



CAPE VERDE

2024 IFRC network country plan

26 July 2024

Funding Requirement **CHF 2.9M**

In support of the Red Cross of Cape Verde



46

National Society branches



122

National Society staff



2,077

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



49,000

Climate and environment



223,000

Disasters and crises



123,000

Health and wellbeing



89

Migration & Displacement



4,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Food security
- Disaster risk management
- Climate change adaptation
- Health and water, sanitation and hygiene
- Migration and displacement-related needs

Capacity development

- Internal systems strengthening
 - Communications
- Financial sustainability and resource mobilization
 - Volunteers and youth management
 - Digital transformation

Key country data

Population **593,000**

INFORM Severity rating **Very high**

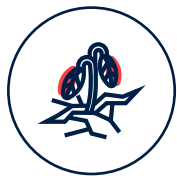
INFORM Climate Risk Index **Very low**

Human Development Index rank **128**

Population below poverty level **35.2%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Cape Verde, Gambia, Mauritania & Senegal, based in Dakar

Hazards



Droughts



Floods



Food insecurity



Disease outbreaks



Migration

Funding requirements

Total 2.9M CHF

Through the IFRC



500,000 CHF

Through Host National Society



2.4M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer-term needs

100,000 CHF

Climate and environment

300,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

100,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross*

Japanese Red Cross Society*

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

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAACV002

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Red Cross of Cape Verde** was established by decree in 1975. It was the first humanitarian organization to exist in Cape Verde. Following the accession of the state of Cape Verde to the Geneva Conventions in 1984, the Red Cross of Cape Verde was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1985. Since then, the National Society has been recognized by the Cape Verdean state as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, and in support of the military and health services.

The Red Cross of Cape Verde works throughout the country, on all nine inhabited islands and throughout the 22 administrative municipalities. It acts in various fields such as disaster risk management, health and wellbeing, and migration and displacement. The National Society's mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering impartially, and without any discrimination of nationality, race, sex, class, religion, or political ideologies. In compliance with the seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its mandate is to:

- In the event of armed conflict, act on behalf of the victims of war, civilian or military, and prepare in times of peace, to intervene as an auxiliary to the public services, in the fields provided for by the Geneva Conventions

- Contribute to the improvement of people's health and wellbeing, the prevention of disease and the alleviation of human suffering, through training and community assistance programmes, adapted to the needs and living conditions of individuals
- Organize emergency assistance services for disaster victims
- Recruit, train and sensitize staff and volunteers as necessary, to carry out the tasks entrusted to them
- Promote the participation of children and young people in Red Cross activities
- Disseminate the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and international humanitarian law, with a view to developing among the population, especially among children and young people, the ideals of peace, respect and mutual understanding among all peoples
- respect and mutual understanding among all peoples

In 2022, the Red Cross of Cape Verde reached approximately 36,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Located 500 kilometres from the Senegalese coast, Cape Verde comprises ten islands, nine of which are inhabited, covering a total area of 4,033 kilometres with a population of 483,628 according to the 2021 census. The island fragmentation poses significant challenges, with a perpetual struggle against aridity and hunger. Exposed to natural hazards like volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and hurricanes, Cape Verde faces heightened vulnerability to climate change. The rainy season, from July to October, averages about ten days a year, contributing to a severe drought crisis. Around 140,000 people are at risk of nutritional vulnerability, facing challenges in accessing water and food, exacerbated by job scarcity. Between 2016 and 2022, the country experienced one of the worst drought crises since the 1990s, leading to significant food insecurity and poverty. In 2022, cereal and bean production plummeted by 80 per cent and 90 per cent, respectively, contributing to acute food insecurity in certain municipalities. The consequences of the war in Ukraine, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted

in more than 46 per cent of the population facing chronic food insecurity, exacerbated by regional inflation.

Cape Verde is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its historically weak capacity to respond to natural climate variability. This vulnerability manifests in various areas, such as an increase in the frequency and intensity of floods and droughts, leading to losses in agriculture and posing a constant threat to biodiversity; changes in the hydrological regime; and the expansion of endemic disease vectors.

