



SOUTH AFRICA

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

9 July 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 11M**

In support of the South African Red Cross Society



51

National Society branches



272

National Society staff



10,700

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



7M

Climate and environment



5M

Disasters and crises



6M

Health and wellbeing



500,000

Migration & Displacement



1M

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency Response

- Floods and landslides

Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk reduction • Health and care
- Community resilience • Protection, gender and inclusion

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy • Digital transformation • Financial sustainability
- Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting
- Youth and volunteer development

Key country data

Population **59.9M**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **Medium**

Human Development Index rank **109**

Population below poverty level **62.7%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho & Namibia, based in Pretoria

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

2026**

Total 5.65M CHF

Total 2.9M CHF

Total 2.45M CHF

Through IFRC



→ **1.5M** CHF

Through Host National Society



4.2M CHF

Through IFRC



→ **147,000** CHF

Through Host National Society



2.8M CHF

Through Host National Society

2.4M CHF

***Projected funding requirements*

IFRC Breakdown

Longer-term needs

400,000 CHF

Climate and environment

600,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

350,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

150,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

Belgian Red Cross

British Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross Society*

German Red Cross*

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Red Cross of Monaco*

The Netherlands Red Cross*

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

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAZA003

Hazards



Floods



Landslides



Tropical storms



Civil unrest



Diseases



Violence

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **South African Red Cross Society** was admitted to the IFRC in 1919. It was established in 1921 by the Parliament of South Africa as a voluntary humanitarian relief and development organization, and an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field.

The National Society is known for the capacities of its first responders, who act in coordination with the Government's disaster management committee. As a result, the South African Red Cross Society has earned the trust of the communities it works with, enabling its continued access to and ability to reach vulnerable groups.

In 2021 and 2022, the National Society simultaneously responded at scale to the COVID-19 pandemic, urban violence and devastating floods and landslides. It works with local authorities and other humanitarian partners in line with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, paying special attention to the

neutrality, impartiality, independence, and sustainability of its interventions.

The South African Red Cross Society operates 51 branches across the nine provinces of South Africa, with a database of 10,700 volunteers and 272 staff members. The National Society Secretary General's office is supported by a senior management team comprising managers from different departments, including disaster management, health and care, branch development, finance, and organizational development. The team supports its decentralized provincial and branch offices with the implementation of activities and community engagements.

In 2022, the South African Red Cross Society reached 117,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes, and more than 284,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

South Africa is grappling with a growing crisis driven by the adverse effects of climate change, which has exposed vulnerable populations and communities to a range of severe hazards, including floods, cyclones, prolonged droughts and uncontrollable fires. These climate-related challenges have resulted in significant human displacement, posing a pressing concern for the nation.

Recent occurrences highlighted the urgency of the situation. Between July 2023, and September 2023, South Africa experienced a surge in uncontrolled fires in peri-urban and urban settings, notably affecting informal settlements in KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng. Of significant concern is the devastating Kennedy Road informal settlement fire in Durban, KwaZulu Natal, which left thousands of individuals displaced and in dire need of assistance and support. Furthermore, Johannesburg Central Business District experienced a

devastating fire on August 31, 2023, resulting in the tragic loss of lives, damage to personal belongings, and the destruction of critical infrastructure.

In addition to the fire incidents, several South African provinces, including parts of KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, and Western Cape, have been grappling with the consequences of severe rainfall. These heavy rains have led to a decline in food security and have negatively impacted livelihoods. The implications extend beyond immediate material losses, posing a substantial threat to South Africa's social cohesion, water resources, food security, livelihoods, health and critical infrastructure. Importantly, the changing weather patterns linked to these challenges have amplified gender-specific vulnerabilities within affected communities.

South Africa currently faces a convergence of complex challenges spanning political, social, demographic and economic dimensions, reflecting a critical juncture in the nation's history. Politically, the country is grappling with heightened social unrest and protests. These incidents often involve tensions between local citizens and foreign nationals,

occasionally escalating to hostile takeovers of settlements and mining towns. The root causes are multifaceted, with a prominent factor being the economic hardships faced by the citizens coupled with elevated rates of youth unemployment.

