



PAKISTAN

2024 IFRC network country plan

27 February 2024

Funding Requirement **CHF 38.8M**

In support of the Pakistan Red Crescent



62

National Society branches



664

National Society staff



5,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



1,000,000

Ongoing emergency operations



38,000

Climate and environment



149,000

Disasters and crises



241,000

Health and wellbeing



76,000

Migration and displacement



47,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Monsoon floods

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and resilience
 - Climate change adaptation
 - Health and well being
 - Migration and displacement
- #### Capacity development
- Disaster preparedness
 - Protection, gender and inclusion
 - Community engagement and accountability
 - National Society development

Key country data

Population **235.8M**

INFORM Severity rating **High**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **High**

Human Development Index rank **161**

Population below poverty level **21.9%**

Hazards



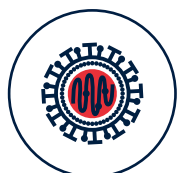
Earthquakes



Drought



Floods



Epidemics



Population movement

Funding requirements

Total 38.8M CHF

Through the IFRC

10.8M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **2M** CHF

Host National Society

→ **34,000** CHF

IFRC Breakdown

26M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

746,000 CHF

Climate and environment

6.3M CHF

Disasters and crises

1.5M CHF

Health and wellbeing

733,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

838,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

683,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

Australian Red Cross*

Austrian Red Cross*

British Red Cross

Bulgarian Red Cross*

Canadian Red Cross Society*

Red Cross Society of China*

Danish Red Cross*

Finnish Red Cross*

French Red Cross*

German Red Cross

Irish Red Cross Society*

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Korean Red Cross*

Kuwait Red Crescent Society*

Liechtenstein Red Cross*

Luxembourg Red Cross*

Red Cross of Monaco*

The Netherlands Red Cross*

New Zealand Red Cross*

Norwegian Red Cross

Singapore Red Cross Society*

Swedish Red Cross*

Swiss Red Cross*

Turkish Red Crescent

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

IFRC Appeal codes

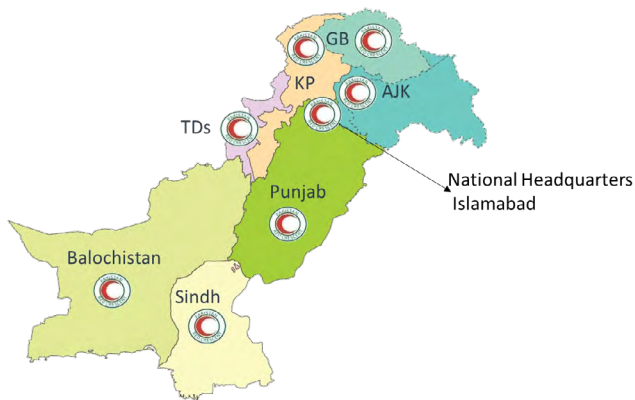
Ongoing emergency response:

MDRPK023

Longer-term needs:

MAAPK002

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE



Pakistan Red Crescent: Headquarters and Provincial Branches

The **Pakistan Red Crescent** was established by an Act of Parliament in 1947 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1948. It is the largest humanitarian organization in Pakistan, with a mandate to act as an auxiliary to public authorities in various fields, including emergency response, health, and blood donation.

With its seven provincial/state branches, 62 district branches and a roster of 5,000 active volunteers, the National Society has an active presence nationwide. It is engaged in the country's disaster management mechanisms and coordinates at national, provincial and district levels with disaster management authorities. The National Society's presence in local communities and its record of past operational response enables it to enjoy widespread community acceptance. It is able to access areas nationwide and deploy its rapid response personnel in emergency-afflicted areas. It reached four million people with relief and recovery support, over 344,000 people through health programming, and almost 70,000 people through development and disaster risk reduction initiatives.

People receiving hot meals reached 200,000, 61,000 people benefitted from immunization services, and 32,000 people were trained in first aid.

The National Society strategic framework 2021-2025 identifies priority in its four main areas of work as follows:

- Disaster management - disaster response focusing on cash and voucher assistance, forecast-based financing, emergency ambulance services across the country
- Health - expanded blood collection network, continuity of immunisation services, first aid trainings on humanitarian and commercial basis, community-based health care services and mobile health clinics in emergencies
- Social services - network of food banks across the country, shelter services
- Restoring family links and migration services - strengthening detention services across the country, unified restoring family links strategies, code of conduct on data privacy

The framework also outlines priorities on humanitarian service excellence, National Society core development, sustainability and for its legal framework.

The Pakistan Red Crescent work is supported by strong finance, logistics, procurement, information technology and transport departments. The Pakistan Red Crescent has a central warehouse at Haripur, with preparedness stocks strategically located across various geographic points in the provinces. Additionally, each branch is equipped with its own warehouse, and there are two national headquarters' warehouses. The National Society has expanded its fleet capacity recently for the smooth implementation of field activities, especially during emergencies.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Pakistan is the fifth most populous country in the world. It shares land borders with India, Afghanistan, Iran and China, and a maritime border with Oman. It also has a 1,046 km coastline along the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman in the south. Pakistan is narrowly separated from Tajikistan by Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor in the northwest.

Pakistan faces a range of natural hazards due to its diverse geography and climate, including earthquakes, floods, droughts, landslides, and cyclones. Earthquakes are prevalent due to Pakistan's position along tectonic plates, while monsoon rains often lead to widespread flooding, causing significant damage to infrastructure, livelihoods, as well as loss of life. Heavy monsoon rains in late June 2022 caused significant floods affecting one-third of the country, resulting in widespread impact on the infrastructure and agriculture. Pakistan also experienced devastating floods in 2010 and 2014, but experts said the [2022 flood](#) was far worse. The arid and semi-arid regions of the country are also prone to droughts, affecting agricultural outputs and water availability. Coastal areas, on the other hand, are vulnerable to tropical cyclones and rising sea levels due to climate change, threatening biodiversity and coastal communities.

Amidst the natural vulnerabilities, Pakistan is also experiencing severe economic challenges, reflecting the long-standing structural weaknesses in the country. Pakistan's human capital outcomes remain poor, with high levels of poverty and economic stress. The economy faces challenges such as low foreign reserves, a depreciating currency, high inflation, and a slowdown in GDP growth. Flood impacts, high energy prices, and import controls contribute to the economic strain, affecting vulnerable households reliant on agriculture and small-scale activities. In addition, reflecting a consumption-driven growth model, with limited productivity-enhancing investments and exports, strong economic growth often comes at the cost of economic imbalances and frequent macroeconomic crises. Due

to the floods, agricultural output is expected to contract for the first time in more than 20 years. Given low-income households' dependency on agriculture and small-scale manufacturing and construction activity, they remain vulnerable to [economic and climate shocks](#).

