



ETHIOPIA

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

3 April 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 190.7M**

In support of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society



48

National Society branches



2,200

National Society staff



258,525

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



50M

Ongoing emergency operations



1.7M

Climate and environment



2.6M

Disasters and crises



2.3M

Health and wellbeing



1.1M

Migration and displacement



1.2M

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Hunger crises

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and resilience
 - Migration and displacement
- Community-based health and WASH

Capacity development

- Branch development
- Financial sustainability
- Systems development

Key country data

Population

123.4M

INFORM Severity rating

High

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Very high**

Human Development Index rank

175

Population below poverty level

23.5%

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

2026**

Total 121.5M CHF

Total 46.2M CHF

Total 23M CHF

Through the IFRC

63.3M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

21.1M CHF

Host National Society

37.2M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

5.7M CHF

Host National Society

40.5M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

2.1M CHF

Host National Society

23.1M CHF

**Projected funding requirements

IFRC Breakdown

38.5M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

1.2M CHF

Climate and environment

12.5M CHF

Disasters and crises

7.5M CHF

Health and wellbeing

1.2M CHF

Migration and displacement

1.2M CHF

Values, power and inclusion

1.2M CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

Australian Red Cross*

Austrian Red Cross

British Red Cross

Canadian Red Cross

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Red Cross of Monaco*

The Netherlands Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*

Swiss Red Cross

*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:

MDRET027, MDRET030

Longer-term needs:

MAAET003

Hazards



Food insecurity



Drought



Floods



Disease outbreaks



Civil unrest



Population movement

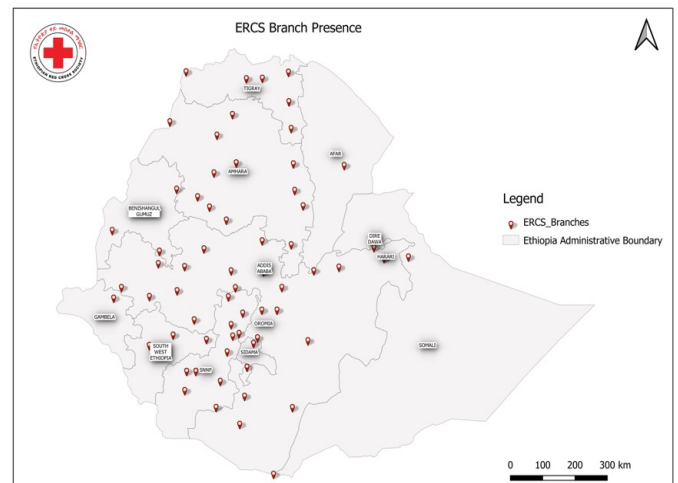
NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Ethiopian Red Cross Society** is one of the leading humanitarian organizations in Ethiopia with a wide network of branches throughout the country. Established in 1935, the Ethiopian Red Cross has a structure consisting of 12 regional offices, 36 zonal branches, 132 districts (woreda) branches, and more than 5000 committees (Kebele Red Cross Committees) at the grass roots level. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1950.

The network of branches is supported by over 2500,000 volunteers that help the National Society reach out to the communities and deliver services to people in need. The Ethiopian Red Cross' extensive network enables it to reach vulnerable populations such as communities in highly remote areas who are not served by other humanitarian actors.

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Ethiopian Red Cross has a mandate to actively engage in disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities aligned to the Government of Ethiopia's development plans and national priorities. The Ethiopian Red Cross has a productive working relationship with the Federal Government and its network across the country ensures timely and efficient delivery of humanitarian services in coordination with public authorities. It is also a major provider of pre-hospital care services within the country, with a fleet of 562 ambulances.

In 2022, the Ethiopian Red Cross reached 24 million people with disaster response, early recovery and long-term services and development programmes.



The Ethiopian Red Cross branches spread across Ethiopia

Ethiopia Red Cross' Strategic Plan 2020-2025 sets out seven strategic priorities:

- Disaster preparedness, response, risk reduction and management
- Peacebuilding and the promotion of non-violence
- Volunteer and membership management
- Resource mobilization and resource utilization
- Humanitarian diplomacy and image building
- Capacity building
- Partnership development

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Ethiopia's location gives it a strategic position as a jumping-off point in the Horn of Africa, close to the Middle East and its markets. Ethiopia is landlocked, bordering Eritrea, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Sudan, and has been using neighbouring Djibouti's main port for the last two decades for its international trade. Due to its geographical location, Ethiopia experiences dynamic migration patterns, serving as a country of origin, transit, and destination for migrants, making Ethiopia the second-largest host country in Africa. With about 123 million people (2022), Ethiopia is the second most populous nation in Africa, after Nigeria.

Ethiopia is structured as a federal parliamentary republic and the country is divided into four administrative levels: region, zone, woreda and kebele. Ethiopia's latest national elections were held in 2021, and Abiy Ahmed was declared the Prime Minister for a five-year term. In November 2020, armed conflict broke out between the Ethiopian national government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). This ended with the Ethiopia-Tigray peace agreement, commonly called the Pretoria Agreement promoted by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in November 2022.

March 2023 recorded the least violence and least reported fatalities since October 2020. Despite positive trends, a change in political dynamics since the signing of the November 2022

peace agreement has led to new violence patterns evidenced by a shift in both the location of events, as well as the actors involved. As an instance, violence in the capital Addis Ababa has been more frequent since December 2022 compared to the preceding four years.

Over the past 15 years, Ethiopia's economy has been among the fastest growing in the world, and it is still the fastest growing economy in the region. However, it is also one of the poorest, with a per capita gross national income of US\$890. Ethiopia aims to reach lower-middle-income status by 2025. [Ethiopia's Human Development Index \(HDI\)](#) value for 2021 was 0.498, which puts the country in the low human development category, positioning it at 175 out of 191 countries and territories. Frequent severe weather events, alongside long-term impacts of climate change, undermine agriculture and pastoral livelihoods, as well as significantly affecting food security. Nearly 30 million people are now in need of emergency aid in Ethiopia. In northern and western regions an estimated 22 million people are experiencing devastating food insecurity due to drought, conflict and economic pressures. Response to the affected people in drought impacted Somali, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) regions was inadequate in 2022. During the time, assistance was provided to an estimated 11 million people or 66 per cent of the 17 million targeted population with at least one type of life-saving assistance. Despite this, there have been operational challenges including low financing, access to hard-to-reach areas, as well as growing needs created from continued displacements and worsening drought conditions (OCHA, 2023).



