



# BENIN

## 2024 IFRC network country plan

19 June 2024

Funding Requirement **CHF 7.15M**

### In support of the Red Cross of Benin



**79**

National Society branches



**50**

National Society staff



**12,600**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



**63,000**

Climate and environment



**25,000**

Disasters and crises



**100,000**

Health and wellbeing



**3,000**

Migration & Displacement



**5,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction
- Climate change adaptation and nature-based solutions
- Health • Water, sanitation and hygiene

#### Capacity development

- Branch development
- Financial sustainability
- Communications and advocacy

### Key country data

**Population** **13.4M**

**INFORM Climate Risk Index** **Medium**

**Human Development Index rank** **166**

**Population below poverty level** **38.5%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for  
Nigeria, Togo, Benin & Ghana, Abuja

## Hazards



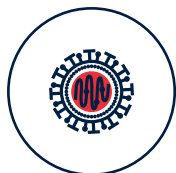
Floods



Droughts



Violence



Disease outbreaks



Population movement



Strong winds

## Funding requirements

**Total 7.15M** CHF

Through the IFRC

**5.3M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

**508,000** CHF

Through Host National Society

**1.3M** CHF

### IFRC Breakdown

**1M** CHF

Climate and environment

**1.5M** CHF

Disasters and crises

**2.5M** CHF

Health and wellbeing

**150,000** CHF

Migration & displacement

**500,000** CHF

Values, power and inclusion

**1.5M** CHF

Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

British Red Cross\*

German Red Cross\*

Kuwait Red Crescent Society

Swiss Red Cross

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

## IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAABJ002**

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE



Map of National Society branches

The **Red Cross of Benin** is a humanitarian association founded in 1959 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1963. The mission of the National Society is to prevent and alleviate human suffering impartially and without discrimination on the grounds of nationality, race, sex, class, religion, language, or political opinion. It is recognized by the Beninese government as a voluntary, autonomous, auxiliary relief society of the public authorities in the humanitarian field.

The role of the Red Cross of Benin in the humanitarian field is sustained by its 12,600 volunteers, its 50 staff, and 79 branches/ local units. Through its initiatives in various sectors, the Red Cross of Benin seeks to improve the condition of those who

are most vulnerable and exposed to situations that threaten their survival or their ability to live with social and economic security and human dignity. Key areas of interventions of the National Society include disaster preparedness and response, risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, emergency care, first aid, community-based health, psychosocial support, water, sanitation and hygiene, community social actions, support for women in mothers' clubs, support to migrants, social and youth mobilization and promotion of international humanitarian law. By 2022, the Red Cross of Benin reached almost 600,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes and 63,000 people by its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

In 2024, the Red Cross of Benin plans to improve its interventions on all its strategic axes to:

- Support more communities in crisis and disaster preparedness and response
- Strengthen actions to combat climate change by raising awareness among communities on adoption of good practices
- Train more volunteers and community members on first aid
- Support communities in adopting best practices on water, sanitation and hygiene
- Strengthen social protection, psychosocial support and assistance in the event of migration and protection of family ties
- Support youth in development through capacity building for professional integration
- Develop more income-generating activities for financial empowerment

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Located in the Gulf of Guinea, the Republic of Benin in West Africa is bordered by Niger in the north, Burkina Faso in the northwest, Togo in the west, Nigeria in the east, and the Atlantic Ocean in the south. The country has several areas of action that require short and long-term support from humanitarian organizations. Benin's valuable wetlands and fisheries which have high potential for tourism in the country—are increasingly being affected by rapid urbanization along its coast with increased demand for land, water, and other natural resources. Military infrastructure and extraction of sand present significant threat to its coastal areas. Like most West African countries, the country suffers from the adverse effects of climate variability and change, the manifestations of which result in increased recurrence of extreme weather events such as devastating floods, long droughts, heat waves and torrential rains among others. Climatic emergencies lead to waves of cross-border movement which leads to social conflicts between herders and farmers in several municipal areas of the country.

While the government has adopted laws to combat the rising threat of climate change in the country, especially its marine ecosystems and human settlements, the situation remains bleak. Natural hazards often provoke waves of cross-border migration, which is compounded by security threats in

northern Benin, leading to already vulnerable populations abandoning their crops and residences.