Access to healthcare services has improved, but due to persistent geographical disparities, the gains are uneven across different service areas. Evidence indicates that low-income groups are likely to experience lower levels of health, nutrition, immunization, and family planning coverage. Pakistan is facing a double burden of disease with a high prevalence both in communicable and non-communicable diseases, and the burden is higher in low-income people. Communicable diseases, maternal health issues and under-nutrition dominate and constitute about half of the [burden of disease](#). In [young children](#), diarrhea and respiratory illnesses remain the major killers, while Pakistan has one of the highest prevalence of under-weight children in South Asia. Pakistan is one of the three remaining countries where Polio is still [endemic](#). Pakistan is also one of the lowest-ranking nations in maintaining water quality standards. A significant portion of the population is exposed to the hazards of unsafe and polluted drinking water, resulting in 40 per cent morbidities related to gastrointestinal tract and 50 per cent mortalities from other unsafe water-related diseases.

The number of undocumented migrants in Pakistan is increasing, driven in part by an increase in inbound migration from Afghanistan. The overall migrant situation has placed a heavy burden on Pakistan's infrastructure and public services. Access to protection, livelihood, documentation, legal assistance, education, health care and human rights is limited, especially for Afghan men, women and children living in Pakistan. Militant attacks that target both civilians and security forces also threaten the country's socio-economic stability and cause internal displacements. Active militant groups, including the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (Pakistan Taliban) and Islamic State-affiliated groups, contribute to high levels of insecurity in the country. Shelling along the Line of Control in Pakistan-administered Kashmir also poses a protection and displacement risk.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC [GO page Pakistan](#)

Emergency Appeal name	Pakistan Monsoon Floods Emergency Appeal
Appeal number	MDRPK023
Duration	28 months (23 July 2022 – 31 December 2024)
People affected / at risk	33 million people
People to be assisted	1million people
Funding requirements	Total IFRC funding requirement: CHF 40 million Total Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 55 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Revised Pakistan Monsoon Floods Emergency Appeal
Latest Operational strategy	Revised Operational Strategy - Recovery
Last operation update	Operation Update No. 6

During the 2022 monsoon season, the country's level of rainfall was nearly three times the national 30-year average, and the Government officially declared the floods a national emergency on 25 August. The flooding has had an impact on one-third of the country, with 1,700 people losing their lives, 33 million people affected and 84 districts declared calamity zones. Contaminated water supplies, poor living conditions, and inaccessible healthcare gave rise to a public health crisis on a massive scale. More than two million homes were damaged or destroyed, forcing approximately eight million individuals into displacement. 1.7 million hectares of crops were wiped out, while over 800,000 livestock perished, pushing more than 8 million people into poverty. Food prices in rural areas surged by 45 per cent, leaving more than one million people dependent on humanitarian aid. By end of 2023, it was estimated that

approximately 1.8 million people still resided in close proximity to stagnant and polluted floodwaters. Concerns persist in areas such as shelter, food security, water, sanitation, and public health. Many survivors of the floods are still enduring life in temporary shelters, lacking access to essential necessities including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and basic healthcare.

In view of the dire humanitarian needs, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal July 2022 (revised in October 2022) in support of the Pakistan Red Crescent's response to the emergency. The revised appeal seeks CHF 40 million (Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 55 million) to assist one million people affected by the floods. By end of 2023, the IFRC Emergency Appeal was funded at 60%. The ongoing operation is projected to end on 31 December 2024.



30th August 2022, The Pakistan Red Crescent providing humanitarian assistance to flood affected families.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Pakistan Red Crescent has been actively responding to the devastating floods since their onset in July 2022. Through the IFRC Emergency Appeal, the Pakistan Red Crescent has reached almost 550,000 people with immediate response assistance, focusing on relief, shelter, health, water, and sanitation. The National Society distributed tents, food parcels, hot meals, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, and various household items. It also provided primary healthcare assistance through mobile health units and increased access to clean drinking water with water treatment plants.

Transitioning into the recovery phase, a comprehensive assessment was conducted in the four targeted provinces of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, covering 19 districts. Based on the outcome of this assessment, a comprehensive recovery plan was developed, and the operational strategy revised. Since October 2023 and to year end, almost 190,000 people have benefitted from recovery support.

The revised operational strategy remains of integrated assistance and comprises:

Livelihoods

Provide livestock support to 121,510 people across 19 affected districts, targeting eight districts as a priority.

Multi-purpose cash

Provide 31,969 households (239,869 people) with PKR 32,000 (CHF 100) as multipurpose cash grant, based on the increasing prices and inflation in the country.

Health and Care

Reach 478,759 people (234,595 female and 244,164 male) through:

- Community mobilisation, information dissemination, and awareness sessions on health promotion, maternal, neonatal and child health, and disease prevention
- Community-based health and first aid integrated in WASH programmes
- Distribution of 10,200 mosquito nets, first aid kits for community as well as for individuals, hygiene kits, and women's dignity kits
- Training of community members, staff and volunteers on community-based health and first aid
- Training of staff and volunteers on psychological first aid, epidemic control, public health in emergencies, and oral rehydration points

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Reach 363,028 people (177,883 female and 185,144 male) through:

- Access to safe water - water quality monitoring in public water sources and at the household level in 19 districts; maintain water treatment plants in 15 most affected districts providing safe drinking water to 6,000 households (42,000 people daily); construct, rehabilitate, upgrade new boreholes/hand pumps and water supply systems in 15 districts (23 solarised water pumps, treatment plants, 250 hand pumps boreholes), in consultation with both male and female community members to ensure accessibility to all
- Access to sanitation and hygiene - construct 200 emergency and 3000 permanent latrines in targeted districts with consideration for cultural preferences, safety, access for children and persons with disabilities, anal cleansing practices, menstrual hygiene management and national standards; support the construction of the institutional water and sanitation facilities in 20 health facilities and schools in the targeted communities with consideration of PGI and PLWD need; distribute 5,000 hygiene kits and dignity kits sufficient for two months to 35,000 people, and procure 2,000 Hygiene kits for stock replenishment; conduct awareness sessions on menstrual hygiene management for proper usage of sanitary pads and disposal; train and provide raw material for stitching reusable sanitary pads as income-generating support for widows

Shelter, Housing and Settlements

Support 250,000 people through provision of emergency shelter items, winter kits and sustainable shelter assistance to withstand future disasters, and provision of permanent shelters by re-constructing the houses for 40 worst flood-affected families.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

Interventions include supporting technical teams to integrate PGI principles into various activities to ensure communities have safe access to assistance and to address gender and diversity vulnerabilities. Additionally, inclusive materials on PGI messaging will be developed and referral pathways established in reference to sexual and gender-based violence; sexual exploitation and abuse; and child protection needs, in coordination with the government, ICRC, NGOs, and UN agencies across targeted provinces.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Priority actions include the integration of CEA principles throughout the operation by training staff and building volunteer capacities to effectively engage with and inform communities, and the establishment and maintenance of feedback mechanisms in consultation with communities and programme staff – these include feedback desks, boxes and helpline numbers.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to severe weather and other climate change-related risks, such as saltwater intrusion, unusual rain patterns, glacial melting, rising temperatures and droughts. The severe flooding caused by heavy monsoon rains that struck Pakistan in June 2022 was unprecedented. Floods have long affected Pakistan, mostly caused by overflowing rivers around the Indus River, and predictable. The country now faces a combination of urban floods, flash flooding and floods caused by glacier bursts. Extreme weather events are likely to increase in frequency and severity, damaging agricultural productivity, water availability and the stability of infrastructure reliability in the country. Pakistan has estimated that its climate adaptation investment needs are between US\$7 and US\$14 billion per year.