7 June 2022, Red Cross volunteers on their way to dispose of dead livestock in Borena zone, Ethiopia (Source: Ethiopian Red Cross)

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC Go Ethiopia](#)

Emergency 1

Emergency Operation	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal 2023-2024
Appeal number	MDRET027, folded under MGR60001
Duration	Operation start date for Ethiopia: 02 March 2022, with operation extended to 31 December 2024
People to be assisted	People affected/at risk: 157 million people across sub-Saharan Africa (143m in the 25 countries covered in this operation/watch list)
Funding requirement	Total funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 232.5 million Total Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 318 million Funding requirement for Ethiopia for 2024: CHF 35.5 million to assist 2 million people (IFRC funding requirement); CHF 40 million (Federation-wide)
Emergency Appeal	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Link to Operational Strategy for Ethiopia	Ethiopia: Hunger Crisis (Operational Strategy)

In March 2022, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal to support the Ethiopian Red Cross' response to the country's acute needs following an exceptional period of drought, flood shocks and locust outbreaks that have devastated Ethiopia's agriculture, rangelands and water resources. The Appeal was aimed at assisting an initial 500,000 people. Following a further deterioration of the food security in several countries in Africa, the IFRC launched a Regional [Hunger Crisis](#) Emergency Appeal in October 2022. Due to the prolonged and deepening food crisis across the region and an urgent need to sustain and increase resources, the [Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal](#) has been extended until the end of 2024, in order to continue to provide an overarching structure for hunger crisis responses across the continent.

This Revised Regional Emergency Appeal is built on a foundation of strong, national country response plans. Through a series of coordinated activities in the sectors of WASH, cash, health and nutrition, and livelihoods support, it will ensure that National Societies in the region meet the urgent needs of people facing what has been classed as a Red level Emergency in many countries of the region, including in Ethiopia.

The number of people to be assisted under the Revised Regional Emergency Appeal in Ethiopia is 2 million, with an IFRC funding ask of CHF 35.5 million. Ethiopia is one of the East African countries that has experienced four consecutive failed rainy seasons starting from late 2020, followed by severe flooding in the latter part of 2023. This pattern of climatic extremes is unprecedented in its frequency and severity compared to previous years.

The Revised Regional Emergency Appeal is fully aligned with the IFRC's Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative, which informs the long-term food security and livelihood plans of National Societies in Africa.

The IFRC has mobilized a 'Zero Hunger Cell' tasked with overseeing the operational coordination of the Hunger Crisis response across the African continent, and the regional services provided by the IFRC and partners include:

- operations coordination and technical support
- surge deployments
- information management, foresight, and analysis
- regional and global level advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy
- communications and visibility
- Federation-wide planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)
- tailored support to National Societies on implementation, development, and accountability
- resource mobilization, including national resource mobilization plans

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The operation targets the most affected zones in Southern Ethiopia: Oromia, Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ (SNNP) regions. It articulates integrated assistance comprising multipurpose cash, livelihoods, health and care; and water, sanitation and hygiene. It is complemented by protection and prevention interventions comprising protection, gender and inclusion; community engagement and accountability; risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery, environmental sustainability, and education. The highlights of this assistance are:

Multipurpose cash

Ensuring access to food and other basic needs through the provision of multipurpose cash grants to households.

Livelihoods

Affected communities are provided with assistance to recover or strengthen their livelihoods and improve their food security. This includes irrigation schemes and training in agricultural production for farmers.

Health and care

The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced through integrated health services. These include

community-based disease control and health promotion, and training for mothers in infant and young child feeding practices.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Affected communities have increased access to appropriate and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services. These include access to safe drinking water, provision of water treatment chemicals and filters, as well as training on their use; household sanitation and waste disposal practices.

Risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery, environmental sustainability and education

Assistance includes community-based risk reduction, and micro activities and community messaging on environmental conservation and climate hazards.

Cross-cutting approaches: the operational strategy integrates **community engagement and accountability** (CEA) and **protection, gender and inclusion** (PGI) as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities includes the provision of dignity kits, and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms. The strategy emphasizes local voice amplification, collaborative engagement, and transparent communication, extending into **long-term resilience building** through initiatives such as the IFRC Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative.

Emergency 2

Emergency Operation	Sudan Crisis: Regional Population Movement Emergency Appeal
Appeal number	MDRS1001
Duration	19 months: 15 May 2023 to 31 December 2024
People to be assisted	50,000 in Ethiopia
Funding requirement	Total through the IFRC Emergency Appeal: CHF 33.5 million (Federation-wide: Swiss francs 42 million) For Ethiopia: through the IFRC Appeal (CHF 3 million) and Federation-wide (CHF 5 million)
Emergency Appeal	Sudan Crisis Regional Population Movement Emergency Appeal
Link to Ethiopia response	Ethiopia National Society Response Plan: Sudan Crisis Regional Population Movement

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has led to widespread displacement, with over 1.4 million people fleeing active conflict areas to find safety elsewhere in the country or across borders, primarily in Chad, Egypt and South Sudan, but also in Ethiopia, Central African Republic (CAR) and Libya. The situation in Sudan is still very volatile and as the fighting persists, the trend of displacement is likely to continue. Most affected by this crisis are the elderly, women (especially pregnant women)

and children. Among the refugees are many separated and unaccompanied children, as well as people with disabilities and mental health problems. More than 215,000 people were estimated to flee through Ethiopian borders in Amhara or Benishangul-Gumuz regions by end 2023. These include people of other nationalities using the Ethiopia border crossing either as a secondary displacement destination or in transit to third countries.

This Emergency Appeal enables the Ethiopian Red Cross, along with five other National Societies in the region, to respond to the needs of those fleeing the conflict into the country, as well as strengthening the National Society's response capacity and readiness for further influx.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Ethiopian Red Cross is planning to support about 50,000 people, comprising returnees (25,000), asylum seekers (17,500), and the host community (7,500). The targeted population on the move is anticipated to enter through the two border points of Metema and Kurmuk mainly. Humanitarian support will be provided through three approaches:

1. Humanitarian service points (HSP) with integrated support for displaced people in transit
2. Humanitarian assistance for displaced people hosted in camps and other settlements
3. Humanitarian support to returnees

The main sectors of intervention to affected communities are shelter; livelihoods and basic needs (including the use of cash and vouchers); health; and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The strategy will focus on the three core cross-cutting approaches: migration; protection, gender and inclusion (PGI); and community engagement and accountability (CEA).