Benin faces health emergencies such as epidemics of viral haemorrhagic fever such as that of Lassa, malaria, cholera, meningitis, measles, yellow fever, and most recently, monkeypox. The health situation in Benin also highlights the unsatisfactory quality of healthcare, the poor development of human resources, poor planning for the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of infrastructure and equipment. More than 38,122 children under the age of five die each year in Benin, with 37.8 per cent of the deaths occurring due to malaria, diarrhoea, and acute respiratory infections. While the government has launched several public initiatives to improve health indicators, such as immunization programmes for children, promoting family planning, fighting malaria, improving water and sanitation facilities, and raising awareness of best hygiene practices, the vulnerability and social needs of Beninese are far from being met.

The World Bank estimates that several global and regional socioeconomic shocks could affect poverty reduction trends in the country. Benin faces volatility in the price of food, energy, and fertilizers due to factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, impact of WAEMU sanctions against neighbouring Niger, the fallout from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, political instability in neighbouring Sahel countries, growing insecurity, and social tensions in the North. These will adversely impact poor and vulnerable households, thereby slowing poverty reduction and pushing more households into situations of fragility.



*The Red Cross of Benin provides socio-professional reintegration of girls affected by child marriage. (Photo: IFRC)*

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

The adverse effects of [climate change in Benin](#) are likely to continue unabated. [Rise in temperature and rainfall increase](#) are likely to exacerbate the challenges faced by the country's agriculture and forestry sectors. Communities in coastal areas will adversely be impacted by the effects of rising sea levels. The agriculture industry, which is a [significant driver for the Beninese economy](#), will need to adopt adaptive measures to respond effectively to the impacts of climate change and reduce food insecurity.

Several observational studies over the past few decades show that the African continent has warmed over the last century at a rate of about 0.05 degree Celsius per decade. Global mean sea levels have also risen, and the heat load of the oceans has increased. Rising sea levels threaten the southern coastal region of Benin, where more than 50 per cent of the population lives on the coast and in the city of Cotonou. Rapid urbanization has exacerbated the vulnerability of coastal cities, and communities there are unprepared to deal with increased flooding caused by sea level rise and coastal erosion. Demand for land, water, and other natural resources has also increased due to urbanization.

In the last 40 years, Benin's coastlines have witnessed [massive erosion](#), with certain areas experiencing more than 400 metres of soil erosion. This has caused severe damage to coastal populations where homes and infrastructure have been swept away. Poor development of services and infrastructure in urban areas, such as sanitation facilities, have worsened the impact of coastal erosion on urban populations.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Benin is part of the [IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience.

The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Develop a policy on environmental protection
- Organise 240 awareness-raising sessions in communities to induce behaviour change on the risks related to climate change
- Reforestation of 10,000 multifunctional plants which includes components such as anti-erosion, forest, natural fertilizer and nutritional
- Train volunteers on [nature-based solutions](#)
- Train 1000 volunteers on the seedling production process
- Train and support 10 mothers' clubs on improved cooking stoves

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC continues to provide the Red Cross of Benin financial and technical support to enhance their work in providing humanitarian services to the Beninese community. The IFRC support includes development of enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment ([eVCA](#)) training with volunteers on climate related impact and crises in communities, training farmers on climate smart agriculture and land management to improve food security, and provision of improved and climate resistant seeds for different climate crises in selected communities among others. The IFRC will support the National Society in advocating for environmental policies and implementation and [reducing its carbon and climate footprint](#) in its offices.





## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit the [IFRC GO page Benin](#).

As a coastal country in West Africa, Benin is exposed to significant ecological and environmental risks which include floods, drought, desertification, sea-level rise, degradation of coastal wetlands, soil erosion, terrorist threats, and epidemics. Floods, the most frequently recurring hazard in Benin, are becoming increasingly severe and more destructive. Recurring floods in urban areas such as Cotonou, Porto Novo, and Parakou pose significant challenge to Benin's [inadequate water supply and its sanitation and waste collection systems](#).

[In 2022, heavy rainfall was reported across several areas in Benin](#), flooding 27 of the 77 municipalities, with the rivers Mono, Oueme, and Niger breaking their banks. The sudden increase in water levels led to the death of 39 people, while more than 50 primary schools and 12 colleges were submerged in the influx of the water. The government reported that more than 73,000 people were affected by the flood and that more than 1,400 homes were damaged, of which 670 houses were destroyed.

Coupled with the threat of floods, Benin also faces [risk of droughts](#) which have been observed in some northern regions and affected agricultural production. Lack of effective early warning systems will increase present vulnerabilities, threatening food security and livelihoods in the country.

