



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

2 August 2024

IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)



PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency Operations



42,360

Climate and environment



648,795

Disasters and crises



648,795

Health and wellbeing



6,017,413

Migration and displacement



233,376

Values, power and inclusion



258,721

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement	
Country	Funding Requirement	30.8M
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations Funding Requirement	11M
	Emergency Operations Funding	504,000
	Emergency Operations Expenditure	997,000
Longer-term	Funding Requirement	9.8M
	Funding	28.1M
	Expenditure	15.6M
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	9.2M
	Funding	7.3M
	Expenditure	6.3M
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	795,000
	Funding	5.4M

Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Overview	Funding Sources
Funding	15.1M
Expenditure	12.7M
	IFRC Secretariat
	1.8M
	Participating National Societies
	330,000
	HNS other funding sources
	5.4M

Appeal number **MAACD002**

In addition to: CHF 483,000 DREF Funding

ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRCD037 / Hunger Crises

People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	42,000
People reached by WASH assistance	20,000
People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	8,000
Children under 5 years who have been enrolled in a supplementary feeding programme of another agency following assessment by the National Society	4,000
People (and households) reached with effective water treatment materials, and promotion in the recovery period	3,000
People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	202
Households receiving cash transfers / vouchers from RCRC are satisfied with the amount received	98
Targeted households (and people) reached with essential on-farm, off-farm and non-farm inputs/materials/tools for production	82

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response activities	649,000
	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	290,000
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	290,000
	Implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)?	Yes
	Implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups?	Yes
Disasters and crises	People reached with disaster risk reduction	649,000
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	307,000
	People reached with shelter support	270,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	184,000
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	92%

Health and wellbeing	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	6M
	People reached with immunization services	859,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	712,000
	People donating blood	124,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	93,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	11,000
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	233,000
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes	5
	Advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move?	Yes
Values, power and inclusion	People whose access to education is facilitated through National Society programming	259,000
	People reached by RCRC educational programmes	259,000
	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	93,000
	Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes
	Percentage of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information	95%

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of	7
	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	4
National Society development	Youth engagement strategy developed or in place	Yes
	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
	One National Society Development plan in place	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	Participation in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Yes
	National Society has domestic advocacy strategies developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society have strengthened their integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA policy to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
American Red Cross	●						
Belgian Red Cross		●	●	●		●	●
Danish Red Cross	●						
French Red Cross		●	●	●	●	●	●
Luxembourg Red Cross		●	●		●		●
Spanish Red Cross			●		●	●	●
Swedish Red Cross		●	●	●		●	●

■ Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa with an area of 2.345 million square kilometres. The country is endowed with important natural resources such as cobalt and copper, arable land, immense biodiversity and the second largest tropical forest in the world. However, the majority of the population is living in poverty. The DRC is one of the five poorest nations in the world. In 2022, nearly 65 per cent of the country's population, or just under 60 million people, lived on less than \$2.15 a day. Nearly one in six people living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa live in the DRC.

The country's history is marked by inter-ethnic and political conflicts and natural disasters leading to a serious and permanent humanitarian crisis. There are currently more than 125 armed groups active in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. The alarming resurgence of armed groups, including the March 23 Movement (M23), threatens the security and stability of the eastern provinces and the wider region. Since the beginning of 2023, more than 202,000 people have been newly displaced, bringing the total to more than 1.6 million displaced people.

The country is still ranked as the 10th most vulnerable country and 189th in the world in terms of readiness to manage the impacts of climate change. Floods and epidemics have a greater impact in the DRC and account for 27 per cent and 58 per cent of all disasters, respectively.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo conducted training in the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+), to enhance environmental protection. This was undertaken under the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership (DG ECHO – IFRC PPP). As part of the Pan-African Tree Planting and Care Initiative, the Kwango and South Kivu branches of the National Society planted several trees to combat violent winds. Additionally, provincial focal points were trained in Green Response to boost local capacity for managing environmental risks.

Disasters and crises

For the period January to December 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo conducted disaster risk reduction training and high-level preparedness courses. It reached people with the Zero Hunger initiative, supported income-generating activities and provided humanitarian aid to about 2 million people affected by flooding and conflict.

Health and wellbeing

The National Society advanced public health through the Community Preparedness for Epidemics and Pandemics Programme (CP3). It served people with health services including free maternity care, anti-malaria interventions and mental health support. The National Society responded to emergencies and epidemics such as cholera and Ebola, with vaccination, training and awareness efforts. It also enhanced water, sanitation and hygiene services, reaching about 7 million people through improved facilities and clean water access.