Water-related challenges are exacerbated by population growth, over-extraction of groundwater and changing precipitation patterns. Deteriorating water quality further exacerbates the situation, leading to adverse health impacts on communities.

Deforestation and habitat loss are pressing environmental issues in Pakistan, with illegal logging and unsustainable land-use practices contributing to biodiversity loss and ecological imbalances. Air pollution is a growing concern in urban areas, particularly in Lahore and Karachi. Emissions from vehicles, industrial activities and crop burning lead to poor air quality, negatively affecting public health, and aggravating respiratory diseases. Inadequate solid waste management infrastructure also leads to significant environmental pollution and health hazards.

The Government has a climate change policy, most recently updated in March 2022, which explores different measures to tackle the impact of climate change. They include early warning and information distribution systems to enhance disaster preparedness and improving forest management and biodiversity conservation to enhance climate change resilience. For example, the Government has launched the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme to revive Pakistan's forest and wildlife resources. Through this programme, the Government aims to improve conservation of protected areas, encourage eco-tourism, and community engagement, and create jobs within conservation. The Government also coordinates with international environmental agencies on climate-related initiatives.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Pakistan Red Crescent is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in 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 climate-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, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Pakistan Red Crescent will continue to work across the humanitarian-development nexus, and further address climate change into its programmes and projects across all sectors. It prioritizes awareness raising of communities and advocacy with key stakeholders, developing anticipatory action based on scientific forecasts, and internal capacity building on climate change risks, environmental sustainability, and climate-smart-programming. It is exploring climate financing opportunities to improve climate resilience.

The National Society gives attention to addressing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women, girls, older people, people with disabilities, marginalized and vulnerable groups.

The National Society also focuses on reducing its carbon footprint and promoting environmentally sustainable practices in all its offices, and in its operations.

Planned activities in 2024

- Scale up community awareness, public education and school-based, formal and non-formal education programmes on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability, to enhance understanding of present and future risks
- Support communities for the implementation of measures identified in the enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments (IFRC-eVCA) and locally-led adaptation plans to reduce impacts of climate change
- Establish and train climate champions youth clubs at college and school levels, and pilot micro-level climate change adaptation/environmental activities implemented by youth clubs

- Conduct a perception study of climate change risks and climate action in Sindh
- Increase the implementation of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction wherever it is effective
- Support communities in adopting climate resilient livelihoods and ensuring food security, through sharing relevant data with communities on weather forecasts, climate projections, and resilient farm-based practices
- Follow-up study on the expansion of the [Kabul River Early Action Protocol](#) for national level flood hazard
- Develop [Early Action Protocols](#) (EAP) with more geographical reach, and for more hazards
- Develop and revise region and context-specific community-based climate risk assessment tools and climate change knowledge surveys
- Define minimum quality standards for climate-smart disaster risk management and develop related programming guidelines
- Engage with corporate sector through multiple events for advocacy on climate change adaptation
- Forge partnerships with local stakeholders for sustainable waste management
- Partner with Green Climate Fund funded 'Recharge Pakistan' project in districts along the Indus River
- Build capacity of project staff and volunteers at the national level and in target branches on climate and

environment literacy, and implementing locally led adaptation action

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Pakistan Red Crescent in strengthening its expertise to make its disaster risk reduction programmes climate-smart, in locally-led adaptation, and in engaging the youth. The IFRC also focuses on advocacy to ensure the dissemination of climate-smart best practices to other actors, as well supporting the integration of climate change considerations in the national disaster risk management coordination and frameworks.

The IFRC approved a [DREF Riverine Flood Early Action Protocol](#) in July 2023, to enable the Pakistan Red Crescent response over the next two years once triggers are met for abnormal floods of the Kabul river basin in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The allocation of CHF 200,000 comprises readiness, prepositioning and early actions to support up to 37,000 people with early warning, and 15,000 people with cash and voucher assistance.

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society in climate change adaptation, anticipatory action and forecast-based financing, and climate financing. The support includes adapting community-based approaches for better integration of climate change considerations and developing new EAPs. It also includes support to engaging with multiple stakeholders on climate change adaptation and anticipatory action, supporting the review of sectoral laws and policies, and enabling the participation of the National Society in the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP).



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO Pakistan](#)

Pakistan is among the most disaster-prone countries in South Asia, owing to a combination of seasonal flooding, cyclones, droughts, avalanches, and earthquakes. It ranks high on the [INFORM Risk Index](#), and 13 in the world in terms of hazard and exposure. Each year, natural hazards across the country affect at least 3 million people, while the unprecedented flooding of 2022 affected 33 million people (see under ongoing emergency response section). Pakistan has suffered an estimated US\$ 18 billion in damages and losses over the [past decade](#). Violence and insecurity also affect the population in parts of the country.

While climate change increases the severity of extreme weather events, seismic activity remains an unpredictable risk, with two major tectonic plates passing through the

country. Earthquake hazard classifies as [high](#) in Pakistan, and earthquakes can also cause tsunamis on coastlines. The density of Pakistan built environment increases the potential for a high humanitarian impact. The 2005 [Pakistan 7.6 magnitude earthquake](#) led to 73,000 deaths and injured more than 128,000 people.

Poor infrastructure, ineffective warning systems and remote terrains aggravate the damage and limit the humanitarian response when disasters and crises occur. The INFORM Risk Index classifies Pakistan at rank 56 in terms of coping capacity. The [Government of Pakistan](#) has a strong disaster management foundation, with national legislation and disaster management authorities both at national and provincial levels. Relevant frameworks include the Pakistan Vision 2025, the National Disaster Management Plan, and the National Flood Protection Plan.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Pakistan Red Crescent plays a key role in emergency response in Pakistan. In 2022, it experienced more emergency operations than ever before, managing multiple events at varying scales. With its vast network of trained volunteers, branches, warehouses and fleet distributed across the country, it responds on average every three hours to an emergency, wherever and whenever they occur.