The response pillars comprise:

Health and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

First Aid, ambulance services for transportation of patients from primary healthcare points to secondary healthcare facilities, health awareness through house-to-house visits, tracing and early detection of communicable diseases of epidemic potential, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) at humanitarian service points.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Improved access to safe water through water trucking, water storage, repairs to water sources, provision of hygiene kits and dignity kits, and hygiene promotion sessions.

Shelter, housing and settlements

Provision of tarpaulins (for construction of emergency shelters) and household items.

Cash and voucher assistance

Three rounds of unconditional multipurpose cash assistance to returnees.

Basic needs and livelihoods

Provision of general food supplies, as well as skills development aimed at reducing food insecurity and increase income.

Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)

This will encompass minimum protection standards including prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and mapping of referral networks; the establishment of separate and safe spaces at humanitarian service points for vulnerable and minority groups including women, adolescents, children (including unaccompanied and separated children), people with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities; and provision of dignity kits.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

Integration into different sectors including design and operations, with a focus on acceptance among host and migrant or displaced communities; establishment of community feedback mechanisms

Migration and displacement

Establishment of fixed and mobile humanitarian service points, referrals for specialized services, and restoring family links to help people reunite or connect with their loved ones.



Climate and environment

Ethiopia's large land area and diverse topography results in different climates across the country as well as temperature and precipitation disparity across its regions.

Average temperatures in Ethiopia have increased by an average of 1°C since 1960, at an average rate of 0.25°C per decade. Increase has been most noticeable from July through September. The average number of 'hot nights' (the hottest 10 per cent of nights annually) increased by 37.5 per cent between 1960 and 2003 and the average number of 'hot days' per year, increased by 20 per cent.

Ethiopia is highly vulnerable to climatic shocks and is one of the most drought-prone countries in the world. The severe drought that began in late 2020 has continued into 2023 with five poor to failed rainy seasons. According to a 2023 drought update, 24 million people in Ethiopia are currently living in drought affected areas and 11 million people are estimated to be food insecure. Moreover about 6.85 million livestock deaths have been reported since late 2021 in the country.

Ethiopia is frequently affected by natural hazards, exacerbated by the growing impact of climate change. A growing body of research, points to a projected surge in extreme weather events and climate-related shocks, exerting an escalating impact on various sectors, notably agricultural production, food security, water management, and public health. Most commonly, seasonal changes cause severe drought or destructive floods. The impact of these crises is immense for a country that relies heavily on its natural resources and a much-needed rainy season to grow its crops and livestock. Recurrent droughts and floods impede the Ethiopian agricultural sector, destroy livestock and ruin livelihoods on a huge scale.

With a growing population and an infrastructure that lacks the capacity to manage natural resources, Ethiopia is struggling to cope with – and recover from – climate and environmental crises. As a result, it experiences soil erosion, deforestation, desertification, the deterioration of land, and the loss of biodiversity and wildlife. Continued urbanization and attempts to grow industry and productivity have also affected Ethiopia's environment and natural resources. This includes the exploitation of forests, lake fisheries and agricultural lands, which in turn have contributed to deforestation, overfishing, and the degradation of agricultural areas and forests, as well as pollution and the unsustainable use of water resources.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to build locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts, to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Society's adopts on a multi hazard effect approach to build community resilience to climate change impacts and environmental degradation. A central cross-cutting theme is hunger reduction and climate action to reduce the vulnerabilities of target communities to cyclic climate shocks. The National Society focuses on rehabilitating degraded land areas to develop stronger resilience against drought.

The National Society also seeks to contribute to climate change mitigation and environmental restoration through nature-based solutions. The Ethiopian Red Cross, in partnership with the government, is leading annual tree planting events to increase tree cover. These events aim to adapt to and mitigate climate change through the planting and care of multi-purpose trees.

To reduce its own environmental footprint, the Ethiopian Red Cross seeks to adopt environmentally friendly practices in all its activities, with emphasis on conservancy and environmentally friendly resource management.

The Ethiopian Red Cross is also engaged in the Water at the Heart of Climate Action (W@H), a new initiative geared towards mitigating the impacts of water-related risks and disasters, and increasing the resilience of vulnerable communities in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. This initiative promotes a combination of early warning and early action measures that support integrated water management in vulnerable communities. The W@H programme has five technical areas, of which four are foundational pillars of an early warning system:

- Water-related risk knowledge and governance
- Observations, monitoring and forecasting of weather and water-related events

- Water specific early warning systems dissemination and communication
- Anticipatory action and locally led adaptation
- Crosscutting activities

Planned activities in 2024

- Support community early warning systems in collaboration with the Ethiopian government
 - Provide practical early warning and early action training to vulnerable community members, with due consideration to vulnerable women, landless and youth on forecast and applicability of advisories
 - Increase awareness of climate change adaptation in vulnerable communities, such as on adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices, ecosystem conservation, improvement of soil fertility, and improvement of the use of forest resources
 - Support planting of drought-resilient seedlings, construction of rainwater harvesting ponds for agro-pastoral communities, and support pasture management skills and activities
 - Organize tree planting events with communities, volunteers, schools and institutions
 - Establish school environmental clubs to foster youth engagement as agents of change
 - Ensuring integration of climate risk management across all operations and programmes
 - Facilitate climate-related risk mapping
 - Profile [community vulnerability](#) to inform planning and implementation of mitigation measures
 - Capacity building of staff and volunteers on nature-based solutions
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Ethiopian Red Cross in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, in ensuring integration of climate risk management across all operations and programmes, and in building the capacity of staff and volunteers. The IFRC will support the National Society in designing programmes that contribute to IFRC's Pan-African Tree Planting and Care initiative, comprising the establishment of tree nurseries, combatting desertification, conservation of water catchments, and contributing to water, food and livelihood security. It will also support the National Society in promotional and advocacy efforts, aimed at Government agencies, private sector, and the public, about diverse nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation, in line with the Tree Planting and Care initiative.

In August 2023, IFRC approved a [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) Early Action Protocol](#) for drought, in support of future assistance provided by the Ethiopian Red Cross to affected communities. The protocol, valid for five years, will enable the National Society to support up to 70,000 people with anticipatory action based on forecasts. The available funding of about CHF 500,000 from IFRC's DREF covers preparedness, readiness and anticipatory action costs.

The **Austrian Red Cross** and **Netherlands Red Cross** have supported climate change adaptation related interventions that will be extended or enhanced in 2024.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support the National Society in anticipatory action.

The **German Red Cross** will provide support the National Society in anticipatory action and forecast-based financing.