On the ground, difficulties in accessing water and food, as well as the lack of jobs, are the daily reality for the population who have always experienced drought situations. For the most vulnerable families, the challenges are enormous when it comes to access to water. In addition to quantity, attention to quality is required, with the risk of putting the population's health at risk. With this drought crisis, the risk of malnutrition occurring in children under five years of age, pregnant women, and breastfeeding women is also great. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, 32 per cent of families do not have sufficient financial access to food, 10 per cent of the population suffers from chronic malnutrition, and 7.4 per cent of children under five years of age suffer from obesity.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Cape Verde, as an archipelagic country and a small island developing state, is highly vulnerable to natural disasters exacerbated by climate change. This vulnerability results in considerable damage and loss from adverse and extreme events. Located in the sub-Saharan zone, Cape Verde's climatic conditions are characterized by aridity and semi-aridity, with significant but variable rainfall between July and October, and an almost total absence of rainfall for the rest of the year. This situation has led to cyclical, severe, and recurrent droughts, significantly impacting economic and social development. These impacts include erosion, desertification, increased unemployment, food insecurity, deterioration in health, rural exodus, school dropout, worsening regional asymmetries, urban and environmental degradation, and a decline in the population's quality of life.

During the wet months or seasons, rainfall is erratic and torrential, causing flash floods and torrential rains, particularly in the country's main urban centres. These centres are characterized by the extensive occupation of risk areas, with about 60 per cent of informal settlements located in such areas.

Additional hazards include mass movements, tropical storms, coastal erosion, volcanic activity, seismic events, epidemics, and fires, all of which have a significant impact on Cape Verde's economic and social development.

Climate projections for Cape Verde generally indicate a warmer and drier future. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) models predict an increase in average temperatures of up to 2.5°C for the eastern tropical Atlantic, as well as a decrease in humidity and precipitation by 5 to 10 per cent per year. Sea levels are expected to rise between 0.13 and 1.4 meters by the end of the century.

The Government of Cape Verde has approved a national plan for adaptation to climate change, outlining interventions in its institutional framework, technology, and building resilience for the most vulnerable, with a budget of 30 million euros up to 2026.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Cape Verde seeks to integrate climate change adaptation and environmental protection into its work. It will focus on strengthening the capacities of communities to face

climate and environmental risks and strengthen the capacities of National Society staff and volunteers to lead urgent action in the face of climate and environmental crises. The National Society aims to reduce vulnerability and reduce community exposure to climate crises and help affected people adapt by developing more sustainable and effective programmes and operations.

Planned activities in 2024

- Adhere to the government's strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through awareness campaigns
- Provide support to communities to adapt to climate change through diversification and community resilience approaches, including cereal banks, climate impact training, and awareness campaigns
- Implement activities to protect and preserve the environment such as reforestation, fire and windbreaks, dikes, digging ditches and furrows through cash transfer programmes
- Participate in technical working groups related to climate change, anticipatory action, food security and livelihoods
- Produce community climate change risk maps
- Organize and participate in training on climate-smart livelihood development and capacity building in food production and livelihood

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of Cape Verde's efforts in reducing vulnerability of populations to the negative effects of climate change and climate variability. It supports the National Society in organizing campaigns related to climate change, training communities and stakeholders working with the Cape Verde Red Cross on specific climate change actions and increasing the capacity of the National Society's staff and volunteers through targeted capacity-building initiatives on climate change impact and environment preservation. The IFRC also extends support in areas such as establishing and equipping the National Society's community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation teams, establishing early warning system in collaboration with government authorities, strengthening the National Society's communications on climate change adaptation measures, among others.



Disasters and crises

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

Cape Verde is exposed to various natural hazards, ranking 32nd out of 177 countries assessed in the [World Risk Report 2017](#) due to its susceptibility, vulnerability, and level of adaptive capacity. The country most often faces natural hazards such as extreme weather events (including droughts and tropical cyclones), flash floods and landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and epidemics.

In recent years, Cape Verde has suffered several adverse natural events such as the Hurricane Fred in 2015, volcanic eruption in Fogo Island in 2015, multiple floodings, and multiple instances of epidemic including the [Zika virus epidemic](#). Low rainfall from 2017 to early 2023 caused severe droughts, leading to dried-up dams, impacting crops and the agricultural sector, and prompting increased rural migration to major cities. Unfavourable conditions during the agro-pastoral season left some municipalities facing acute food insecurity.