The presence of socio-political conflicts related to [transhumance](#) and election results means that Benin also faces significant security issues. This is mainly due to the upsurge in attacks, abuses, and human rights violations by unidentified armed groups in almost all communes of Benin bordering Burkina Faso and Niger. The situation causes population movement towards areas deemed more peaceful, creating challenges related to the protection of people and property. There are mechanisms in place to prevent risks and better manage disasters in the event of disasters and crises: operational entities federate their energies within the National Platform of [DRR-CCA](#) which brings together all sectoral ministries, humanitarian NGOs, the National Society, and resource persons capable of responding promptly in crisis or disaster situations. Also, the National Policy for Prevention and Integrated Disaster Management (PNPGIC), the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (SNRRC), the National Contingency Plan and the ORSEC plan are implemented by the various protection and relief entities. However, the entire territory remains vulnerable to disaster risks.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Benin maintains the protection and rescue of people affected by crises and disasters as its

main objectives as an auxiliary to the public authorities. The National Society will focus on [preparedness](#) and prevention actions and will provide coordinated and effective responses to help those affected. Actions to support vulnerable people will be carried out as part of rehabilitation and reconstruction. The National Society also participates in the [IFRC Red Ready Pan-African initiative](#), which aims to strengthen disaster operations, management, coordination and accountability, while promoting the localization of humanitarian responses by strengthening the capacity of local branches and volunteers.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Support 20 local committees in updating or developing their contingency plans
- Organize knowledge-sharing sessions and sharing of experience related to crisis and disaster management
- Provide emergency relief kits to 79 local committees/ local units
- Develop relief and response actions in the event of crises and disasters for 10,000 people
- Organize 2 simulation workshops in areas with high risk of crisis or disasters
- Organize training on cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and epidemic control for volunteers
- Train 300 high and medium-risk communities on [crisis reduction and disaster reduction](#)
- Train 250 volunteers on preventive interventions in response to disasters and pre-positioning of emergency kits
- Train 1185 volunteers in lifesaving gestures and basic [first aid](#)
- Train 24 trainers on [community-based surveillance](#)

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the National Society consists [anticipatory action](#) through training on National Society preparedness for effective response ([PER](#)) during disasters, increasing the National Society's coordination with relevant stakeholders, resource mobilization efforts of the National Society and in signing an agreement on [disaster law](#) with the Beninese government. Other areas of consistent support from the IFRC will include assessment and prepositioning of stocks and putting in place a cash transfer system and building the capacity of the National Society in cash-related thematic areas.

The **Belgian Red Cross** supports the Red Cross of Benin to improve community resilience.



The major causes of death in [Benin](#) are attributable to neonatal disorders, malaria, lower respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, ischemic heart disease, stroke, road injuries, tuberculosis, congenital defects, and HIV/AIDS. The epidemiological situation of Benin is characterized by a predominance of endemic-epidemic diseases, in particular malaria (44.5 per cent of consultations in 2010) and acute respiratory infections (13.2 per cent consultations in 2010). The maternal mortality ratio is estimated to be 397 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births between the period of 2015 to 2018. In 2020, the Global Health Observatory [estimated](#) that the rate of neonatal mortality in the country was 29.74 per cent per 1000 live births, infant mortality rate at 56.59 per cent per 1000 live births, and under-five mortality at 86.03 per cent per 1000 live births, indicating the need for continued health interventions in the country. Regarding the nutritional status of women, 41 per cent suffer from anaemia, 6 per cent from chronic energy deficiency, and 27 per cent from obesity. With the adverse impacts of climate change increasingly becoming clear, this trend in nutritional status could worsen. A lack of good quality food products and balanced, nutritional meals lead to dietary deficiencies that affect the health and growth of children. Pregnant women and nursing mothers are generally unaware of their families' dietary needs, and vulnerable people are often unable to prepare their meals properly or safely. Access to adequate healthy food is also limited by low purchasing power and inadequate levels of domestic food production.