The **Netherlands Red Cross**, alongside the Netherlands government, will continue to provide financial support to the National Society for the Water at Heart initiative.

The **Swiss Red Cross** has supported anticipatory actions. It will continue to do so in 2024.



Disasters and crises

Ethiopia is increasingly vulnerable to natural hazards, which have an impact on the country's population. Hazards include droughts, flash floods, river floods, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. The [INFORM Country Risk Profile](#) ranks Ethiopia's risk of humanitarian crisis and disaster as very high.

Drought in Ethiopia has been a recurring and devastating phenomenon, profoundly impacting the lives of its people. With the country heavily dependent on rain-fed agriculture, prolonged periods of water scarcity have led to crop failures,

food shortages, and a vicious cycle of poverty. As a result, malnutrition rates have risen, particularly among vulnerable populations.

Floods in Ethiopia have also brought about significant challenges, leaving a lasting impact on its people. Intense rainfall and overflowing rivers often result in widespread destruction, damaging homes, infrastructure, and agricultural lands. Displacement becomes a common occurrence as communities are forced to evacuate to higher grounds,

leaving behind their belongings and livelihoods. Food scarcity worsens as crops are destroyed, exacerbating the vulnerability of already impoverished populations.

Conflict and violence has also continued in the country, impeding humanitarian access and driving high needs and displacement. The security situation in Amhara deteriorated mid-2023 and will likely remain volatile amid ongoing hostilities between troops of the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (ENDF) and local militias known as FANO. Inter-communal violence in several regions also continues to trigger displacement and ensuing humanitarian needs (OCHA, 2023).

Less frequent yet also posing local risks to life and buildings are volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Part of the East African Rift runs through the centre of the country, creating seismic activity, and Ethiopia has a number of active volcanoes.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross is a key first responder to the multiple emergencies affecting the country and provides multi-faceted assistance to people affected. It is well equipped to respond to disaster situations. It has a roster of national disaster response team members, and branch disaster response teams' presence across the country. An emergency operations centre located at the headquarters in Addis Ababa supports communication and coordination with branches. To increase its capacity to rapidly address emergencies, the National Society is strengthening its disaster response teams, search and rescue teams, and emergency operations centres.

As part of its disaster risk management approach, spanning prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, the National Society focuses on shifting decision-making to the most local level, placing communities at the centre of their resilience building. This is reflected in the Ethiopian Red Cross strong community-led and community-based programmes.

The Ethiopian Red Cross seeks to increase efforts to combat food insecurity in Ethiopia. In addition to the IFRC Emergency Appeal on Hunger Crisis, its proposed Ethiopia food and nutrition resilience programme is based on a partnership framework between the IFRC and African Union (AU). It is co-created by the Government of Ethiopia along with the IFRC and Ethiopian Red Cross. The programme aims to reach 15 million people over five years, with a funding requirement of USD 5 billion. There are three key and mutually reinforcing thematic priorities that address the multiple drivers of food insecurity, livelihood support and water management, environmental sustainability and community health and nutrition.

The National Society also continues to respond to the needs of people affected by the [Tigray crisis](#), through its Ethiopia North recovery and resilience programme. This programme is informed by evidence obtained through assessments, extensive desk review and key informant interviews with

humanitarian workers in Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions. The National Society aims to support 2.6 million people for five years, with an integrated multi-sector approach combining humanitarian emergency support, and recovery and community resilience building. This programme will require CHF 200 million to fully achieve its objectives.

Planned activities in 2024

- Expand collaboration with community-based organizations for risk identification and mapping, [vulnerability, impact and capacity assessments](#), and mitigation
- Support at-risk communities to develop robust contingency plans
- Implement and support [early warning and early action](#) initiatives with at-risk communities in both urban and rural contexts
- Set up structures to support with information sharing, early action, monitoring and evaluation for an end-to-end early warning system
- Train community watch teams to report on early warning related to disaster and climate risks
- Respond timely to emergencies as they arise
- Achieve sustainable, integrated livelihood programmes that guarantee food security and household income among vulnerable individuals and communities
- Further enhance cash modalities as safety nets, including through multiple instalments according to the seasonal calendar, skills training, and linkages to social protection systems
- Strengthen cash preparedness for implementation and scale-up of [cash and voucher assistance \(CVA\), including for anticipatory action](#)
- Increase stock prepositioning, including for household items

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Ethiopian Red Cross to achieve sustainable, integrated livelihood programmes that guarantee food security and household income among vulnerable individuals and communities. This will include innovative economic empowerment through mobilizing community structures, and seed funding for business activity start-ups, in line with the IFRC Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative. The IFRC will also support the National Society in its implementation of early warning and early action initiatives, strengthening its cash preparedness and specific components its response system, such as contingency, response and business continuity planning, and development of response teams. The IFRC will

also support the National Society in implementing effective disaster-related laws.

The IFRC will continue to support timely review and processing of IFRC DREF and Appeal requests. The IFRC provided a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation in December 2023, in support of the Ethiopian Red Cross' assistance to 53,000 people affected by floods in the Afar, Oromia, Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' (SNNP) regions. The National Society is supporting the targeted communities over a three-month period with CHF 487,000 in funding from the IFRC's DREF. In September 2023, the IFRC provided a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation, in support of the Ethiopian Red Cross' assistance to 64,725 people affected by civil unrest in the Amhara region. The National Society is supporting the targeted communities over a six-month period with CHF 686,000 in funding from the IFRC's DREF.

The **Austrian Red Cross** aims to continue supporting the National Society's responses to the food crisis and humanitarian emergencies throughout the country on a bilateral and multilateral basis.

The **Canadian Red Cross** will aim to continue partnering with the National Society bilaterally and multilaterally to support in areas of humanitarian response.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support the National Society in disaster management including emergency operation centres, early action planning and preparedness.

The **Finnish Red Cross** aims to support the strengthening of the National Society's disaster risk management capacity.

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society in readiness and capacity building in logistics through renovations and construction of the warehouse and prepositioning of non-food items.

The **Italian Red Cross** aims to provide particular support to the National Society in its response during and after the conflict in the north of the country.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** aims to support the National Society in strengthening community resilience with a multi-sectoral approach. Urgent needs are also addressed through emergency response interventions wherein resilience is built in a nexus approach.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** focuses its support to the National Society on addressing the needs of people affected by multiple crises.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will support the National Society in enhancing the living conditions of vulnerable population groups with a humanitarian aid, development and peace nexus lens. The Swiss Red Cross has continued to be strongly engaged with the Ethiopian Red Cross in responding to recurring disasters, especially in flood and drought responses and displacement.



