



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

3 April 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 205M**

In support of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



26

National Society branches



113

National Society staff



503,311

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



250,000

Ongoing
emergency
operations



250,000

Climate and
environment



450,000

Disasters
and crises



3.5M

Health and
wellbeing



250,000

Migration and
displacement



200,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- food insecurity

Longer term needs

- disaster preparedness and response
- epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response
- protracted displacement

Capacity development

- regulatory texts
- human, material and financial capacities
- partnership development

Key country data

Population

99M

INFORM Severity rating

Very high

INFORM Climate Risk Index

Very high

Human Development Index rank

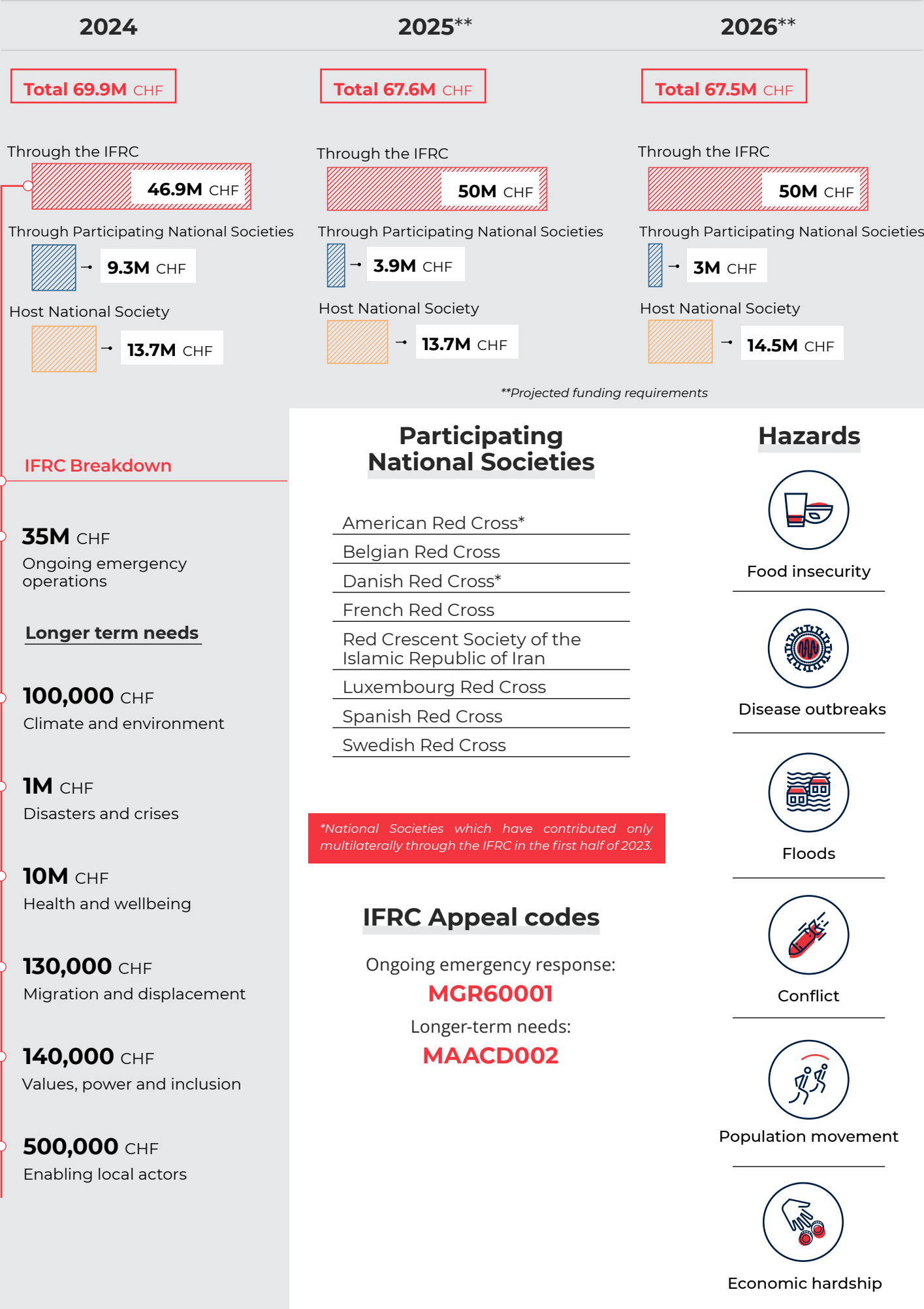
179

Population below poverty level

63.9%

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for DRC,
Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, Kinshasa

Funding requirements



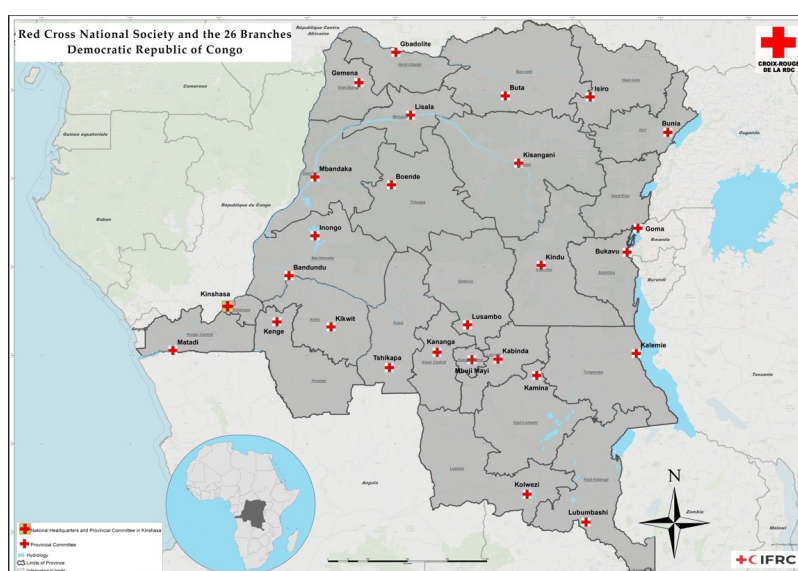
NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC Red Cross)** was created in its current form in 1961 as an auxiliary structure of the public authorities in the humanitarian field. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1963. The National Society has a branch in each of the 26 provinces and 245 territorial committees, and a large network of trained and motivated volunteers and staff. The DRC Red Cross is equipped with provincial disaster response teams with 110 trained members, a regional disaster response team with 10 trained members, and a national disaster response team with 30 trained members.