Migration and displacement

In 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo established humanitarian service points to offer psychosocial support and other useful services in response to climate displacement. It also provided shelter and assistance for crises in the east and west of the country, trained volunteers in prevention of gender-based violence and addressed urgent needs of displaced persons in Nundu.

Values, power and inclusion

For the period January to December 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo promoted [youth engagement](#) through workshops, conferences and awareness campaigns. It advanced protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) across operations, provided training in ethics and guidelines, and developed strategies to enhance community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)).

Enabling local actors

During the period January to December 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo strengthened local committees, trained branch leaders in good governance and celebrated International Volunteer Day. It enhanced communication and advocacy with a documentary on Community Preparedness for Epidemics and Pandemics Programme ([CP3](#)) and cholera, and increased visibility through various media. The National Society improved integrity and reputation risk mechanisms by implementing a prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation ([PSEA](#)) policy, continuing with staff training in fraud prevention and establishing a data management system to support decision-making.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, visit [IFRC GO page: Democratic Republic of Congo](#)

Emergency Operation	Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Appeal number	MGRG001
People to be assisted	2,500,000
Duration	9 July 2022 to 31 December 2023
Funding requirement	Total funding requirements: Through the IFRC Appeal CHF 232.5 million Federation-wide CHF 318 million Funding requirement for DRC for 2024: Through the IFRC Appeal CHF 35 million Federation-wide CHF 40 million
Link to emergency appeal	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Operational Strategy for DRC	DRC Country Action Plan
Link to Operation Update	Operation Update No. 5

Since July 2022, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been addressing the food security crisis in the country with support from a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation. The worsening food security situation across several African countries, including the DRC, led the IFRC to launch a Regional Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal in October 2022. Due to the ongoing crisis and urgent need for resources, this appeal has been extended until the end of 2024. By the end of 2023, it was estimated that a quarter of the DRC population faced food insecurity (IPC 3 or above). Under the Revised Emergency Appeal, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo aims to support 2.5 million people, about ten percent of those affected. This appeal integrates water, sanitation and hygiene, cash, health and nutrition and livelihoods support, aligning with the IFRC's Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative and overseen by a dedicated "Zero Hunger Cell".

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The planned operations of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo align with the regional operational strategy's three response pillars, focusing on providing unconditional cash grants and food security support to vulnerable groups, strengthening community livelihoods, offering acute malnutrition support through screening, referrals, education and follow-up, ensuring access to safe water via community-managed sources, rehabilitation and hygiene awareness campaigns. It also promotes the inclusion of women, youth, refugees and other groups in hunger response initiatives while integrating gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation, implementing standardized community engagement approaches to gather and use feedback. It also trains communities in disaster preparedness, establishing early warning systems to reduce risks and enhance recovery efforts.

For the period [July 2023 to March 2024](#), the following support was provided:

Food security and livelihoods

Households were reached with multi-purpose cash and food distributions. Affected communities were provided with livelihood production inputs for income generation, along with relevant training.

Health and nutrition

Affected people were reached with nutritional, health and hygiene messages. Psychosocial support was provided and healthy food practices were promoted. Community support and education focused on breastfeeding and the prevention of malnutrition.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Affected households were provided with improved sources of drinking water, as well as water storage equipment.

Protection, gender and inclusion

Training was provided in [protection, gender and inclusion \(PGI\) minimum standards](#), along with briefings focusing on the Code of Conduct, prevention of and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse ([PSEA](#)), and child protection.

Community engagement and accountability

Efforts were undertaken to ensure communities were informed about all operations and questions raised by communities were answered. Community feedback was incorporated into the interventions.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Red Cross and Red Crescent communities and staff and volunteers take urgent action to adapt to the growing and evolving risks related to the climate and environmental crises

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Within the framework of the ECHO PPP project, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo conducted training in the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool ([NEAT+](#)) to promote environmental protection in their operations. The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo implemented the [Pan-African Tree Planting and Care Initiative](#), with its Kwango and South Kivu branches planting about 21,000 trees cumulatively to combat violent winds. Additionally, the National Society also trained provincial focal points in Green Response to increase local capacity for the management of environmental risks.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the implementation of the [Pan-African Tree Planting and Care Initiative](#). It also supported the integration of environmental conservation into the various projects and programmes of the National Society.

The **French Red Cross** supported the National Society in training volunteers from its South Kivu branch in environmental conservation and sustainability.

The **Swedish Red Cross** provided support to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to implement a project entitled 'Sustainable National Society - Resilient Community' involving the establishment of vetiver tree nurseries and plastic waste collection points in Kinshasa.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit [IFRC GO page: Democratic Republic of Congo](#)

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) was approved for three separate emergencies (two listed below, and a third is included in the 'Health and wellbeing' strategic priority):

1.

