



# EGYPT

2024-2025 IFRC network country plan

12 March 2025

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 55M**

In support of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society



**27**

National Society branches



**360**

National Society staff



**33,000**

National Society volunteers

## People to be reached



**493,000**

Ongoing emergency operations



**150,000**

Climate and environment



**300,000**

Disasters and crises



**800,000**

Health and wellbeing



**500,000**

Migration and displacement



**100,000**

Values, power and inclusion

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Emergency Response

- Migration and displacement

### Capacity development

- Strengthening branches • Digitalization
- Protection gender and inclusion • Youth

## Key country data

Population

**111M**

INFORM Severity rating

**Low**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

**Medium**

Human Development Index rank

**97**

Population below poverty level

**29.7%**

# Funding requirements

2024

2025\*\*

Total **34.1M** CHF

Total **20.9M** CHF

Through the IFRC

**34.1M** CHF

Through the IFRC

**20.9M** CHF

*\*Projected funding requirements*

## IFRC Breakdown

**16M** CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

### Longer term needs

**5M** CHF

Climate & environment

**1M** CHF

Disasters and crises

**5M** CHF

Health and wellbeing

**5M** CHF

Migration & displacement

**500,000** CHF

Values, power & inclusion

**1.6M** CHF

Enabling local actors

## IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:

**MDRS5002**

**MDRS1001**

Longer-term needs:

**MAAEG002**

## Hazards



Climate Change



Drought



Floods



Population movement

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE



*Egyptian Red Crescent Society branches*

The **Egyptian Red Crescent Society** was founded in 1911 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1929. Throughout its history, the National Society has been active in the domain of humanitarian response in disaster, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. The Egyptian Red Crescent Society is the only non-governmental organization with a permanent presence in all 27 of Egypt's administrative districts, giving it unique access to people within the country. It has a network of 38 local units, including 27 branches, with 360 staff, and 30,000 volunteers. More than half of these volunteers consist of women.

In its capacity as an auxiliary to the public authorities, the National Society responds to all national disasters as well as many regional and international ones. It provides a range of humanitarian services in the country, spanning health and social care. The Egyptian Red Crescent currently operates

5 blood banks, 8 hospitals, 35 polyclinics, 11 rehabilitation centres, and 5 specialist kidney dialysis units. It has 10 integrated social centres in Cairo providing vocational training, social activities, skills development specially for women and youth in underprivileged areas. Through these facilities and supplementary services, the National Society contributes to primary healthcare, vaccination, health and hygiene promotion across Egypt. In social care, the National Society supports urban and suburban development, with its integrated social centres providing vocational training and skills development for women and young people and other specialist social services at branch level. The National Society is also focused on working towards longer-term disaster risk reduction through both the development of action plans and building community resilience.

As part of its Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025, the Egyptian Red Crescent has committed to a number of measures to improve its provision of humanitarian services in Egypt. These include:

- Adoption of a more integrated approach, combining needs across the areas of health, social care and development
- Building stronger partnerships at a national and international level to facilitate coordination and cooperation
- Adopting a participatory approach when addressing humanitarian needs and actively promote volunteering opportunities
- Encouraging youth empowerment and working with local communities to encourage their inclusion and empowerment

In 2022, the Egyptian Red Crescent reached 33,475 people with disaster response and early recovery support, and 217,753 people by long-term services and development programmes.



*In 2022, the Egyptian Red Crescent reached 33,475 people with disaster response and early recovery support. (Photo: Egyptian Red Crescent)*

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

With a population exceeding 111 million people, Egypt is the most populous country in the Middle East. Essential services in the country have been strained by this rapid population growth which has created gaps in various sectors. Sharing borders with Libya, Sudan, Israel, and the Gaza Strip, the country is witnessing an influx of refugees escaping hostilities and conflict in their own countries. As of November 2023, the Sudan crisis resulted in an influx of more than 350,000 refugees in the country. As a result, there has been an elevation in the role of humanitarian organizations in the country.

The Middle East and North Africa region has been dominated by several protracted and ongoing conflicts, contributing to food insecurity and large-scale displacement, a growing migrant population and over-stretched host communities.

Egypt's dense population leaves the country extremely exposed to the impacts of global climate change, with agriculture, fisheries, water security, and health all vulnerable. Rising sea levels increase exposure to natural hazards such as floods along the delta of the Nile River, the source of 97 per cent

of Egypt's water supply. The country faces vulnerabilities to natural hazards such as heat waves, earthquakes, pandemics, and intensified seasonal flash floods. The Nile River is the main source of water in Egypt and the rise in temperatures threaten water security and puts the population under high risk of drought. The population living near coastlines are at high risk of floods due to the rise in sea levels. Seasonal flash floods have been increasing in intensity. Changes in rainfall and water resources negatively impact agriculture and livestock, leading to food insecurity in the immediate future.

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has affected wheat supplies throughout the world and has impacted food security in Egypt. The surge in the prices of fuel and food, accompanied by a projected decline in humanitarian funding, puts a substantial burden on economies of several Middle East and North African countries.