With its decades of experience in helping the most vulnerable people, the National Society has extensive experience in responding to epidemics of cholera and Ebola, disasters

including floods, volcanic eruptions and landslides, and population movements. In 2022 alone, the DRC Red Cross reached over 9.4 million people with long term services and development programmes, and 5.7 million people with disaster response and early recovery support.

The DRC Red Cross is finalising its Strategic Plan 2024-2028, following an evaluation of its Strategic Plan 2019-2023 and other assessments. The draft Strategic Plan articulates priorities of the National Society to further strengthen its organizational development, and to improve the quality of its services for the benefit of vulnerable people in the five domains of community health, risk management and addressing the consequences of disasters, youth, protection, gender and inclusion, and promotion of humanitarian values and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.



IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is about the size of Western Europe and is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa. It is endowed with exceptional natural resources, including minerals like cobalt and copper, hydropower potential, significant arable land, immense biodiversity, and the world's second-largest rainforest. Most people in the DRC have

not benefitted from this wealth. The country is experiencing a complex, protracted crisis resulting from a combination of factors such as conflict, environmental hazards, and disease outbreaks. Internal and cross-border displacement, acute food insecurity and malnutrition, epidemics and protection issues affect the population.

A long history of conflict has led to a grave humanitarian crisis. There are more than 120 active non-state armed groups in eastern DRC, with a resurgence of violence in 2022. The most active groups include the 23 March Movement (M23), and the

Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) which have escalated violence in the Kivu region, leading to severe humanitarian consequences. Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) notes that Kivu is experiencing its worst crisis in 30 years, with nearly [1.5 million displaced people](#), including 600,000 in Goma. Living conditions are dire, marked by epidemics of measles and cholera, inadequate sanitation and drinking water, widespread insecurity, and frequent incidents of rape.

The underestimation of the crisis may have devastating consequences for the entire Great Lakes region. The [OCHA DRC 2023 reports](#) that conflict, forced displacement, and disasters caused by natural hazards have left 26.4 million people food insecure, while gender-based violence affects 7.6 million Congolese women.

Displaced individuals lack access to adequate services, and preventable epidemics like measles, yellow fever, cholera, and

malaria persist. Maternal mortality is high, with four women dying every hour during childbirth or due to pregnancy-related complications. The infant mortality rate is alarming at 70 per 1,000 live births. 7.4 million people are in need of health services, and 6.8 million require humanitarian assistance for water, sanitation, and hygiene.

The DRC faces one of the highest stunting rates in sub-Saharan Africa, with malnutrition causing nearly half of all deaths in children under five. Unlike other African countries, the prevalence of stunting in the DRC has not decreased in the past two decades, partly due to a high fertility rate. Almost [60 percent of the population is below 20 years of age](#). The DRC ranks 179 out of 191 countries and territories on the 2021 Human Development Index, placing it in countries of low human development, despite progress in life expectancy and average years of schooling over the past decades.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency Operation	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Appeal number	MGR60001
Duration	Operation start date for DRC 9 July 2022, extended operation 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)
People to be assisted	In DRC 2,500,000 people
Funding requirement	Total funding requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 232.5 million • Federation-wide: CHF 318 million Funding requirement for DRC for 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the IFRC Appeal CHF 35 million • Federation-wide CHF 40 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Link to Operational Strategy for DRC	DRC Country Plan of Action (2022-09-23)

The DRC Red Cross has been responding to the food security crisis in the country through a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation since July 2022. A further deterioration of the food security in a number of countries in Africa, including in the DRC prompted, the IFRC to launch a Regional [Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal](#) in October 2022. Due to the prolonged and deepening food crisis across the region and an urgent need to sustain and increase resources, this Regional Emergency Appeal, Africa Hunger Crisis, has been extended until the end of 2024, in order to continue to provide an overarching structure

for hunger crisis responses across the continent. By end 2023, it was estimated that a quarter of the population in the DRC was facing food insecurity (IPC 3 or above). Under the Revised Emergency Appeal, the DRC Red Cross aims at supporting 2.5 million people, representing about ten per cent of all affected by food insecurity.

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 ensures 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 in the DRC. 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 DRC Red Cross' planned operations are aligned with the regional operational strategy's three response pillars and include:

Food Security and Livelihoods

Provide households with unconditional multi-purpose cash grants to address their basic needs and provide food security for people from the most vulnerable groups in rural and urban areas who are facing acute food insecurity. Restore and strengthen the livelihoods of communities, especially in disaster and crisis-affected areas.

Health and Nutrition

Reduce the immediate risks to the health of affected populations by providing acute malnutrition support and Nutrition. Screening, referrals, education/awareness-raising, and follow-up will also be provided.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Provide access to community-managed water sources and to safe water. Scale-up support to reach people with improved access to water in communities and clinics through rehabilitation, maintenance, and running of community water points. Reach people with WASH communication on improved hygiene and sanitation awareness.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion

Ensure meaningful inclusion of women, youth, refugees host communities, displaced persons and other groups in hunger response and recovery initiatives in the DRC. Ensure a maximum of 50 per cent men and 50 per cent women in the teams and a minimum of 30 per cent women and 70 per cent men in decision-making. Integrate Gender Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation activities into interventions, including referral of GBV cases and what to do if GBV services are not available in intervention areas.

Community Engagement and Accountability

Develop and deploy standardized approaches for community engagement, collection, and use of qualitative community feedback data to better understand community perspectives. Ensure that people affected by crises are aware of their rights and know how it works and what it can and cannot do during an emergency response.

Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation, and Recovery

Prepare communities in high-risk areas to be able to respond to disasters. Reducing risk includes training community members in first aid, disaster preparedness and response, and the establishment of multi-hazard early warning systems.



