



MALI

2024-2025 IFRC network country plan

13 March 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 61.3M**

In support of the Mali Red Cross



11

National Society branches



272

National Society staff



8,998

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



350,000

Ongoing
emergency
operations



608,000

Climate and
environment



832,000

Disasters
and crises



395,000

Health and
wellbeing



130,000

Migration and
displacement



333,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Food insecurity

Longer term needs

- Protracted displacement • Disaster risk management • Livelihoods • Health • Water, sanitation and hygiene • Climate change adaptation

Capacity development

- Internal systems strengthening
 - Digital transformation
 - Resource mobilization

Key country data

Population **22.6M**

INFORM Severity rating **very high**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **very high**

Human Development Index rank **186**

Population below poverty level **44.6%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Burkina Faso,
Cote d'Ivoire, Mali & Niger, Niamey

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

Total 17.6M CHF

Total 3.2M CHF

Through the IFRC

→ **5M CHF**

Through Participating National Societies

6.6M CHF

Through Host National Societies

→ **4.4M CHF**

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

782,000 CHF

Climate and environment

2.8M CHF

Disasters and crises

2M CHF

Health and wellbeing

604,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

335,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

87,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Through Participating National Societies

3.2M CHF

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

Belgian Red Cross

British Red Cross*

Canadian Red Cross Society

Danish Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Luxembourg Red Cross

The Netherlands Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross*

Spanish Red Cross

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

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:

MGR60001

Longer-term needs:

MAAML002

Hazards



Food insecurity



Conflict



Population movement



Floods



Drought

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Mali Red Cross** is a non-profit humanitarian organization, founded in 1965 and recognized as a public utility by the Government of the Republic of Mali in the same year. The National Society works under the direction of the Ministry of Public Health and is recognized as the only national auxiliary to the public authorities. It was admitted as a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1969.

The Mali Red Cross implements humanitarian and development actions throughout the country, carried out in accordance with the seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The National Society has representation in the 11 regional capitals, including Bamako, Gao, Kayes, Kidal, Koulikoro, Ménaka, Mopti, Ségou, Sikasso, Taoudéni and Timbuktu.

The Mali Red Cross strives to focus on people most in need, which includes vulnerable households, people affected by disasters and emergencies, and internally displaced people, migrants and refugees. It gives a particular focus to people with specific vulnerabilities, such as children and young people who are vulnerable or at risk, women and women's groups, and people with disabilities. In 2022, the Mali Red Cross reached over 450,000 people with development programmes, and almost 22,000 with emergency response and recovery support. This includes over 11,000 people supported with cash transfers, 5,200 people supported for livelihoods, and 3,300 for shelter. Over 15,200 people were reached by health programs, 12,900 with mental health and psychosocial support, and 36,400 people covered by water, hygiene and sanitation programmes. People reached by the Mali Red Cross in 2022

include over 44,300 internally displaced persons, migrants and host communities.

The Mali Red Cross Strategic Plan 2021-2025 identifies six priority axes:

- Contribute to the improvement of communities' health and nutritional status
- Accompany and support communities in all phases of disasters, from preparedness to recovery, and ensure communities are actors of their own resilience and actively participate in humanitarian actions.
- Ensure sustainable management of natural resources, the protection of the environment, and fight against the adverse effects of climate change on people
- Strengthen the protection of vulnerable people and promote better social cohesion
- Improve food security and nutritional status
- Strengthen the institutional and organizational capacities the National Society, including volunteerism, with a view to achieving its vision and meeting new challenges

The Mali Red Cross relies on its decentralized structure with operational regional committees and a network of qualified volunteers to assist communities, including those in difficult to access areas due to the conflict in Mali and logistical constraints. Security remains a challenge and the National Society is not immune to incidents. The Mali Red Cross places great emphasis on reinforcing the security and safety of its staff and volunteers for safe humanitarian access and safe interventions for the most vulnerable populations.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Mali, a vast Sahelian country, spans 1,240,192 km², with over half being desert or semi-desert. It shares borders with Algeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, and Senegal. The population is predominantly rural (84%), and is characterized by a young population (48% under 15).

The country's high fertility rate (5.5) ranks it second globally, contributing to a 3.36% population growth. Administratively, Mali comprises 11 regions, 19 urban communes, and 684 rural communes. With local autonomy, these entities have elected bodies.

Economically, Mali has a low-income, agriculture-dependent economy (60% of the workforce), susceptible to raw material fluctuations. GDP is dominated by agriculture (30%) and the informal sector. Climate change poses volatility to the

agricultural sector, which utilizes only 4% of the land. Droughts, desertification, and overexploitation of resources contribute to poverty and food insecurity. Floods and droughts are recurrent, causing loss of life and property. Extreme weather events intensify, affecting river levels, disease vectors, including malaria, and displacing populations.

Recent years have been marked by an exacerbation of violence in the north, and intercommunal conflicts in the centre (in Segou and Mopti regions). This has led to a significant deterioration in the security and humanitarian context. The persistence of insecurity in these areas has led to population displacement and increased humanitarian access constraints, in a complex emergency environment characterized by an insufficient, and sometimes total lack of, infrastructure and basic social services. In 2019, the scale of the crisis was further accentuated with the widespread expansion of violence and insecurity throughout the centre of the country, with a transnational dimension in the Liptako Gourma area. Populations are exposed to increasing crime, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and the presence of extremely violent armed groups and community-based conflicts. The deterioration of the security situation prevents the population of the affected areas from having access to quality basic social services and has a very great impact on income-generating activities, due to

threats, intimidation and abuses by armed groups, preventing populations from freely carrying out socio-economic activities.

The security situation in the central Sahel (Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali) has accelerated forced displacement, both within the country and to neighbouring countries. The security situation, particularly in the tri-border regions, is exacerbating the already alarming levels of food insecurity in some areas. According to recent [data](#), More than 5 million people are uprooted across the Sahel (including Chad and Mauritania), and most arrive in communities with already limited resources. The number of forcibly displaced people in the Sahel sharply increased since 2021, totaling almost three million internally displaced people and one million refugees and asylum seekers. According to [IOM's Data Tracking Matrix](#), in Mali, almost 400,000 people are internally displaced. Many internally displaced persons have also been forced to flee several times, further exacerbating their vulnerability, with numerous threats at national borders.