Frequent flooding and higher temperatures due to [climate change has an impact on the spread of infectious diseases](#) across Benin. Prolonged dry seasons and hotter days and nights will give vectors more time to breed and spread diseases, with stagnant water providing them with habitats, putting the population at a greater risk of vector-borne infections. The need for palliative care is increasing in Benin because life expectancy is going up and non-communicable diseases are increasing. Many people reach the end of their lives in physical, psychological or spiritual distress, and these patients are sometimes forgotten and left to die alone. Cancer, especially for women, is the primary reason for needing palliative care.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society seeks to ensure that people living in Benin, regardless of their race, nationality or other factors, can benefit from adequate health care and appropriate psychological support. It intends to prevent and respond to the urgent needs of grassroots communities through robust [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\) initiatives](#). Health and hygiene risks will be communicated through sensitisation in households, schools, health centres, and public places. These sensitizations will be supported by mass sessions through radio programs on different themes.

#### 7 Country plan • Benin

[Community-led solutions](#) to combat the spread of infections/improve hygiene or sanitation will be supported through coaching, community [capacity building activities](#) in the field and advocacy with NGOs and state structures for resource mobilization. Best practices within communities will be identified and encouraged through [CEA](#).

---

### Planned activities in 2024

- Construct 60 water and sanitation infrastructures (latrines, water conveyances)
- Evaluate the rate of increase in the adoption of good hygiene practices in communities
- Support all local committees/units in the implementation of the community-led total sanitation approach
- Create a palliative care unit
- Create listening and guiding centres at the level of 50 local committees of the Red Cross of Benin
- Train 3160 volunteers on water, sanitation, and hygiene ([WASH](#)) and reach out to more than 71,100 people through WASH sessions
- Train 1200 volunteers on [community-based first aid and health](#)
- Train 395 volunteers on [blood donation activities](#)
- Train 395 volunteers on [psychosocial support](#) and palliative care
- Train 5 community-based first aid and health instructors

---

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the National Society consists of technical guidance and financial support to enable the National Society to effectively meet its objectives. Support for the National Society will extend to areas such as the strengthening of its health portfolio and resource mobilization for health initiatives. The IFRC support will capacitate the staff and volunteers of the Red Cross of Benin to provide enhanced humanitarian services in their respective regions and to meet the health and wellbeing needs of their communities.

The **Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)** supports the Red Cross of Benin with the implementation of the community resilience project to respond to health risks, particularly for women and children.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the Red Cross of Benin with the implementation of the community resilience project to respond to health risks, particularly for women and children.

The **Kuwait Red Crescent** supports the Red Cross of Benin in its health and wellbeing programme.



In Benin, [recent developments](#) in the situation of unidentified armed groups in the subregion have led to several migratory movements already being recorded. Since January 2023, raid carried out by unidentified armed groups have spread to the departments of Atacora and Alibori, which have a total of 15 communes out of the country's 77. The [attacks](#) in the Savanes region of Togo have caused forced displacement of populations in several localities bordering the region. These events have led to an increase in the number of internally displaced persons and Togolese and Burkinabe refugees in Benin's border towns. The last major attack took place in May 2023, where authorities asserted that approximately 28 people were killed in the communes of Materi, Tanguieta, Kerou, and more than 6,852 people were displaced due to the violence.

Benin is also a destination country for migrants who need protection after leaving their home countries because of armed conflicts or political crises. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) figure show that in 2020, Benin registered 1,396 refugees and 464 asylum seekers. Most of those with refugee status (75.21 per cent) came from the Central African Republic (CAR), 11.96 per cent were from Ivory Coast, 2.58 per cent originated in Mali, and 2.51 per cent came from Cameroon. Of the asylum seekers, 36.85 per cent came from CAR, 13.79 per cent from Cameroon, and 11 per cent from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

On arrival in Benin, most refugees tend to settle in the south, particularly Atlantique and Mono. People with refugee status have the right of movement and they are entitled to labour markets, education, social welfare and scholarships. However, when they arrive, they are often subjected to discrimination. Conflicts also arise because school fees for immigrant children are higher than those of Beninese citizens. The informal market for the migrant population is mainly in the industrial, agricultural and commercial sectors. However, Benin is primarily a country of origin – 666,357 left in 2019 (5.65 per cent of the population). Emigration to other countries is driven by poverty, informal employment and lack of access to quality education, with many people leaving in search of work opportunities and better living conditions. People tend to emigrate from Benin to Nigeria, Togo, Ivory Coast, Gabon and Niger. Others try to reach European countries such as France, Italy and Germany, or travel to other countries such as Canada.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Benin is part of the IFRC three-year [Global Route Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve

the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The multi-year objectives of the National Society will continue to remain the safeguarding of displaced people. It will ensure that they are treated with humanity and dignity and that they receive the support and protection they need to thrive in inclusive societies. The Red Cross of Benin also aims to propose key actions to support the government in mitigating the migration and internal displacement of people and its effects on their wellbeing.