15 August 2023, DRC Red Cross volunteers getting trained for DRC Midline KAP survey as part of epidemic and pandemic preparedness intervention (Photo: IFRC)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The DRC is the 10th most vulnerable and the 189th most ready country in the world, when it comes to the impacts of climate change, according to the [ND-GAIN Index](#) in 2020. The DRC is experiencing rising annual temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events, such as [flash floods and prolonged periods of drought](#). It is exposed to increased vulnerabilities linked to climate change, such as food insecurity due to crop losses and failures, increased livestock mortality, negative impacts on fisheries, and damage to infrastructure.

Desertification, environmental degradation, changes in water resources and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services constitute serious obstacles to the country's continued development. Changes in precipitation patterns can have far-reaching consequences for ecosystems and biodiversity, food production, the water industry, and rivers. Climate change is likely to exacerbate these concerns because the majority of agricultural production – providing livelihoods for a large part of the population – is rainfed. Rising temperatures, particularly in the south, threaten agricultural production and rural livelihoods.

Rising temperatures and more variable rainfall will also impact the country's forests, which are critical to rural livelihoods, and the ecosystem services they provide, which are already under threat from land use changes and a growing demand for charcoal and tropical forest products. More than half the country's 2.3 million square kilometres are covered by forests, and between 2001 and 2021, the DRC lost 5.91 million hectares of primary rainforest, representing 34 per cent of the total loss of vegetation cover over this period. The total area of primary rainforest in the DRC decreased by 5.6 per cent over this period, even though the Congo Basin rainforest plays a key role in the fight against global warming, absorbing around 4 per cent of the world's annual CO2 emissions. The loss also has a huge influence on the lives of the people who consider it to be their 'motherland'.

The DRC has finalized a [National Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#) (2022–2026) as stipulated in the Paris Agreement. This plan, as well as the [National Strategic Development Plan](#) (2019–2023), encourage the implementation of reforestation programmes and domestication of species of high ancestral value. The [aim of the plan](#) is to ensure the resilience of ecosystems and populations to the impacts of climate change.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The DRC Red Cross is part of the IFRC's [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 and anticipatory action and preparedness, (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change, (3) addressing climate displacement, and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Society is also a signatory to the [Climate and Environment Charter for humanitarian organizations](#) since 2022, and engaged in the [IFRC Pan African initiative on tree planting and care](#), in line with governmental reforestation and preservation efforts. The National Society, with the support of the French Red Cross, has also constituted a pool of trainers on the nexus environment tool ([NEAT+](#)).

The DRC Red Cross multi-year objectives include to:

- Implement a tree planting initiative by planting 4,000 trees per year, contributing to the preservation and restoration of Congo's rainforests
- Harness [nature-based solutions](#) focused on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation, with a particular focus on tree and mangrove planting
- Carry out actions to adapt to the growing and changing risks of climate and environmental crises, protecting at least 250,000 people per year from heat in at least three towns in Grand Ouest and Grand Kivu
- Implement environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction and clean-ups
- Raise community awareness on the impact of climate change
- Mainstream climate-smart approaches with communities
- Implement [environmentally sustainable practices](#) and contribute to climate change mitigation
- Build and enhance the climate action capacity of National Society volunteers and technical staff

Planned activities in 2024

- Raise community awareness on the impacts of climate change and respect for the environment, including through the dissemination of related educational materials based on trusted information sources and local languages, and ensuring a feedback system to strengthen community engagement in their diversity and meet their information needs
- Conduct enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments ([IFRC-eVCA](#)) in communities, integrating climate change and environmental risks
- Organize community sanitation and risk mitigation sessions on waste disposal, waste collection/drainage/ rainfall, compost, and reforestation
- Develop a climate-smart food security programme related in communities
- Support community resilience initiatives relating to the adverse effects of climate change and recurrent disasters – three initiative by province in Grand Ouest and Grand Kivu (Kongo Central, Kinshasa, Kwango, Kwilu, Maindombe, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema)
- Fight against erosion and desertification through tree planting 4,000 trees or 1,000 per branch (Kwango, Kongo Central, Maniema, North Kivu)
- Systematize environmental assessments through the use of [NEAT+](#)
- Organize cascading trainings for volunteers, members of target communities, civil society actors and the media on protection of the environment and environmental sustainability

- Identify, nominate, and train focal points in [green response](#) and nature-based solution approaches in branches and at headquarters, and sensitize governance and management
 - Ensure participation in coordination platforms related to environmental protection
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo 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 **French Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross**, and the **IFRC**. Under the ECHO PPP, the DRC Red Cross will implement climate-smart programming for food security and livelihoods. It has the dual objective of reducing negative environmental degradation and building the resilience of people and communities to the impacts of climate change.

The IFRC will also support the DRC Red Cross with the development and implementation of action plans, project proposals and resource mobilization for climate change and tree planting initiatives.

The **The Belgian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross** and **Swedish Red Cross** will support the DRC Red Cross in its climate change and environmental preservation efforts, including with the establishment and equipping of sanitation teams in the villages, training and support to women producers' cooperatives, use of organic fertilizers, and promotion of women's agricultural cooperatives' access to markets and a safe environment.



Disasters and crises

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

The DRC is highly vulnerable to sudden, recurrent, or protracted crises and disasters. The [INFORM country risk profile](#) classifies the DRC as very high risk, especially for humanitarian crises linked to epidemics, conflict and environmental hazards, including volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods and droughts. The DRC's exposure to these risks is exacerbated by poverty and political insecurity. Lower-income populations tend to live in more hazardous locations, with a high potential for significantly increased exposure.

In recent years, floods in the DRC have affected thousands of people and caused extensive damage to infrastructure

and crops. In 2022, 26 million DRC residents were affected by drought, equivalent to one in four people. Landslides, exacerbated by the rugged terrain, further claim lives and impact food security through soil and infrastructure degradation. Active volcanoes and earthquakes, notably in the Virunga volcanic chain, pose a direct threat to over a million inhabitants, exemplified by Mount Nyiragongo's 2021 eruption, causing significant damage and displacement.