In the coming decades, the expected increase in the number of extreme weather events, as well as the high rate of growth of the Malian population, is likely to contribute to an increase in the number of people leaving rural areas to more than 130,000 per year by 2040, 10 times more than during the 2000s (Dimitri Defrance, Esther Delesalle and Flore Gubert, 2020).

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency 1

Emergency Operation	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Appeal number	MGR60001
Duration	Operation start date for Mali: July 2002, with operation extended to 31 December 2024
People affected	People affected/at risk: 157 million people across sub-Saharan Africa (143m in the 25 countries covered in this operation/watch list) In Mali 1.8M people
People to be assisted	In Mali 350,000 people
Funding requirement	Total funding requirements: • Through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 232.5 M • Federation-wide: CHF 318 M Funding requirement for Mali for 2024: • Through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 5M • Federation-wide: CHF 8 M
Link to Emergency Appeal	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Link to Operational Strategy for Mali	Mali Country Plan of Action

The Mali Red Cross has been responding to the food security crisis in the country through an IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation since July 2022. A further deterioration of the food security in a number of countries in Africa, prompted the IFRC to launch a Regional Africa 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, this 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. In Mali, 1.8 million people are in need of emergency food assistance, while 4 million people are under food security pressure or deterioration.

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 an IFRC red-level emergency in many countries of the region, including Mali.

The number of people to be assisted under the Revised Regional Emergency Appeal in Mali will be 350,000. Political instability in the Sahel region has led to significant displacement and livelihood disruptions. 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 in Mali addresses the multifaceted challenges of food insecurity, displacement, and malnutrition. Emphasis is placed on aiding displaced, refugee, and returning populations, coupled with efforts to prevent and treat malnutrition through the implementation of nutrition programs and agricultural support for flood-affected households. It is articulated on three response pillars:

- Pillar 1: **Cash transfers** for safety nets, safeguarding livelihoods, addressing acute food insecurity, improving food access and maintaining consumption levels through the scale-up of emergency food assistance
- Pillar 2: **Health and nutrition** surveillance, knowledge building and health promotion
- Pillar 3: Provision of **water, sanitation and hygiene** (WASH) services, including the direct provision of safe water or the rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure, in-kind provision of water treatment and storage products, and the use of cash or voucher assistance

The operational strategy integrates in a cross-cutting manner **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.



Mali Red Cross running a campaign to protect 2.8 million children from malaria, measles and polio in Mali



Climate and environment

The analysis for this section has been supported by the [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](#) (2022)

Mali's diverse and varied geography means that it is exposed to a wide range of environmental risks (hydrometeorological and geophysical) that are directly impacted and exacerbated by climate change, and in all regions of the country. Indeed, every year, Mali faces challenges related to climate and environmental crises, such as droughts, floods and high winds, leading to food insecurity, malnutrition, displacement and epidemics. Poor economic development, insufficient arable land and poverty make Mali particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Climatic hazards, particularly droughts, are one of the main factors in the food and nutrition crisis in Mali. The impact of climate change on water supply and agriculture is expected to increase the risk of malnutrition and hunger in Mali. Declining agricultural production, especially during droughts, will exacerbate food insecurity and malnutrition especially for children below five years of age (Nagarajan, 2020). The regions affected by droughts are mainly Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti, Ségou, Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal, and can affect about two million people, although this number can be considerably higher during years of severe drought.

The biggest floods usually occur due to intense rains from July to October. According to the Directorate General of Civil Protection, the biggest floods have occurred fifteen times in the last 30 years, each time affecting between 10,000 and more than 45,000 people (PreventionWeb, 2014). The main exposed areas are the regions of Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti, Ségou, Kayes, Koulikoro and Sikasso (CGES, 2011), but also Bamako. In rural areas, flooding is also exacerbated by deforestation, and poor agricultural practices lead to soil erosion and siltation. Beyond the immediate causes mentioned above, certain structural and underlying causes contribute to aggravating this climatic phenomenon. The structural causes include the following: land degradation, silting up of rivers, insufficient drainage systems, non-compliance with urban plans, lack of sanitation plans and poor compliance with the regulations in force in the country. As for the underlying causes, they are essentially the low awareness and knowledge of the population, poverty and lack of awareness of risks. According to some analyses, floods are among the most frequent natural disasters in Mali and the resulting population displacement is one of the most visible examples of displacement linked to natural hazards.

Every year, around 75,000 people are affected by floods, but data and profiling of people affected by natural hazard displacement are not systematically collected.

Recurrent flooding increases the risk of waterborne diseases due to increased water stagnation, water contamination, and damage to hygiene and sanitation infrastructure in the country (Zamudio, 2016). Flooding also exacerbates widespread pathogens and pathogenic contamination of shallow aquifers (due to inadequate sanitation systems), which are the main source of drinking water in Mali (USAID, 2021). In addition, droughts reduce the amount of water available for hygiene and sanitation, increasing the risk of disease transmission. The challenge of low coverage of drinking water and sanitation services in the country (with additional risks of contamination due to flooding and water shortages during dry seasons) is likely to increase the risk of diarrheal diseases (Nagarajan, 2020; USAID, 2018).

Heat-related mortality is expected to increase as temperatures rise (Tomalka et al., 2020). Higher temperatures are expected to lengthen the transmission season and increase the geographic reach of diseases such as meningitis and malaria (Zamudio, 2016). Meningitis is particularly a problem in southern Mali, mainly in the dry season. Meningitis is expected to increase as the warmer, drier climate increases dust and moisture (USAID, 2018). In contrast, malaria infections are expected to decrease as temperatures exceed the thermal threshold of *Anopheles* mosquitoes (USAID, 2018). However, in southern Mali, the risk of malaria will increase due to the high frequency of flooding (Tomalka et al., 2020).

Climate impacts can also affect mental health, especially when it comes to the trauma associated with the loss of crops and other climate-sensitive sources of income and livelihoods (Hallegatte et al., 2016).

Two-thirds of Mali's territory is desert, and the desert is advancing about 7 kilometres per year, according to estimates, causing the reduction of vegetation cover, the decline in soil productivity, the silting up of rivers, environmental migrations and conflicts over natural resources. Fighting desertification in the Sahel, and in Mali in particular, has become a major challenge to secure people's habitats and protect biodiversity.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mali Red Cross 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; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Mali Red Cross and IFRC network partners see the need to work at four levels to achieve complementary sustainable impacts, and reverse the current trends in terms of environmental degradation and the negative impacts of climate change on people and their livelihoods. These are:

- Linking climate risks with peace and security
- Climate-sensitive social stabilization
- Controlling production factors, including water, farmland, livestock and environmental regeneration by promoting woody plant and wildlife resources in order to strengthen biodiversity and wetlands
- Combating social and economic inequalities, as a guarantee of irreversible social cohesion that contributes to community resilience, and which takes into account the sources of subsistence of each and every one of us (particularly the most vulnerable).

