



CAMEROON

2024 IFRC network country plan

18 March 2024

Funding Requirement **CHF 19.4M**

In support of the Cameroon Red Cross Society



58

National Society branches



108

National Society staff



40,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



545,079

Ongoing
emergency
operations



2.5M

Climate and
environment



1.4M

Disasters
and crises



2.5M

Health and
wellbeing



2.5M

Migration and
displacement



2.5M

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Food insecurity

Longer term needs

- Recurring disasters
- Population movement
- Health

Capacity development

- Partnerships and resource mobilization
- Internal policies and systems
- Digitalization

Key country data

Population **27.9M**

INFORM Severity rating **High**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **High**

Human Development Index rank **151**

Population below poverty level **37.5%**

IFRC Country cluster Delegation for Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome & Principe, Yaounde

Hazards



Food insecurity



Conflict



Disease outbreak



Floods



Landslides



Population movement

Funding requirements

Total 19.4M CHF

Through the IFRC

10.9M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **78,000** CHF

Through Host National Society

→ **8.5M** CHF

IFRC Breakdown

8.5M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

275,000 CHF

Climate and environment

688,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

412,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

550,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

275,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

250,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

French Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:

MGR60001

Longer-term needs:

MAACM002

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Cameroon Red Cross Society** was created and registered with the Ministry of Interior in 1960. It was recognized as an organization of public utility by presidential decree in January 1963, which was renewed in 2020. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1963. As auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, the National Society is officially part of the national disaster response management system and is regularly called upon by the Ministry of Health for community-based activities including raising awareness, screening and surveillance.

The National Society is present in all the country's ten regions and in more than 320 districts out of 360, with a wide network of trained volunteers and rescue workers. The Cameroon Red Cross has a total of 75,000 officially registered volunteers, of which 40,000 were active participants in 2023. In 2022, it reached 105,000 people with disaster response and early recovery support. The main programmes of the Cameroon Red Cross Society include:

- Disaster management
- Health care, including First Aid, community sensitization and engagement in epidemic contexts, access to drinking water, and adequate means of hygiene and sanitation
- Humanitarian assistance and protection, including restoring family links for people on the move, and

reintegration of irregular migrants returning to the country

- Strengthening the social status of specific vulnerable groups
- Promotion of humanitarian values and human rights

The Cameroon Red Cross Society 2020–2024 Strategic Plan defines two strategic objectives with related strategic axes as follows:

- Build an effective, competitive and proactive National Red Cross organization that innovates:
 - Strengthened legal basis of the Cameroon Red Cross
 - Shared vision and effective leadership
- Provide, for as long as necessary, services and operations of sufficient volumes that have a lasting impact on vulnerable communities and enable them to live with dignity
 - Relevant and sustainable community-based services through sustainable community-based volunteering structures
 - Large-scale interventions to save lives, protect health and livelihoods, and build resilience
 - Win-win strategic partnerships

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Cameroon, located in Central Africa, shares borders with Nigeria to the west and north, Chad to the northeast, the Central Africa Republic to the east and Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo to the south. Cameroon's coastline lies on the Bight of Biafra, part of the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean. The country has a population of approximately 28 million people with a median age of 18–19 years old. While more than 56 per cent of the population live in urban areas, this is expected to increase to 72 per cent by 2050. Overall, population growth is relatively slow for the

region, and Cameroon continues to be sparsely populated, with about 59 people per square kilometre.

The country is endowed with rich natural resources, including oil and gas, mineral ores and high-value timber and agricultural products, however remains a low-income country and ranks 151 on the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index. Cameroon ranks 140/180 in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index and its poverty reduction rate is lagging behind its population growth rate, increasing the overall number of poor people, particularly in the vulnerable northern regions.

Despite relative stability, Cameroon is affected by violence and tensions, impacting the political, economic, and social development in the country. Violence in the far north of the

country on the border with Nigeria, caused by the conflict in the Lake Chad Basin and from attacks by Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province, brings insecurity and provokes continued population movement in the region. Socio-political pressures in the northwest, southwest and east of the country, and demands for autonomy by the country's Anglophone community, have led to [clashes](#) between the separatist forces and the Francophone Government's military forces, increasing insecurity and leading to high levels of internal displacement. It is estimated that 1.1 million people were internally displaced in Cameroon as of [mid-2023](#).

The conjunction of regional and internal crises is leading to a significant increase in humanitarian needs in the country, with an estimated [4.7 million](#) people requiring assistance in 2023. Food insecurity affects 2.4 million people, and climate change risks, including increased drought and floods, pose additional challenges. The country lacks sufficient health facilities and qualified personnel, contributing to the spread of epidemics like cholera, polio, measles, and COVID-19.

Cameroon also hosts a significant number of refugees, mainly from the Central African Republic and Nigeria, adding pressure on limited resources. According to [UNHCR](#), as of January 2024, Cameroon hosts almost 490,000 refugees and asylum seekers.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency Operation	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Appeal number	MGR60001
Duration	6 October 2022 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 Cameroon 2.4 million people
People to be assisted	In Cameroon 550,000 people
Funding requirement	Total funding requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 232.5 M • Federation-wide: CHF 318 M Funding requirement for Cameroon for 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 8.5M • Federation-wide: CHF 10 M
Link to Emergency Appeal	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Link to Operational Strategy for Cameroon	Country Action plan for Cameroon

Cameroon is one of the priority countries supported by the IFRC Regional [Hunger Crisis](#) Emergency Appeal launched in October 2022, following a sharp deterioration of the food security in a number of countries in Africa. 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 Cameroon, 2.4 million people are in need of emergency food assistance (IPC3+).