The DRC has experienced several forms of conflict, including ethnic clashes, armed group attacks, and intercommunal violence. In 2023, against a backdrop of escalating conflict since November 2022, particularly in North Kivu and Ituri, and despite several ceasefire announcements, fighting between

the M23 non-state armed group and the Congolese army is continuing, causing massive population displacements, and heightening the risk of food insecurity.

While the main factors influencing food insecurity are conflicts and population movements, food security is also affected by land and infrastructure degradation due to erosion and landslides, a rise in livestock and crop diseases due to temperature increases, direct crop failure due to floods and heavy rains, and nutrient leaching and fungal growth due to high humidity. In 2023, conflict zones, including North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri, had many displaced households that lacked regular or any harvest due to abandoned fields. In the areas with large displaced populations and are affected by conflict, there has been an increase in visible signs of malnutrition and the use of emergency strategies such as begging or going without food for several days. Despite seasonal improvements in household food consumption, conflict-affected areas struggle with agricultural disruptions, emphasizing the complex challenges facing the DRC.

The DRC National Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2023 for Natural Risk and Disaster Reduction identifies nine priority axes across risk reduction and preparedness. National platforms and coordination mechanisms are also in place.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

With 26 branches, an active volunteer base and high levels of access and acceptance across the territory, the DRC Red Cross is a key humanitarian actor and first responder. The National Society is also a member of the national platform for disaster risk reduction, and contributes to the national plan through disaster preparedness and risk reduction. It works to strengthen its capacity to effectively manage disasters and emergencies, as part of the IFRC Pan-African Red Ready initiative.

The DRC Red Cross multi-year objectives on disaster risk management include to:

- Contribute to the scale-up of humanitarian action and risk reduction, with a focus on risk reduction at the local level by building local capacity for early warning and early/effective response
- Systematically integrate cash and voucher assistance into operations
- Engage in preparedness and capacity building processes, such as the IFRC preparedness for an effective response (PER), cash preparedness, logistics
- Strengthen its leadership in the field of disaster law and assist the Government in adopting related legal instruments and frameworks

The DRC Red Cross also seeks to contribute to the national food and nutrition security policy, implementing elements

of the IFRC Pan-African Zero Hunger initiative. The National Society's aim is to address severe food insecurity (supported through the IFRC regional hunger crisis Appeal), support recovery and build resilience in the country.

Planned activities in 2024

- Establish early warning systems in partnership with local media to promote key messages on disaster risk and encourage risk reduction
- Develop the mapping of risk areas or areas of refuge in the event of disaster threats and organize simulation exercises within communities
- Provide timely and appropriate in-kind and cash and voucher assistance to people affected by crises and disasters
- Support the most profitable agricultural and commodity processing activities, including access to inputs and equipment for related activities
- Support to 5,000 smallholder farmers, through climate-smart anticipatory action, including technical support and complementary resources
- Pre-position a stock of intervention equipment such as assistance kits and first aid kits
- Elaborate and disseminate contingency plans in branches for a variety of hazards
- Undertake advocacy with the Ministry of the Interior on the facilitation and national regulation of relief operations
- Participate in meetings within the disaster risk reduction coordination platforms

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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. The IFRC and in-country participating National Societies will continue to coordinate closely their support to the DRC Red Cross, for implementation of their support through the Regional Revised Hunger Crisis Appeal 2023-2024 (see Ongoing Emergency Response section above), in order for the National Society to reach the most vulnerable communities. In 2023, the DRC Red Cross also accessed the IFRC DREF for operations related to floods and election preparedness, for a total of over CHF 480,000.

The IFRC will support the National Society in resource mobilization to implement the IFRC Pan-African Preparedness and Readiness and Zero Hunger initiatives. It will provide technical and financial support for cash and voucher assistance, risk communication, early warnings and community preparedness. The IFRC will also support the National Society on disaster law.

The participating National Societies will further support the DRC Red Cross through food insecurity preparedness, early recovery, and resilience projects. They will also contribute to the establishment of an information management and monitoring system so that at-risk communities and disaster responders receive actionable risk insights. The participating National Societies, which contribute to the implementation of actions under this priority are **Belgian Red Cross, French Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross**.

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, the DRC Red Cross will

continue to work on disaster preparedness. Drawing on the results of local assessments, the National Society will help communities develop emergency plans, action plans, community disaster response teams, and early warning systems. The National Society will continue to strengthen its capacity in disaster response by training branch disaster response teams and testing the standard operating procedures that were developed for cash assistance. The **Luxembourg Red Cross** will provide technical assistance to this component, with a focus on [shelter](#) and the distribution of essential household items.



Health and wellbeing

The DRC ranks low at 104 out of 140 countries assessed on the 2021 [Global Health Security Index](#) (GHS Index), despite progress since the 2019 assessment in the country's preparedness and capacity to prevent, detect, respond to, develop norms and risk culture to epidemics and other public health crises. [Evidence suggests](#) that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the level of use of health services since March 2020.

Malaria is still a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the DRC, and cases are expected to increase in terms of seasonality and geography. This is due in part to rising temperatures, more variable precipitation, and increased humidity, which affect the lifecycle and habitat of malaria-carrying mosquito and parasite species. Malaria cases are expected to triple in already vulnerable areas by mid-century. This anticipated shift will expose an additional 65,000 to 80,000 people in [previously unsuitable regions](#), primarily in the south-west (Kwango province) and east (Kivu provinces).

The DRC faces recurrent disease outbreaks such as cholera, Murray Valley encephalitis, monkeypox, measles, Ebola, meningitis, plague, and yellow fever. The Ebola outbreak [declared](#) in the DRC in August 2022 was the fifteenth Ebola outbreak since 1976, seven of which have occurred since 2018. The country has also been facing a [measles and deadly cholera](#) epidemic for several years, with regular outbreaks in different parts of the country.

These epidemics also contribute to the food and nutritional insecurity of the displaced households, which are cut off from their livelihoods. As the number of displaced people increases in the area, epidemics are resurfacing in the camps for displaced people in North Kivu. According to [Médecins Sans Frontières](#) (MSF), an average of 90 new cases of cholera are reported every day, and the same is true of the measles epidemic, which continues to spread, with almost 900 cases already reported since the start of 2023 in the Nyiragongo

health zone alone. This is a worrying situation, given the [overcrowded conditions](#) in the internally displaced person sites, which are conducive to the rapid spread of the disease.