The Mali Red Cross will take an active and contributory part of national processes, such as frameworks for consultation and reflection. Much depends on the government defining the priorities of the macro-economic framework of the impact of climate change on people, social cohesion and the protection of the means of production in their great agricultural diversity, taking into account positive cultural realities while maintaining its sovereign role of control. The Mali Red Cross engagement will be carried out in line with the IFRC network and Mali Red Cross vision and ambitions with regards to food Security and the Impact of climate change on livelihoods, through the consolidation of active solidarity within the IFRC network and the diversification of external sources of funding.

The multi-year objectives of the Mali Red Cross include:

Contribute to strengthening the resilience capacities of at least 1,200,000 most vulnerable people who are food insecure and exposed to the effects of climate change and environmental degradation by end 2025

The Mali Red Cross will focus on valuing smart practices and promoting techniques and technologies adapted to environmental challenges, whether traditional or innovative. This will encompass a variety of approaches such as cultivation techniques, land regeneration, erosion control, methods such as zaï, the use of windbreaks and the integration of renewable energy. A key aspect will be to actively encourage reforestation,

with a particular focus on the preservation of endangered plant species. In addition, the National Society aims to promote the intensive production of improved animal species, including through practices such as aquaculture and aquaponics. Climate change awareness and community mobilization, including the creation of climate watch and environmental monitoring committees, will be integrated as essential elements of this comprehensive approach.

Strengthen the response and recovery capacities of at least 30% of the most vulnerable people in terms of food insecurity and exposure to the effects of climate change (crises, disasters) through coordinated actions by all actors

The aim is to strengthen, rehabilitate and diversify the adapted and sustainable livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities/people (emergency and recovery assistance: cash, cash for work, agriculture, etc.) with their full participation conducive to social cohesion and peacebuilding

Strengthen the positioning of the Mali Red Cross as a key actor in climate change and environmental protection with public authorities and communities, including the implementation of the National Society climate impact assessment and green response approach

The Mali Red Cross will participate in all coordination mechanisms/frameworks at the national and local levels, intensify communication, advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy with a view to increasing the visibility and legibility of its actions.

The Mali Red Cross is also actively engaged in the IFRC Pan-African initiative on tree planting and care. The Mali Red Cross will contribute to climate adaptation and mitigation through planting and caring for multipurpose trees, tree planting and care awareness creation using school environmental clubs, promotion of energy saving solutions, and using its branches as centers of resilience spearheading seedling production, community engagement on protecting and restoring natural resources and strengthening community ownership of tree planting and care initiative. It will use nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction and increased food security. Through its participation in the tree planting and care initiative, the Mali Red Cross seeks to gain increased knowledge, capacities and engagement in improved environmental practices and nature-based solutions in its operation. In collaboration with IFRC network partners and country level platforms (Ministry of Agriculture /Environment, research centers), it will document best practices and lessons learned in tree planting and care practiced at school clubs, community level tree planting and care action which in turn contributes to scaling up best practices to new communities and geographical areas. The Mali Red Cross will ensure that the tree planting and care initiative is aligned with global frameworks (SDGs, Sendai frameworks, IFRC strategy 2030, etc.) and contributes to national development plans that

address vulnerability and build resilience to climate change and environmental crisis.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The Mali Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) with implementation support from the Danish Red Cross (as lead EU National Society), the Spanish Red Cross, the Luxembourg Red Cross and the IFRC. The Mali Red Cross will continue its reforestation campaign with the support of ECHO PPP. The reforestation aims to protect livelihoods against silting and improve the ecosystem. The National Society will continue to

raise awareness of the double effect of conflict and climate change on food insecurity. The **Danish Red Cross** will provide expertise in forecast-based action. The **Spanish Red Cross** will provide technical expertise in livelihoods through the [IFRC Livelihoods Resource Centre](#) that it hosts.

The [IFRC](#) will support the harmonisations of priorities, particularly in the Sahel, by identifying and mobilizing secure and sustainable donors to support National Societies. It will also advocate at the international level for climate change adaptation and mitigation. To achieve the goal of tree planting and care initiative, the IFRC will support the National Society in technical expertise, proposal development, establishing partnership at local and regional levels, and linking tree planting and care with other [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#).



Disasters and crises

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

Mali is classified as very high by the [INFORM Risk Index](#), and ranks 15th in the world. Over the years, Mali has experienced a history of repeated disasters, often causing deaths and population movements within and outside the country. The main hazards leading to disasters include droughts, floods, epidemics and locust invasions. According to the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Plan, 80 circles, 278 communes and 930 villages were considered localities at risk of flooding in 2023 throughout the country. This analysis determined an approximate at-risk population of 1,5 million people.

Disasters have a negative impact on the economy and have created tensions between the local population and the various waves of displaced persons and refugees. Private sector investment and service delivery by a weak public sector, as well as the lack of resources to meet growing needs in the health, water, sanitation, education, food security, livelihoods, shelter and protection sectors, have continued to affect the needs of vulnerable people.

As communities are not fully aware of the multi-hazards and other climate-related risks, and which are different from one region to another, they are not able to adopt coping mechanisms and other adequate techniques to protect themselves and enhance their resilience. The humanitarian needs in Mali are not only due to specific shocks or events, but also stem to a large extent from the conditions of underdevelopment in the country, so that in many cases they are independent of the occurrence of a shock.

Mali faces major security problems, especially in the three-border area. With regards to food security, it is estimated that at least 200,000 people are neglected by humanitarian services due to access problems. Access remains very complex, especially at borders, where non-state military groups operate. Meanwhile, social unrest also constitutes a risk in the country.

The Government has put in place a disaster management mechanism by establishing the Disaster Risk Reduction Platform in May 2005. Its main mandate is to mitigate the effects of disasters on people. Past experiences with disaster management in Mali have highlighted the challenges of slow response, insufficient resource mobilization and weak coordination mechanisms. This has led the Disaster Risk Reduction Platform to develop a National Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan for Disaster Preparedness and Response, the main purpose of which is to provide the country with a reference tool in this area.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mali Red Cross, with a strong presence across the country, has access to the entire territory because of the respect it commands when it provides humanitarian aid through its network of community volunteers. It responds to the multiple disasters and crises affecting the country, and has gradually improved its overall position and strategy, related to its disaster risk reduction capacity and new initiatives.