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.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society seeks to reach 550,000 people in need under the Revised Regional Emergency

Appeal. Instability in the Sahel region has led to significant displacement and livelihood disruptions. Cameroon has also been heavily impacted by rising food prices due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

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 is aligned with the Government of Cameroon's estimation of need and focuses in the hardest food insecurity-affected regions of Far North, Adamaoua, East, Littoral, Northwest, Southwest, and West regions. While Far North, Northwest, and Southwest are of high priority based on assessments from various humanitarian actors, all the other regions have some pockets of crisis due to their proximity. The highlights of the assistance are:

Food security and livelihoods

- Multipurpose cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to 20,000 most vulnerable, food insecure households to increase their purchasing power and meet their basic needs
- Livelihoods support to 20,000 households in vulnerable communities through cash for work and income-generating activities to protect and adapt livelihoods, diversify food production and nutritional intake
- Support to 5,000 smallholder farmers, through anticipatory and climate-smart action, including complimentary technical support and resources such as seeds, tools, and stocks; and support communities to improve stocking and management of seeds, seedlings, and harvested crops
- Support to 5,000 smallholder breeders, through technical support and resources such as animals and feed

Health and nutrition

- Establish referral systems with outpatient therapeutic programs/targeted supplementary feeding programs
- Provide nutritional inputs (ready-to-use therapeutic foods) and medicines for the treatment of children under 5 years old suffering from severe acute malnutrition
- Provide medico-technical and equipment necessary for the care of the beneficiaries
- Strengthen infant and young child feeding, including through engagement with community platforms such as mothers' clubs and community volunteers and promotion of infant and young child feeding and essential family practices
- Establish community-based epidemic/disease control for volunteers and community health promotion, for early detection of epidemics and diseases
- Provide psychological first aid for mothers and caregivers for improved infant and young child feeding and care practices

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

- Carry out extensive hygiene promotion campaign to reach 550,000 people to strengthen WASH knowledge and best practices
- Meet the immediate water needs of 350,000 people, including support to rehabilitate and protect water sources, construction of boreholes, distribution and training on water treatment chemicals
- Provide and train households in the use of water storage, water filters, and/or water treatment (aqua tabs)
- Promote the installation of toilets and handwashing stations at water points and public places

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.



21 December 2023, A Cameroon Red Cross volunteer collects feedback from a community member affected by the Mbankolo Landslide, regarding the assistance received (Source: IFRC)



Climate and environment

Signs of climate change signs have been observed in Cameroon over many years, with declining rainfall (-2.2 per cent per decade) and increases in annual temperature (+0.7 per cent on average per year). Climate forecasts suggest a generally warmer climate, with a much drier climate in the north and a hotter and more humid climate in the south, with more weather variability across the whole country. Sea levels are also expected to rise between 9 and 38 cm by 2050. The consequences of climate change are directly affecting Cameroon's social, economic and political environment and ecosystems.

Cameroon is facing a greater occurrence of extreme climate conditions that present risks to vulnerable communities and threaten their environments, including strong winds, storms, high temperatures, heavy rainfall, floods and landslides. Hazards expected to increase due to climate change in the different regions include drought in the northern regions, floods in the north and coastal areas, and landslides and floods in the west and south-west Regions.

Environmental degradation is also of significant concern in Cameroon. Challenges include land degradation and water and air pollution, driven by population growth, urbanization, and industrialization. Plastic pollution is also a concern, pointing to poor waste management. Cameroon lost 1.84 Mha of tree cover from 2001 to 2022, almost half of which was humid primary forest loss. The total area of humid primary forest in Cameroon decreased by 4.6 per cent from 2002 to 2022.

The Government has developed a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to address the challenges posed by climate change and to enhance political, economic and social resilience across all sectors of development. This plan also serves as a planning tool for defining and monitoring priority activities for the five agro-ecological zones of Cameroon. The plan aims to reduce the country's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and strengthen its capacity for adaptation and resilience. It also aims to facilitate the coherent integration of climate change adaptation in relevant policies and programmes, especially in development planning processes and strategies.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Cameroon Red Cross Society 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 Cameroon Red Cross Society seeks to drive behaviour change by training staff and volunteers on climate change and environmental protection, promoting awareness and implementing climate-related disaster risk prevention and waste management. Its multi-year objectives include to:

- Conduct reforestation projects in identified at-risk areas, aiming to reach 30 per cent of the country's population, aligning with the IFRC Pan-African initiative on tree planting
- Monitor and analyze risks, vulnerability, and capacities of communities, integrating climate change and environmental risks
- Identify and discourage building construction or urban encroachment in vulnerable areas, high-risk areas such as hillsides and mountains, and low-lying areas including unbuildable valleys, in the Littoral, centre and west regions, and support the relocation of households living in the flood-prone Maga area
- Lobby the Government, as well as institutions in charge of climate change issues and environmental protection
- Participate in consultation platforms on climate change and environmental protection
- Mobilize organizations capable of supporting its environmental objectives, including non-governmental organizations, grandes écoles, universities, research centres and meteorological and climatological agencies
- Promote the development of environmental policies for national companies, including making supply chains more environmentally friendly
- Build scenarios to strengthen its emergency response systems for increased risks