Nearly 23 million children missed out on routine vaccinations in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the highest number in more than a decade, according to data from WHO and UNICEF. This situation is exacerbated by high vaccine hesitancy in the country. The under-five mortality rate in the DRC is high. This is partly due to the high prevalence of malnutrition, which is responsible for 45 per cent of deaths among young children. The prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children aged between six months and five years has remained stable over the past decade, currently estimated at 43 per cent. On average, 6.3 million young children are chronically malnourished in the DRC. An estimated 50 per cent of this malnutrition is associated with diarrhoea or repeated intestinal nematode infections from unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene. The combination of repeated malnutrition and diarrhoea creates a vicious cycle that hinders a child's growth and development.

October 2023 [data](#) show that 45.9 per cent of the population did not have access to basic drinking water, 19.1 per cent had access to basic hygiene services and only 15 per cent access to basic sanitation.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The DRC Red Cross has been responding to multiple disease outbreaks over the years, including notably the series of Ebola virus disease outbreaks since 2018 in the Equateur province and eastern part of the country. Through an IFRC [Emergency Appeal](#), the DRC Red Cross carried out critical activities during these outbreaks, including safe and dignified burials, infection prevention and control in health facilities, and risk communication and community engagement.

The DRC Red Cross response to COVID-19 included a contribution to the development of national plans for the use of vaccines that were integrated into the national immunization plan. Activities have been expanded to include vaccination against other diseases, in addition to COVID-19. The National Society is also involved in the [country support platform](#) on [cholera control](#), hosted by the IFRC.

With its network of community volunteers and extended experience responding to outbreaks, the DRC Red Cross seeks to contribute to the development of integrated health, with a focus on [community-based health and first aid](#), and [water, hygiene and sanitation](#) (WASH) programmes to meet the unmet needs of vulnerable or marginalized groups. This also includes interventions in [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#) and response at the [community level for surveillance](#), early detection and rapid response to outbreaks and other health risks. The National Society involves traditional healers, religious leaders, community-based organizations, community leaders, schools, media and other community networks and volunteers as community responders.

The National Society multi-year objectives include to:

- Reach 3.5 million people per year with health services to help protect and improve the health and well-being of communities
- Reach 5,000 people a year with [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS) services
- Train at least 5,000 people a year in [first aid](#)
- Contribute to preserving the health and dignity of communities in emergency situations by giving them access to appropriate health services
- Reach one million people each year with WASH services
- Increase access for communities exposed to pandemics and epidemics to affordable, appropriate and environmentally friendly WASH services
- Contribute to a 50 per cent reduction in deaths related to [cholera](#) and other diarrhoeal diseases, by promoting access to and the use of clean water and sanitation infrastructure
- Continue to implement community engagement and accountability activities as well as WASH activities to fight COVID-19

Planned activities in 2024

- Establish community animation cells in health zones for the development and strengthening of community initiatives in health education, hygiene, and basic sanitation in Kinshasa and each of the major cities of the provincial branches
- Strengthen and promote community-based solutions to health emergencies

- Produce and popularize educational materials related to [epidemic control](#), WASH and vaccination
- Ensure awareness of good practices in communities exposed to epidemics and pandemics and epidemics, including cholera as part of the IFRC [One WASH](#) initiative, and ways to better mitigate their impact
- Construct, rehabilitate, and develop water structures in the provincial branches of the target operational areas alongside mapping the existing functional and non-functional water points
- Provide WASH management committees with maintenance kits for the sustainability of water and sanitation facilities in the branches of two target operational areas
- Provide quality first aid services and training in vulnerable communities, and commercial first aid to public and private sector institutions
- Partake actively in the Ministry of Health's platforms to strengthen its auxiliary role in health and WASH, and other coordination platforms at all levels
- Finalize, produce and disseminate the National Society health and WASH strategy
- Pursue capacity building and training of volunteers and staff on multiple health and WASH themes

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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 disease outbreaks.

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, and with implementation support of EU National Societies, the DRC Red Cross will continue to work with communities and health authorities on community-based surveillance for the early detection and response to prevalent diseases, such as cholera, haemorrhagic fevers, and measles. The trained volunteers and staff will carry out awareness campaigns to spread key messages to prevent the diseases.

The IFRC will continue to provide technical and financial support to the National Society for the community epidemic and pandemic preparedness programme (CP3), and for cholera control. It will also support the development and implementation of new health and WASH programmes, and interventions on epidemics such as cholera, measles, Ebola, plague, and yellow fever, among others. It will also support the DRC Red Cross in strengthening routine immunization and nutrition, and its participation in the meetings of the humanitarian coordination platforms for the health, nutrition and WASH clusters.

The participating National Societies will support the National Society in advocacy with health authorities for the involvement of volunteers at health zone level, and with various health and WASH actions in different provinces. Support will also be provided for the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights, and for the mothers' clubs in setting up and managing health solidarity funds to facilitate access to care. They will also

provide technical and financial support to the National Society in the province of Kwilu/Tshikapa, within the framework of the food security and nutrition projects. The participating National Societies, which contribute to the implementation of actions under this priority are the **Belgian Red Cross** (French and Flemish communities), **French Red Cross**, **Luxembourg Red Cross**, **Spanish Red Cross**, and **Swedish Red Cross**.



Migration and displacement

There has been widespread forced displacement of people fleeing from conflicts, epidemics, and disasters in the DRC. As no national registration system exists, migration statistics are provided by humanitarian organizations and verified by the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration. However, they do not cover the entire territory or offer a very reliable estimate of the situation. The majority of people have been forced to move because of the Congo wars, ethnic conflicts and clashes between non-state armed groups and government forces, while others have been displaced by floods, earthquakes, and epidemics.

In 2023, following an alarming resurgence of violence between the non-state armed groups Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and the March 23 Movement (M23), more than one million people were displaced across the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tanganyika in eastern DRC. In total, between 5.3 and 5.5 million people have been displaced, of whom 4.7 million are internally displaced and over 900,000 are now refugees in neighbouring countries. The majority of refugees from the DRC are hosted by Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania.