The National Society works to enhance its preparedness and readiness and to provide timely, effective, appropriate, and accountable response to crises and disasters. This includes being able to monitor and analyse [risks, vulnerability, and](#)

capacities of communities, build scenarios and undertake early actions. The National Society has good experience with forecast-based financing and has successfully implemented its first IFRC-DREF Early Action Protocol for floods in 2022. Preparedness also includes to strengthen its emergency response systems, including trained disaster response teams and swiftly deploy capacity in at risk/affected areas. The Mali Red Cross follows the IFRC 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 analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

The Mali Red Cross is actively engaged in the IFRC Pan-African Initiative on Preparedness and Readiness and through it will continue to strengthen its auxiliary role and coordination to create a conducive operating environment. The Mali Red Cross is developing its contingency plan in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government of Mali and those of the IFRC in the field of disaster management. It has carried out an analysis with a number of national stakeholders and partners which highlighted the most frequent hazards with a significant impact on the population, and the risk classification in the analysis matrix makes it possible to determine the crises likely to occur in Mali in the coming years. The analysis is done on the basis of quotas assigned to the two variables of humanitarian consequences and probability of occurrence, each assigned five graduated values.

The multi-year objectives of the Mali Red Cross include:

- **Preparedness** – strengthen the capacities of the National Society, communities and other actors in crisis and disaster preparedness through risk assessment and mapping, early warning, disaster risk reduction.

- **Response** – provide an adequate and timely response to communities affected by crises and disasters.
- **Recovery** – strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to crisis and disaster risks.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, the Mali Red Cross will continue to enhance disaster risk management in accordance with the regional multi-hazard contingency plans that were developed. Community Early Warning and Emergency Response Systems will be set up or revitalized based on the mapping of systems and assets that was carried out. The National Society will continue to increase its capacity on safe shelter provision with training for staff and volunteers and the pre-positioning of shelter kits. The National Society will continue to improve its abilities to provide multi-purpose cash assistance, including the registration of beneficiary data. The **Danish Red Cross** will provide expertise in cash transfer and disaster risk reduction. The **Spanish Red Cross** will provide technical expertise in cash and the **Luxembourg Red Cross** in the areas of shelter and risk reduction.

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.

Long-term support also includes various projects designed to strengthen community resilience capacities and supported by participating National Societies present in Mali. These long-term initiatives focus on disaster management based on the National Society's multi-hazard contingency plan, which is regularly updated at all levels. In addition, they incorporate the Mali Red Cross emergency response assistance plan.



Health and wellbeing

The compounded crisis in Mali has led to a sharp deterioration in the health status of the population and, in turn, in health indicators. According to HNO 2023, many health needs of the most vulnerable populations remain unmet due to lack of access to and use of quality basic health services. Mali's humanitarian profile reveals a combination of factors, particularly the displacement of populations in areas of increased insecurity following the activism of non-state armed groups, with its corollary of the inaccessibility of health services for vulnerable populations, including pregnant women and children. Three percent of health facilities are non-functional or partially functional (HNO 2023). In 2022, there was a decrease of nearly

3 million consultations compared to 2021. Assisted deliveries decreased by 200,000 compared to 2021, while maternal and infant mortality remains a major public health concern.

Mali faces recurrent outbreaks of infectious diseases such as malaria, yellow fever, measles, cholera and meningitis. These often occur cyclically and seasonally. This is caused by its socio-environmental and geographical context, aggravated by climate change. Insufficient access to drinking water and hygiene and sanitation services were the root cause of a cholera epidemic during the first quarter of 2022. Mali also experienced measles outbreaks in 2022. Forty-three out of

seventy-five or 57% of health districts have recorded at least one confirmed measles outbreak. The COVID-19 pandemic has been at the forefront of the health situation since the declaration of the first case on 24 March 2020 in Bamako. The introduction and administration of effective vaccines has allowed a return to normalcy, but national immunization coverage is below targets, mainly attributed to vaccine hesitancy stemming from various myths and beliefs.

Recurrent food crises in Mali have a significant impact on the nutrition of populations, especially children. Around two in ten children under the age of five (10.8%) suffer from acute malnutrition, and 2.1% suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SMART, 2022). Targeted interventions are needed to prevent and treat malnutrition, including through therapeutic feeding programmes and support for lactating mothers.

Access to drinking water in Mali remains below universal levels, with 69% of households using improved sources, especially in urban areas. About 55% use improved sanitation facilities, with a disparity between urban (85%) and rural (47%) areas.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In responding to health needs, the Mali Red Cross plays a vital role in emergency medical services, epidemic prevention, health system strengthening, and community health promotion. Community engagement and accountability remains a key strategy to provide health information for communicable disease prevention among targeted communities.

The Mali Red Cross seeks to further develop its network of branches and volunteers to support the authorities in early detection, contact tracing, social mobilization and community engagement to control infections. The Mali Red Cross will also continue its activities in the field of water and sanitation, nutrition, including income-generating activities for communities, basic community health, sexual and reproductive health, as well as in the prevention of respiratory diseases, epidemic preparedness and prevention of genital mutilation.

The Malian Red Cross established a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) service in April 2023, aiming to enhance quality services for populations affected by conflicts and emergencies. A recent evaluation, carried out with technical support from the Danish Red Cross, shows that the provision of MHPSS services needs to be improved.