A notable development is the emergence of mobilization groups like 'Operation Dudula', which have targeted undocumented foreign nationals across South Africa. This has exacerbated social instability, particularly in regions primarily situated in Gauteng townships and peri-urban settings, namely Alexandra, Diepsloot, Johannesburg and Soweto. These areas have witnessed incidents of social unrest directly linked to the activities of 'Operation Dudula'. Consequently, migrant communities have occasionally hesitated to seek refuge in community shelters, as observed during recent floods in KwaZulu Natal. The prevailing situation underscores the imperative for a comprehensive and harmonized approach to migration, protection and management policies.

Environmental challenges further compound the nation's difficulties, with ongoing floods affecting regions such as Western Cape, KwaZulu Natal, and Northern Cape. These natural disasters continue to jeopardize human lives and exacerbate food insecurity. Parts of Eastern Cape have witnessed a surge in cases of malnutrition, particularly among rural communities and children. Tragically, malnutrition has emerged as a leading cause of death among young children.

These interwoven challenges underscore the intricacy of South Africa's current socio-political landscape. Effective responses will necessitate not only a unified domestic approach but also international collaboration and support to address these pressing issues and foster stability, security and prosperity for all South Africans.



Volunteers of the South African Red Cross Society distributing vital necessities among communities affected by devastating fires in Durban, in September 2023 (Photo: IFRC)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Climate change presents a palpable and growing reality, bringing forth substantial social, economic, and environmental risks and challenges on a global scale. South Africa, like many other developing nations, finds itself particularly susceptible to the far-reaching impacts of [climate change](#).

South Africa is already exposed to a high degree of risk from [natural hazards and disasters](#), including droughts, floods, and storm-related events such as high winds, coastal storm surges and hail. These extreme weather events are likely to be exacerbated by climate change. Extreme rainfall has already resulted in costly infrastructure damage, road closures and reduced access to electricity. It has also overwhelmed sewage and stormwater systems, causing flooding and pollution.

Temperature anomalies are already affecting South Africa's critical infrastructure such as roads and rail lines. Rainfall and temperature changes will continue to have a negative impact on agriculture and food security. Additionally, extreme weather events pose a potential threat to the [tourism sector](#), thereby impacting the livelihoods dependent on this industry. Notably, previous instances of flooding have already resulted in the contamination of water supplies. Reduction in rainfall and higher temperatures, including heatwaves, have led to significant water restrictions and an increased demand for water and energy for cooling systems across all sectors. Concurrently, extreme rainfall had led to soil erosion, land degradation, and placed ecosystems and their associated services in jeopardy. Moreover, heightened sedimentation rates resulting from more intense rainfall events pose a threat the storage capacity of dams, further exacerbating water resource challenges.

The [South Africa National Development Plan \(NDP\) 2030](#) recognizes that the preservation of ecosystems, particularly those essential for providing food and clean water, regulating climate and disease, supporting crop pollination and nutrient cycles, and delivering cultural benefits such as recreational opportunities, is fundamental to the realization of South Africa's social and economic development objectives.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment is responsible for the greening strategy in South Africa. The work takes place at a local government level, in partnership with local government institutions, non-governmental and community-based organizations. [Greening activities](#) are undertaken in line with chapter four of the National Forest Act of 1996 and South Africa's National Greening Strategy. In addition, the [National Arbor Month](#) campaign aims to sensitize South African communities to the need to conserve,

protect and plant trees for environmental and humanitarian purposes.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The South African Red Cross Society is part of the [IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The South African Red Cross Society is fully committed to taking swift action to mitigate and adapt to the escalating and evolving risks posed by climate and environmental crises. Its high-level objectives include to:

- Bolster community capacities, equipping them with the tools needed to confront the ever-changing impacts of climate change
- Empower communities to lead climate change mitigation efforts and embrace sustainable environmental practices
- Ensure that its staff and volunteers possess the knowledge and capacity to act as catalysts for change

Planned activities in 2024

- Develop information, education and communication (IEC) materials with key messages on climate change which are context-specific by province
- Establish working groups that focus on climate change and environmental crisis
- Establish youth volunteer ambassadors to lead climate change initiatives
- Forge partnerships with higher education institutions specializing in climate change and adaptation studies
- Organize a national workshop on climate change and adaptation, convening key stakeholders for a roundtable discussion to strategize and share insights on effective climate change education and adaptation efforts
- Enhance the integration of indigenous knowledge into operations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the South African Red Cross Society in designing programmes and projects to adopt environmentally friendly sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation as well as capacity building for sustainable

livelihoods. It will provide support in the implementation of climate-friendly policies and practices thus strengthening the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change. Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society in implementation of IFRC's Pan-African Tree Planting and Care initiative by raising community awareness and enabling them to plant and care for trees.