Although almost a million migrants live in the DRC, the overall migrant population represents just over 1 per cent of the total population. Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, and Rwanda have been the main countries of origin of immigrants who have moved to the DRC in recent decades, mainly as a result of conflicts. Despite its poor economic system and violent conditions, the DRC remains a refuge for asylum seekers due to its geographical location. According to the UNHCR in 2022, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers registered in the DRC was almost 525,000, with the largest concentrations in the eastern and northern parts of the country.

The DRC has adopted a number of main international conventions related to population movement, including the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1956) and the 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Refugee Convention of the African Union, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

(1993), the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (1996), the Protocols against Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants (2005), and the Kampala Convention on Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (2016). In addition, articles of the DRC Constitution recognize the rights of migrants, and grant additional rights to asylum-seekers and refugees. However, the government has not developed a clear and effective migration policy and lacks a solid legal framework on migration issues.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The DRC Red Cross's neutrality, access and integrated programming provide a strong foundation for its work with people on the move. While the DRC Red Cross serves the needs of displaced people and migrants as part of its overall action, its high-level objectives are to:

- Assess, understand and respond effectively to the priority needs of 490,000 migrants, displaced and host communities each year as part of the National Society's overall action
- Provide humanitarian assistance and protection for migrants and displaced people at key points, and access to durable solutions where needed
- Operate along the main migratory routes, establishing humanitarian service points
- Engage with the authorities and other actors on migration and displacement solutions

Planned activities in 2024

- Cover the specific needs of 20,000 migrants and displaced persons concerning assistance, diseases, psychosocial support, and other requirements in the target operational areas
- Set up first aid stations at the entrance gates of priority branches

- Pre-position intervention, recording, communication and rescue equipment in operational areas and border branches
- Participate in national and international forums on the issue of population movements
- Map the capacities of actors by sector in the target branches
- Organize advocacy sessions with stakeholders for the strengthening of structures for the supervision of displaced persons
- Sensitize the political and administrative authorities and other stakeholders on the role of the DRC Red Cross as an auxiliary in supporting migrants, internally displaced persons, and other vulnerable people

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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 acute needs related to population movement.

The IFRC will support the National Society with conducting a migration and displacement needs assessment and help it integrate migration and displacement into its new strategic

planning. It will develop joint plans with participating National Societies and fund proposals to support refugees and returnees in the sub-region.

The participating National Societies will assist the DRC Red Cross with providing humanitarian assistance and protection to host communities, displaced persons, and migrants to increase social cohesion and inclusion. They will also ensure that people affected by crises and disasters receive timely and appropriate [cash and voucher assistance](#). Particularly, the **Luxembourg Red Cross** is heavily involved in the [shelter](#) sector, providing essential support to ensure safe and adequate housing for displaced people.

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, the DRC Red Cross will continue to deliver humanitarian assistance to migrants and host communities through the [Humanitarian Service Points](#) (HSP) that were set up with support from the PPP. Following the standard operating procedures that were developed for the implementation of HSPs, the National Society will provide psychological assistance, medical support, and counselling, following the “Do no harm” principle. The National Society will continue to increase its capacity to support displaced and migrant populations through the pre-positioning of non-food items and shelter kits. The **Spanish Red Cross** is providing technical assistance to this component.



Values, power and inclusion

The DRC was ranked 140 on the [Global Gender Gap Index](#) in 2023. A [World Bank](#) report identifies three main factors behind persistent and significant gender gaps: control over land, capacity for expression and action, and risk and uncertainty, in particular vulnerability to shocks and gender-based violence. Half of the women have reportedly experienced physical violence and almost a third have experienced sexual violence, most often perpetrated by an intimate partner. More than 340 cases of sexual violence against women and girls have been [documented](#) since the beginning of 2023 in localities hosting people who fled violence in North Kivu.

Women in the DRC face significant barriers to economic opportunities and empowerment. Only 16.8 per cent of women have completed secondary school, about half of the rate of completion for men. Early marriage and high reproduction rates represent a challenge, and women and girls without any education have a reproduction rate twice that of women who complete secondary school. The participation of women in the DRC's labour force is estimated at nearly 62 per cent, and most of them work in agriculture.

The situation in the DRC also has a devastating impact on children. Grave violations of children's rights are compounded by the massive population displacements, which increase the vulnerability of children and put them at risk of violence and exploitation. In 2019, over 3,000 children escaped armed groups in the DRC. Despite efforts to combat trafficking, the government's progress is hindered by challenges in identifying victims and ineffective border surveillance.

The DRC is a source, transit, and destination for human trafficking, with armed groups in eastern areas being the primary perpetrators. Exploitation forms include forced labour, prostitution, forced marriage, and domestic servitude. Children are engaged in agriculture, mining, smuggling, and begging. While specific data on exploitation is lacking, [estimates indicate](#) around 68 percent of trafficking victims are Congolese women, and children constitute 61 percent of victims. The government made progress in 2019 by [increasing prosecutions](#) and investigations of trafficking cases, particularly those involving trafficking in women and forced labour, and secured

convictions of traffickers. Illegal migration and smuggling routes have historically been identified in the western, eastern and southern regions of the country.

In 2020, the DRC's National Assembly passed its first law on the rights of people living with disabilities, which could improve the lives of millions of people across the country.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The DRC Red Cross puts strong emphasis on protection, gender, and inclusion in the delivery of its action, and leverages community engagement and accountability in its people-centred approach. Dignity, access, participation, and safety for people of all identities are at the heart of everything it does. The National Society seeks to integrate gender and diversity into all its services and programmes and develop initiatives to fight against sexual and gender-based violence and all forms of discrimination. The DRC Red Cross aims to be a safe and inclusive organization, and aims to revitalize its youth section.