Planned activities in 2024

- Develop early action protocols for extreme weather events the Far North Region (Mayo Danay, Logone et Chari and Diamaré)
- Implement early warning systems including drought management plans, flood and storm alerts, in the coastal, Adamawa, north, far north and west regions
- Implement a surveillance, prevention, alert and management system for local communities in the north to manage savannah bush fires
- Promote agricultural diversification by promoting the planting of several varieties of crop, and introducing trees into agricultural systems, to reduce the vulnerability of overly specialized agriculture
- Support communities in the management of water points and restoration of degraded rangelands
- Develop climate change adaptation action plans for urban areas, especially those more exposed to climate risks (Douala, Yaoundé, Maroua, Bafoussam, Bamenda) and integrate them into local development plans

- Build the capacity of local communities in the management of hydraulic and sanitation works and water purification techniques for situations of extreme weather events
- Conduct plastic waste collection in urban centres
- Raise public awareness of biodiversity and disaster risk prevention linked to climate change, as well as waste management and recycling

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The Cameroon Red Cross is part of the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), with implementation support from the **French Red Cross** as lead EU National Society and **the IFRC**, and will continue to plant trees under the programme. The National Society will work with local authorities to plant trees in locations that will have benefits for carbon capture, flood mitigation, and livelihoods.

The IFRC will also continue to help the National Society in building its overall capacity on climate change and environmental sustainability, and to integrate climate risk management – including adaptation and mitigation – across all programmes, operations and advocacy.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see the IFRC GO page, Cameroon

Cameroon is grappling with a humanitarian crisis encompassing violence, population displacement, disasters, and escalating food insecurity. The country ranks high on both INFORM Severity Index and Risk Index, with conflict representing the highest risk.

The far north, northwest, and southwest regions face most significant challenges. Ongoing insecurity hinders effective needs assessments and response in the northwest and southwest, with sporadic attacks occurring in various districts and localities in the border areas with Nigeria. Incidents of violence lead to further displacement, exacerbating the risks and pressures from other natural hazards and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Projections for the period June to August 2024 from the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Conceptual Framework (IPC) indicates an estimated 2.5 million people in Cameroon will be in a situation of food crisis (IPC3).

Floods affect most regions of Cameroon every year, and this is worsening as a direct result of climate change. In the far north of the country, an agro-ecological zone characterized

by a Sahelian climate, the impact of floods on communities during the rainy season is even more severe and has a serious impact on vulnerable communities. In the far north, north and Adamawa regions, climate shocks, including both floods and prolonged dry periods, are having a negative impact on already vulnerable populations. In other parts of the country, landslides and mudslides are having increasingly high impacts on local communities, and weather conditions are undermining development advances. In mid-July 2023, heavy rains provoked floods and landslides in the city of Limbe in the South-West due to run-off water and unplanned constructions. 1,600 people were directly affected, and around 250 houses damaged. In early October 2023, torrential rains caused a landslide in the Mbankolo neighbourhood in the Yaoundé district following the collapse of the embankment of an artificial lake uphill. 28 people were killed, over 30 injured, and 60 houses destroyed.

Cameroon does not currently have efficient, integrated early warning systems at the community level, nor does it have strong systems in place to monitor, alert and disseminate information quickly from the national system to vulnerable communities. Cameroon also lacks early action mechanisms and comprehensive contingency plans, hindering timely

response and support to affected communities. As a result even minor shocks significantly impact already fragile communities.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Cameroon Red Cross Society, in line with its auxiliary role, seeks to alleviate the impact of the multiple crises and disasters affecting the population. It plays a role of first responder in emergencies, alongside public authorities, while working on the long-term needs of vulnerable people and the resilience of communities to shocks and hazards. While addressing the food insecurity and displacement that affect millions of people in the country, in 2023 alone the Cameroon Red Cross conducted response operations for localised floods and landslides, as well as disease outbreaks (see also under health and wellbeing).

As a priority country within the [IFRC Pan African Initiative on Preparedness and Readiness](#), the National Society will work on enhancing readiness to provide timely, effective, appropriate, and accountable response to crises and disasters. This includes being able to monitor and analyze risks, vulnerability, and capacities of communities, build scenarios and undertake early actions, strengthen emergency response systems, including trained disaster response teams and swiftly deploy capacity in at risk/affected areas. It also includes strengthening its auxiliary role and coordination for an effective operating environment.

The National Society multi-year objectives include to:

- Focus on disaster preparedness and response and strengthening risk reduction
- Develop its capacity to deliver timely response to humanitarian needs
- Mitigate multi-hazard risks that affect the lives, livelihoods, homes and living conditions of vulnerable, disadvantaged and hard-to-reach communities
- Implement longer-term resilience building programmes that will have a positive, lasting impact on individuals, households and communities

In alignment with the [IFRC Pan Africa Zero Hunger Initiative](#), and in complementarity to the IFRC Africa Hunger Crisis Regional Emergency Appeal, the Cameroon Red Cross is engaged in priority activities such as:

- Development of long-term strategy and plans on food and nutrition security and resilient livelihoods
- Establishment of strategic partnerships for strengthening grassroots resilience in food systems
- Mobilization of resources to support actions that contribute to achievement of the IFRC Pan African Initiative on Zero Hunger