The National Society recognizes the changes in disaster trends and impacts, and the need for a comprehensive and integrated risk reduction approach to deal with the country's enormous risks effectively. The National Society is committed to strengthening the resilience of people to cope with evolving crises and disasters, which include to reduce their risks and recover from the primary and secondary impacts of disasters.

The National Society continuously invests in strengthening its preparedness and response capacities. It is engaged in a second cycle of the IFRC [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) process (PER), and implementing measures identified through the assessment phase carried out in 2019. The Pakistan Red Crescent also invests in further enhancing its systems and procedures for cash and voucher assistance at scale. It participates in the country's cash working group and actively contributes to market assessments, mapping of financial service providers and other initiatives. In [2022](#), it provided cash grants to 5,500 people, and its target across 2023 and 2024 as part of the response to the monsoon floods is to reach almost 240,000 people (32,000 households) with multipurpose cash grants.

Planned activities in 2024

- Respond to the needs of people affected by disasters and crises as they arise, increasingly using cash and voucher assistance as a preferred modality
- Establish or strengthen local and community-based (multi-hazard) [early warning early action \(EWEA\)](#) systems in consultation with local authorities
- Conduct and evaluate annual simulation exercises to test and improve the response of a community and the respective local stakeholders
- Conduct school risk mapping including analysis of hazards and school structures that might need to be strengthened, establish, equip and train school-based disaster risk reduction teams, and conduct school evacuation drills in cooperation with local education authorities
- Implement a community resilience programme in six districts, including capacity building of community-based organisations, and micro mitigation projects on disaster risk reduction

- Distribute 60 community response team kits at community level
- Revise the National Society cash standard operating procedures, review [cash preparedness for anticipatory action](#), and establish the cash readiness baseline in ten vulnerable districts
- Develop a National Society contingency plan for monsoon floods and hold a pre-disaster meeting for the 2024 monsoon season
- Replenish stocks to reach 10,000 units of household kits (six items), tents, tarpaulins and shelter tool kits
- (Re)train disaster response team at branch (four locations) and district (ten locations) levels, conduct a national level training on eVCA for staff and volunteers
- Develop pre-disaster agreements with potential partners such as the Pakistan Meteorological Department, National Disaster Management Authority, and Federal Flood Commission
- Map disaster risk management and climate change stakeholders at all levels, and organize national and provincial level coordination meetings, biannual workshops and media campaigns for advocating the need for disaster law

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to extend support to the Pakistan Red Crescent in its preparedness efforts as defined by the PER action plan, and through capacity building and training in a variety of areas, including disaster risk reduction and response, anticipatory action, and cash and voucher assistance. The IFRC will also support stock replenishment, jointly participate in cash coordination mechanisms, and assist in the signing of pre-disaster agreements and advocacy for effective disaster laws and frameworks. The IFRC will help develop community-based early warning systems, support the Pakistan Red Crescent in providing immediate relief to affected communities, such as food, water, shelter materials and hygiene kits, as well as support livelihood initiatives, like income-generating activities and community-based development projects. IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises.

The **German Red Cross** supports the Pakistan Red Crescent across community-based/led disaster risk reduction, early warning systems, disaster preparedness and response capabilities, as well as disaster law programming. Support includes capacity building, review of systems, procedures and framing guidelines, research, as well as engagement and advocacy with a variety of actors. The German Red Cross aided the National Society in flood response efforts including by supplying food and kitchen sets.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** supported the National Society in its flood response in various ways and including by facilitating the transportation of cooked food to affected regions.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** supported the National Society in its flood response with food supplies, essential household items such as hygiene kits, tents, blankets, mattresses, mosquito nets, and road cleaning supplies.



Health and wellbeing

In recent years, Pakistan has actively worked towards accessible and quality healthcare in line with the government's Health Vision 2025, and the National Health Policy of Pakistan has set a target of achieving universal health coverage 2030. However, this journey is marked by disparities, especially in rural and remote regions facing shortage of essential medical services, which becomes more apparent during crises, further hindering access for vulnerable populations. Out of pocket expenditure is still around 70 per cent, despite the existing network of primary, secondary, and tertiary health care services. Access to and affordability of essential medicines is low. Pakistan is facing a high prevalence of both communicable and non-communicable diseases, and the burden is higher in low-income people. Communicable diseases, maternal health issues and under-nutrition dominate and 2020 data shows that it constitutes about half of the burden of disease.

Maternal deaths due to preventable causes like sepsis, haemorrhage and hypertensive crises are common. In young children, diarrhea and respiratory illnesses remain the major killers, while Pakistan has one of the highest prevalence of under-weight children in South Asia. Pakistan is one of the lowest ranking nations in maintaining water quality standards. Most of the population is exposed to the hazards of drinking unsafe and polluted water from both surface and groundwater sources.

Pakistan is one of the three remaining countries where polio is still endemic (World Health Organization. Poliomyelitis. 2022.) one of the highest tuberculosis burden (World Health Organization. Global tuberculosis report 2021. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021) in the world, a focal geographical area of malaria endemicity, endemicity of hepatitis B and C in the general population, and an established HIV concentration among high-risk groups. Immunization coverage, in particular the Expanded Programme on Immunization, has remained stagnant, due to limited access to immunization services, weak programme management and communities having little faith in the state immunization services.

Non communicable diseases, injuries, and mental health issues now constitute the other half of the burden of disease, causing far more disabilities and premature deaths among an economically productive adult age group. The common underlying factors for non-communicable diseases include lifestyle, nutrition and smoking. Pakistan ranks high in the

world for diabetes prevalence. Injuries are likely to rise with increasing road traffic, urbanization, and conflicts in the country.

Stigma, limited public education, and gender disparities contribute to mental health challenges, disproportionately affecting women who face violence, early marriages, and marital abuse. Societal stigma, particularly surrounding divorce, creates a significant barrier for women seeking help in abusive relationships.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Pakistan Red Crescent runs wide-ranging health services and programmes, which include public health and emergency health, first aid, collection and donation of safe blood, and routine immunization. The National Society is providing staff for thirteen health facilities in Bannu, ten in South Waziristan district and sixteen in Killa Abdullah/Chaman, which are functional eight hours a day and six days a week. Antenatal and postnatal consultations are carried out by lady health visitors in 23 basic health units along with immunization services in some of the highest risks councils of Bannu and South Waziristan districts. In 2022, the Pakistan Red Crescent provided first aid services to 156,000 people and trained an additional 32,000 in first aid, donated almost 14,000 blood components, and reached almost 62,000 people with immunization services. During the emergency response to the 2022 monsoon floods, the National Society mobilized 32 mobile health units in affected areas. The National Society also provides psychosocial support, which benefitted almost 7,500 people in 2022.

The Pakistan Red Crescent long-term and emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) work include access to safe water, ensuring appropriate sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion. The National Society maintains 24 water treatment plants for deployment in emergencies.