The National Society high-level objectives include to:

- Contribute to positive change in communities through a better understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of fundamental principles and humanitarian values, with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of young people
- Promote and support safe, equitable, and continuous access to quality education for all, especially for boys and girls affected by disaster, crisis, or displacement
- Become a safe and inclusive network, ensuring the dignity, access, participation, and safety of people of all identities
- Encourage vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals and communities to influence decisions that affect them and trust the IFRC network to best serve their interests

Planned activities in 2024

- Sensitize crisis-affected communities on SGBV, PGI and PSEA in branches of six target operational areas
- Organize awareness-raising sessions on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in target universities and schools
- Establish and maintain community feedback mechanisms in programmes and services
- Sensitize community members and leaders to feedback mechanisms and commitments to work in a transparent and participatory manner

- Ensure implementation of the CEA minimum standards in emergencies
- Sensitize affected communities to promote equitable access to education for girls and boys in the branches of six target operational areas
- Organize advocacy sessions with state authorities and other partners for equitable access to education for girls and boys
- Support a National Congress of the Red Cross Youth and encourage the exchange of experiences of the youth with young people from other National Societies or other structures/organizations
- Organize public activities (sanitation, guided tour, solidarity awareness walk), and multidisciplinary competitions for the promotion of humanitarian norms and values, in the branches of two target operational areas
- Popularize the National Society's Gender and Diversity policy
- Integrate and institutionalize CEA into the National Society policies, operations, and procedures

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society's PSEA policy and its action plan to implement prevention and support survivors. It will further assist the National Society with integrating and institutionalizing community engagement and accountability (CEA) into their policies, operations, and procedures.

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, and with implementation support of EU National Societies, the DRC Red Cross will continue to increase its capacity in CEA. The National Society will implement the CEA strategy that was developed, conduct training of trainers in branches around the country, and monitor community feedback through the mechanism that is being established.

The participating National Societies will support the establishment of school/extra-curricular youth clubs and the training of youth club supervisors. They will technically and financially support the implementation of the National Society's PGI actions. Additional support will be provided to the National Society for the construction of houses for survivors of sexual violence and the rehabilitation of the Panzi hospital in South Kivu. The participating National Societies which contribute to the implementation of actions under this priority are the **Belgian Red Cross** (Flemish and French communities), **French Red Cross**, **Luxembourg Red Cross**, **Spanish Red Cross**, and **Swedish Red Cross**.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The DRC Red Cross is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and has carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (IFRC-OCAC) process in 2017. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (IFRC-PER) process and is in the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to

assess, measure, and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

The DRC Red Cross will need continuous support from the IFRC network, due to the size of the country and the organizational development required to address the many humanitarian challenges in the DRC. The priorities identified by the National Society relate to regulatory texts, human, material and financial capacities, partnership development, digital transformation, and accountability.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The DRC Red Cross is seeking strategic partnerships for the medium and long term, and to strengthen its auxiliary role to the public authorities. It aims to increase its engagement in Government-led platforms, and thus actively participating in the achievement of humanitarian and development objectives. The DRC Red Cross also aims to continue participating in inter-agency coordination, and to ensure that IFRC membership coordination improves the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian actions, and a shift in mindset towards a Federation-wide approach that builds trust within the network.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in co-facilitating coordination meetings, using innovative Federation-wide approaches, and advocating with other organizations for their participation and support to the National Society. This includes support to the development of long-term relationships with potential donors and the implementation of resource mobilization activities.

The participating National Societies will continue to participate in the coordination meetings organized by the National Society and support innovative approaches to coordination.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The DRC Red Cross is in the process of finalising its next Strategic Plan, which will guide its action in the next five years. It invests in training of governance members on good and leadership, in the organization of its ordinary general assembly and the ordinary provincial assemblies, as well as the annual management conference.

The DRC Red Cross prioritizes the development of volunteerism and youth action as key enablers of behaviour change and local action, ensuring access and maintaining trust in all contexts.

This includes revitalising youth activities at all levels such as youth Sections, school and university brigades, developing a youth management system and volunteers database, and providing training for youth and young people on a variety of institutional topics in all 26 branches.

With daunting humanitarian challenges in many parts of the country, the DRC Red Cross also seeks to strengthen its branches in most affected provinces, including by rehabilitating buildings where operations and programmes are underway, and conducting branch organizational capacity assessments (IFRC-BOCA). Other rehabilitation work includes the central warehouse and headquarters.

The National Society is dedicated to decreasing extreme dependence on external support and is implementing its resource mobilization policy and strategy. This includes to develop a business plan, map the sources of funding available in-country, making an inventory of its income generating activities (such as commercial first aid and ambulance trainers), and setting up a mechanism for monitoring and maximizing revenue.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to cover the health, accident, and death costs of volunteers, and will contribute to providing technical and financial support to the National Society for the volunteer management system. It will also

support the National Society to popularize its existing policies in all branches, conduct BOCA exercises, and organize its ordinary assemblies.

The participating National Societies will support the construction and solar electrification of Kwango branch office and aid the management of income generating activities, as well as support the training of trainers in (commercial) [first aid](#). The participating National Societies will also provide financial support for the organization of general assemblies at the national and provincial levels. The participating National Societies which contribute to the implementation of actions under this priority are the **Belgian Red Cross** (Flemish and French communities), **French Red Cross**, **Luxembourg Red Cross**, **Spanish Red Cross**, and **Swedish Red Cross**.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The DRC Red Cross is committed to advocate for change by influencing public behaviour, policies, and decisions at the national, regional, and global levels, adopting a strategic and evidence-based approach to [humanitarian diplomacy](#). It seeks to successfully promote its image, such as by producing and broadcasting radio and television programmes on the National Society's activities.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the DRC Red Cross across its humanitarian diplomacy and public communication efforts.

The participating National Societies which contribute to the implementation of actions under this priority are the **Belgian Red Cross** (Flemish and French communities), **French Red Cross**, **Luxembourg Red Cross**, **Spanish Red Cross**, and **Swedish Red Cross**.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Improving financial controls and accountability, particularly in anti-corruption measures, remains a top priority for the DRC Red Cross. This entails strengthening internal and external financial controls and ensuring secure transmission of reports aligned with statutory and contractual requirements. The National Society also seeks to further develop frameworks, policies and action plans on accountability themes, which includes finalising and disseminating its Code of Conduct and other regulatory texts, including on the fight against

fraud and corruption, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

The National Society also aims to innovate, adopt and fully deploy digital technologies, and build and strengthen capacity in digital data collection tools, data literacy, information use, and data-driven decision-making. This includes equipping the headquarters and branches of the operational areas with information technology hardware and software, and implementation of an ICT management strategy, data security policy and cybersecurity charter.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen its integrity and reputational risk mechanisms, which includes support for the DRC Red Cross PSEA policy and action plan, and risk management framework. It will support the National Society with the acquisition/development of a financial system (software) and the improvement of the HR system, through a grant of the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#). The IFRC will also support the National Society to show the progress of [digital transformation](#) according to the digital maturity model.