NAME OF OPERATION	Kinshasa flood
MDR-CODE	MDRCD039
DURATION	6 months (28 December 2022 to 30 June 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 398,745
PEOPLE TARGETED	9,000
LAST OPERATION UPDATE	DRC Kinshasa Flood

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 398,745 in December 2022 supported the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in assisting approximately 9,000 people affected by the flooding, across 16 municipalities in the province of Kinshasa. The National Society supported the targeted people over a six-month period with assistance such as shelter, multi-purpose cash, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and health services.

2.

NAME OF OPERATION	Flood (Kalehe, South Kivu)
MDR-CODE	MDRCD040
DURATION	4 months (20 May 2023 to 30 September 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 334,240
PEOPLE TARGETED	34,600
LAST OPERATION UPDATE	DRC Flood Kalehe Territory

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 334,240 in May 2023 supported the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in assisting approximately 34,600 people affected floods and landslides in Kalehe territory of South Kivu

province. The National Society supported the targeted people over a four-month period with assistance including shelter, multi-purpose cash, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, health services among other services.

Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo implemented climate-smart interventions to strengthen community resilience to shocks and hazards. Under the ECHO PPP, risk reduction activities including a series of disaster risk reduction training courses such as the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) were conducted. The National Society also organized six high-level training courses for its staff and volunteers to enhance emergency preparedness and response planning. These included Preparedness for Effective Response (PER), Epidemic Preparedness in Community (EPiC), DREF mentor training under the ECHO PPP, Cash Learning Partnerships (CALP) for cash transfer programmes and Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+) evaluations to integrate environmental protection into field actions. Additionally, it conducted community awareness sessions to educate people on environmental risks.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society through its mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC DREF) and Emergency Appeals. It also supported the National Society in its disaster preparedness activities and the establishment of community and branch disaster response teams.

The **Belgian Red Cross**, **French Red Cross** and **Swedish Red Cross** supported the National Society in the implementation of interventions aimed at strengthening the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change and other disasters.



The DRC Red Cross volunteers raising awareness about the risk of cholera, in June 2023 (Source: IFRC)

People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through access to timely, adequate and flexible in-kind assistance and support such as food security and livelihoods and multi-purpose cash grants, which strengthens their capacity to respond

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Through the 'Zero Hunger initiative', the National Society reached 23,239 people. It also helped affected individuals start or improve income-generating activities and implemented two livelihood pilots, distributed multi-purpose cash grants to households as well as prepared fields for food security activities. Additionally, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo conducted rapid assessments followed by humanitarian assistance, including first aid and the distribution of food and non-food items, in response to flooding and conflict in the east of the country and communal violence in Kwamouth. It supported about 2.5 million people through shelter interventions, particularly in the eastern provinces affected by the M23 crisis and in the west due to the Kwamouth community crisis.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC has provided technical support to the National Society's ability in the deliver cash transfers through the ECHO PPP, including training and the development of standard operating procedures for cash assistance. Additionally, the IFRC supported the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in assisting The **Spanish Red Cross** supported the National Society in its interventions aimed at the reinforcement of democracy and consolidation of peace in Kasai province. The **Swedish Red Cross** supported the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo in its humanitarian response to flooding and conflict.



Health and wellbeing

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) was approved for three separate emergencies (one is listed below, and two are included in the 'Disasters and crises' strategic priority).

NAME OF OPERATION	Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak
MDR-CODE	MDRCD038
DURATION	4 months (7 September 2022 to 31 January 2023)
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	CHF 298,698
PEOPLE TARGETED	496,696 people reached
LAST OPERATION UPDATE	DRC 15th Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 298,698 in September 2022 supported the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in assisting approximately 496,696 people affected by the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak, in the health zone of Beni located in the province of North Kivu. The National Society supported the targeted people over a four-month period with assistance including safe and dignified burial services, psychosocial support and community health services.

National Societies leverage their auxiliary role to position themselves in relevant national platforms and mechanisms for public health strategy, advocacy and policy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo actively participated in the organization of the ninth edition of the Games of La Francophonie, in its auxiliary role in public health strategy and advocacy. It provided first aid to athletes and participants. Additionally, the National Society implemented the Community Preparedness for Epidemics and Pandemics Programme ([CP3](#)), integrating community-based surveillance and risk communication into national health strategies.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical and financial support in leveraging its auxiliary role for public health strategy. It also supported the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to contribute to the actions of the Ministry of Health as part of the integration of vaccination against COVID-19 into primary healthcare.