Chronic floods represent a significant hazard in Cape Verde. The [2020 floods](#) resulted in loss of life, significant loss of livestock, and damage to residential and arable areas, particularly in the southern region of the island of Santiago and parts of the northern region of the archipelago. Additionally, the concurrent shocks and pressures of prolonged drought, COVID-19, and inflation have exacerbated the vulnerability of communities and eroded their resilience to a worrying level. In June 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment warned that 11 per cent of families would most certainly be in a food crisis situation. In 2020, amidst the pandemic, the country recorded three per cent of the population in a food crisis (IPC phase 3), while by May 2022, this percentage had increased to nine per cent. The number of people at risk of acute food insecurity ranges from 30 per cent, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to over 46 per cent, according to an assessment conducted by the Red Cross of Cape Verde in the last two years.

The United Nations [estimated](#), following a drought impact assessment mission in the country, that about 140,000 people could be in a situation of acute nutritional vulnerability. The results of the Cadre Harmonisé (March 2022), presented as part of the Regional Food Crisis Prevention and Management System (PREGEC), showed that food insecurity was most prevalent on the island of Santiago, particularly in the municipality of Ribera Grande.

In 2022, in response to these challenges, the Government of Cape Verde adopted an emergency programme to mitigate the effects of drought and address the poor agricultural production. These included interventions on livestock rescue,

management of water shortages, employment for affected families. These measures were aimed at building resilience and improving the adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable populations in Cape Verde, addressing both immediate and long-term impacts of climate change and natural hazards.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Cape Verde Red Cross is one of the first actors to respond to the multiple disasters and crises affecting the country. To maintain and ensure expertise in emergency preparedness, response and management, the National Society has established various response mechanisms, the most important of which are disaster response teams, at the community and national levels. In its 2022/2026 governance programme, the National Society has introduced disaster risk reduction and disaster response mechanisms into programmes related to migration, climate change, food and nutrition security, livelihoods, (urban) environment, health and [digital vulnerabilities](#), to ensure that it works in an integrated manner, especially in contexts of crisis and fragility.

The National Society will also focus its efforts on mitigating the vulnerabilities and inequalities caused by different types of crises and disasters on individuals, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable.

Planned activities in 2024

- Establish a system to disseminate [early warning](#) information (including sentinel sites) from national meteorological and hydrological services to communities at risk
 - Community mobilization and awareness raising on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation through participatory scenario planning
 - Train 330 volunteers in emergency needs assessment
 - Update a simplified contingency plan adapted to the local context and linked to collaborative efforts with national and regional disaster contingency plans
 - Train 550 volunteers in [PASSA](#) and best practices for building houses using local materials
 - Research and support for local RRA/CCA techniques and practices in the areas of [shelter](#), livelihoods and water, water, personal hygiene through participatory approaches ([PASSA](#), [PHAST](#), [CLTS](#))
 - Pre-position emergency items (for shelter, water, hygiene, and health) at the national and local/regional level for in-kind assistance to 300 households
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of Cape Verde in areas such as establishment of system for early warning information dissemination, development of standard operating procedures, implementing participatory approach for safe shelter awareness, research for local risk reduction and climate change adaptation techniques, supporting formal and informal market assessments in the most affected regions, and developing standard operating procedures for the National Society's cash and voucher assistance. The IFRC support also includes components such as adoption of digital emergency needs assessment

and beneficiary registration tools, reviewing currently available emergency plans and adapting them into complex emergency plans, conducting community simulation exercises, organizing advocacy sessions with authorities at different levels on humanitarian principles, and many more.

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.



Health and wellbeing

Public health emergencies are a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide, particularly in small island developing countries like Cape Verde, where globalization and climate change are gradually altering the health landscape. Cape Verde experiences a high mobility of people and goods with other countries, posing a significant threat for the entry of emerging and re-emerging diseases.

In Cape Verde, the impact of emergencies on public health affects various aspects of human, animal, and environmental health. Waterborne diseases, including diarrhoea, are linked to the quality and quantity of water for drinking and sanitation. The country has faced recent epidemics such as dengue, Zika, malaria, and COVID-19. Other outbreaks in the country include Rubella, pandemic influenza H1N1, Dengue type 3, viral meningitis caused by enterovirus, malaria, Coxsackie virus, with Zika being the most notable one.