Disasters and crises

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

[South Africa](#) is susceptible to a variety of natural and man-made hazards, including floods, landslides, tropical storms, storm surges, thunderstorms, civil unrest and urban violence. It is particularly prone to disasters and hazards that result in substantial damage to infrastructure, loss of human lives and impact on livestock, directly affecting the economy. The heightened intensity of these disasters is aggravated by rapid urbanization and the impacts of climate.

In South Africa, despite improvements in access to sanitation facilities, a significant portion of households still lack proper sanitation, as highlighted by the [General Household Survey](#) (GHS) of 2018. This sanitation gap has direct health implications, contributing to waterborne diseases and gastrointestinal infections.

South Africa has a well-established [disaster management framework](#), which promotes engagement in disaster risk reduction across the three levels of government: national, provincial, and municipal. Institutions such as the Inter-Governmental Committee on Disaster Management, the National Disaster Management Advisory Forum and the National Disaster Management Centre are responsible for the overall coordination of disaster management across the country.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The South African Red Cross Society will position itself as a key player in preparing for and responding to a wide spectrum of crises and disasters, by analyzing and addressing the diverse needs of individuals and communities affected by these events. It also aims to focus on [disaster law](#). Its high-level objectives include to:

- Focus on disaster risk reduction and mitigation interventions, aiming to decrease community vulnerability through mobilizing community-based adaptations and promoting indigenous knowledge systems
- Build community resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards by empowering at risk individuals with actionable risk information

- Improve sanitation facilities, promote good hygiene practices, and implement effective water management systems

Planned activities in 2024

- Mobilize local disaster management forums, village representatives, civil society, and private sector partners for responding to disasters and crises
- Provide disaster mitigation assets (e.g. smoke detectors, firefighting equipment, gabion check dams, clearing of debris in drainage systems, sandbags) to at-risk communities
- Provide timely support for vulnerable households in disasters and crises through [cash and voucher assistance](#)
- Provide emergency relief material for early recovery
- Provide individuals in need with basic emergency [shelter](#) that is safe and adequate to enable essential household and livelihoods activities to be undertaken in a dignified manner

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide the National Society technical support in [disaster law](#) training as well as in designing programmes such as livelihood support, distribution of food and non-food items to those affected by drought, floods, conflicts, and other disasters in South Africa. Additionally, the IFRC will work with the South African Red Cross Society in reducing the risk of disasters through implementation of the preparedness for early response (PER) approach. It will also provide support in conducting training and workshops on disaster preparedness including contingency planning as well as improving [early warning early action](#) systems to save lives and property.

IFRC mechanisms such as the [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(IFRC-DREF\)](#) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises.

In [July 2023](#) the IFRC launched a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for fire, to support the assistance provided by the South African Red Cross Society to the affected communities.

This enabled the National Society to support up to 2,799 people, with CHF 376,327.

In October 2023, the IFRC launched a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for floods, to support the assistance provided by the South African Red Cross Society to the affected communities. This will enable the National Society to support up to 12,500 people, with available funding of CHF 423,280.



Health and wellbeing

Health disparities in South Africa are deeply rooted in the social determinants of health, influenced by the broader social and economic conditions to which individuals are exposed over the course of their lives. These determinants encompass the circumstances of one's birth, the environment they live in, the work they engage in, and the conditions one faces as one ages. What has become evident is the presence of a social gradient across many of these determinants, whereby individuals with lower socioeconomic status experience more pronounced health disparities.

Recurring disasters exacerbate health vulnerabilities in South Africa. Many people are struggling to access healthcare due to the extensive infrastructural damage and the demands of daily survival. The trauma experienced by affected families coupled with the distress stemming from the concerns about the loss of their assets, has resulted in a significant need for psychosocial support among these individuals.