The participating National Societies will support the training of accountants on accounting management software, the digitized collection of routine data, and capacity building in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER). The participating National Societies which contribute to the implementation of actions under this priority are the **Belgian Red Cross** (Flemish and French communities), **French Red Cross**, **Spanish Red Cross**, and **Swedish Red Cross**.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC country cluster delegation in Kinshasa supports the DRC Red Cross with strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC supports the National Society in strengthening its auxiliary role by meeting key stakeholders at the government level on a regular basis.

With staff based in Goma, Bunia, and Lomami, IFRC provides support to the National Society emergency operations and thematic programmes in the DRC, in particular disaster preparedness, health, and protection, gender, and inclusion. The support includes planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting, as well as participation in monitoring and evaluation.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the DRC Red Cross through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeals [operations](#) in relation to food insecurity, population movement, floods and disease outbreaks, including Ebola virus disease, COVID-19, plague, meningitis, measles, polio, yellow fever and cholera. In 2023, the DRC Red Cross conducted two new operations supported by the IFRC-DREF, for election preparedness and floods. The IFRC also supports the DRC Red Cross in accessing funding from the [IFRC Capacity Building Fund](#) and multilateral and governmental donors, leveraging the IFRC international organization status.

IFRC membership coordination

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

The DRC Red Cross is part of the four [IFRC Pan-African Initiatives](#) focusing on Tree Planting and Care; Zero Hunger; Red Ready; and National Society Development.

The DRC Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission and the IFRC. It is implemented with support from the French Red Cross as lead EU National, Luxembourg Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and the IFRC in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, humanitarian assistance, and protection for people

on the move, cash and voucher assistance, and community engagement and accountability. The ECHO PPP will continue to provide a common framework to enhance coordination and joint monitoring, with the partners providing technical assistance in different areas.

The DRC Red Cross, with the support of participating National Societies, is implementing several programmes in different geographical locations on thematic areas clearly identified in its strategic plan, and which contain elements of National Society capacity building.

The **Belgian Red Cross** French speaking community supports the DRC Red Cross by focusing on road safety, community resilience, and health initiatives in Kwango province from 2022-2026. The **Red Cross of Flemish Belgium** supports humanitarian protection activities in Kwango and Kwilu provinces for those displaced by Kwamouth conflicts, spanning 2024-2025.

The **French Red Cross** enhances its partnership with the DRC Red Cross, particularly in eastern DRC, pursuing health initiatives in South Kivu and supporting protection/GBV

strategy. Twinning initiatives with French nursing institutes and leadership in the ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership are also notable.

The **Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran** supports the DRC Red Cross with the rehabilitation and equipment of the orthopaedic centre in Kinshasa.

The **Luxembourg Red Cross** aids the DRC Red Cross with shelter and protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) in South Kivu, focusing on building houses for sexual violence survivors and rehabilitating the Panzi hospital. Their involvement extends to the ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership.






















The **Spanish Red Cross** engages in the ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership and supports projects in Kwilu/Tshikapa province since 2014, covering food security, nutrition, and health/WASH initiatives from 2022-2024.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports disaster management, health, WASH, and community resilience in Kinshasa from 2022-2024. Their contributions extend to protection, gender, and inclusion actions, the green response, and strengthening the National Society's PMER capacities.



30 June 2023, DRC Red Cross volunteers raising awareness about the risk of cholera and sharing information on healthy and safe practices (Photo: IFRC)

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Belgian Red Cross	690,000						
French Red Cross	1.5M						
Luxembourg Red Cross	5M						
Spanish Red Cross	1.4M						
Swedish Red Cross	700,000						

Total Funding requirement

9.3M

Movement coordination

Regular senior management meetings between the DRC Red Cross, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) enable effective International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement coordination in the DRC, which is crucial to ensure the impact and relevance of the Movement in a country with multiple crises and great needs. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

In the [DRC](#), the **ICRC** promotes respect for international humanitarian law in the treatment of civilians and detainees and helps those adversely affected by conflict and internal

violence to survive and become self-sufficient. It also improves water supply and sanitation, strengthens health care for the wounded and sick, including victims of sexual violence, and reunites families in DRC. The ICRC has been running a large operation in the country for decades, and supports the National Society in the areas of community health support, protection, first aid and safer access, humanitarian diplomacy, National Society development and resource mobilization, migration, restoring family links and security. The ICRC actively participates in operational and institutional coordination within the Movement, and its sub-delegations in the DRC facilitate coordination, security monitoring, and information-sharing with the DRC Red Cross and IFRC.

Coordination with other actors

The DRC Red Cross, in line with its auxiliary role, maintains close coordination with the public authorities. The Ministry of Health is the supervisory ministry of the National Society. Collaboration is in place through the technical offices of the Ministry of Health and other Government offices. As an example, the DRC Red Cross is part of the Technical Secretariat set up by the Ministry of Health for the response to COVID-19. It also works closely with the Ministry of the Environment for its tree planting initiative, and is a member of the national platform for disaster risk reduction.

In times of emergencies, the National Society takes part in crisis meetings organized by national and local authorities in

the affected provinces. The DRC's Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Actions and National Solidarity ensures multi-sectoral coordination and the drawing of response plans. At national level, the IFRC takes part in meetings of the inter-agency humanitarian country team, and sectoral cluster meetings.

The DRC Red Cross also continues to develop partnerships with external actors. UNICEF supports the National Society in the DRC on assistance to victims of armed conflict in North Kivu and Tanganyika. Norwegian Church Aid gives support on water, sanitation, and hygiene, and sexual and gender-based violence in South Kivu, while Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance) funds routine immunization support activities in Kinshasa and Kivu.



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 DRC 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 the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process, and will serve 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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