---

### Planned activities in 2024

- Strengthen and intensify advocacy, awareness-raising and community mobilization for migrants' rights and peaceful co-habitation between migrants and local populations
- Support 3,000 migrants through its operations in health, nutrition, and WASH
- Contribute to the improvement of the livelihoods of internally displaced people
- Train 400 volunteers on community awareness on migration

---

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC works with the National Society to strengthen its capacity to understand migration dynamics and provide appropriate humanitarian services to asylum seekers, refugees, internationally displaced persons, migrant workers, stateless persons and other vulnerable people regardless of their legal status. The IFRC will work with the Red Cross of Benin to address the vulnerabilities of migrants through three main areas of response: assistance, protection, and public awareness and promotion of respect for diversity, non-violence, and social cohesion. The IFRC will also work with the National Society to propose key actions to support the government in mitigating the migration and internal displacement of people and its effects on human well-being.





## Values, power and inclusion

As of February 2021, only 8.4 per cent of the parliamentary seats in Benin are occupied by women, highlighting existing gender inequalities in the country when it comes to leadership roles. According to the [UN Women](#), women of reproductive age are often unable to access their sexual and reproductive rights and healthcare, with only 28 per cent acquiring family planning needs with modern methods in 2018. The prevalence of sexual-based gender violence and gender-based violence serve as deterrents towards women's development in the country. In 2018, 14.6 per cent of women aged 15–49 years said that they had experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the 12 months prior; 30.6 per cent of women aged 20–24 were married or in a union before the age 18, and the birth rate among women aged 15–19 was 108 per 1,000 in 2016 (up from 94 per 1,000 in 2014). While the problem of gender equality remains, the Benin government has taken steps to promote gender equality in its various national development programmes. In 2009, the government developed the National Policy for the Promotion of Gender (PNPG) which was divided into various actions plans and into various cross-cutting sectors.

It is estimated that 10 per cent of Benin's population lives with a disability, although official statistics are unreliable and there is a lack of data about the number and the range of barriers they face in terms of participation in social, economic, and cultural life. It is estimated that 13 per cent of the people living with disabilities have experienced discrimination. Women and children with disabilities are the most affected, and most illiterate people with disabilities are women. Discrimination takes many forms, including exclusion, marginalization and social stigma. According to the UNICEF (2015), children with disabilities are profoundly disadvantaged by discrimination and lack of access to basic and specialist services.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

An important part of the National Society's actions abounds in the direction of promoting gender equality and opportunities through the concept: leave no one behind. Through this priority, for the protection and promotion of a positive change for humanity, based on humanitarian values and principles, the National Society will orient its interventions to reach more local branches and increase awareness and action through the role of [young people](#) and engagement with the educational community. This will contribute towards an [inclusive](#) work dynamic, greater diversity and efforts to protect people, their dignity and their contributions to resilience and peaceful environments.

In its emergency responses and programmes, the Red Cross of Benin seeks to identify the urgent basic needs and the protection needs of specific groups such as women, children, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. It streamlines [community engagement](#) during emergency responses and uses different mechanisms to engage communities at different stages.

---

### Planned activities in 2024

- Strengthen the capacity of staff and 1,975 volunteers on dissemination of the Movement principles
- Provide technical, financial, and material support to 12 women's groups
- Provide support to 50 gender-based violence (GBV) survivors
- Organize information and dissemination days for the general public
- Provide support to youth and women's structures for the implementation of their activities
- Organise national youth camps
- Provide funds to investigate allegations related to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse ([PSEA](#))
- Conduct training of 30 broadcasters
- Organise technical workshops and training sessions for staff on the handling of sensitive feedback and on aspects of community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) and protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#))

---

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The National Society will continue to protect and promote positive change for humanity, delivering more participatory, safe and inclusive humanitarian actions based on the humanitarian fundamental principles and values. The challenges that staff and volunteers face in their efforts to support people in need of humanitarian services require the National Society to deliver far beyond the 'do no harm' principle. To achieve this, **the IFRC** supports the Red Cross of Benin to enhance its capacities to reach more local branches and increase awareness and actions through the powerful [influence of young people](#) on humanitarian action. Additional support will be provided in areas such as awareness raising campaigns, training of key stakeholders, supporting the National Society in developing and validating the youth policy, and disseminating available tools on PSEA, CEA, and PGI through meeting and training.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Cross of Benin is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC)