In 2021, an estimated 13.9 per cent of the total population of South Africa was HIV/AIDS positive. Almost a quarter of South African women of reproductive age, aged between 15–49 years, are HIV/AIDS positive. The total number of individuals living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa has increased from an estimated 3.8 million in 2002 to 8.2 million in 2021. Notably, South Africa has the highest number of individuals enrolled in antiretroviral programmes globally.

Another notable challenge in South Africa is the insufficient access to proper sanitation facilities. Despite improvements, a significant number of households still lack access to adequate sanitation, as revealed by the General Household Survey (GHS) of 2018. Inadequate sanitation facilities contribute to a range of health issues, including the spread of waterborne diseases and gastrointestinal infections. Ensuring access to clean and safe sanitation facilities is a critical step in promoting public health and mitigating health disparities. The quality of water and access to clean water are closely intertwined with sanitation concerns.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The South African Red Cross Society, in keeping with its auxiliary role at the country level will continue promoting the

In January 2024, the IFRC launched a DREF for storm surge, to support the assistance provided by the National Society to the affected communities. The DREF allocation of CHF 232,870 enabled the South African Red Cross Society to assist a total of 2,500 people in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Free State.

good health and well-being of communities. Its high-level objectives include to:

- Work on improving sanitation facilities, promoting hygiene practices, implementing effective water management systems and advocating for more equitable access to healthcare services
- Enhance the resilience of communities to health-related challenges by attempting to reduce health disparities
- Advocate for affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services

Planned activities in 2024

- Identify focus areas and communities for health promotion and disease prevention
- Ensure the fulfilment of the health needs of the most vulnerable populations during disasters
- Conduct public awareness to reduce the health risks using community engagement and accountability (CEA) approaches
- Conduct training/ orientation of staff and volunteers in psychosocial support
- Conduct a comprehensive assessment to map existing referral systems addressing sexual and gender-based violence in the contexts of emergencies
- Promote good hygiene habits through public education and community engagement
- Build capacity of volunteers to enable them to undertake community-based health activities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to broaden its capacity to ensure that it is positioned as the partner of choice for major national projects in community and emergency health. It will provide the South African Red Cross Society with

technical support and build its capacity through training on key concepts such as One Health, community-based initiatives in health, First Aid, and [mental health and psychosocial support](#)

(MHPSS). The IFRC will also support the National Society with successful integration of disaster risk reduction approaches that impact health and well-being.



Migration and displacement

Throughout Southern Africa, migration is predominantly motivated by the quest for economic opportunities, political instability and, increasingly, environmental hazards. Because of its strong economic position in the continent, South Africa receives a high volume of [migrants](#) seeking work opportunities in the mining, manufacturing and agricultural sectors. It is the most industrialized economy in the region and a particularly attractive destination for those in search of better education and opportunities.

An estimated 2.9 million [migrants](#) resided in South Africa in the middle of 2020, and this migration phenomenon is actively shaping the country's demographic profile. Global migration-related challenges are ever-evolving, and South Africa has witnessed an increased prevalence of irregular migration, including women and unaccompanied minors. South Africa has inadequate [migration management policies](#) and border management processes along with rising xenophobic sentiments that may result in physical violence against migrants.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The South African Red Cross Society aims to support the government in responding to migration crises. Its high-level objectives include to:

- Assist migrants by providing services such as [Restoring Family Links \(RFL\)](#), psychological and social support (PSS), as well as healthcare services
- Ensure the well-being and protection of migrants facing diverse challenges within South Africa's border
- Develop national migration and displacement strategy in collaboration with relevant government authorities and humanitarian actors

Planned activities in 2024

- Map migration services and establish coordination teams for assistance of these services for migrants
- Implement activities that foster social cohesion and interaction between migrants and host community members
- Effectively engage with migrants and displaced persons by giving due priority to their needs and concerns
- Strengthen referral systems that deal with migration
- Elevate awareness regarding potential risks, rights, and self-protection measures associated with migration, especially in the context of mixed migration
- Train staff and volunteers on RFL

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen the implementation of the integrated approach in responding to the needs of migrants and displaced populations and in advocating for the rights of migrants and displaced persons. It will assist the National Society to enhance its capacity to address the needs of migrants and displaced individuals. This encompasses delivering training, technical assistance and securing funding through collaborative partnership with relevant donors. Additionally, the IFRC will support the South African Red Cross Society in the establishment of [humanitarian service points \(HSPs\)](#) as neutral locations where vulnerable groups can safely access basic services.