The health and well-being of communities is protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate and quality health services across the life course

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo reached about 6 million people with its health services. It contributed to the universal health coverage project, providing free maternity care for pregnant women and first aid through its ambulance service. The National Society also provided anti-malaria interventions and mental health and

psychosocial support. Additionally, it conducted screening campaign to identify children with moderate to severe acute malnutrition and referred them to care structures. Efforts also included breastfeeding promotion and nutrition education.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the implementation of risk communication and community engagement activities and COVID-19 vaccination awareness initiatives.

The health and dignity of communities in emergencies and epidemics are maintained through access to appropriate health service

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo responded to emergencies and epidemics through vaccination services. It managed cholera cases in North Kivu and Tanganyika, providing critical health services and raising awareness. To tackle the Ebola outbreak, the National Society trained volunteers, issued health alerts and supported community health activities. Additionally, it implemented the Sudan Ebola Virus (SUDV) Preparedness project, ensuring early detection and rapid response to Ebola cases. The National Society also trained volunteers in EPiC (Epidemic Preparedness in Community) to improve response to epidemics.

The ECHO PPP project increased the capacity of the National Society to respond to cholera outbreaks in coordination with the health authorities. The National Society participated in crisis meetings with health authorities and trained volunteers and staff in epidemic preparedness and response. It also carried out awareness campaigns to spread key messages on preventing cholera.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in its interventions targeting communities affected by COVID-19, cholera and measles. Through the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC DREF](#)) mechanism, the IFRC supported the National Society in assisting communities affected by the Ebola Virus Disease epidemic in North Kivu. It also provided the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo technical support in its Community Preparedness for Epidemics and Pandemics Programme ([CP3](#)).

The **Swedish Red Cross** supported the National Society in its cholera response activities.

Communities have improved access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally friendly water, sanitation and hygiene services in emergencies

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the National Society reached about seven million people with water, sanitation and hygiene services, increasing community access to clean water and hygiene facilities. It implemented a project in a school in Kisenso, providing water and sanitation facilities to children. Additionally, it drilled boreholes, installed chlorination points and distributed hygiene kits, significantly improving water and sanitation access in regions affected by cholera outbreak.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in implementing water, sanitation and hygiene services.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supported the National Society in the implementation of its WASH in School project in Kisenso.



Migration and displacement

Migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points in migration routes, as well as to durable solutions where appropriate

Progress by the National Society against objectives

As part of the ECHO PPP, the National Society established two pilot [humanitarian service points](#) (HSPs) in Uvira to assess the feasibility of providing humanitarian assistance through these points in the first half of 2023. Each HSP

was staffed by volunteers trained in handling psychological trauma. In the last quarter of 2023, the National Society provided psychosocial support to communities displaced due to climate change-related events. It also set up three humanitarian service points in Uvira and Baraka each to support the affected people. Additionally, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo focused on shelter operations and the distribution of food and non-food items in response to the M23 crisis in the east and the Mobondo militia's emergence in the west.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in the establishment of the humanitarian service points through the ECHO PPP.

The **Luxembourg Red Cross** supported the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the establishment of pilot humanitarian service points (HSPs) and organizing community meetings to gather feedback and ensure project relevance.

National Societies engage with migrants, displaced people and host communities to better assess, understand and respond to their priority needs

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo conducted awareness sessions on the protection of internally displaced persons in the Nundu health zone. It trained volunteers in child protection and prevention of gender-based violence. Following an assessment of the humanitarian situation in Nundu, the National Society addressed urgent needs of the internally displaced persons by providing them emergency shelters and essential household items.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the pre-positioning of non-food items to assist migrants.

The **French Red Cross**, **Luxembourg Red Cross** and **Spanish Red Cross** provided support to the National Society in the implementation of awareness-raising initiatives focused on the prevention of gender-based violence among displaced persons.



Values, power and inclusion

The IFRC network contributes to positive change in communities through a better understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of fundamental principles and humanitarian values, with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills and behaviour of young people

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo advanced youth promotion by participating in workshops on operational security and leadership, holding a youth debate conference in Bukav, and raising awareness about sexual and gender-based violence. It also created a women's brigade in Kenge and contributed to the Youth Forum and Pan-African Conference in Nairobi.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in organizing a leadership academy workshop focusing on leadership development and youth contributions to the Youth Engagement Strategy.

The **Swedish Red Cross** provided the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with strategic guidance and support for youth policy, rules of procedure and training manuals.