Health and wellbeing

Primary health concerns in Ethiopia include maternal mortality, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. These health challenges are further exacerbated by acute malnutrition and lack of access to clean water and sanitation. The limited number of health institutions, inefficient distribution of medical supplies and disparity between rural and urban areas, due to severe under-funding of the health sector, make access to health-care services very difficult.

Flood waters have also worsened the risk of water-borne diseases such as cholera, amongst a population weakened by high rates of malnutrition. The cholera caseload has doubled since January 2023. Of those affected, 50 per cent are women, while close to 3.3M people are at high-risk amidst low water supply coverage and limited vaccines as of March 2023 (OCHA, 2023).

Infectious diseases including malaria and measles are of public health concern. The number of malaria cases in Amhara stood at a total of 11,000 as of March 2023. This included IDPs at sites

which continue to receive influxes of people, exacerbating the malaria conditions due to overcrowding.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross plays a significant role in the health sector, with activities spanning community-based health and first aid, pre-hospital care, primary healthcare and water, sanitation and hygiene services. As part of the Ethiopian Government's efforts to combat COVID-19, the National Society deployed 25,000 staff and volunteers who conducted house-to-house detections, screenings and handwashing demonstrations – as well as distributing information about epidemic control measures and the importance of vaccination. The Ethiopian Red Cross has a fleet of 562 ambulances that are strategically located in different areas to respond to emergencies. Additionally, the National Society has a functional network of 50 pharmacies and drug outlets

across 12 regions, offering thousands of people medicines at affordable prices.

The Ethiopian Red Cross four main health high-level objectives comprise:

- **Support and promote disease prevention:** this will focus on prevention of the top ten diseases that are affecting the general population and children under five. This includes diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, pneumonia, measles, cholera, and meningitis. It will also focus on maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, non-communicable disease among the ageing population and psychosocial care among vulnerable groups.
 - **Strengthening primary health care:** this will focus on strengthening health care at household, community, and primary health care facility level. The National Society trained volunteers will be tasked to create awareness on major health problems, as well as promote timely health seeking behavior. The Ethiopian Red Cross, by working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other relevant sector ministries, will strengthen the capacity of health system to deliver quality care.
 - **Implement WASH and nutrition intervention:** primarily focusing on promoting hygiene (focusing on the five hygiene domains) and sanitation following Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTSH+) approaches in the communities. The National Society will also complement the government's efforts in ensuring access to safe water by constructing and rehabilitating water facilities, strengthening water management committees as well as by promoting household water treatment. Nutrition education and promotion, promotion of fortified food items to address micro and macro nutrition deficiencies, kitchen garden will be an important component of this action.
 - **Scale up community-based health and care interventions:** community-based approaches will be used to facilitate scaling up of interventions that contribute to disease prevention and health promotion. Integration and mainstreaming of interventions will be sought after to promote linkage among the various actions of the National Society.
- Provide adequate care, support, and referral services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies
 - Roll out innovative multi-channel approaches to engage communities in promoting targeted healthy, positive, and safe behaviours
 - Contribute to efforts to achieve and sustain national immunization targets, and promote fair and equitable access to new vaccines
 - Expand the reach, quality, and modalities of the National Society's first aid activities, including further developing commercial first aid
 - Run the ambulance service
 - Provide communities and key structures improved access to adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene services in emergency settings
 - Promote and measure community awareness of pandemics and epidemics, including cholera under the IFRC One WASH Initiative
 - Provide access to appropriate menstrual hygiene management and incontinence materials, soap (for bathing, laundry, and handwashing), and other hygiene items packs
 - Construct inclusive public latrines, rehabilitate other latrines, and provide financial support for maintenance and community-led construction
 - Work with schools and health centres to establish water storage, distribution systems, latrines, disinfection materials and handwashing stations
 - Install showers and waste disposal units in health centres,
 - Set up new school WASH clubs to promote best WASH practice
 - Run hygiene awareness campaigns – using mobile vans, radio spots and loudspeakers, mass sanitation campaigns, and leverage the celebration of major events such as World Handwashing Day
 - Network and link with other actors such as on health, nutrition, immunization, and public health

Planned activities in 2024

- Build the capacity of communities to prevent and respond to health threats, such as drought, floods, and disease outbreaks
- Provide mental health and psychosocial support to people affected by conflict, disaster, and other traumatic events

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will network with other actors such as Global Health Security Agenda, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, WHO and the African Union, and support the National Society in further defining its health and WASH strategy. The IFRC will support the National Society in building the capacity of communities to prevent and respond to health threats, and in improving the quality and availability of health

services, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Support will also be provided to the Ethiopian Red Cross in providing mental health and psychosocial support to people affected by conflict, disaster, and other traumatic events.

The IFRC will support the National Society in its resource mobilization efforts towards promoting low-cost sanitation approaches and technologies. It will support the National Society in improving community access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene and in participating in cholera response activities including participation in sub-national cholera hotspot mapping exercises.



Migration and displacement

Ethiopia faces fluid migration flows and is a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants. More than 800,000 Ethiopians are estimated to have left the country in the past five years, often moving irregularly, in search of economic opportunities, fleeing conflict and violence and linked to extreme drought conditions. Gulf States have become a major destination for a growing number of Ethiopian migrant workers, and large diaspora communities from the subregion have resulted in significant international remittance inflows in recent years. The government is committed to support the return of migrant workers in difficult situations and working on agreements with host countries. Ethiopians trapped into conflicts in neighbouring countries such as Somalia and Sudan and returning to their country also face an array of challenges.

Most international migrants in Ethiopia are citizens of Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Eritrea. They leave their country for a majority due to armed conflicts and their consequences on living conditions of living and economic situation. A number of migrants from Eritrea and Somalia use Ethiopia as a transit to reach the Middle East and Europe, while Ethiopia hosts more than 820,000 asylum seekers, making Ethiopia the second-largest host country in Africa. Almost half of the asylum seekers are women and girls, and 59 per cent are children. Humanitarian camps in border areas are the privileged solution for their accommodation, however the country's capital Addis Ababa counts with a number of urban refugees. The outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan in April 2023 has led to a new influx of people into Ethiopia, mostly crossing the border in Metema (Amhara Region) and Kumruk and Guba (Benishangul Gumuz region). The refugees are hosted in a newly established camp (Kumar), a transit camp in Metema (Amhara), and the existing refugee camps in Benishangul Gumuz, however, the camps face overcrowding (see also under ongoing emergency response section).