Aligning with the National Health Policy of Pakistan, the National Society sees its priorities in expanding provision of maternal and child health services, extending WASH facilities in schools and communities, conducting vaccination campaigns, and raising awareness on health and hygiene. The Pakistan Red Crescent also collaborates with the public authorities to enhance the health system, through activities such as training

for health workers, policy development and advocacy for increased government investment in health.

Planned activities in 2024

- Continue to run the National Society's health and WASH programmes, and provide emergency health and WASH services in emergencies
- Extend the provision of healthcare services in hard-to-reach and remote areas
- Ensure antenatal and postnatal consultations by lady health visitors in selected most at risk councils
- Provide direct immunization services for zero-dose and under immunized children, with a focus on 42 communities in Killa Abdullah/Chaman, Bannu and South Waziristan districts
- Establish a blood collection point and diagnostic laboratory services at the maternal and child health hospital of Rawalpindi
- Establish both male and female village health committees in high-risk areas, involving community influencers
- Organise social mobilization activities for health promotion and vaccine demand creation in communities, including through training of social mobilisers on social behaviour change communication
- Train twenty communities on household water treatment and maintenance of water supply schemes, and provide them with maintenance tool kits
- Improve water and sanitation facilities in 30 health facilities in Killa Abdullah/Chaman, Bannu and South Waziristan districts
- Promote hygiene and organise clean-up campaigns in twenty communities along with distribution and installation of waste bins
- Deploy first aid posts during public events, procure 2,000 community and 1,000 commercial first aid kits, develop an online verification system for first aid certificates, and harmonise the National Society first aid curriculum to reach international accreditation
- Sign agreements with provincial and district level health authorities for coordinated preparedness and response to disease outbreaks, such as for dengue
- Organise training-of-trainers at national level for volunteers on first aid, epidemic preparedness and response, epidemic control for volunteers, water treatment and safe storage, for enhanced capacity of all branches

- Organise (re)training on psychological first aid, mental health and psychosocial support, and gender-based violence case management
- Ensure replenishment of chemicals, consumables and lab equipment for the water treatment plants, and of material for at least 500 emergency latrines
- Develop a health and WASH policy for the National Society

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will extend financial, technical, and logistical support to the National Society for essential programmes in critical areas such as first aid, blood services, maternal and child health, mental health and psychosocial support, WASH, and communicable disease prevention and control, including risk communication and community engagement, social mobilization and immunisation. This support will encompass the provision of transportation, supplies, and equipment, ensuring vital services reach underserved communities, as well as encompass training initiatives for healthcare workers, assistance in internal policy development, external advocacy work and coordination on public health emergencies at national level. It also includes support to the National Society in obtaining international first aid attestation from the [IFRC Global First Aid Centre](#).

The **German Red Cross** aided the National Society in flood response efforts including by supplying hygiene kits and supporting hygiene promotion.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** works with the National Society on primary healthcare and WASH. It will support eight fixed health facilities in Orakzai, Bakka Khel Camp, South and North Waziristan, and two mobile health teams in Bannu and Tank. This includes for all fixed facilities support to maternal newborn and child health services (antenatal, natal and postnatal), and community-based health promotion and disease prevention sessions through hygiene promoters. It also includes support to trained psychosocial counsellors and forming both male and female village health committees. The Norwegian Red Cross supports the procurement of basic medicines for primary healthcare services. Support also includes to the development of a health and WASH policy, and engagement with provincial and district level health authorities for a coordinated public health response to outbreaks. It supported the National Society in its flood response by contributing hygiene kits, jerry cans, buckets, and provided support through mobile health units for primary healthcare services in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces.



Pakistan is characterized as a country of origin, transit, and destination for international migration flows. It is among the largest refugee-hosting countries globally, supporting millions of people from Afghanistan for over four decades, while hosting asylum seekers from other countries such as Myanmar, Yemen, Somalia and Syria. Pakistan provides refuge to around 1.35 million registered Afghan women, children and men. In addition, approximately 840,000 are unregistered and hold an Afghan citizen card, and an estimated 775,000 are undocumented. The government estimates that a further 600,000 have crossed into the country since the 2021 events in neighbouring Afghanistan. The main concerns reported by these new arrivals include access to shelter, income, food, medical assistance and documentation.

Registered Afghans and holders of an Afghan citizen card are offered limited protection, mainly from refoulement, while undocumented Afghans are exposed to arrest, detention and deportation. Undocumented Afghans and other specific groups such as ethnic Bengalis, Urdu speaking Biharis and Rohingyas are either stateless or at risk of statelessness in Pakistan. In Karachi alone, there are an estimated two million stateless Bengalis and Rohingyas, and more than one million undocumented Afghans, living in ad hoc informal and temporary settlements. They lack basic amenities such as water, sanitation, sewage, electricity, solid waste management and access to health care and education. Those services that do exist are vulnerable to floods, earthquakes and environmental degradation.

While Pakistan is generously hosting millions of people, it lacks a comprehensive migration policy, resulting in migrants, stateless and displaced people being mostly excluded from the country's programmes.

In Pakistan, internal migration is often linked to the development disparity between urban and rural areas, with people moving for better employment and to overcome poverty. Pakistan is also vulnerable to disaster and climate-induced displacements, and the country witnessed massive displacement during the monsoon floods in 2022 (see also under ongoing emergency response section). According to the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, the economic migrants from Pakistan contribute considerably to the annual GDP. However, Pakistanis living abroad, returnees or stranded individuals often have no access to documentation and other support structures abroad nor do they often receive assistance for reintegration when they return home.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Pakistan Red Crescent seeks to ensure that migrants and displaced people receive assistance irrespective of their status, and the protection they are entitled to under international and domestic law, including specific protections for refugees and asylum seekers. In 2022, it reached 78,000 people through migration-related services. The National Society has a recently established migration unit and plans to develop a migration and displacement policy and roadmap.

The Pakistan Red Crescent aims to build a more comprehensive understanding of specific assistance and protection requirements of vulnerable migrants, and conduct protection and services mapping to identify critical gaps and address unattended needs of migrants. This mapping will feed the information sharing and referral services at the Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that the Pakistan Red Crescent aims to establish in KP and Balochistan. In addition, the Pakistan Red Crescent works to capacitate its staff and volunteers on migration and displacement, enabling them to understand and respond to the migrants' needs and integrate support into other programmes.