Beyond direct health risks, Cape Verde's vulnerabilities are exacerbated by its volcanic origin, frequent droughts, and susceptibility to climate change-related risks. Recent outbreaks underscore the urgent need to strengthen disease surveillance and response systems in the country. This necessity highlights the importance of prioritizing the One Health approach, which integrates human, animal, and environmental health in a multisectoral context.

Despite the State's efforts, there are still deficiencies in the provision of healthcare, both in terms of availability and quality. Maternal, newborn, and child health, malnutrition, and infectious diseases remain significant challenges for the archipelago. These factors indicate a potential deterioration of the current health situation and the erosion of health gains if effective measures are not implemented.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Health is a key priority programme of the Red Cross of Cape Verde. The National Society is considered a reference institution in first aid, very often being requested by various institutions,

public, private and non-governmental organizations, to provide first aid services or training. Other services of the National Society include follow-up of the chronically ill in centres for the elderly, implementation of projects related to HIV/AIDS, and support to patients with temporary or chronic conditions of various nature and complexity.

The Red Cross of Cape Verde's strategy aims to ensure safe and equitable access to health, water, sanitation, and adequate living conditions for all. This means expanding integrated community-based health, care and first aid programmes, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes, to address the unmet needs of vulnerable or marginalised groups. It also means investing significantly in epidemic and pandemic preparedness, and more specifically in local actors, networks and volunteers as community responders who can detect and respond to outbreaks and other health risks.

Planned activities in 2024

- Map areas and communities prone to recurring health problems
- Develop and disseminate the communicable and non-communicable disease prevention communication strategy to branches
- Ensure the integration of National Society into different national, regional, and local public health preparedness and response coordination platforms
- Develop a strategic approach and strengthen social mobilization and risk communication on priority health issues
- Scale up health promotion in vulnerable and marginalised communities for disease prevention and control using the community-based health and first aid (CBFHA) strategy
- Implement community-based surveillance in 22 vulnerable communities

- Gather and use community feedback and suggestions to identify and reduce community health risks
- Disseminate up-to-date and use health advice through reliable communication approaches such as risk communication and communication engagement (RCCE)
- Launch the National Society first aid manual and train 62 first aid trainers
- Organize training sessions for staff, volunteers, and general public on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)
- Establish the National Society's mobile laboratory

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts through technical and financial assistance in areas such as intensifying health promotion in vulnerable and marginalised communities, conducting awareness sessions on the themes of health and WASH, collecting community feedback and suggestions, establishing community-based awareness programmes about epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, and improving the National Society's coordination with other stakeholders in health. Particularly in areas such as development of the National Society's strategies and increasing community and volunteers' knowledge on health risks, the IFRC provides technical support in carrying out these activities.



Migration and displacement

Cape Verde, traditionally a country of emigration, has a significant diaspora, with more Cape Verdeans living abroad (700,000 to 800,000) than at home. The diaspora is mainly in the United States, Portugal, Angola, Senegal, the Netherlands, and France. Additionally, Cape Verde has become a transit country for migration to Europe.

According to the [2021 census](#), Cape Verde's foreign-born resident population is 18,562, representing 3.8 per cent of the total population. Most reside in Praia, Sal, S. Vicente, Boavista, and Santa Catarina. Significant percentages were born in Guinea-Bissau, S. Tomé and Príncipe, Portugal, Senegal, and Angola. The population with only one foreign nationality totals

10,875, primarily from Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Portugal, China, São Tomé and Príncipe, Nigeria, the United States, Italy, Brazil, and Guinea Conakry.

Humanitarian needs for migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Cape Verde range from emergency assistance in health, water, sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition to protection and longer-term needs related to livelihoods, education, social integration, and durable solutions. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted vulnerabilities, with migrants facing difficulties accessing information and services due to legal status, language barriers, and social stigma.



Cape Verde Red Cross employees carrying out a voluntary action in the community of Pedra de Lume, delivering baskets of food items, October 21, 2022, (Photo: IFRC)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Cape Verde Red Cross, as an auxiliary of the Government, has been actively working with migrants and internally displaced peoples (IDPs), providing services like food distribution, healthcare, restoring family links (RFL), and psychological support. In the last two years, the National Society assisted in regulating over 2,000 migrants, granting them a 5-year residence permit without the usual legal procedure for a resident card.