- Participation in IFRC regional technical working groups, and external regional/country coordination/working groups on food nutrition security and resilient livelihoods
- Analysis of the capacity and role of the National Society in grassroots food system strengthening to enhance programming.
- Analysis and development of solutions and models with strategic innovation that improve food and nutrition security and resilience and enhance grassroots food systems

Planned activities in 2024

- Provide multi-sectoral assistance including [shelter](#), non-food items, education, health, legal protection, child protection, documentation, food assistance, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, to a minimum of 15,000 families
- Provide [cash and voucher assistance](#) to vulnerable people affected by crises and disasters, including 30,000 internally displaced people in the far north, Littoral and western regions
- Carry out small mitigation works in targeted villages and neighbourhoods
- Assess the [vulnerabilities and capacities](#) of vulnerable communities in the northwest, southwest, Littoral, far north, Adamawa and west regions
- Develop and implement action plans for disaster risk reduction in communities
- Prepare communities to take smart, context-specific and innovative measures to protect their livelihoods and assets, including through climate-smart production, income generation and timely safety nets, and the establishment of community response teams
- Support local and national disaster risk management communities and institutions to develop effective communication and implement risk-informed and multi-hazard contingency plans and response mechanisms

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society across its disaster risk management objectives, with a focus on priorities linked to the [IFRC Pan-African Zero Hunger and Preparedness and Readiness initiatives](#). IFRC multilateral 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. In 2023, the Cameroon Red Cross accessed the IFRC-DREF to respond to floods and landslides in the city of Limbe and in the

Mbankolo neighbourhood in the Yaoundé. The [two IFRC-DREF allocations](#) amounted to over CHF 220,000.

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the IFRC and DG-ECCHO, the Cameroon Red Cross, with implementation support from the **French Red Cross** will continue to support communities to prepare and respond

to crises by training community response teams, communal contingency planning, and rehabilitating storage facilities. The Cameroon Red Cross will continue to increase its response capacity through the training of branch disaster response teams, pre-positioning of emergency response kits, and strengthening abilities in cash and voucher assistance.



Health and wellbeing

Cameroon's epidemiological profile is marked by a combination of infectious and parasitic diseases, such as malaria, HIV/Aids, tuberculosis, helminthiasis, bilharzia and viral hepatitis. There are also frequent epidemics and chronic non-communicable diseases like arterial hypertension, diabetes and cancers. The main causes of death in Cameroon are [HIV/Aids, diarrhoeal diseases and malaria](#). [Life expectancy in the country is approximately 60 years of age in 2022](#), which is a slow improvement over the past years.

About 70 per cent of health facilities across Cameroon do not have the necessary medical equipment or staff to provide quality healthcare. There is a lack of health facilities, and half of women do not give birth in a health centre or hospital. In the far north, southwest, and northwest regions, healthcare workers are at risk of attack and health facilities continue to be damaged or destroyed, with reports of ambulances caught in crossfire, and hospitals or health centres occupied by security forces. This exacerbates already limited access to health services to deal with weapon injuries and psychosocial trauma related to violence, including sexual violence and rape. Restricted movement and attacks on civilians also limit access to health care, and poverty prevents people from being able to pay medical costs. In the far north, most of the displaced populations find it challenging to access health services because the centres are too far away and too costly. Four million people in the Anglophone areas alone are estimated to have been affected by attacks and have limited healthcare access.

The need for safe drinking water and sanitation is critical across the whole country, with more severe needs in the far north, northwest, southwest, west and Littoral regions. Safe drinking water is difficult to access because of [water scarcity in the far north](#), or because of long distances to travel, malfunctioning water points and waiting times. Latrines are often in limited numbers or badly functioning, resulting in poor hygiene practices. This is worse for displaced populations, who often share shelters, water points, latrines and showers with the host population, increasing the risks of disease and sexual and gender-based violence. In recent years, Cameroon has seen regular outbreaks of [water-borne diseases, such as](#)

[cholera](#), and transmissible diseases, such as measles. This has a particularly strong impact on the already vulnerable districts in the far north the northwest and the southwest.

Cameroon's authorities have drafted a strategic plan to address the multiplicity and diversity of the country's epidemics. The Ministry of Health is currently working to decentralize its health response, in line with its moves to regionalize political decision-making. It aims to strengthen future health preparedness at the local level, particularly around health surveillance, early detection and follow-up. The Government is also looking to address the need to strengthen health infrastructure, with a focus on building the capacity of health structures and trained health personnel.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Cameroon Red Cross Society is focused on targeting [One Health](#) needs that complement the national health plans and programmes of the Government. This is expected to improve health prevention, responsiveness to epidemics and the overall quality of health care. The National Society has a clear auxiliary role to work with the public authorities, offering expertise in previous epidemic prevention and response, and providing strong leadership in the community health field and in response to major health emergencies. The Cameroon Red Cross uses its national grassroots reach to support the Ministry of Health with integrated, [community-based health and first aid \(CBHFA\)](#); and water, sanitation, and hygiene ([WASH](#)) programmes that help address the needs of marginalized groups.

As part of the IFRC [One WASH](#) initiative to reduce cholera-related deaths by 50 per cent, the National Society works on advance action protocol/contingency plan to better prepare for outbreaks of cholera and other water-borne diseases, and measures community awareness of cholera and other epidemics. The National Society seeks to actively engage in national cholera coordination platforms, as well as in national multi-sectoral cholera strategic plans, including short-, medium- and long-term WASH components.