The **Austrian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross** will also be supporting the National Society in health and WASH-related interventions. The **Austrian Red Cross**, in particular, is providing long-term strategic support to the Ethiopian Red Cross in development projects, such as the ADA Strategic Partnership Skybird, in order to build local communities' WASH capacities through a gender-transformative approach.

There are three main migration routes in Ethiopia:

- **Eastern route:** this route is the primary channel for irregular migrants heading to Middle East countries and saw over 400,000 Ethiopians reach the Arabian Peninsula between 2017 and early 2020 (Africa Renewal 22/05/2020). Women dominate this migration, with half a million annually heading to the region via Djibouti and Yemen. The route poses life-threatening challenges and the risk of forced deportation; over half a million Ethiopians have been deported from Saudi Arabia since 2017, imposing severe psychological and economic burdens.
- **Northern route:** the Northern Route encompasses the 'Central Mediterranean Route,' used by migrants to reach Europe, via the Mediterranean Sea through Libya and the Sinai route, utilized by those aiming for Israel through Egypt. Migrants from Ethiopia and other Horn of Africa countries transit through Sudan, Egypt, and Libya. Hazards on this route include the perilous Mediterranean Sea crossing and protection threats in Libya.
- **Southern route:** Widely used by migrants heading to South Africa through Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, and Mozambique, this route entails challenges such as detention, exposure to wildlife and fatalities due to inadequate transportation. Migrants, whether in transit or upon return, need support such as protection, healthcare, sanitation, shelter, non-food items, information aid, restoring family links (RFL) services and social and economic re-integration.

Ethiopia was among the first countries globally to implement the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. The Government made nine pledges at the Leaders' Summit in

New York in 2016 and reformed the country's legal and policy framework. A key milestone was the adoption and implementation of the [Refugee Proclamation in 2019](#), one of the most progressive refugee laws on the continent, which enables refugees to live and work in Ethiopia, as well as access to social services.

In Ethiopia, an [estimated 4.5 million people](#) are internally displaced mostly by conflict and intercommunal violence, and also by disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. This represents a [slight decrease from the 5.1 million recorded in 2021 when escalating conflict in northern regions, and particularly Tigray, pushed the figure to an all-time high.](#)

The government has developed the Ethiopia Durable Solutions Initiative, which provides a principled operational framework and platform to design and implement durable solutions in support of internally displaced persons and host communities at locations of return, relocation, or local integration. In addition, Ethiopia has ratified the Kampala Convention, which recognizes the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross is part of the IFRC's three-year [Global Route Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually, through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points (2) strengthening National Society capacities, and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The National Society seeks to support empowerment for migrants, displaced persons, and their communities in addressing migration related vulnerabilities through humanitarian action and community-based resilience building and advocating for their rights. It works to operationalize its migration strategy, which includes mainstreaming migration dimensions in humanitarian activities, providing support for durable solutions, and developing tools and methodologies to support migrants and displaced persons in all stages of emergency response. The National Society will ensure protection services are provided through engagement with communities and other relevant partners organizations.

Planned activities in 2024

- Work to establish stationary and mobile [Humanitarian Service Points](#) along the migratory routes
- Support migrants and displaced persons victims of violence, including gender-based violence, by providing

psychosocial support, referral pathways, and economic opportunities through start-ups

- Establish a responsive community engagement and feedback mechanism
- Mobilize host communities for peaceful coexistence and reintegration of migrants and displaced persons
- Integrate protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in all migration service activities, using IFRC [PGI minimum standards](#) in emergencies
- Develop migration and displacement-related standard operating procedures, tools and methodologies for preparedness, response and recovery interventions
- Conduct advocacy and engagement with public authorities and other stakeholders to ensure the protection of and access to services for migrants and displaced persons
- Facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships to address the needs of immigrants and IDPs

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society's efforts to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced people. This includes providing access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and water and sanitation; protecting them from violence and exploitation; and helping them to rebuild their lives. Support to promoting understanding and tolerance between migrants and host communities includes raising awareness of the challenges faced by migrants and displaced people and encouraging communities to welcome and support them.

The IFRC will support the National Society's initiatives focusing on protection and assistance along African migration routes, using humanitarian service points, and explore opportunities for relevant integration or capacity development. This includes support for advocacy on the rights of migrants and displaced people, working with governments and other stakeholders.

The **Austrian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross** and **Swiss Red Cross** will help link the National Society with strategic partners to support its main priorities on migration and displacement. Since 2022, the **Austrian Red Cross** and **Canadian Red Cross** have supported the Ethiopian Red Cross to address the needs of 110,000 internally displaced people and people otherwise affected by violence in the Tigray region through multipurpose cash assistance, emergency medical assistance and strengthening of branch capacity. This support will continue until March 2024.

The National Society also works closely with the **ICRC** on migration and displacement.



Values, power and inclusion

The compounding crises in Ethiopia – from floods to conflicts – have severely affected 30 million people, of which more than 12.4 million are children. The most vulnerable populations include women and children living in conflict areas, where there is inadequate access to basic services such as health and sanitation, and a lack of social welfare and justice. Despite the cessation of hostilities in Tigray and the peace agreement, civilians continue to face human rights violations. Migrants, displaced, asylum seekers and refugees face heightened protection risks.

As the humanitarian needs in Ethiopia remain unrelenting, women and girls continue to face an increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), ([UNFPA February 2023](#)). This led to an increase in people in need of SGBV services, estimated at 6.7 million people in 2023 across the affected regions, from 3.5 million in 2021. Ethiopia is reported as a country with a burgeoning human trafficking problem in the form of forced adult and child labour and sex, organ harvesting, and domestic servitude. Multiple layers of structural disadvantages rooted in gender inequalities in the family and society are making women and girls more vulnerable to human trafficking.

Ethiopia is facing a severe crisis caused by food, fuel, and finance challenges, which have [disproportionately affected older people](#) with specific needs. Limited savings, restricted access to credit and lack of social protection worsen their situation.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross promotes of positive change for humanity, based on humanitarian values and principles. The National Society works to develop a youth structure and enhance school [youth programming](#) with increased investment and targeting the more underserved areas of the country.

The Ethiopian Red Cross also promotes the protection of people, their dignity and contributions for resilience and peaceful environments. It is working to ensure protection, gender-sensitive programming and inclusion (PGI), and strong safeguarding practices. The National Society applies community engagement and accountability (CEA) in its overall action, including by deploying feedback mechanisms.