The IFRC network is safe and inclusive, ensuring the dignity, access, participation and safety of people of all identities

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the National Society integrated protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) across all operations focusing on protecting vulnerable groups and promoting inclusive practices. It organized a workshop in Uvira focusing on protection and humanitarian service point guidelines, covering principles, legislation and volunteer ethics for its

volunteers and staff. The National Society also trained volunteers and staff in the Code of Conduct and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** supported the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the integration of protection, gender and inclusion across its activities.

The **French Red Cross** provided the National Society with support in the implementation of its protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) interventions, enhancing its in delivering humanitarian assistance and protection.

Vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals and communities are empowered to influence decisions that affect them and trust the IFRC network to serve their best interests

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, with support from the ECHO PPP the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo developed strategic plans, policies, guidelines and operational procedures to ensure active community involvement in early action, anticipation and planning systems. It promoted accountability and conducted comprehensive training for trainers in key provinces. The National Society also recruited a community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) assistant to establish clear and context-appropriate systems for promoting community engagement. Additionally, it developed a [CEA](#) strategy and disseminated it across all 26 provinces.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** supported the National Society in organizing training sessions in community engagement and accountability. It also assisted in developing a CEA strategy. Additionally, the IFRC helped the National Society facilitate a case study on the engagement of albinos in Maluku for COVID-19 vaccination, addressing their specific needs through a feedback mechanism.

The **Belgian Red Cross** and **Spanish Red Cross** supported collaborative projects focused on community engagement and humanitarian assistance.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

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 the Democratic Republic of the Congo is part of [four IFRC Pan-African Initiatives](#) focusing on tree planting and care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready, and National Society development. The IFRC Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal promotes a Federation-wide approach towards the emergency response, inclusive of all participating National Societies present in the DRC.

The in-country participating National Societies include the **Belgian Red Cross, French Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross** and **Swedish Red Cross**.

Movement coordination

The National Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross 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](#).

In the DRC, **the ICRC** promotes respect for international humanitarian law in the treatment of civilians and detainees and helps those adversely affected by conflict and internal violence to survive and become self-sufficient. It also improves water supply and sanitation, strengthens health care for the wounded and sick, including victims of sexual violence, and reunites families in DRC.

External coordination

In 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in its role as auxiliary to the public authorities, continued responding to crises and disasters across the country. With support from partners such as UNICEF and various humanitarian funds, it focused on alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable populations, guided by its mission. Despite the extensive scope of its operations and unwavering dedication to saving lives, the National Society remains committed to improving its organizational management capacities. This commitment aims to deliver services more effectively, efficiently and responsibly, fostering community resilience.

Key technical staff from the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo participated in coordination meetings with partners such as UNICEF, GAVI, Africa CDC, MasterCard and local health stakeholders from the Ministry of Health (PEVI, DPS), enhancing synergy in action. Local Committees for Development (CODESAs) and Community Action Committees (CACs) continued to receive traditional support and technical assistance from health zone management teams.



National Society Development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo focused on strengthening local committees across the country to enhance its operational capabilities. It also trained branch leaders in good governance and established of a volunteer database. Additionally, the National Society celebrated International Volunteer Day, recognizing the dedication of its volunteers who play a crucial role in community transformation and emergency response.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society through bilateral agreements and grants such as the [Capacity Building Fund \(CBF\)](#) and [IFRC/ICRC National Society Investment Alliance \(NSIA\)](#). It also facilitated an [enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment](#) training.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo undertook key communication and advocacy initiatives including the production of a documentary on [CP3](#) and cholera, preparation of a CP3 communication plan and development of visibility documents for various projects. The National Society also actively promoted its actions through newsletters, television, radio, print media and social networks, while continuing advocacy for adapting the emblem law.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in its communications efforts.



Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo strengthened integrity and reputation risk mechanisms by adopting and disseminating a Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy and training risk champions in Kampala. The National Society continued training its staff in fraud and corruption prevention and utilized innovative approaches to anticipate and address complex challenges. Additionally, it worked on establishing a functional data management system to inform decision-making and organized training sessions in Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) and Information Management (IM) for its staff.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in modernizing its financial system through an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. It also supported the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in training its staff members in project management using ERP Next software. Additionally, the IFRC supported it in its [digital transformation](#) efforts.

The Swedish Red Cross supported the National Society through a workshop on digital maturity, to further its digital transformation process. It also provided technical and financial support to the National Society in the harmonization of its PMER strategy and manual.



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.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC DRC 2023 Financial Report](#)
Note: For emergencies for which financial report is not yet available, see [MDRCD038](#), [MDRCD039](#), [MDRCD040](#)
- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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