### Strategic and operational coordination

---

#### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Benin plans to strengthen partnerships with national stakeholders, including public authorities, civil society, the private sector, and international stakeholder research institutions and interagency coordination. This will include coordination with the shelter clusters to better understand the specific needs of affected communities and ensure tailored interventions. The external coordination directed towards other international humanitarian actors will allow for a more coherent response and efficient use of resources. The Red Cross of Benin will collaborate with other National Societies to share good practices, lessons learned and build mutual capacity. The National Society will also participate in various coordination meetings to establish itself as a major humanitarian actor within the country.

process in 2021. 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.

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society by putting in place resource mobilization strategies both nationally and internationally. The IFRC will encourage cooperation with other National Societies and international organizations to strengthen opportunities for resource mobilization.

The IFRC will encourage the National Society to actively engage in the various communities of practice, where practitioners from all levels (headquarters, branches and in certain cases, external stakeholders) can come together to share, interact, learn and develop. The IFRC will support the setting up of local, regional and global events and roundtables for peer-to-peer exchanges between National Societies.



### National Society development

---

#### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

To efficiently deal with challenges related to financial and organizational empowerment, availability of equipment and appropriate working environment, volunteer capacity building, and other challenges that hinder its development, the Red Cross of Benin aims to decentralize structures for the construction of their headquarters, strengthen the capacity of staff, increase popularization of the policy of volunteerism at the grassroots level.

The Red Cross of Benin seeks to strengthen the skills of both its staff and volunteers and equip them to better face the challenges in all areas. By 2025, it aims to equip all its decentralized structures with computer equipment and a high-speed connection to facilitate their accessibility to

information and for the implementation of an effective reporting system. The National Society also intends to set up a vocational training centre at the branch level to strengthen the capacities of young people on digital technology to facilitate their professional integration.

The National Society will also focus on the implementation of income-generating activities to facilitate the mobilization of resources as well as the development of projects to cover management costs that will create the ideal working environment and ensure the proper functioning of the governance bodies of the National Society. It will also create an ideal framework for the recruitment and retention of volunteers with activities and training that arouse their interest.

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the National Society will consist of workshops and training sessions for its leaders to facilitate the identification of development priorities and the actions needed to achieve them. The IFRC will work with the National Society to conduct advocacy with the National Assembly, Federal Ministry of Justice, and other stakeholders for review of the Red Cross Society Act. Technical guidance will extend to areas such as

assessments and gap analysis in the organization's policies to identify areas in need of updates or revisions, conducting branch capacity assessments (BOCA), developing financial management and accountability capacities, among a host of organizational activities that are intended to gradually result in the development of the National Society.

The IFRC also supported the Red Cross of Benin through the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund \(CBF\)](#) in 2022 and 2023 for its various National Society development initiatives.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Benin is viewed favourably in the country and is recognized as a credible and effective humanitarian organization in Benin. In the coming years, the National Society will work to strengthen its relationships with local communities, government authorities, humanitarian partners, and other key actors in the sector. The National Society will work on promoting the activities of the Movement and its own activities while decentralizing its management bodies to improve actions on the ground for better visibility. It will plan and organize meetings with media leaders to help them understand the mandate of the National Society and improve its visibility, and training will be conducted around content gathering and production to profile its work in the country.

The National Society's humanitarian diplomacy plan is built around the initiatives and priorities outlined in the [Africa Agenda for Renewal](#) which focuses on [four major IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) from 2021 to 2030; these are (1) National Society development and sustainability, (2) Food Security and Livelihoods (Zero Hunger Initiative), (3) Tree Planting and Care, and (4) Red-Ready disaster preparedness.

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide technical and financial support to the National Society in pursuing its objectives under humanitarian diplomacy. This collaborative approach includes collaboration with external agencies on development of [policies](#) and advocacy to various ministries.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Benin will develop a [modern financial system](#) to produce credible financial data for the needs of all its partners. Regular audits of data will be carried out to ensure quality and to raise the profile of the National Society. Actors at various levels will be trained on [integrity](#) and good governance. Leadership and innovation will also be promoted for new solutions for the benefit of communities.

The National Society will also strengthen its monitoring and evaluation system and the organization of external audit.

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides long-term support for the National Society in key areas of increasing the National Society's accountability. These include interventions such as the dissemination of Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy at the level of decentralized structures, organization of training sessions on the themes of integrity and good governance, popularization of good financial management practices, and strengthening of monitoring and evaluation.