Values, power and inclusion

South Africa has a history of exclusion and discrimination on the grounds of race and gender, among others. As a result, the Government has developed one of the most inclusive constitutions globally, incorporating a bill of rights that

expressly advocates for equal treatment for all irrespective of race, age, disability, socio-economic status and gender.

Other forms of legislation, such as the [Employment Equity Act of 1998](#), have facilitated access to formal employment for

women. As a result, employers are legally required to work towards a more equitable workforce representation based on gender, race and disability.

In 2017, a survey revealed that approximately 17 per cent of girls aged 12–19 years (not attending an educational institution) experience pregnancies in the 12 months preceding the survey. Notably, KwaZulu-Natal had the highest proportion of these pregnancies, followed by Eastern Cape and Western Cape. While great strides have been made towards equality for women, many challenges remain. There is a need for continued measurement, policy changes and programmatic interventions. Beyond monitoring the country's progress towards gender equality, a deeper understanding of gender gaps will advance the agenda of ensuring that no one is left behind.

Poverty levels have consistently been highest among female-headed households, black South African communities and children under the age of 15. These groups also tend to be at a higher risk of getting pushed into poverty. Members of female-headed households face up to a 10 per cent higher likelihood of falling into poverty and are two per cent less likely to uplift themselves from poverty compared with those of male-headed households. In South Africa, race strongly correlates with the risk of living in poverty, with black Africans at the highest risk. Large families, children and individuals residing in rural areas are especially susceptible to experiencing prolonged poverty.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted a study entitled 'They Are Too Quiet About Migration', to investigate the intersection of migration and disability in South Africa. It examined the extent to which migrants with disabilities were included in relevant policies in South Africa. The scoping exercise took place mainly in the province of Gauteng, a major destination for migrants hoping for a better life, and the town of Musina, a major entry point into South Africa. One key finding highlighted the fact that while there are national and international policies on disability in general, very few take the specific needs and rights of migrants with disabilities into account. As a result, vulnerable migrants with disabilities remain hidden and are often excluded not just from policies, but also from subsequent social welfare programming. There is therefore a need for migration-aware and mobility-competent policies and programmes in South Africa.

Furthermore, protection issues in South Africa are exacerbated due to recurring disasters, leading to a breakdown in community structures, law and order and a lack of physical protection. This frequently culminates in instances of gender-based violence.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society will aim to ensure that its programmes promote the dignity, access, participation and safety of everyone it supports, regardless of their race, sex, language, nationality, disability and age. Its high level objectives include to:

- Provide improved access to equitable and quality education to boys and girls affected by disasters
- Use the community engagement and accountability (CEA) approach to engage communities in conflict resolutions, and promote peaceful local level advocacy
- Use existing community structures to implement the response operation, ensuring the involvement of key stakeholders such as community leaders, while prioritizing the involvement of individuals with special needs
- Focus on improving the understanding, ownership and concrete application of humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles among the youth in communities
- Continue to support the youth by funding projects for their ideas and innovations through its youth empowerment activities

Planned activities in 2024

- Support women youth enterprises to apply for funding opportunities with Government and private sector
- Support youth enterprises to form linkages based on identified market opportunities
- Enhance access to and support for equitable and high-quality education for both boys and girls affected by disasters
- Conduct needs assessments to ensure that out of school children are provided access to relevant educational materials to facilitate their return to school
- Facilitate forums to bring together duty bearers and discuss improved processes for protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in emergency response
- Sensitize communities on inclusiveness and protection

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the South African Red Cross Society in consistently adopting and implementing to PGI and CEA minimum actions for emergencies, using participatory approaches and in drafting prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding policies. It will support the National Society in developing referral systems to ensure secure and sensitive handling of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases, taking into account and all gender identities and addressing the specific needs of individuals living with disabilities. The IFRC will also provide assistance in setting up community feedback systems capable of handling investigations of sensitive complaints. Additionally it will build the capacity of the South African Red Cross Society to sort, analyze and report qualitative and quantitative data points collected through community feedback.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The South African Red Cross Society is committed to its institutional strengthening and is engaged in the [IFRC Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) process. It is currently at the orientation phase. The approach is a

continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen engagement with partners within and outside the network to work collectively on the key challenges facing communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in its efforts to build additional self-generating revenue streams with the aim of becoming more self-sufficient.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Promote good governance in all its structures
- Expand its presence in additional communities and targeted focus areas
- Promote volunteerism among the youth