The Cameroon Red Cross is also part with the IFRC of the continent-wide [Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative](#), a partnership platform of Africa CDC funded by the Mastercard Foundation to ensure that 60 per cent of the African population is vaccinated against COVID-19. The National Society supports the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine through community-led and trusted immunization activities. The Cameroon Red Cross is a leading National Society that supports other IFRC network members to implement the programme.

The Cameroon Red Cross multi-year objectives include to:

- Work towards inclusion in relevant national strategies, plans, laws, and policies related to [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#), response, and health system strengthening
- Join national and technical platforms for public health advocacy, [mental health and psychosocial support \(MHPSS\)](#), and nutrition
- Provide training on, and promote awareness of, community-based health and first aid, and community preparedness for epidemics and pandemics
- Promote good practices on nutrition and WASH
- Utilize more than 1,000 volunteers to strengthen [community-based surveillance](#)
- Deliver emergency health assistance to people affected by disasters and crises

Planned activities in 2024

- Improve access to quality primary healthcare for internally displaced populations, refugees and vulnerable hosts in the far north
- Support the medical and nutritional care of children under five years of age in health structures and improve their access to quality health care
- Build the capacity of key community actors such as matrons and mothers' clubs, to identify danger signs in maternal, new-born and child health, as well as good practices in community health
- Support communities with mental health and psychosocial support, and train staff and volunteers to provide psychological support to vulnerable people
- Create, revitalize, and launch clubs and brigades in schools and universities
- Construct new boreholes and rehabilitate all failed boreholes in the evaluated localities

- Chlorinate the water points and disinfect commonly used traditional open wells and provide bins for refuse management
- Provide water, sanitation and hygiene services such as chlorine tablets for water purification, containers for collecting, transporting and storing drinking water, emergency latrines, information on good hygiene practices, for people affected by disasters
- Provide menstrual hygiene management kits
- Build capacity of 158 nutrition focal points and 25 headquarters staff
- Improve the technical platform of the National Society's Henri Dunant medical centre in Yaoundé to improve the blood transfusion process
- Renovate and improve the technical equipment of 15 of the National Society's health facilities
- Develop the National Society's ambulance service with the acquisition of five ambulances including maintenance, replenishment of consumables and referral systems

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, and with implementation support from the **French Red Cross**, the National Society will continue to work with communities on the prevention and early detection of epidemics like cholera and rabies. Community committees and village hygiene committees will be trained and will support awareness raising activities that address gaps identified in the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) survey. The Cameroon Red Cross will continue to support the health districts to carry out vaccination campaigns and support [community-based surveillance](#).

IFRC multilateral mechanisms such as the DREF and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disease outbreaks. In 2023, the Cameroon Red Cross accessed the [IFRC-DREF for an allocation](#) of CHF 150,000 to prepare for the possible spread of Marburg haemorrhagic fever disease declared in neighbouring Equatorial Guinea. The IFRC will also support the Cameroon Red Cross to expand its integrated CBHFA, WASH and MHPSS programmes, enhance investment in [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#) and continue working with partners to ensure equitable access to quality healthcare services.



Cameroon experiences significant internal population movement mostly driven by conflict and violence, and is a country of origin, transit and destination. According to [UNHCR estimates](#) and IOM data, in January 2024, Cameroon counted with 2.2 million people of concern, including almost 1.1 million internally displaced persons, over 650,000 returnees, and almost 490,000 refugees and asylum seekers.

The Far North region is affected by conflicts in the Lake Chad Basin, leading to [90 percent](#) of internal displacements in the region between 2014 and 2019. In 2021, more than [120,000 refugees](#) arrived from Nigeria. Violence within Cameroon contributes to internal displacement as well as people crossing to Chad and Nigeria, making Cameroon the second most affected country in the Lake Chad region. The northeast hosts over 350,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, with ongoing challenges exacerbated by renewed tensions. A majority of the returns were to the [northwest and southwest regions](#), however the situation remains characterized by tensions between the country's Anglophone community, living in the regions on the border with Nigeria, and the Francophone authorities. Violence persists, including inter-community clashes, and 375,000 persons are internally displaced within the two regions.

Localized disasters in Cameroon and neighbouring countries also give rise to occasional population movement, such as in August 2023, when heavy flooding in Chad led to close to 2,500 [people crossing into Cameroon](#) and in need of emergency assistance.

The context of internal displacement is made more unstable by pendular movement, whereby many households continue to move between the place of displacement and areas where crops are grown, or family originate. Refugees and internally displaced persons mainly take refuge in local communities, and despite the longevity and integration of some groups of the refugee population, the scarcity of local resources and services makes them heavily reliant on humanitarian assistance,

The number of people emigrating from Cameroon has also grown, with an [estimated 400,000 migrants](#), mostly considered economic migrants and often facing risks like human slavery and trafficking. Cameroon is ranked as Tier 2 in the 2021 [Trafficking in Persons Report](#), functioning as a source, transit, and destination country for forced labour and sex trafficking.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

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

The National Society provides assistance to internally displaced persons, refugees, and host communities, offering humanitarian assistance and protection for all migrants regardless of their status, and to vulnerable host communities.