While progress has been made, ensuring access to services and strengthening resilience for migrants are key dimensions of the National Society's work. The National Society aims to integrate migrants into Cape Verdean society through tailored assistance, expanding humanitarian service points, and supporting social protection systems. Strengthening work with migrants and IDPs to build trust and promote tolerance in host communities is another focus.

Planned activities in 2024

- Provide assistance and protection to migrants regardless of their status and set up humanitarian service points
- Assist vulnerable migrants (depending on the context) through health care, psychosocial support, livelihoods, reintegration assistance, information sharing and referrals
- Promote peaceful coexistence between migrants and host communities



Values, power and inclusion

Cape Verde is below global averages in gender-based violence and has made progress in recent years. The number of women who experienced some form of gender-based violence in the previous 12 months decreased from just over 20 per cent in 2005 to just under 11 per cent in 2019, according to UN Women. However, the rate increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Domestic violence is regarded by law as a public crime and is punished accordingly. The country ranked 89th on the UNDP HDI Gender Inequality Index in 2020.

Cape Verde has also made progress on disability inclusion. The country signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was ratified in 2011. Article 72 of the Constitution provides the legal framework for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. A 2021 study, supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, analyzed the profile of persons with disabilities in Cape Verde, highlighting their high vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. The findings

- Organize cross-border coordination National Societies located along migration routes, including through the migration technical group of the Sahel group
- Collect and analyse data to better understand the define the contours of migration
- Define priorities for humanitarian advocacy, in coordination with Movement partners and the Sahel group
- Contribute to the development of national migration policies and strategies
- Strengthen the positioning and auxiliary role of the National Society in the field of migration and displacement
- Facilitate coordination with internal and external partners on land and sea routes

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC is committed to supporting the Cape Verde Red Cross in the implementation of its migration programmes, including integration into the overall route-based programme for the Sahel region. It was noted that existing programmes need to be strengthened and expanded to meet the immediate needs of people on the move, while new longer-term programmes need to be developed with a focus on improving the livelihoods of migrants and displaced persons, to ensure their meaningful inclusion and sustainable integration and reintegration, and address the negative effects of returns, including the mental health and well-being of these individuals.

revealed that 79 per cent of the people with disabilities participating in the study were unaware of the existence of HIV care, support, and prevention facilities. According to Handicap International, the project contributed to increasing the technical and organizational capacity of civil society organizations to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the fight against HIV/AIDS at the national level.

While significant efforts have been made in recent years, many gaps and challenges remain in the field of disability integration, inclusion of young people and minorities in socio-economic and political life, protection of the elderly, and support for education in humanitarian emergencies. Significant efforts are needed to improve the inclusion, participation, and representation of women, young people, the most at-risk and vulnerable groups, and their representation in decision-making bodies that affect them.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Cape Verde's programmes emphasize promoting dignity, access, participation, and security. Upholding human dignity is rooted in understanding and valuing the fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. These principles drive solidarity, equality, inclusion, and the imperative to protect people, requiring a supportive environment within the organization and society at large for sustainable positive change.

To be effective, the Red Cross of Cape Verde aims for equal power relations, opportunities, and access to resources and services for all individuals, irrespective of gender, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The society is committed to preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence in emergencies, as outlined in Resolution 3 of the XXII International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The National Society's youth programmes, rooted in Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, aim to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to contribute positively to their communities. Leveraging extensive experience, a flagship humanitarian education program will be developed, adaptable to the context and scalable nationwide. Drawing from successful practices globally, the program includes elements such as Red Cross and Red Crescent School and Youth Programs, Youth as Agents of Behaviour Change initiative, first aid, disaster risk reduction, violence prevention, intergenerational dialogue, and climate action. The programmes serve as a platform for innovation through new methodologies, tools, and technologies.