The multi-year objectives of the Mali Red Cross include:

Improve the health and dignity of communities in emergencies and epidemics/pandemics:

- Contribute to the reduction and spread of disease through health promotion and community-based surveillance

- Increase greater acceptance of national immunization targets by stakeholders and promote fair and equitable access to new vaccines

Contribute to efforts to achieve and sustain national targets for interventions against vector-borne diseases, including coverage with insecticide-treated bed nets for effective malaria prevention, which includes:

- » Organization of awareness-raising sessions on the fight against malaria
- » Acquisition and distribution of mosquito nets and insecticides
- » Promotion of hygiene and sanitation
- » Communication for social behaviour change on vector-borne diseases

Contribute to the provision of and access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate and quality health services for all ages

- Increase health coverage and the provision of services through the strengthening of the technical platform and the management of health structures
- Contribute to the reduction of maternal, neonatal, infant, infant and child morbidity and mortality rates through surveillance and referral interventions
- Improve adequate nutritional knowledge and behaviours and referral of malnourished children to health centres through screening
- Strengthen the capacities of the population and the Mali Red Cross in first aid

Improve the institutional and operational capacities of the Mali Red Cross and communities in MHPSS

- Develop a strategic plan for MHPSS
- Develop standard operating procedures in the field of MHPSS
- Improve MHPSS interventions and contribute more effectively to the well-being of beneficiaries
- Strengthen the capacities of the Mali Red Cross (human, financial and material Resources) in MHPSS
- Improve the emotional support of Mali Red Cross staff and volunteers
- Conduct awareness-raising, advocacy and communication on MHPSS

Contribute to improving access to safe drinking water and a healthy living environment for communities and health centres

- Improve the living conditions and hygiene practices of communities

- Improve access to drinking water for communities and health centres through the construction and maintenance of equipment and management bodies
- Strengthening the capacities of communities in terms of sanitation of the living environment

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, the Mali Red Cross will continue to build capacity to prepare and respond to

epidemics. A community-based surveillance system will be developed based on survey data that was collected. Awareness raising activities will continue to improve hygiene and prevent the spread of diseases, such as acute respiratory illness and diarrhoeal diseases. The **Luxembourg Red Cross** provides expertise in WASH.

The IFRC network will align support to the priorities set by the National Society in the fields of health, nutrition and water, hygiene and sanitation.



Migration and displacement

Conflict, insecurity and violence, including intercommunal violence remain the main driver of population movement in Mali. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in September 2023 amounted to almost 400,000, and the returnees population 870,000, according to [IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix](#). April 2023 figures show over 200,000 Malian refugees in neighbouring countries, with about 85,000 refugee returnees. People fleeing insecurity in search of safety and better living conditions, mainly children and women, often move to the provincial capitals and settled in the urban and peri-urban areas of large cities. The Menaka region is particularly affected by insecurity, and the town of Menaka has seen its population quadruple due to forced displacement.

Most of internally displaced persons are hosted in host families or gather in informal sites. Displaced people face inadequacy, or even absence, of basic social services, such as education, health, and water and sanitation. Growing tensions between armed actors make it difficult to reintegrate the population into their villages of origin and to consolidate government protection and administrative structures in conflict areas. Children deprived of education and idle youth are at risk of turning to armed groups. The regional dimension of the crisis, which is reflected in population movements on both sides of the borders, as well as the multiplication of so-called mixed situations (the presence on the same site of internally displaced persons, returning internally displaced persons, refugees, and returnees), adds to the complexity of the situation.

Mali is a signatory to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa ([the Kampala Convention](#)), which defines the protection, assistance and rights of internally displaced persons.

Located at the heart of the East-West migration route in West Africa, Mali is also a country of departure, transit and, to a lesser extent, destination for migrants. The country faces intra-regional migration, seasonal migration to gold mining sites, migration to North African countries, the Mediterranean and the Canary Islands, as well as migrant returns and expulsions. Beyond insecurity, migration in Mali is linked to various factors such as natural hazards, climate change, demographic pressures and the weakness of the local economy, especially in rural areas.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mali Red Cross is part of the IFRC 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, and 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.

To cope with the growing migration phenomenon, the Mali Red Cross developed a migration strategy 2021-2025, with the support of the IFRC network. The overall objective of the Mali Red Cross is to help reduce abuses and alleviate the suffering of migrants through a range of humanitarian actions, strengthening the resilience of migrants and the communities in which they find themselves, and advocating for their rights. Internally displaced persons are mainly in the centre regions (Mopti and Ségou), and the Mali Red Cross will continue to

intervene in these regions in order to provide assistance to internally displaced persons and migrants.

The Mali Red Cross multi-year objectives comprise:

Improve the living conditions and well-being of internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees in Mali and migrants ('people on the move')

- Support livelihood projects aimed at improving the incomes of IDPs and migrants, and their integration into the local economy, whether in urban/peri-urban areas or in rural areas
- Support actions that improve the adaptive capacity of IDPs, migrants and refugees to the consequences of climate change and disasters
- Support initiatives that improve access to basic services such as health, education, hygiene, water and sanitation
- Strengthening mobile protection systems, using the IFRC [Rapid Response Units](#) approach
- Supporting migrant support structures (migrant centres, health centres, etc.)

Improve the conditions of integration and well-being of IDPs, returnees and/or migrants in transit in host communities, through support for their return and their reintegration into communities of origin

- Accompany and provide psychosocial support to families in vulnerable situations, paying particular attention to

women heads of household with family responsibilities, people with disabilities and older people

- Strengthen protection mechanisms, create safe spaces for the reception, orientation and information of IDPs, migrants and refugees
- Strengthening elements of social cohesion and peacebuilding.
- Advocating with the authorities on behalf of migrants
- Provide restoring family links (RFL) services, training of volunteers on the dignified management of the dead, RFL training sessions for volunteers, information and sensitization of authorities and communities.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, with implementation support from the **Danish Red Cross** (as lead EU National Society), the **Spanish Red Cross**, the **Luxembourg Red Cross** and the **IFRC**, the Mali Red Cross will continue to provide assistance to internally displaced persons. Based on the multi-sectoral rapid assessments conducted, the National Society will distribute non-food items, hygiene kits and shelters to affected households. The Danish Red Cross will provide expertise in cash transfer, disaster risk reduction, and forecast-based action.

Other support from the IFRC network includes capacity building on the areas of MHPSS, legal assistance and RLF, in order to provide adequate humanitarian services in collaboration with local and international actors.



Values, power and inclusion

In Mali, widespread rights violations include threats to life, liberty, property, and physical integrity, with non-state armed groups actions proving increasingly destructive in 2021, particularly affecting civilians. The conflict escalates risks for the population, leading to killings, cattle rustling, violence, early marriages, abductions, forced recruitments, and gender-based violence, including sexual assault and denial of women's resources and land rights. Vulnerability factors include displacement duration, age, gender, disability, and family separation. Poverty remains a key vulnerability factor for non-displaced individuals, while hosting displaced persons contributes to challenges like overcrowding, disease transmission, conflict, and gender-based violence risks.