The National Society multi-year objectives include to:

- Continue to provide assistance to internally displaced persons, refugees and host communities with a focus on the Far North, West and Littoral regions
- Provide humanitarian assistance and protection through [humanitarian service points](#) and local branches
- Expand its strategy on migration
- Support host communities, displaced persons and migrants to increase social cohesion and inclusion

Planned activities in 2024

- Deliver humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons, refugees and host communities tailored to their needs
 - Continue the project on health facilities and [WASH](#) activities with internally displaced persons in Centre (Mfoundi), West (Bamboutos and Noun), and Littoral (Wouri) with the support of Italian government
 - Deliver training on protection, gender and inclusion and human rights, which includes raising awareness of trafficking in human beings, unaccompanied minors, sexual exploitation and abuse
 - Develop a feedback and complaint management mechanism aimed at displaced persons and migrants
 - Strengthen the National Society's national and local capacities on migration through capacity building of members of the steering committee, 20 headquarters staff, and the heads of 58 departmental branches
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC multilateral mechanisms such as the DREF and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to population movement. In 2023, the Cameroon Red Cross accessed the [IFRC-DREF for an allocation](#) of CHF 160,000 to assist 2,100 people from Chad who crossed into Cameroon as a result of heavy flooding. The IFRC will also support the Cameroon Red Cross in expanding humanitarian support to

migrants along major migratory routes irrespective of their legal status, focusing on protection of particularly vulnerable migrants, and working on inclusion and social cohesion. The IFRC will engage with the National Society in research and new transformative partnerships to better meet the evolving needs of people on the move, and in improving work across borders, allowing National Societies to have more connected programmes and information systems between countries and along migration route.



Values, power and inclusion

Protection challenges associated with conflict and violence are significant in Cameroon, and include forced displacement, human rights abuses, family separations, stigmatization, and exploitation of displaced individuals. These are particularly pronounced in regions such as the north, northwest, southwest, and east, where ongoing insurgencies or population movements compound existing vulnerabilities within local communities. Undermined support systems and essential services exacerbate vulnerabilities for millions of people.

Protection risks are heightened for older people, people living with disabilities, vulnerable women and children and other marginalized groups who are unable to leave or access protection and assistance. Children are significantly affected, either being separated from their families and communities due to violence or facing limitations in nutritional, health, and educational development as a result of conflict or displacement. Levels of violence or communal tension also increase the need to walk long distances to access basic services, which adds further to the risk of sexual and gender-based violence to women and girls. The far north region has experienced the highest levels of sexual and gender-based violence, including physical or sexual assault, rape, psychological violence, forced marriage and denial of resources. Gender inequality remains prevalent in Cameroon, and women experience violence, inequality and discrimination.

In the far north, northwest, and southwest regions, access to basic social and legal services have been seriously disrupted, putting young men and boys at risk of arbitrary arrest. Access to basic services, such as health care and education, is limited, especially for women and girls. In some of the affected regions, up to [85 per cent](#) of schools have been shut down due to violence or lack of access, and in some of these regions, more than [855,000 children](#) have been forced out of school, due to these conflicts. School buildings have been burnt down or used by armed groups, and school boycotts have been enforced by separatist groups. Many health centres have also been damaged or destroyed, leaving medical staff unable to provide proper health care.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Cameroon Red Cross Society is focusing on institutionalizing [community engagement and accountability](#) (CEA), and [protection, gender and inclusion](#) (PGI) across all its operations and programmes, including through an organizational development process. The National Society also aims to grow [youth engagement](#) in social cohesion and the promotion of humanitarian values.

The Cameroon Red Cross high-level objectives include to:

- Develop and validate the National Society's policies on gender-based violence, and prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse
- Develop a feedback and complaint management mechanism
- Run pilot projects to tackle sexual and gender-based violence
- Promote gender mainstreaming and diversity in all activities, build capacity in gender analysis in project settings, and increase transparency in the criteria for identifying the recipients of its interventions
- Sensitize community actors, and community and religious leaders, on gender mainstreaming and the consideration of gender dimensions in their planning, budgeting and other actions
- Promote and facilitate the representation of women and young people in community decision-making bodies
- Build capacity for women in leadership and advocacy
- Expand humanitarian [education](#) programmes focusing on humanitarian values, while also making it easier for young people affected by war, disaster, or displacement to continue their schooling
- Grow in social cohesion and the promotion of humanitarian values

- Create a radio channel for the promotion of humanitarian principles and values
- Advocate for the Government to define a law on the protection of personal data
- Deliver training on humanitarian principles and values for 10,800 youth leaders
- Train 50 staff and 116 National Society youth focal points across Cameroon on the Movement's fundamental principles and values

Planned activities in 2024

- Create and support mothers' clubs and youth clubs, as well as the consolidation of existing clubs
- Link mothers' clubs and youth club members to specialized sexual and gender-based violence services as well as to sexual and reproductive health services
- Conduct socio-anthropological research with mothers' club participants on the effects of gender and access to income and social capital
- Carry out volunteer and community perception survey to evaluate the impact of community engagement and accountability (CEA) activities in communities
- Develop at least two success stories on CEA activities in communities
- Develop a standard operating procedure (SOP) for community feedback management
- Raise awareness in schools, schools and universities of humanitarian principles and values

- Deliver holiday activities for young people in Red Cross brigades and clubs, while also promoting humanitarian principles and values in the 731 clubs and 472 Red Cross brigades
- Produce and disseminate reports on protection, gender and inclusion to authorities and organizations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and DG ECHO, and with support from the **French Red Cross**, the Cameroon Red Cross will continue to improve in community engagement and accountability. Feedback will continue to be collected through established channels to be reviewed and actioned.