Planned activities in 2024

- Develop programmes to protect the dignity of those affected by disasters and crises, promoting equitable access to services
- Participate in the fight against gender-based violence, in collaboration with state partners, civil society organizations and international actors
- Develop the National Society's policy on protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), and ensure its implementation in all local branches
- Develop a training programme on peacebuilding, child protection, social mediation, and gender equality
- Build, rehabilitate, and equip classrooms in disaster areas to relieve congestion in other schools in non-disasters areas after disaster
- Support informal education activities, including awareness-raising on children's schooling and child protection

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of Cape Verde in ensuring that its programmes promote dignity, access, participation, and safety for all the people it supports, regardless of race, gender, language, nationality, disability, and age. It supports the National Society in meaningfully engaging with communities and raising awareness about equitable distribution of resources and advocating for the most vulnerable section of the people in Cape Verde.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Cross of Cape Verde is committed to becoming an institution of excellence and a national leader in the social and humanitarian field, acting as an auxiliary to the public authorities, with a focus on groups in vulnerable situations. Over the years, the governance strategy adopted aims at the effectiveness and efficiency of the National Society's actions

and gives it credibility, sustainability, and performance, both at the national and international level. The National Society has a legal basis, which is necessary and indispensable for carrying out projects, programmes, and actions that embody its fundamental objectives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Update the National Society's resource mobilization strategy
- Promote joint planning at the national level to maximize collective impact, improve efficiency, and increase the quality and scope of activities
- Promote complementarity of national and international interventions, ensuring coherent and sustainable strengthening of local capacities
- Establish partnerships with vocation training centres and funding structures to support the integration of young volunteers

- Ensure consistent data management to improve National Society operations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides technical and financial support to the National Society to increase its engagement with other actors and to improve the effectiveness of the National Society's planning. It supports the National Society in improving its coordinating framework and strengthens its cooperation and coordination with external partners to address key challenges faced by the people in Cape Verde.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Clearly identify development priorities based on IFRC assessments and tools such as the [Organizational Capacity and Assessment Certification](#) (OCAC) and [Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment](#) (BOCA)
- Strategically utilize available pathways such as the Capacity Building Fund ([CBF](#)), Empress Shoken Fund, and others to accelerate transformation
- Proceed with the revision of its statutes and regulations
- Implement a youth engagement strategy based on a youth policy
- Identify priority areas for the development of volunteering policy in line with the [IFRC volunteering policy](#)

- Ensure that preparedness and response plans are consistent with local authorities' plans for the provision of humanitarian assistance in emergencies
- Implement and report on the financial sustainability scorecard on a regular basis
- Prioritise support to branches and local units, ensuring that they have elected councils and participate in the General Assembly in accordance with the statutes

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of Cape Verde in its efforts under National Society development through both financial and technical assistance, in accordance with the priorities the National Society has set for itself. All the priorities identified by the National Society under the National Society development are carried out with the support from the IFRC.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Update the National Society's communication strategy
- Influence key decision-makers to adopt decisions or policies that ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people in Cape Verde
- Conduct advocacy campaigns to promote the work of the National Society and to increase its visibility in the country
- Organize dissemination sessions on humanitarian principles and values for community leaders, with a focus on youth inclusion

- Train National Society staff and volunteers and build their capacity around effective advocacy and communications
- Produce and share a biannual magazine to promote the National Society's activities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of Cape Verde in ensuring that decision-makers, partners, and the public understand the role of the National Society as a principled humanitarian and development actor. It supports the National Society in influencing decision-makers at the local, national, regional, and global levels to adopt new or updated decisions, laws, policies and practices that promote the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people and enable the National Society to carry out its activities.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Integrate the resources needed for digital transformation into its resource mobilization plan
- Assessment of the risks of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse within the National Society
- Develop a strategy and action plan to mitigate the identified risks of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse
- Develop and implement a system/mechanism for enterprise resource planning (ERP) data collection and analysis, planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER), and information management (IM)
- Organize annual audit reports
- Organize sessions on international standards in logistics, procurement, and finance

- Establish an updated corporate risk management system across the national network, addressing risk management culture at all levels, with a clear link to accountability and quality assurance
- Establish a system to facilitate the collection and retrieval of financial documents and technical data in the field to ensure timely narrative and financial reporting

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of Cape Verde in ensuring that beneficiaries and all staff and volunteers are treated with respect and without any discrimination. It ensures that no abuse, physical, verbal, or sexual, is tolerated within the National Society and provides support in raising awareness among its staff and volunteers on zero tolerance. The IFRC also supports the National Society in ensuring community engagement and accountability and in facilitating the digital transformation of the National Society.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC provides support to the Red Cross of Cape Verde through its country cluster delegation based in Dakar, Senegal, which covers Cape Verde, Gambia, Mauritania and Senegal. The IFRC support to the Red Cross of Cape Verde centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The delegation supports the National Societies in implementing unified plans aligned with the Federation's operational plans and strategies.

