addressed the theme disaster risk reduction/adaptation to climate change.

- Training 25 Togolese Red Cross staff and volunteers on community resilience assessment using IFRC Dashboard Tools.
- Undertaking a targeted Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment ([VCA](#)) in 50 communities.

Within the framework of the “Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)” project implemented by the Togolese Red Cross in eight localities of the prefectures of Kpendajal-Ouest and Tandjoare (Savannah Region) with the financial support of IFRC and USAID, the following activities were carried out:

- Social and information mobilization of 326 people, including 262 women.
- Identification of 34 focal points on promoting good practices in integrated local agriculture.
- Training 1,013 volunteers, including 767 women, to sensitize their communities on the role and use of multifunctional plants.
- Sensitization of 1,650 people on multifunctional plants by highlighting their main uses: soil fertilization and erosion.

- Establishment of eight Emergency Management Committees of 40 members in five localities trained on roles, knowledge of disasters, and adaptation actions in the face of climate change.
- The acquisition and planting of 52,150 seedlings of three multifunctional plants: Moringa (14,800 vines), Néré (21,150 vines) and cashew trees (16,200 vines) 25,000 plants (moringa, Néré, cashew nuts). The National Society reforested 21 community spaces and nearly 1,028 individual spaces. The town halls and prefectures of the target areas benefited from seedlings planted in the target areas.
- The provision of maintenance equipment to the eight monitoring committees (2 wheelbarrows, 3 shovels, 6 rakes, 6 boots, 6 cutters and 3 watering cans per village).



Disasters and crises

After the community disaster response teams (CDRTs) formed, torrential rain fell on Lomé and its surroundings for several hours, causing flooding in some neighbourhoods. In less than 72 hours, the Togolese Red Cross quickly mobilized and urgently deployed 60 volunteers coordinated by the CDRTs trained to identify 4,662 affected households in 1,060 houses to whom 23,310 chlorine packets were distributed. This showed the effectiveness of the training received.



Health and wellbeing

The Togolese Red Cross is very active in health, water, sanitation and hygiene and, therefore, has an intervention strategy based on community-based interventions. The National Society's actions in the field of health during the first half of the year were driven by projects funded by the Swiss Red Cross, namely the "Strengthening Community Resilience" in the Plateaux and Central Regions, the "Eye Health" project in the Plateaux and Central Region; the Blood Transfusion Project in the Central Region; the Save Live and Livelihood (SSL) project funded by the Africa CDC (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention) and supported by the IFRC; the project "Community Mobilization to Combat Gender-Based Violence and Promote Reproductive Health" funded by UNFPA.

In the first half of 2023, the number of people reached by Togolese Red Cross through its health services was estimated at 77,232 people, including 48,549 women, while those reached by water, sanitation and hygiene services were 23,627, including 14,676 women. Immunization beneficiaries included 10,152 people, including 6,378 women/girls.

The Togolese Red Cross is recognized as an auxiliary of the public authorities in Togo and participated in engagements led by the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene within the framework of the Master Card Foundation-funded SLL programme on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and COVID-19 vaccination.

The National Society is represented and participates in dialogues comprising civil society organisation (CSO) platforms such as the Consultative Council for Water, Hygiene and Basic Sanitation in Togo; the CSO Platform on Immunization and Immunization; the platform of CSOs/HIV/AIDS, especially in the Central and Savannah regions.

Through the "Strengthening Community Resilience (DRR)" project in 150 localities in the Plateaux and Central Regions, the CRT carried out the following activities in the first half of the year:

- Trained 5,323 volunteers, including 4,921 women, on essential family practices and sexual and reproductive health; the latter sensitized at least 15,861 people, including 11,251 women on individualized education plan.
- Supported 2,396 children aged 12–23 months, including 1,203 girls, to attain full vaccination; 10,231 children under 5 years of age, including 5,168 girls, to sleep on long lasting insecticide nets; and 8,171 children under five years of age, including 4,097 girls, to obtain birth certificates.
- Togolese Red Cross supported 79 people living with HIV, including 69 women, 57 orphans and vulnerable children.

In a cross-cutting manner across all health projects, community-based surveillance of diseases with epidemic potential has been ensured throughout the community at risk.

Regarding blood transfusion, Togolese Red Cross launched phase 2 of the project “Blood Transfusion in the Central and Kara Regions with support from the Swiss Red Cross and in partnership with the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre of Sokodé. The intervention aims to reduce the number of discarded blood bags and enhance accountability and internal controls.

During the first half of the year, the National Society sensitized through community volunteers, 17,908 people, trained 97,761 women on non-communicable diseases as part of the disaster risk reduction project in the Central and Plateaux. A total of 804 people, including 442 women, were suspected of having a non-communicable disease and referred to health facilities for support.