Planned activities in 2024

- Promote the initiatives and activities of the youth structure
- Provide vocational training and job placement services for young people

- Develop community-based information, education, and communication initiatives on protection, gender and inclusion
- Ensure that all operations consider dignity, access, participation, and safety for all people affected
- Implement prevention and response to SGBV in all operations and ensure existing PGI policies are implemented
- Continue to map out combined sexual and gender-based violence and child protection referral pathways, and ensuring referral pathways to health, psychosocial support, protection, and legal and case management services
- Continue to implement and develop community feedback mechanisms
- Provide essential basic and menstrual hygiene items to displaced women and girls
- Provide menstrual hygiene facilities and establish girl-friendly spaces in secondary schools.
- Engage school clubs in the promotion of hygiene, peace and disability inclusion Strengthen partnerships to support awareness campaigns that prevent female genital mutilation, child marriage, and sexual and gender-based violence
- Partner with the regional disability association to provide basic mobility aids such as wheelchairs, point sticks and hand crutches, along with disability access facilities, including ramps, accessible material and interpretation services

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to apply the [IFRC PGI policy](#) and [PGI minimum standards on protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies](#). It will support the National Society on safeguarding, referral pathways and in its development of community-based information, education, and communication initiatives. The IFRC will support the National Society through the implementation of a community engagement and accountability (CEA) performance measurement framework. This framework will include clear benchmarks to ensure consistency and alignment with international commitments, such as the 'Core Humanitarian Standard for Quality and Accountability'. The IFRC will also support youth programmes.

The **Austrian Red Cross**, **Finnish Red Cross** and **Swiss Red Cross** will also support the National Society in youth engagement, and protection, gender and inclusion, according to its priorities.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Ethiopian Red Cross is committed towards institutional strengthening and has twice carried out the self-assessment section of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process, first in 2011 and later in 2014. That part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, and ultimately take necessary action to improve them.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Participate in national-level coordination platforms for disaster risk management
- Participate in IFRC network/Movement-coordinated fora to improve efficiency in its planning
- Strengthen IFRC membership coordination mechanisms, including shared leadership initiatives and country support mechanisms for peer support
- Enhance resource mobilization efforts, with a focus on bolstering domestic fundraising capacity by revising the existing strategy, developing a business plan, analyzing the local humanitarian landscape, exploring investment opportunities and attracting partnerships

Based on its strategic plan for 2020–2025, the Ethiopian Red Cross worked with its partners to create a National Society development road map with a countrywide focus. The road map aligns the National Society with Ethiopia's development priorities, and Movement partners have indicated which areas they are interested in supporting. There are six priorities identified in the National Society development road map:

- Branch development
- Membership and volunteer development
- Financial sustainability
- Partnerships and resource development
- Human resources and leadership development
- Digitalization, image building and communications

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC, in collaboration with participating National Societies, will provide the following support:

- Provide funding to support its strategic and operational coordination activities
- Facilitate opportunities to participate in knowledge sharing and peer learning

The IFRC provides technical support to the National Society for the development of multi-year and sustainable partnerships with different stakeholders and partners (such as multilateral partners, international financial institutions, international private sector). This targets funding only available to international organizations, piloting innovative and social financing partnerships, and digital global fundraising campaigns to mobilize resources.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue doing assessments of four branches, deriving branch development plans to better address service delivery and branch sustainability gaps in their systems and of their services to ensure a robust branch network and effective branch response
- Improve financial sustainability through investment in the three pillars of accountability and systems development; resources mobilization; vision and mandate
- Strengthen youth, volunteers, and young community-based drivers of change to contribute to decision-making, innovation and strengthening the domestic network
- Strengthen mechanisms to protect volunteers, promote psychosocial wellbeing, and provide greater support to those killed or injured in the line of duty, and their families
- Actively engage in and seek support from Red Cross Red Crescent Movement-coordinated funds to align with National Society development (NSD) priorities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

- The IFRC, in collaboration with participating National Societies, will provide the following support: Assist in the development of governance structures by providing training, induction, and access to relevant tools necessary
- Aid in the National Society's developmental pursuits, with the objective of solidifying its role as a reliable partner of choice in local humanitarian endeavours
- Expand resource provision for investment through mechanisms such as the [National Society Investment Alliance](#), the [Capacity Building Fund](#), and the Empress Fund
- Explore innovative approaches to funding, ensuring a diverse range of resources for the various development initiatives



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen outreach to donors and diplomatic missions to establish a prominent engagement with the UN and other relevant stakeholders
- Collaborate with government-led initiatives addressing climate resilience, drought response, social safety nets, and food security

- Formulate communication strategies focused on creating content regarding Ethiopia's hunger crisis, the food and nutrition resilience programme, and other initiatives
- Ensure advocacy and campaign messages are geared towards mobilizing resources to support operational endeavours

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC, in collaboration with participating National Societies, will support the enhancement of the National Society's capabilities to facilitate active engagement within the global network.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Enhance the financial management system, focusing on improving reporting, templates, and review procedures between the Ethiopian Red Cross and Movement partners to guarantee real-time data availability and periodic reviews
- Develop and implement a comprehensive risk management framework, including the creation of a current risk register, to effectively manage operational risks
- Implement digital data collection applications and analysis platforms to effectively manage operational information, including cash and voucher assistance (CVA), community engagement and accountability (CEA),

and planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

- Shift from traditional project design and support to fostering a community-driven innovation framework
- Implement automated accountability mechanisms with transparent feedback channels
- Integrate performance management with staff development initiatives and enhance efforts in gender, diversity and inclusion

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC, in collaboration with participating National Societies, will support the National Society on accountability and agility through aligned National Society development support. The IFRC helps the National Society to ensure organizational risk management, addressing risk management culture at all levels.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC re-established its presence in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2021 with a country cluster delegation which also covers Djibouti. The IFRC provides support to the National Society in its delivery of services and advocacy on behalf of vulnerable people, and the strengthening of its capacity. The IFRC facilitates international support to the National Society's emergency response activities, coordinates the membership and supports the network's global and regional initiatives. It provides wider humanitarian diplomacy in

international circles on the situation in Ethiopia and the action of the National Society. IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, IFRC has supported the Ethiopian Red Cross through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations in relation to population movement, civil unrest and elections preparedness, drought, floods, disease outbreaks and food insecurity.

IFRC Membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action,

development assistance, and efforts to reinforce the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Ethiopian Red Cross is part of four IFRC Pan-African Initiatives focusing on tree planting and care; Zero Hunger; Red Ready; and National Society development. The IFRC Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal promotes a Federation-wide approach towards the emergency response, inclusive of all participating National Societies present in southern Ethiopia.