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide continuous support to the National Society with transformational leadership approaches. It will promote youth programming and engagement within the National Society. It will also provide technical support for reviewing and developing National Society development plans as well as its strategic plan. Additionally, the IFRC will support the South African Red Cross Society with financial sustainability approaches such as its core cost policy.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen relations with authorities and decision makers in the country by establishing relationships at local, provincial and national levels
- Strengthen its public profile to influence both public behaviour and policy at domestic, regional and global levels
- Enhance humanitarian efforts in alignment with governmental key priorities

- Intensify collaboration and partnerships with key partners and stakeholders in upholding of its auxiliary role

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support and encourage engagement of the South African Red Cross Society with public authorities. It will also support the National Society's leadership in diplomatic engagements and connect it with strategic partners.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Ensure that human resource guidelines and practices align with the IFRC code of conduct and in-country guidance
- Refine and develop data collection tools to streamline data compilation, allowing for concurrent data input and improved accessibility

- Organize comprehensive training sessions for programme teams at branch and provincial levels to enhance their proficiency in utilizing planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) tools

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in innovating its monitoring, evaluation and reporting structure. It will also support the National Society in enhancing its information management capacity through digital transformation.



The South African Red Cross Society installing a borehole through to support local schools and communities, in June 2023 (Photo: IFRC)

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The **IFRC** supports the South African Red Cross Society through its country cluster delegation based in Pretoria, South Africa, which covers South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and the Kingdom of Eswatini. The IFRC supports the South African Red Cross Society with strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a

cross-cutting theme. The country cluster delegation is also very instrumental in supporting the South African Red Cross Society to mobilize resources through IFRC disaster response funding mechanisms such as the Emergency Appeal and [DREF](#), as well as the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund \(CBF\)](#), and the [ICRC-IFRC National Society Investment Alliance \(NSIA\)](#).

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 South African Red Cross Society is part of the four [IFRC Pan-African Initiatives](#) focusing on Tree Planting and Care; Zero Hunger; Red Ready and National Society development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

The South African Red Cross Society has longer-term partnerships with three participating National Societies:

The **Belgian Red Cross** supports the National Society with strengthening disaster relief and capacity building.

The **British Red Cross** supports the National Society in disaster management, restoring family links, and governance matters as part of National Society development.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** supports the National Society in innovation and information management systems.

Other National Societies support the South African Red Cross Society through the IFRC or through ad hoc bilateral support. The **Qatar Red Crescent** has bilaterally supported the National Society with medical relief items for past emergency responses to floods and landslides.

Movement coordination

The National Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. 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's** Pretoria Regional Delegation carries out humanitarian activities in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi,

Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Using innovative tools, its humanitarian action aims to address the humanitarian consequences of armed violence and migration; to support authorities to trace missing persons, to reconnect separated families; to strengthen respect for and compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and international standards of policing; and to improve the capacity of National Red Cross Societies in the region to be first responders to natural and man-made disasters. Through humanitarian diplomacy, the ICRC in Southern Africa builds support for humanitarian action, norms and values amongst policy and decision-makers.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the South African Red Cross Society collaborates closely with the public authorities. During emergencies, the National Disaster Management Centre coordinates the interventions from all humanitarian agencies, with support from UN agencies, through the Command-and-Control Centre. During episodes of urban violence, the South African Red Cross Society also works closely with the Cooperative of Governance and Traditional Affairs. The South African Red Cross Society partners with the government to build its capacity in climate change adaptation, disaster management and health.

It also partners with UN agencies and other national and international organizations to deliver its programmes and operations. UNICEF supports the National Society in disaster relief and capacity building, while the UNDP supports disaster relief and gender integration programming. Santam supports disaster relief and capacity building across disaster management, first aid and communications. Old Mutual supports disaster relief and capacity building in the areas of cash and voucher assistance, small, medium and micro-sized enterprises, and life skills. Nedbank collaborates with the National Society to deliver disaster relief and capacity-building for the information management of cash and voucher assistance.



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 South African Red Cross Society, 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

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