Planned activities in 2024

- Conduct awareness campaigns for migrants on their rights and access to essential services
- Implement community-based initiatives to enhance access of migrants, including undocumented migrants and stateless persons, to educational and health facilities in selected districts
- Provide multi-purpose cash grants to 3,000 migrant and host families, support skill development of 400 people for short term recognized trades for migrants, provide 100 migrant households with business start-up grants
- Establish one humanitarian service point in KP and in Balochistan
- Map services provided to migrants on migratory routes in KP and Balochistan to establish a referral system for HSPs
- Print and disseminate pocket guides for migrants and displaced persons on the services available, documentation procedures, helpline/hotline numbers
- Translate information, education and communications content into languages preferred by migrants

- Initiate humanitarian diplomacy to improve access to essential services for undocumented/under documented migrants and stateless persons
- Deploy feedback desks in intervention areas while ensuring communities are well informed about the feedback process
- Incorporate community engagement and accountability activities at all project stages
- Develop guidelines and standard operating procedures to integrate migration in the ongoing and future humanitarian efforts
- Conduct needs assessments of various categories of migrants and displaced groups, including refugees and the stateless population
- Organise a two-day specialised training for staff and volunteers on migration and displacement

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the National Society in providing humanitarian aid, protection, and sustainable solutions to migrants and displaced populations at critical junctures and along migratory routes. This also includes support to training and sensitization of staff and volunteers on displacement and migration during emergencies, needs assessments and the development of a migration and displacement policy. It also includes support for coordination and engagement with authorities and international organisations involved working on migration and displacement. The IFRC will also support the Pakistan Red Crescent in participating in IFRC global and regional initiatives related to migration and displacement.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** works with the Pakistan Red Crescent on cash and in-kind assistance for the reintegration of people who return voluntarily from Türkiye to Pakistan.



Values, power and inclusion

Both recurring disasters and the current spread of vulnerabilities have exposed significant disparities within Pakistan. In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected marginalized groups within society. An imbalance in power structures maintains these inequalities, fuelling a sense of exclusion and violence in both urban and rural areas, inside and outside the home. Several welfare programmes provide a rudimentary social safety net to the country's citizens. Government schools and hospitals provide subsidized education and health care, and institutions such as the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal distribute charitable contributions.

Pakistan ranks low in gender equality. As the fifth most populated country in the world, with a high fertility rate, gaps in fulfilment of women's reproductive rights and widespread prevalence of gender-based violence are prominent factors contributing to gender inequality. Despite efforts outlined in the government's Vision 2025, more action is needed to ensure protection and inclusion for women, girls, migrants, transgender individuals, and those with mental disabilities.

Natural and man-made hazards take a heavy toll on schools in Pakistan, resulting in many child casualties. The government has developed a School Safety Framework in 2017, in line with the 2015 UN Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which identified child centric disaster reduction as a priority area.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

All Pakistan Red Crescent initiatives promote dignity, access and participation. The National Society seeks to further enhance its

overall approach to Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) by conducting an organizational assessment, using the revised IFRC PGI organizational assessment toolkit. The National Society also aims to scale up PGI activities incorporating the organizational assessment findings, and pursue learning and development trainings for staff and volunteers on key issues of PGI in emergencies, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), safeguarding-child protection and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

The Pakistan Red Crescent has inhouse capacities and readiness for community engagement and accountability (CEA) as a cross-cutting approach to get the feedback and voice of communities it serves. This includes a dedicated helpline at headquarters and in the provinces of KP, Merged Areas and Sindh. Dedicated and trained staff and volunteers are working 24/7 to respond to queries from the communities. The CEA helpline is closely linked to the emergency operation centre at headquarters, providing an authentic source of information for both the National Society and communities on developing situations. The Pakistan Red Crescent aims to develop an integrated CEA policy to institutionalise the approach.

The National Society sees education as a vital tool in promoting values that create equal, safe and inclusive societies, and seeks to expand upon its educative programmes for young people, inspiring them to push for positive change on key national and regional challenges and make practical contributions to their communities. It also aims to support education and related

humanitarian needs in emergencies, promote humanitarian values and mobilize Pakistan's youth.

The Pakistan Red Crescent is actively piloting school safety initiatives at the national, provincial and district levels. It aims to guide infrastructural development, formulate school safety plans, develop standard operating procedures and create awareness across school communities regarding disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction. Learning and awareness will be promoted through practical exercises, mock evacuation drills, integration of disaster risk reduction in school curriculums and extra-curricular activities, and the development of soft skills to enable schools to be prepared and act effectively in an emergency. School safety initiatives are also supported by the National Disaster Management Authority and the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities with the technical and financial support of different donors, including the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Planned activities in 2024

- Roll out and monitor the use of PGI minimum standards including for sex, age and disability disaggregated (SADD) data and PGI in emergencies toolkit
- Organize stakeholders meetings for the mapping of SGBV service providers and development of referral pathways for survivors of SGBV
- Install community feedback boxes/feedback desks in operational districts and organize face-to-face interviews and focus group discussions during operations
- Establish and maintain feedback and complaints mechanism as part of the community-based disaster risk reduction in Mankyal valley of Swat district
- Implement school safety projects in 48 schools of eight districts across AJK, Balochistan, Sindh and Gilgit Baltistan
- Procure school safety toolkits for emergency response teams
- Train Red Crescent youth clubs in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, health and hygiene promotion, first aid; and PGI among others

- Training staff on PGI in emergencies, SGBV, safeguarding-child protection, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
- Organise a national level training on CEA minimum standards for key programme staff at headquarters and branch levels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC and participating National Societies will focus their support on the integration of PGI and CEA principles and approaches across all initiatives of the Pakistan Red Crescent. With technical assistance from IFRC, the National Society will undergo a PGI organizational assessment in early 2024, aiming to identify key areas for development, integration, and institutionalization. The IFRC will also support the diversification of specialized PGI services through a jointly developed plan of action. This plan will serve as a roadmap for PGI implementation from 2024 to 2025, encompassing capacity-building initiatives for staff, volunteers, and target communities. It will also involve the development of policies, guidelines, tools, templates, and assessment revisions to streamline PGI practices within the Pakistan Red Crescent's operations, coordination, and collaboration efforts. The IFRC will support the National Society to participate in local, national, regional and global advocacy forums related to PGI, and to enhance its engagement in national and subnational coordination forums related to PGI, such as the protection cluster.

The **German Red Cross** will support the National Society in deploying CEA mechanisms as part of disaster risk reduction work in selected areas.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** will support the National Society to develop vocational training centers in selected provinces, aimed at empowering vulnerable populations including migrants, transgender people, persons with disabilities and women affected by floods, and encompassing skill development, inclusivity, and employability. The initiative will entail equipment, curriculum development, infrastructure set up, training, job placement, entrepreneurship support and monitoring.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Pakistan Red Crescent is committed to strengthening its institution and has been doing so through the IFRC [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process. The OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of the National Society as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The OCAC process was first carried out a first time in 2015, and again in March 2023. The assessment involved national and provincial leadership of the Pakistan Red Crescent, along with key staff and volunteers.

The National Society is also committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) process and is currently 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 actions to improve them.