Under the eye health project:

- 1,096 community health worker volunteers, including 298 women, were trained on the basics of eye health. The latter affected 28,359 people, including 16,658 women; Visual acuity was thus taken in 15,423 people, including 7,505 women, with the detection of 1,777 cases of visually impaired people.
- 189 people who tested positive for cataracts received cataract vouchers to undergo surgery at a cost subsidized by the project.

Under the water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) initiative, activities implemented included awareness creation on home water treatment, house maintenance, the development of illegal dumps, the construction of enclosures and the support of communities in building latrines.



Values, power and inclusion

The IFRC supported the National Society to work towards strengthening capacities to reach more local branches and increase awareness and action through the influential role of youth and engagement with the education community and ensuring meaningful efforts for a more inclusive work dynamic, greater diversity and efforts for the protection of people, their dignity and their contributions to resilience and peaceful environments.

During this period, the Togolese Red Cross implemented activities promoting interpersonal skills such as non-violent communication, gender based violence, empathetic listening and mediation. The initiatives were implemented by considering women's concerns in developing our communities and promoting the right to health for mothers and children. Implementation takes two approaches: Mothers' Club and the promotion of Champion Dads, which provide a local response to community resilience and promote social cohesion within our communities. More than 45,000 women and 10,000 men across the country partook.

Gender mainstreaming in activities is ongoing, intending to build a better National Society.

Information and dissemination activities (Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values) were organized by the Togolese Red Cross, with support from ICRC, in the media and through local branches in the field. As part of the emergency response related to the movement of people in the Savanes region, volunteers were trained in dissemination, safety, and security. However, efforts are underway by the National Society executive to consider protection, equity and inclusion, safety and the environment in the implementation of projects.

The Togolese Red Cross established a reporting system that disintegrated data by gender and age. However, challenges arose when disaggregating data by disability. As part of the “Men's Committee” strategy supported by UNFPA, 190 men's committees and mothers' clubs are functional out of the 192 created throughout the quarter. Among the members of the men's committees, 370 out of 420 trained champion dads (91%) were active. At the community level, Togolese Red Cross organized 300 educational activities during the semester to benefit 18,020 people. Champion Dads and Club members conducted more than 988 home visits to mobilize 7,651 women to obtain services in health centres.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

National mechanisms and engagement

The Togolese Red Cross is engaged and involved in the country's existing national coordination and communication mechanisms. These include government institutions, platforms working on Disaster Risk Reduction, Health and WASH, and research institutions such as WASCAL and the IFRC Climate Centre. This environment provides us with opportunities to mobilize resources at the local level. However, these resources remain limited.

IFRC membership engagement

Unlike in the past, the Togolese Red Cross currently works with only two participating National Societies based in the country, the German Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross, while it receives some support from others not present in Togo. Given its humanitarian challenges, the Togolese Red Cross is trying to explore new avenues of collaboration with other participating National Societies.

In addition, Togolese Red Cross plays an active role in peer-to-peer support through communities of practice and sends support staff to other National Societies.



National Society development

Mandate, auxiliary role and legal basis

Togo recognizes the Togolese Red Cross as an auxiliary of the government. The texts governing the Togolese Red Cross (Statute and Rules of Procedure) exist at the internal level but are currently under revision. The review process, intended to be inclusive, involves all local branches. The process started in June 2023 and will end in 2024.

National Society development plan

The new Togolese Red Cross governance team set clear priorities for developing the National Society during the first half of 2023. Togolese Red Cross mobilized potential funding partners outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Thus, with the support of IFRC, several projects were negotiated with state partners (Ministry of Health), the IDB, WHO and GAVI Fund.

Branch development

Togolese Red Cross has a database of volunteers and members. However, this process remains underway and partially covers the Greater Lomé sessions and a few Maritime region localities.

Communications

In May 2023, the Togolese Red Cross recruited a new head of Information and Dissemination Department with the following priority projects: defining, adapting, and leading the National Society's internal and external communication strategy; ensure the promotion of its' brand image and its actions to all stakeholders; promote International Humanitarian Law.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Digital transformation

In the first half of the year, the Togolese Red Cross assessed its digital potential and made some adjustments per the status established, thanks to funds from IFRC and the support of the Japanese Red Cross.



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](#)

Contact Information

Bhupinder Tomar

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation
for Nigeria, Togo, Benin & Ghana,
based in Abuja

T +91 9717791000

bhupinder.tomar@ifrc.org

Louise Daintrey

Head of Strategic Engagement
& Partnerships
IFRC Regional Office for Africa,
Nairobi

T +254 110 843978

louise.daintrey@ifrc.org

Togolese Red Cross

W crt-plateaux.org