The IFRC also supports the National Society in integrating digital technology in its interventions. This support will include the provision of equipment for the National Society, capacity building of volunteers on digital technology, design

and development of a digital application for data collection, strengthening of the safety and security, archiving, and data protection system; and improvement of the digital system for reporting and monitoring.

## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

**The IFRC**, through its cluster delegation in Abuja, which covers Nigeria, Ghana, Togo and Benin, supports the Red Cross of Benin in strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including strengthening its auxiliary role. The IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme and provides technical support to the National Society in various other areas.

In 2022 and 2024, the IFRC supported the Red Cross of Benin with two DREF operations in response to floods and

population movement. The floods response targeted 7,968 people or 1,328 households in 10 municipalities, whose homes were destroyed by floods in September 2022. The affected population was exposed to disease and hygiene risks. The population movement intervention targeted 6,000 people affected by the situation in northern Benin caused by attacks from non-state armed groups, affecting civilians, and resulting in displacement, loss of life and putting additional pressure on host communities.



*In 2023, the Red Cross of Benin provided 500 households from displaced families with vital aid including blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils, hygiene items, food, and many more. (Photo: IFRC)*



## IFRC membership coordination

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

The Red Cross of Benin takes part in the IFRC-facilitated sub-regional network of National Societies called the [West Coast Group](#), which is currently chaired by the President of the Nigerian Red Cross Society.

The Red Cross of Benin is also part of the four [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) as reflected in the relevant sections of this plan.

The National Society is supported by several participating National Societies to achieve the objectives in its strategic development plan:

The **Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)** supports the Red Cross of Benin in its implementation of the community resilience programming to respond to health risks, particularly for women and children. It also supports National Society development.

The **German Red Cross** supports the Red Cross of Benin in climate action and environmental protection.

The **Kuwait Red Crescent** supports the Red Cross of Benin's health and wellbeing programme.

### 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	308,000		●	●			
Kuwait Red Crescent Society	50,000			●			
Swiss Red Cross	150,000			●			●

Total Funding requirement

**508,000**

## Movement coordination

The Red Cross of Benin holds regular exchanges with the IFRC, the ICRC and participating National Societies, to align support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergency, information is regularly shared. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC supports the Red Cross of Benin from its office in Lomé, Togo, focusing on strengthening the capacities of the National Society to prepare and respond to situations of crises and on National Society development.



## Coordination with other actors

The Red Cross of Benin is recognized as an auxiliary of the public authorities. The Red Cross of Benin is a member of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA), which convenes during emergencies. The platform brings together several international organizations, including the United Nations agencies, national organizations and other formally structured associations. It is led by the Benin Ministry of Interior and Public Security through the civil protection agency. The Red Cross of Benin is also fully integrated in the national contingency plan for floods, epidemics, wildfires, and socio-political crises.

It regularly participates in other in-country working group meetings which comprise government counterparts.

The Red Cross of Benin has the support of organizations including the UNFPA, UNICEF and GIZ in the implementation of the maternal and child food security project. It works in close collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) for the distribution of food. The Red Cross of Benin is an important partner of the USAID and ECOWAS for health and disaster management interventions. The Red Cross of Benin maintains partnerships within and outside the IFRC network to work collectively on the key challenges facing communities.



## 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 Red Cross of Benin, 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.

### Contact information

#### Yadouleton Tranquillin

Secretary General  
Red Cross of Benin  
T +229 958 47238  
[croixrougebeninoisesg@yahoo.com](mailto:croixrougebeninoisesg@yahoo.com)  
[croixrougebenin.org](http://croixrougebenin.org)

#### Louise Daintrey

Head of Strategic Partnerships  
& Resource Mobilization  
IFRC Regional Office for Africa, Nairobi  
T +254 110 843978  
[louise.daintrey@ifrc.org](mailto:louise.daintrey@ifrc.org)

#### Bhupinder Tomar

Head of Delegation  
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for  
Nigeria, Togo, Benin & Ghana, based  
in Abuja  
T +234 81867 30823  
[bhupinder.tomar@ifrc.org](mailto:bhupinder.tomar@ifrc.org)

#### Sumitha Martin

Lead  
IFRC Global Strategic Planning & Reporting Centre  
New Delhi  
[sumitha.martin@ifrc.org](mailto:sumitha.martin@ifrc.org)