The Pakistan Red Crescent is currently developing its next Strategic Plan (2023-2030), to further detail its current Strategic Framework 2021-2025. A first draft has been produced, which will go through a consultative process before finalisation and approval.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Pakistan Red Crescent seeks to strengthen its coordination with key stakeholders, including government departments, civil society, private sector, and academia, to further reinforce its role in addressing the challenges of the humanitarian sector challenges. It plans to conduct a stakeholder mapping exercise across all programmes to identify the most relevant partners for further cooperation and collaboration. These partnerships will be shaped through regular coordination and engagements and will be formalized via memoranda of understanding and agreements in the coming years.

In September 2020, the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Pakistan issued an official letter clarifying that the Pakistan Red Crescent is not an NGO and therefore would be allowed to seek and use funds for poverty alleviation in the country. Efforts will continue to disseminate this information to key representatives of humanitarian and development agencies and relevant ministries.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Pakistan Red Crescent to widen its involvement and leadership in civil society and other coalitions, including corporate organizations at the national and local levels. The IFRC also supports the Pakistan Red Crescent to strongly position itself as a partner of choice and broaden external coordination and partnerships with different stakeholders, including the UN and other actors, who can facilitate scaling up the National Society's capacity in addressing humanitarian needs in the country. The IFRC will also continue to support coordination within IFRC membership, including the unified planning and reporting process, ensuring alignment of support to the National Society priorities and plans. It will also facilitate dissemination of the Movement's [Seville 2.0 agreement](#), which provides for enhanced coordination mechanisms, keeping the National Society at the centre.

The **German Red Cross** and **Norwegian Red Cross** support the National Society in its engagement and operational coordination through their focus areas of disaster prevention, preparedness and response, including anticipatory action, and health and WASH.



National Society Development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Pakistan Red Crescent considers the development of its Strategic Plan 2023-2030 a high-priority task. In this connection, OCAC recommendations will be incorporated into the development of the strategy. The National Society will also conduct a [Branch Organisational Capacity Assessment \(IFRC-BOCA\)](#) training-of-trainers and carry out the exercise in five provincial branches in 2024 and develop a plan of action for implementation. This will also create a basis for stronger linkages between national and branch level policies and actions. Based on OCAC, BOCA and PER assessments, the Pakistan Red Crescent aims to then develop a comprehensive National Society Development Plan.

The Pakistan Red Crescent is also exploring the revision of its constitution, and of its legal statutes, with a preliminary draft of the latter presented to Parliament.

In 2024, the Pakistan Red Crescent will prioritize domestic fundraising efforts due to anticipated reductions in funding resources by leveraging the IFRC-ICRC [National Society Investment Alliance](#) fund to revitalize their resource mobilization unit and revise their strategy. The updated strategy will be implemented and rolled out during the same year. A core cost analysis will serve as a starting point to develop an indirect cost policy and support the development of financial sustainability models. A systematic approach to resource mobilisation capacities at the branch level will be developed by organizing business planning workshops and seeking seed money for income generation activities. The National Society also plans to apply to the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#) and the Empress Shoken Fund.

The Pakistan Red Crescent will continue to invest in volunteering and youth, such as through a project funded by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in five districts of Punjab province and Islamabad foreseeing youth clubs, various training and events, small grants, artistic work and more. The National Society explores the development of a youth engagement strategy and the establishment of a youth commission.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Pakistan Red Crescent in revising its legal base, constitution revision, developing the Strategic Plan 2023-2030 and formulating the National Society development plan. It will also extend support in areas such as leadership and governance development, and youth and volunteering, including the operationalization of a solidarity fund for volunteers' insurance in addition to annual volunteer insurance through the IFRC.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** supports the National Society on volunteering and youth, including for a projected youth leadership academy, focusing on leadership, communication and project management skills. It also includes a year-long cultural exchange programme with the Turkish Red Crescent to foster cross-cultural understanding, enhancing volunteer skills and strengthening humanitarian collaboration between Pakistan and Turkey. The initiative will facilitate reciprocal volunteering, disaster response simulations, health awareness campaigns and community engagement.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In the coming years, the Pakistan Red Crescent will prioritize humanitarian diplomacy to increasingly advocate for and highlight the needs of vulnerable populations across the country. The Pakistan Red Crescent is committed to promoting its image and building the trust of the stakeholders. As a result of its countrywide presence in Pakistan, the National Society is gaining the trust of communities, while working according to their needs and fulfilling its auxiliary role.

In 2024 and onwards, the Pakistan Red Crescent will develop an Influencing strategy and a work plan to better position itself, while engaging relevant stakeholders through dedicated workshops and mapping. The plan is also to roll out the strategy and work plan at all levels.

The Pakistan Red Crescent will explore the opportunity of creating a 'friends of the Red Cross Red Crescent' group in the Parliament of Pakistan, with the aim of becoming part of key national/provincial inter-governmental and humanitarian forums to advocate for the needs of the population. The Pakistan Red Crescent also seeks to engage with regional

and global networks of National Societies on humanitarian diplomacy issues and influencing regional/global forums.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Pakistan Red Crescent in its efforts to organize regular meetings at the national level with relevant ministries and government departments for advocacy and profiling purposes. It will assist the development of an influencing strategy and workplan, and key messages on humanitarian diplomacy issues. The IFRC will also support

peer-to-peer opportunities between National Societies for capacity building in advocacy skills.

The **German Red Cross**, alongside the IFRC, provides support to the National Society on promoting disaster law, promoting anticipatory action, climate-smart laws and policies through multi-stakeholder engagement.

With technical and financial support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the National Society will formally roll out its media and communication Strategy.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Pakistan Red Crescent carries out regular internal audits at both headquarters and provincial branches levels. It will strengthen its support departments including finance, logistics and human resources. For a robust and improved system, the Pakistan Red Crescent is aiming to roll out finance software to all its provincial chapters. To streamline its HR system, the Pakistan Red Crescent will review and revise the HR manual in 2024 and roll it out in the provincial and district branches. The National Society plans to invest in human resource management, improved recruitment performance, and addressing staff turnover and satisfaction. The Pakistan Red Crescent will also develop a coherent HR policy framework, subject to regular updates.

In 2024, the Pakistan Red Crescent will carry out high quality evaluations and reviews in line with the IFRC Evaluation Framework, using the indicator tracking table for effective and regular monitoring of projects. The National Society also plans to conduct other capacity-building training courses for staff and volunteers and will carry out biannual reviews of its plans.