The Dakar hub facilitates coordination, and the delegation team focuses on National Society development, coordination, humanitarian diplomacy, and collaboration with partners.

Recently in 2022, the IFRC supported the National Society through a [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) operation for the drought. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its Global Emergency Appeal, has supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations, and needs. They agree on common priorities, co-develop common strategies, mobilize funding and other resources, clarify consistent public messaging, and monitor progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, of links with development assistance, and of efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Red Cross of Cape Verde is part of the [Sahel+ Resilience Platform](#). This platform, created in 2018, includes a steering committee and three technical groups focused on food security and livelihoods along with migration and shelter. It brings together designated focal points and technical staff from Movement components that are part of the overall Resilience Platform. Their ambition is to create a common understanding and vision among members, increase communications, information generation and capacity, and shape a collective voice through common advocacy tools and messages.

The **British Red Cross** partially funds the food security and livelihoods technical group of the Sahel+ Resilience Platform. This thematic group, as part of the new 2022-2024 action plan, aims to build the technical, participatory, and influencing capacity in food security, livelihoods, and nutrition of the ten Sahel+ National Societies, including the Red Cross of Cape Verde.

The **Canadian Red Cross** and **Luxembourg Red Cross** provided support in the fight against COVID-19, and in disaster preparedness and response.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has funded various projects in the field of food security, between 1997 and 2000. Following the drought situation and the 2017–2018 poor agricultural seasons, the Spanish Red Cross assisted the National Society in carrying out field assessments and analysing the data collected.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** has provided support for an education project.

Movement coordination

A strategic platform, comprising the presidency of the Senegalese Red Cross and the heads of delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has been meeting ad hoc since 2023. The platform addresses general country contexts, issues related to the functioning of National Societies, and budgetary constraints. 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, through its regional delegation in Dakar, monitors the humanitarian situation in the region, promotes international humanitarian law and restores contact between family members separated by the conflict.

Coordination with other actors

The Red Cross of Cape Verde maintains a privileged partnership with the Government, with the Ministries of Health, National Defence, and Internal Administration within the collaboration framework for the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. It also collaborates with the Ministries of National Education, Finance, Agriculture and Environment, and the Ministry of Justice. The National Society also works closely with all 22 municipal administrative divisions, with which cooperation and collaboration agreements have been signed for the implementation of the National Society's social projects at local level. A protocol for collaboration between the Presidency of the Republic of Cape Verde and the National Society has been signed as part of the implementation of the "Campaign for the Prevention of Alcohol Abuse". Several other partnerships are in place with the country's private sector and public institutions, including the following: Banco Cabo Verdiano de Negócios (BCN); Moagem de Cabo Verde (MOAVE); SA (industry and trade in the food sector); with universities (UNI-Piaget and UNI-CV);

telecommunications companies (CVTelecom and Unitel T+); churches (Igreja de Jesus Cristo dos Santos dos Últimos Dias); and private clinics (Clínica + Saúde).

In recent years (2018-2020), several other partnership initiatives of the Red Cross of Cape Verde with external partners have included the Embassies of Canada and Japan, Santa Casa de Misericórdia (Portugal), Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Portugal), Médecins du Monde (Portugal) and EUCED (European Economic Interest Grouping for Economic Cooperation and Development at European and International Level), and institutions accredited to the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission. The Red Cross of Cape Verde is affiliated as an associate member of EUCED. The National Society also receives funding from the UK Government (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office-FCDO), through the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), whose Secretariat is hosted by the IFRC.



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 Cape Verde, 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

Red Cross of Cape Verde

cruzvermelha.org.cv

Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation
for Cape Verde, Gambia, Mauritania
& Senegal, based in Dakar
T +221 783 719557
alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org

Louise Daintrey

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

Sumitha Martin

Lead
IFRC Global Strategic Planning &
Reporting Centre New Delhi
sumitha.martin@ifrc.org