The Gender Inequality Index highlights substantial gender disparities, ranking Mali 157th out of 160 countries. About 45% of women aged 15-49 in Mali have experienced physical or sexual violence. Reports from NGOs in 2021 indicate 9,540

cases of gender-based violence, primarily rape, with girls under 18 being the most vulnerable. Restricted access to education increases child brides, and early marriage persists as a structural issue in Mali, often viewed as a means of ensuring girls' security or generating income for families. Despite progress, access to quality education remains a challenge in Mali, particularly for girls and those in rural areas, facing barriers like poverty, cultural constraints, and insecurity. The literacy rate for those aged 15 and above is only 29.5% (EMOP, 2022).

Explosive devices, primarily targeting armed forces, disproportionately affect civilians, resulting in a high prevalence of physical disabilities. Humanitarian actors face insecurity-related constraints, limiting access to populations in need and impacting the provision of protection services. Despite varying access options by region, humanitarian interventions remain feasible, albeit with challenges.

In order to better protect Mali's most vulnerable populations, particularly women, a number of regulatory and legislative measures have been adopted:

- The Constitution of 25 February 1992, which guarantees the protection of the rights of women and children
- The adoption of the new Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure in 2017
- Law No. 2012-023 of 12 July 2012 on the fight against trafficking in persons and similar practices
- Draft law on the prevention, punishment and management of gender-based violence
- Child Protection Bill
- Circular Letter No. 0554/MJ-SG of 12 October 2012 on measures for the judicial management of cases of abuses following the crisis in northern Mali

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mali Red Cross ensures that its staff and volunteers are trained to take an inclusive approach to its programming, and that protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) are included in all its programming. It works to further integrate PGI and CEA through a range of different trainings, the creation of relevant policies and the implementation of actions focused on women, persons with disabilities and youth, for social cohesion and stability.

The National Society pays particular attention to the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) among the populations it serves, particularly during the distribution of money and food. The Malian Red Cross will continue to ensure that people at risk of or survivors of sexual and gender-based violence have increased capacity to prevent, respond to, and mitigate risks of sexual and gender-based violence, through the coordinated development of standards and programming tools.

The Malian Red Cross will also continue to promote positive change for humanity, based on humanitarian values and principles. It will continue to engage in the areas of adult education, and build its capacity to reach more local branches and increase awareness and action through the powerful role of young people and engagement with the education community, and ensuring meaningful efforts for more inclusive work dynamics.

The Mali Red Cross multi-year objectives and associated planned activities comprise:

Improve the social well-being of populations in general, and of individuals, families and vulnerable social groups in particular

- Training and dissemination workshop on the National Society Gender and Inclusion Policy, the feedback

mechanism and associated standard operating procedures

- Organization of village assemblies
- Organization of interactive radio broadcasts
- Inform, sensitize, and train members of the Governance, staff, volunteers, and community members on SGBV
- Continuous integration of PGI into all projects and programmes, including exchanges during regular meetings for the benefit of all teams
- Implementation of protection activities to minimize risks and prevent SGBV
- Community awareness-raising sessions for behaviour change and attitudes for the respect of women's rights and the fight against SGBV
- Provision of psychological support, assistance for livelihoods and medical care through reception and listening centres

Putting vulnerable and crisis-affected people and communities at the centre of Mali Red Cross programmes and operations, influencing decisions that affect them and building trust between them and the Mali Red Cross

- Organization of workshops for the development and validation of the Mali Red Cross CEA strategy, dissemination with stakeholders, and monitoring of its in projects and programmes
- Evaluation of the community's preferred reporting channels
- Establishment of an operational feedback mechanism at all levels and management processes for sensitive complaints management
- Collection and handling of complaints/claims, and taking into account to improve programs and operations
- Establishment, training and equipping of complaint/claims management committees
- Setting up targeting committees
- Organization of village assemblies to brief them on their roles and responsibilities
- Communication sessions for communities on the CEA
- Organization of interactive radio programs
- Strengthen CEA understanding and capacity at all levels of the National Society
- Allocate resources, including funds and staff, to strengthen and institutionalize CEA
- Integrate CEA into all National Society strategies, values, plans, policies and tools so that it becomes a standard way of working for all staff and volunteers

Promote respect for dignity through the promotion of humanitarian principles and values

- Organization of monthly advocacy sessions with public authorities and partners
- Organization of dissemination sessions for opinion leaders and populations on the principles of the Movement and humanitarian values through the use of local and public communication channels (radio broadcasts, publication on the website and in newspapers, broadcasting of spots and advertorials, holding of press conferences)
- Sensitize workers, volunteers and members of the Mali Red Cross on fundamental principles and humanitarian values
- Organization of presentation sessions through the community theatre
- Design and organization of large-scale awareness campaigns focusing on the seven fundamental principles and humanitarian values
- Use of different communication materials such as posters, flyers, videos and social media to disseminate key messages and illustrate the Red Cross' humanitarian actions inspired by these values
- Dissemination of youth policy on a large scale through orientation sessions through local and public communication channels
- Publication of success stories and inspiring stories highlighting the solidarity, empathy and generosity that characterize the humanitarian action and values of the Red Cross
- Organized special community awareness days to explain humanitarian principles, Red Cross services, and volunteer opportunities and humanitarian values
- Building the capacity of dissemination focal points
- Technical reinforcement of dissemination focal points for the promotion of humanitarian values (technical training and quantitative reinforcement)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, with implementation support from the **Danish Red Cross** (as lead EU National Society), the **Spanish Red Cross**, the **Luxembourg Red Cross** and the **IFRC**, the Mali Red Cross will continue to improve its community engagement. The National Society will work with the established complaint management committees to improve the mechanism and increase involvement of communities.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Mali Red Cross has undertaken a comprehensive diagnostic and strategic planning process, adapting its intervention capacities to its humanitarian mandate. Organizational and institutional evaluations, identified strengths and areas for improvement, factoring in opportunities and threats. Evaluations carried out focused on several areas, such as finance and accounting, as well as wider organisational assessments. This includes the IFRC [Organizational Capacity](#)

[Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process and the IFRC [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) process.