The IFRC will provide overarching support to the National Society on PGI, CEA and education.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Cameroon Red Cross is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2019. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Red Cross in Cameroon's self-assessment team identified the following priority areas in which the National Society needs to further develop its capacities:

- Vision and strategies shared with all its internal and external stakeholders
- Human resources (staff and volunteers)

- Financial resources
- Network of branches
- Programmes and services (technical areas)
- Communication

The Cameroon Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response process and is at the prioritization and analysis phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop new partnerships with line ministries
- Hold meetings, jointly with the IFRC with key ministers to position the Cameroon Red Cross auxiliary role
- Ensure active participation, jointly with the IFRC in humanitarian country team and other strategic collaborations
- Participate in all Movement and non-Movement coordination bodies
- Ensure effective communication and representation with all key embassies
- Register focal point persons and senior management at high-profile humanitarian coordination meetings

- Increase domestic funding and resources to the tune of 50 per cent total annual income
- Develop an effective local resource mobilization strategy

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to reinforce its auxiliary role to authorities and in the search for more diversified partnerships, and assist the National Society in mobilizing funding and other resources. It will also support active engagement of the Cameroon Red Cross with key actors such as donors, private sector, foundations and development banks, and by following up with embassies, participating National Societies, UN agencies, private, bilateral, and multilateral donors.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Conduct a mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan to review its relevance and implementation
- Reinforce good governance and management of the National Society
- Develop, revise and implement policies, as well as staff capacity, around human resources, finance and logistics
- Build capacity of members of the National Society's steering committee on gender and diversity
- Strengthen its branches and headquarters, including with materials, supplies and equipment to enable them to be more effective
- Develop the volunteering policy and promote volunteering with the Red Cross clubs in high schools and universities

- Increase the number of volunteers
- Revise, validate and popularize the National Society's youth policy
- Engage more young people in its activities and strengthen their participation in governance bodies and decision-making processes
- Increase resource allocation to youth led programmes

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Cameroon Red Cross across its development efforts, from leadership and governance, management culture and systems, to branch development, volunteers and youth.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop a humanitarian diplomacy policy
- Develop strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space
- Participation in activities for safeguarding public health and the promotion of social welfare and a culture of non-violence and peace in cooperation with national authorities
- Amplify communication and visibility in social media and public media, and improve visibility of its activities and impact

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in the development of a humanitarian diplomacy policy, and in strategies and advocacy on key issues such as humanitarian access, public health, social welfare and a culture of non-violence and peace. The IFRC will also support communication and visibility efforts of the Cameroon Red Cross, and act as the official representative of the National Society in the international domain while ensuring the preservation of its integrity and safeguarding its interests.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

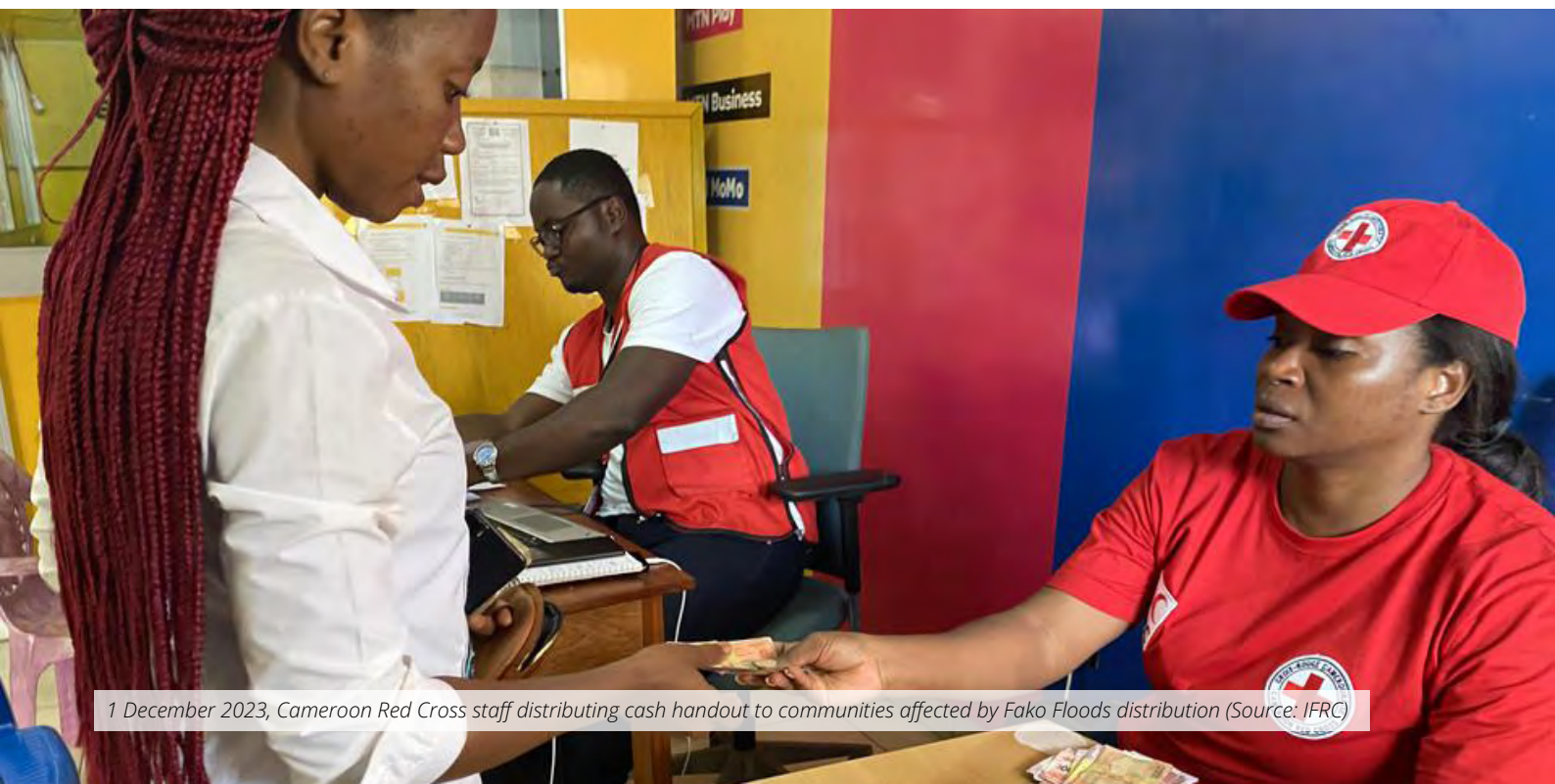
Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen policies and processes to prevent fraud, corruption, and sexual exploitation and abuse
- Set up an integrity line as a reporting system for any misconduct or integrity incident
- Conduct regular audits (internal and external) to strengthen accountability
- Strengthen the planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation (PMER) and finance units