The need for digital transformation has been highlighted as a key priority by the leadership, along with digitalization for specific departments such as logistics, finance, procurement, fleet; and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER). The Pakistan Red Crescent is implementing an 18-month pilot volunteer management system project with the support of Molnix and the aim is to integrate this system with the existing one and roll it out once the integration is completed.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Pakistan Red Crescent in its efforts to update or develop financial procedures and policies at its headquarters as well as provincial branches. It will undertake joint field visits with the National Society to branches to conduct capacity building and monitor financial compliances. The IFRC will support the provision of financial software to provincial branches, as well as financial and management training for headquarters and provincial branch staff. It will also support the digitalization of the Pakistan Red Crescent's processes and systems, including a digital maturity assessment.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC established its presence in Pakistan in 1978 and provides support to the National Society in delivering services, advocating on behalf of vulnerable people and strengthening its capacity. The IFRC also assists in resource management, programme planning, financial management, and fundraising efforts. The IFRC facilitates international support for the Pakistan Red Crescent's emergency response activities, coordinates its membership and supports the network's global and regional initiatives. In addition, it takes on a representation role on behalf of the Pakistan Red Crescent at an international level, providing humanitarian analysis on the situation in Pakistan and the actions of the National Society.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Pakistan Red Crescent through Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF)

and Emergency Appeal operations in relation to floods, droughts, severe winter, population movement, earthquakes, and dengue outbreaks. The IFRC has also deployed several emergency response units to ensure the provision of high-quality humanitarian programmes, at scale. The IFRC Emergency Appeal operation for the 2022 monsoon floods will continue into 2024. In 2023, the IFRC approved a DREF Riverine Flood Early Action Protocol, to support the Pakistan Red Crescent in providing assistance in anticipation of abnormal floods of the Kabul river basin in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The protocol is in place for two years and funding allocations are made from the anticipatory pillar of the IFRC-DREF.

IFRC Membership coordination

To support the Pakistan Red Crescent, the IFRC works closely with it and member National Societies to assess the wider humanitarian context, the National Society's particular needs and priorities and develop strategies to address these. These include obtaining greater humanitarian access, improving acceptance in Pakistan, mobilizing funding and other resources, crafting consistent public messaging and monitoring the progress of various initiatives. It also ensures that all strategies and programmes adopted by the National Society have clarity on their humanitarian and development aims and work to boost the auxiliary role of the Pakistan Red Crescent in the country.

The IFRC and the Pakistan Red Crescent are engaging with all partners for the ongoing emergency operation (Floods Emergency Appeal), including through the National Society bilateral partnerships. The Pakistan Red Crescent actively participates in IFRC networks, such as the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support collaboration and the Asia Pacific network, which serve as platforms for cooperation and shared learning. These networks facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Three participating National Societies are present in Pakistan and provide long-term support to the Pakistan Red Crescent, as well as assist in times of emergencies:

The **German Red Cross** partners with the National Society on climate change, disaster risk reduction – including in urban settings, and anticipatory action. It also supports the Pakistan Red Crescent with disaster preparedness and response capacity.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** works with the Pakistan Red Crescent in the areas of primary health care, WASH, and Sexual and Gender-based Violence clinical management.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** partnership with the Pakistan Red Crescent focuses on migration and displacement, and support to vulnerable groups. It supports the National Society in volunteer repatriation from Turkey.

The **British Red Cross**, the **Canadian Red Cross Society**, **Red Cross Society of China** and the **Italian Red Cross** also provide long-term support to the Pakistan Red Crescent, through the IFRC.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
British Red Cross						●	●
German Red Cross	265,000	●	●			●	●
Italian Red Cross							●
Norwegian Red Cross	1.6M	●		●			●
Turkish Red Crescent Society	147,000				●	●	●

Total Funding requirement

2.0M

Movement coordination

The coordination and cooperation of the Movement in Pakistan is governed by a Movement Cooperation Agreement, with a central role played by the Pakistan Red Crescent, and active participation of representatives from the IFRC network and the ICRC. The Movement Cooperation Agreement outlines functional coordination mechanisms at strategic, operational and technical levels. Regular strategic and operational meetings take place to plan and coordinate Movement support to the National Society's emergency response operations and long-term programmes.

In addition, to devise a collective response to floods in Pakistan, additional systems have been set up to address the coordination from the onset of the crisis. In line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles, and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#), the Pakistan Red Crescent acts as the convenor of the

humanitarian response and IFRC is the co-convenor of the response, supporting Pakistan Red Crescent and ensuring that it has the capacity to remain at the centre of the Movement response.

The Pakistan Red Crescent's coordinated responses are backed up by well-structured contingency plans and frameworks, which provide a systematic blueprint for managing emergencies, including responses to disease outbreaks, natural hazards, and conflicts. These plans ensure that the Pakistan Red Crescent, the IFRC and the ICRC work cohesively to promptly deliver critical responses.

In Pakistan, the ICRC supports the public, the authorities and the Pakistan Red Crescent in the event of armed violence and joins efforts in disasters. It also provides structural, and programme support to targeted district branches of the Pakistan Red Crescent as part of its ongoing action.



22nd February 2023, Mirpurkhas, Sindh, Separate health session arranged for women by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in Mirpurkhas, Sindh.

Coordination with other actors

As part of its auxiliary role, the Pakistan Red Crescent works closely with national and provincial public authorities to ensure that its programmes align with the country's policies and priorities. This includes close engagement with a number of government line ministries. The collaboration extends to disaster response efforts, with the National Society actively participating in needs assessments and first-response activities during emergencies, closely coordinating with government agencies such as the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Emergency Operation Centre. The Pakistan Red Crescent and IFRC coordinate with the NDMA at the highest levels through regular coordination meetings to keep them informed and engaged in humanitarian responses in the field. The Pakistan Red Crescent ensures coordination with non-governmental actors at the provincial and district levels by actively participating in coordination forums organized by disaster management authorities.

The Pakistan Red Crescent actively participates in inter-agency coordination mechanisms, fostering collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders, including UN agencies, International NGOs, and government bodies. These engagements ensure that resources are effectively utilized, and interventions are well-coordinated to address the pressing challenges and needs of communities throughout the country. At the strategic level, the IFRC ensures close coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and regularly shares updates with HCT and other relevant coordination structures. The IFRC also represents the membership in different cluster meetings, focusing on humanitarian diplomacy efforts to advocate for

better preparedness in affected areas and facilitate logistical formalities for humanitarian aid and assistance.

The Pakistan Red Crescent maintains strong excellent collaboration with various external partners, including diplomatic missions, UN agencies, and private sector companies such as banks, ride-hailing services, cellular, pharmaceutical, and oil and gas companies. It has established partnerships with key entities, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR), UNHCR, World Health Organization (WHO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Global Fund (GF), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP), Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Telenor, Zong 4G, National Disaster Management Authority, and the Government of Pakistan. The National Society has been able to gather support from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) for the flood emergency response and for National Society development initiatives.

The Pakistan Red Crescent actively collaborates with local NGOs, including prominent organizations such as the Edhi Foundation, Chipa Welfare Association, and Saylani Welfare International Trust, to extend the outreach and impact of its initiatives. These local NGOs frequently often join efforts with the Pakistan Red Crescent in disaster response, healthcare delivery, and community support initiatives.



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 National Society, its partner National Societies, and the IFRC Secretariat for 2024 and subsequent years. It 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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