Recommendations stemming from these assessments include establishing a new organizational structure in line with its size and ambitions, formulating branch development plans with income-generating activities at regional, circle, and communal levels, and advocating for increased subsidies from public authorities and key entities such as foundations.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mali Red Cross collaborates with multiple stakeholders, including public authorities, other humanitarian actors, and civil society organisations. Active coordination is maintained with IFRC network and Movement partners. The National Society aims to enhance partnerships for broader reach and to become a more efficient, accountable, and preferred partner. Its objectives include:

- Ensure active participation in group meetings and frequent bilateral meetings with high-level government actors and other humanitarian organizations
- Leaders ensure that partners act in accordance with the Movement's fundamental principles, humanitarian values, and code of good partnership
- Leaders strive to ensure that the partnership adds value to each partner's aspirations and priorities

- All parties involved in the partnership communicate in a frank, respectful and constructive manner
- Inequalities between partners in terms of financial means, time and resources are recognized but do not harm the partners/partnership
- Establish a resource mobilization unit and strategy, ensuring internal resource mobilization for core and program costs.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC network partners will support the Mali Red Cross in its engagement with a variety of partners, while ensuring strong coordination amongst themselves in support of the National Society. Expertise from the IFRC network reference centres, labs and hubs will also be leveraged, such as is the case with the support provided by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the IFRC Psychosocial Centre, and the Cash Hub.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mali Red Cross seeks to strengthen its operational and representative capacities at the institutional and organizational level, as part of an adaptation to the new administrative division and to get closer to vulnerable people. The Mali Red Cross invests in the capacity of its branches, making use of the IFRC Branch Organisation Capacity Assessment (BOCA) to guide its efforts.

Volunteers remain central to the Mali Red Cross' intervention strategy. Challenges include promoting and understanding volunteering, along with enhancing volunteers' capacities. The National Society will develop a volunteering and an annual plan for the enrolment of volunteers. It will also bring improvements to the volunteer database, offer fundamental training, and organise an event for young volunteers.

The Mali Red Cross will also promote the development, validation and implementation of a training strategy and plan for members of the governance and salaried staff. This will support appropriation of the issues, challenges and strategic positioning of the National Society on national and international humanitarian issues.

Other objectives and plans include:

- Revise the strategic plan and institutional and operational organizational charts
- Adopting and implement a sustainable resource mobilization strategy
- Implement the BOCA process and ensure the presence of key personnel in the branches
- Organize workshops and information exchanges to increase knowledge and involvement of the branches
- Provide computer equipment to local committees, enabling efficient information access and reporting through internet connection
- Strengthen warehouse and storage capacities for at least 50% of branches by the end of 2025
- Promote the opening and operation of a physical and digital information, archiving and learning service in the institutional and organisational system
- Promote academic training in humanitarian health and first aid in certain regions for institutional development and the strengthening of internal sources of funding

- Continue the process of institutional strengthening of the Mali Red Cross National Institute of Socio-Health Training

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC network will continue to support the Mali Red Cross for its vision on organizational development and priorities in terms of internal resource development, financial sustainability through strengthened processes, and branch development supported with income-generating activities. This support follows assessments or diagnoses carried out, and several projects that have already been implemented. **The IFRC** has

facilitated application to National Society development funds, including the IFRC Capacity Building Fund, and the jointly-led IFRC and ICRC National Society Investment Alliance, as part of the reinforcement of commercial and fire first aid. Other projects include the Financial Sustainability Enhancement Project in partnership with The **Netherlands Red Cross**, and a National Society development project funded in partnership with the ICRC and the **Norwegian Red Cross**. The Mali Red Cross has also embarked on a tripartite partnership with the ICRC and the **Danish Red Cross** on capacity-building for the regional branch in Gao.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mali Red Cross considers that humanitarian diplomacy goes hand in hand with plans and activities related to its auxiliary role, communications, coordination, collaboration and partnerships. The Mali Red Cross seeks to improve its communication and advocacy efforts to enhance impact, build public trust and improve understanding of the National Society's role and activities.

Its objectives and plans include:

- Elaboration of a humanitarian diplomacy strategy
- Draw a dissemination action plan to promote the National Society through various national and local channels (TV, advertising campaign, artist ambassadors, social networks)

- Create a mechanism for ongoing consultation between the National Society, authorities and communities
- Maintain a framework for dialogue with gatekeepers to strengthen acceptance of the National Society and facilitate access to vulnerable communities
- Acquisition of audio-visual conference equipment

Strengthen the communication skills of the dissemination focal points.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society's humanitarian diplomacy and communication efforts, leveraging the international organisation status of the IFRC. Based on the needs and programmatic priorities, IFRC network partners will define the areas they can support technically and/or with funding, including humanitarian diplomacy.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mali Red Cross strives to create the right conditions to increase partnerships to reach more people in need, and ensure accountability. The National Society leadership has recognized that several aspects of the organization require further investment. These include policy development, financial management and auditing, human resources, planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and digitalisation of

systems and processes. Digitisation efforts also aim to equip staff with the necessary skills for increased efficiency and a full transition to a digital stage.

A strategy and action plan will be developed to mitigate the risks of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse. The Mali Red Cross adopted an "integrity" line in 2022, and strengthened its procedures regarding good conduct.

Objectives and plans of the Mali Red Cross include:

- Financial information on arrangements/mechanisms, transactions and fees is complete, consistent and accessible to both partners
- The financial resources allocated to the partnership programme shall be used only for expenditure agreed upon
- (Potential) problems/conflicts and disagreements are discussed quickly, frankly and based on facts
- Partners exchange information on progress, successes, good practices and challenges in service delivery, as agreed by the partnership

- Institutionalization of monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Federation-wide planning and reporting is a key aspect of accountability to partners and donors, and **the IFRC** will continue support the National Society in developing robust annual unified plans and associated monitoring and reporting.

IFRC network partners provide support through their programmes with the Mali Red Cross on the application of legal instruments, and for management tools, whether financial or accounting, logistical, project and programme management.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Mali Red Cross from its country cluster delegation in Niamey, which covers Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger. The IFRC has legal status in Mali, and its support to the Mali Red Cross centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy, including reinforcing its auxiliary role. The IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

The IFRC maintains a role in representing, advocating, and coordinating with the Malian Red Cross and IFRC members. It offers programmatic support across strategic priorities, providing technical, financial, material, and human resource assistance for various projects and programs.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Mali Red Cross through a number of Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#) in relation to floods and food insecurity. The Mali Red Cross has developed an IFRC-DREF [Early Action Protocol](#) for floods which was activated in early September 2022. The IFRC, through its [Global Emergency Appeal](#), has supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response. The Mali Red Cross is also part of the Community Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3), coordinated by the IFRC and funded by USAID. In addition, the Mali Red Cross has benefited from IFRC support for tree planting and maintenance projects in Mali, and from the [IFRC Capacity Building Fund](#).