It builds on their expertise, capacities and resources as active members in the targeted areas.

In addition to IFRC members channelling overall support to sister National Societies through the IFRC, participating National Societies providing long-term support to the Ethiopian Red Cross and with a presence in Ethiopia are the following:

The **Austrian Red Cross** has been supporting the Ethiopian Red Cross through bilateral cooperation, joining forces with other participating National Societies, engaging with other Austrian humanitarian organizations with the Ethiopian Red Cross. The Austrian Red Cross also hosts the Canadian Red Cross with a bilateral agreement and supports one project in Amhara.

The **Canadian Red Cross**, together with the Government of Canada (Global Affairs Canada), supports the strategic leadership of Ethiopian Red Cross in its response to conflict, climate-related disasters, and health emergencies.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the Ethiopian Red Cross with a focus on migration and resilience, social cohesion, mental health and psychosocial support, non-communicable diseases, and disaster preparedness and humanitarian response implemented in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz and in drought affected areas in the south of the country.

The **Finnish Red Cross** cooperates on long-term development projects, emergency response and National Society development. It currently implements activities with the Ethiopian Red Cross through bilateral cooperation in Afar and Oromia. The Finnish Red Cross funding supports the Afar regional branch's staffing, as well as activities focusing on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), branch capacity development, and strengthening disaster risk management capacity. This is part of a three-year project that will run until 2025. The Finnish Red Cross is also working with the Ethiopian Red Cross on the Oromia drought response including WASH, PGI and capacity building.

The **German Red Cross** is in the process of developing its strategy that will guide international operations. Currently, German Red Cross operations in Ethiopia are informed by the 3-year plan (2023 -2025) and the 3-year German Red Cross-Africa Roadmap. The priority geographical location

is Benishangul-Gumuz. However, the German Red Cross maintains flexibility to support immediate emergencies throughout the country, if needed. The German Red Cross has supported the Ethiopian Red Cross in readiness and capacity building in logistics through renovations and construction of a warehouse, pre-positioning of non-food items, budget support for human resources, and review of manuals, among other things. Additionally, the German Red Cross is offering the Ethiopian Red Cross support in food security and livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and forecast-based financing. The German Red Cross has funding of €1m secured for 2024 and the same amount for 2025. Additional funding-raising efforts are underway, especially the support for National Society development and the North Recovery and Resilience programme.

The **Italian Red Cross** has been working with the Ethiopian Red Cross in three areas, namely, the response during and after the conflict in the north of the country, in migration (in partnership with the Danish Red Cross) and in health.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** supports emergency health and WASH, water management, nature-based solutions, integrated risk management and disaster preparedness for response.









































The **Norwegian Red Cross** entered into a bilateral partnership agreement with the Ethiopian Red Cross for the 2023 period. The overarching goal of the partnership is to improve the health and protection of the most vulnerable people affected by conflict, crises and climate change.

The **Swiss Red Cross** has a formal partnership with the Ethiopian Red Cross for three projects in 2023: anticipatory action in Moyale; emergency drought response in Borena (Yabelo); and a community preparedness and resilience intervention in five branches (Dire Dawa, Jimma, Moyale, Wolayita, Yabello / Borena). In 2024, the Swiss Red Cross will continue its support to the Ethiopian Red Cross in its hunger crisis response, anticipatory action, and community preparedness and resilience. It will also increase its support to specific ongoing sectors such as WASH in schools, community health and non-communicable diseases. The Swiss Red Cross also supports the Ethiopian Red Cross in National Society development, in particular, branch development, finance (anti-fraud and anti-corruption and grant management), resource mobilization, governance and leadership (humanitarian diplomacy and branch leadership).



9 July 2023, Ethiopian Red Cross volunteers providing first aid support at Metema crossing point on the Sudan-Ethiopia border (Source: Ethiopian Red Cross)

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Austrian Red Cross	2.7M						
British Red Cross	1.8M						
Canadian Red Cross Society	560,000						
Danish Red Cross	3.1M						
Finnish Red Cross	2.9M						
German Red Cross	1.2M						
Italian Red Cross	710,000						
Netherlands Red Cross	5.4M						
Norwegian Red Cross	492,000						
Swiss Red Cross	2.3M						

Total Funding requirement

21.1M

Movement coordination

The coordination and cooperation of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Ethiopia is governed by a Movement coordination agreement, and the Ethiopian Red Cross plays a central role in this regard. Platforms are organised at three levels: the strategic Movement platform where the heads of the Ethiopian Red Cross, IFRC and ICRC meet quarterly for strategic decisions, the Movement operations coordination platform where all partners relevantly attend monthly under the leadership of Ethiopia Red Cross, and specific technical task teams (such as on emergency operations, security, communications, National Society Development) meeting on ad hoc basis. These are carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

In Ethiopia, the ICRC supports conflict and violence-affected people with food and essential items, helps to establish livelihoods and incomes, builds and maintains water-supply systems, provides health structures with medical supplies, visits detainees, reunites separated families due to conflict, provides physical rehabilitation, and promotes international humanitarian law (IHL). For many of these activities, ICRC work closely with the Ethiopian Red Cross. The ICRC's delegation to the African Union highlights humanitarian issues, promotes IHL throughout Africa and raises awareness of the ICRC's work on the continent.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Ethiopian Red Cross coordinates with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission in the planning and implementation of emergency response actions, and together, they lead the national early warning task force and cash working group. The National Society is a member of the National Operations Centre. It is also part of the humanitarian country team and participates in inter-agency working group meetings which focus on cash, food security, nutrition, emergency shelter and non-food items, protection and education.

There are many international organizations responding to the drought and food insecurity in Ethiopia. They operate under robust strategy and planning coordination measures, as set out by the Federal Government and regional governments. The authorities have also developed a drought response plan, which serves as the basis for partner engagement

in emergency, recovery and resilience-building activities. The Ethiopian Red Cross is part of the government lead food security and nutrition resilience program framework, and based on the government's priorities has developed initiatives such as the Ethiopia North rebuilding plan, scaling up of the drought crisis response, and a food security and resilience plan.

In 2023, the Ethiopian Red Cross continued to form partnerships with external partners. Most of the funding received was focused on community services as opposed to National Society development. Nevertheless, these opportunities have increased the National Society's financial capacity in delivering humanitarian services across the country and increased its network of partnerships in the country. Current partners include the UNICEF, OFDA/USAID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), Global Alliance and local banks.



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.

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](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the Ethiopian Red Cross, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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