- Focus on ensuring the volunteers safety and security
- Focus on digital transformation

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in the development of a policy on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, in the implementation of an integrity policy, and to improve whistleblowing systems. The IFRC will create a domain name and register the Cameroon Red Cross on the web as a non-profit organization, provide it with a low license fee software, and cover the costs of internet access.



THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC provides support to the National Society through its country cluster delegation based in Yaoundé. The support focuses on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, and accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC helps strengthen the National Society's auxiliary role by meeting key stakeholders at government level on a regular basis.

In recent years, the IFRC supported the Cameroon Red Cross Society through a number of Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) [operations](#) in

relation to food insecurity, floods, population movement and disease outbreaks, including through the IFRC COVID-19 [Global Emergency Appeal](#).

Additionally, the IFRC provides technical support for a broad range of services, such as the upgrading of strategies on disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, the fight against epidemics, responses to population movement and cash preparedness – including work on the procurement of a financial service provider.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context 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 Cameroon Red Cross Society is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between DG ECHO and IFRC. It benefits from the support of the French Red Cross and the IFRC for the implementation of activities in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemics and pandemic preparedness and response, cash and voucher assistance, risk communication, community engagement and accountability. The partnership

meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with greater impact.

The National Society is part of the four [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready, and National Society development.

The **French Red Cross** has been present in Cameroon since 1967, and it signed a cooperation framework agreement with the Cameroon Red Cross Society in 2009. The French Red Cross has applied a community-based approach while working alongside the country's health authorities, to enable the Cameroon Red Cross to develop and implement projects focusing on preparedness and response to disasters, health crises and the increased vulnerabilities of people on the move. The French Red Cross works to ensure the sustainability of the Cameroon Red Cross activities and intervenes in the far north and east of the country to improve the resilience of vulnerable populations.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
French Red Cross			●	●	●	●	
Italian Red Cross	78,000				●		

Total Funding requirement

78,000

Movement coordination

The Cameroon Red Cross Society, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) meet monthly to focus on strategic level engagement. An International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Coordination Agreement is also in place. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#). With the combined support of Movement partners, the Cameroon Red Cross Society provides multi-sectoral assistance to displaced people in the west, centre, far north and Littoral regions.

The [ICRC's](#) Yaoundé delegation promotes international humanitarian law, helps people displaced by violence, restores family links, visits detainees and fosters the development of the region's National Societies. The ICRC provides the Cameroon Red Cross Society with overall support for humanitarian operations in conflict-prone areas. The ICRC also supports the Cameroon Red Cross Society in emergency preparedness, partnerships and National Society development.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Cameroon Red Cross Society has a strong partnership with the Government of Cameroon and works closely with the Ministry of Health to play a key advocacy role in its humanitarian tasks. Collaboration with ministries include the Ministry of External Relations, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Women and Family, Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs, and Ministry of Territorial Administration. The National Society is involved in emergency coordination mechanisms, including crisis management committees at divisional level when activated.

The National Society also works with the World Health Organization (WHO), the African Development Bank, UNICEF, UNHCR and Fondation Hirondelle, and in most cases, the activities supported relate to refugees and other vulnerable groups.

The National Society has established significant partnerships with external partners and donors, which are aimed at strengthening the quality of health provision and health security. The USAID IFRC community [epidemic and pandemic preparedness programme](#) (CP3) supported community health preparedness for epidemics, while the Africa Centre for Disease Control support allowed building risk communication and community engagement capacity while addressing vaccine hesitancy during the COVID-19 response. The National Society's programmes are carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Health and other key actors in the health field, including WHO, UN agencies such as UNICEF, and NGOs such as Solidarités International. The collaborations are focused on strengthening the National Society's volunteer base of community health teams and responders, to reinforce their capacities in community surveillance and detecting disease outbreaks and other health risks. This provides a grassroots base for immediate response and for longer-term improvements in the quality and coverage of healthcare.



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

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