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing 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, of links with development assistance, and of efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Mali Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between DG ECHO and IFRC, benefitting from the support of Danish Red Cross (lead EU National Society), Spanish Red Cross and Luxembourg Red Cross, for the implementation of activities in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move, cash and voucher assistance, and risk communication, community engagement and accountability. The partnership responds to the realities of protracted crises with predictable longer-term funding, facilitating actions and processes with greater impact. It leverages the IFRC's global

network and unique access to people and communities, and helps achieve the European Union's ambitions as the world's largest donor of international aid.

The Malian Red Cross collaborates bilaterally with a number of participating National Societies. The **British Red Cross**, although not present in the country, funds programmes that cover early action protocols, resilience, protection and migration.

Participating National Societies present in Mali comprise:

The **Belgian Red Cross (French community)** resumed its collaboration with the Mali Red Cross in December 2009. The aim of this partnership is to strengthen the National Society and provide a humanitarian response in the country. One of the principles of cooperation is alignment with the strategy of the Mali Red Cross on projects/programmes that meet the priorities and needs of the Mali Red Cross. Since the beginning of the collaboration, the Belgian Red Cross and the Mali Red Cross, while working closely with the technical services of the State and the communities, have implemented several projects in the fields of health, nutrition, community resilience, agricultural production, promotion of income-generating activities, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance.

The **Canadian Red Cross**, which has been present in Mali since 2012, with funding from the Government of Canada, supports the efforts of the Mali Red Cross and the Ministry of Health, particularly in the area of health. From 2012 to 2020, it supported the implementation of projects such as improving maternal, newborn and child health in Mali, whose objectives were to provide health services to rural communities.

The **Danish Red Cross** initiated a cooperation called "Hope in the Desert" with the Malian Red Cross in the 1980s following the droughts in the Sahel, with an environmental education project. In 2007, bilateral cooperation was revived with the presence of delegates. It supported the capacity building of the Malian Red Cross by supporting the management

and implementation of projects and supporting long-term organizational and technical development. It works closely with the IFRC [Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support](#) and, since 2019, the Danish Red Cross has been working to support the establishment of a psychosocial department.

The **Luxembourg Red Cross** has been working with the Mali Red Cross since 2014, on interventions and projects that cover the needs of all segments of the population affected by the conflict: returnees, internally displaced persons, internally displaced persons and host populations affected by the crisis. These projects consist of different areas of intervention including habitat rehabilitation and the distribution and pre-positioning of emergency kits and shelters.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** and the Malian Red Cross have been engaged in a long-term partnership since 2015 focused on supporting resilience initiatives. They work together in several areas such as risk and disaster preparedness at the institutional level, with support for the operationalization of the Emergency Operations Centre.

The **Qatar Red Crescent** Society works with the Mali Red Cross in the areas of health and water, sanitation and hygiene, and the development of National Societies.

The **Spanish Red Cross** and the Mali Red Cross have been engaged in a long-term partnership since 2000, focusing on supporting initiatives in the areas of health, environmental protection and improvement of living environments, social protection and cohesion, as well as in the area of food security and livelihoods. The main areas of intervention are Kayes, Sikasso, Timbuktu and Ségou. Currently, the Spanish Red Cross, with a permanent operational presence in the branches in Ségou and Timbuktu, supports the implementation of protection projects (gender protection and inclusion and prevention of gender-based violence), disaster management; and food security and livelihoods, in line with the Mali Red Cross Strategic Plan.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Belgian Red Cross	329,000		●	●	●		
Canadian Red Cross Society	880,000			●			
Danish Red Cross	799,000		●	●	●		
Luxembourg Red Cross	2.8M	●	●		●		
Netherlands Red Cross	384,000			●	●		●
Spanish Red Cross	1.4M	●	●	●	●	●	●

Total Funding requirement

6.6M

Movement coordination

The Mali Red Cross works closely with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and holds regular coordination meetings with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, to align action and support. There are two coordination bodies: the Movement Coordination Platform (Mali Red Cross, IFRC and ICRC), and the operational committee, with the participation of participating National Societies present in the country.

This collaboration is framed by a Movement Coordination Agreement signed between the Mali Red Cross, the ICRC and the IFRC, and the participating National Societies in the country have adhered to it. This agreement defines the roles and responsibilities, as well as the conditions for coordinating the implementation of the coordination system between the

Movement's actors in Mali, and with this, a security framework is also part of it, in the annex of the agreement. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

In Mali, the [ICRC](#) visits detainees, puts people back in touch with loved ones with whom they've lost contact because of the conflict, treats people that have been wounded or injured by the fighting, distributes seed and tools to farmers, vaccinates livestock, rebuilds and reconnects water-supply systems, and raises awareness of international humanitarian law.

For many of these activities, it works closely with the Mali Red Cross.



Food distribution in Mopti to refugees who fled the conflict in northern Mali.

Coordination with other actors

The Malian Red Cross supports the Government in the implementation of its humanitarian and development policies and strategies. Thus, the National Society's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 is aligned with the Government's Economic and Social Development Plan. The Malian Red Cross Society works closely with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management and is a member of the National Disaster Management Coordination Forum. The ministry has a mandate to manage disasters and similar emergencies through the following key functions:

- Prepare national disaster plans to prevent and mitigate the consequences of disasters
- Establish, assess and update national disaster plans
- Ensure adequate facilities for technical training and educational programs to raise public awareness
- Establish early warning systems and general preparedness of its staff and the general public
- Ensure that appropriate and adequate facilities are available for the provision of relief, rehabilitation and

reconstruction after any disaster. This includes local and international support for disaster relief, emergency services and reconstruction.

The Malian Red Cross actively participates in interagency clusters, including shelter, protection, health, and food security. It also holds high-level coordination meetings with the food security country cluster and is an active member of the national cash working group.

The National Society and the IFRC also work with United Nations agencies, including WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, OCHA, UNFPA and IOM, through the implementation of actions, thus contributing to the realization of humanitarian intervention plans in Mali. External partnerships are governed by the guidelines on external partnerships in the Sahel region for components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The objective of these guidelines is to define a common position of Movement partners responding to humanitarian needs in the Sahel region, by agreeing on the coherent and realistic limits of partnerships that Movement components can lead and develop with external humanitarian actors.



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

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