Egypt possesses a mixed economy with diverse sectors that include agriculture, manufacturing, services, and tourism. The country has made efforts to implement economic reforms, attract foreign investments, and stimulate private sector growth. The COVID-19 global pandemic affected the country's tourism industry which accounts for 10 to 15 per cent of the Egyptian economy, according to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, go to [IFRC GO page Egypt](#)  
Emergency 1

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Middle East Crisis   MENA
<b>Appeal number</b>	MDRS5002 (regional appeal)
<b>Duration</b>	18 October 2023 to 1 December 2024
<b>People to be assisted</b>	43,000 (inside Egypt); 500,000 (regional total)
<b>Funding requirement</b>	Total funding requirement (Federation-wide): CHF 100 mil Total funding requirement (IFRC): CHF 86 mil Federation-wide funding requirement (Egypt): CHF 10 mil IFRC funding requirement (Egypt): CHF 6 mil
<b>Link to revised appeal</b>	<a href="#">Middle East Crisis   MENA Revised Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Crisis: Middle East Crisis   MENA</a>
<b>Link to Response Plan</b>	<a href="#">Egypt National Society Response Plan</a>



On 7 October 2023, an escalation of hostilities occurred across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The humanitarian needs in the occupied Palestinian territories are immense, and the situation is experiencing a rapid decline. Conditions are expected to continue to deteriorate with the increasing numbers of casualties, damaged vital infrastructure, restricted access, and anticipated mass internal displacement with limited passages or humanitarian corridors.

On the Egyptian side of the border, stranded Palestinians are unable to cross back into the Palestinian territories since the closure of the border. They are suffering from a lack of food, medication, and shelter. The already dire humanitarian context inside Gaza is deteriorating further, resulting in large-scale displacement inside Gaza and movement southwards, closer to the Egyptian border. The Egyptian Red Crescent is the only organization with access to North Sinai and already holds operations and projects in the area through its branches. As of November 3, the Rafah border crossing was opened for only two days allowing for the transport of a very limited number of medical cases and some foreign passport holders. Medical evacuations started on 1 November 2023. During the initial three days, 91 medical evacuees had reached Egypt's Rafah borders and received medical services from the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population, as well as psychosocial first aid and humanitarian assistance provided by the Egyptian Red Crescent Society.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through this emergency appeal, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society will provide targeted assistance to about 40,000 people inside Egypt. The people targeted through this response will be predominantly medical evacuees, accompanying family members, and stranded Palestinians in Egypt. Special consideration will be given to vulnerable individuals which include injured evacuees and their relatives, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic diseases, persons in need of first aid, persons who cannot afford transportation from the border, and pregnant women and lactating mothers. Additionally, through this Emergency Appeal, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society will expand its capacities to streamline logistics, quality control and administrative processes to enhance its overall preparedness and response capacity in delivering prompt humanitarian assistance in Egypt and regionally. Under the Emergency Appeal, the National Society's priority interventions are provided through [humanitarian service points](#) established in affected areas. These interventions are:

### Health and care

- Provision of psychosocial service at humanitarian service points within the National Society structures in and around the Egypt-Gaza border, in central hospitals, as well as residential areas hosting evacuees and stranded people
- Provision of first aid, community-based health and first aid, and referral services through the points
- Implement group counselling, individual counselling, and trauma healing sessions to address the psychological and emotional needs of affected people

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- Distribution of safe drinking water through water bottles, along with hygiene items such as hygiene and dignity kits
- Setting up and prepositioning prefab toilets and establishing adequate water tanks and distributing water through water trucking

### Shelter, housing and settlements

- Prepositioning and distributing blankets, mattresses, cots, and other shelter household items

### Cash and voucher assistance

- Provision of multipurpose cash assistance

### Migration and displacement

- Establish humanitarian service points in affected areas
- Provide transportation service from the border or through the National Society buses
- Provide information, safe referral services mechanisms including legal, and protection, and other services depending on individual needs
- Provide transportation support from the border and coordinate with humanitarian organizations, government agencies, local authorities, and other relevant stakeholders
- [Restoring family links](#) based on the individual needs of each person
- The operational strategy integrates community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) and protection, gender, and inclusion ([PGI](#)) as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response

# ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## Emergency 2

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Sudan Crisis: Regional Population Movement Emergency Appeal
<b>Appeal number</b>	MDRS1001
<b>Duration</b>	15 May 2023 to 31 December 2024
<b>People to be assisted</b>	450,000 in Egypt; 705,700 (regional total)
<b>Funding requirement</b>	Total IFRC funding requirement: CHF 33.5 mil Total Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 42 mil Federation-wide funding requirement for Egypt: CHF 10 mil Federation-wide funding requirement for Egypt: CHF 10 mil
<b>Link to Emergency appeal</b>	<a href="#">Sudan Crisis Regional Population Movement Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Sudan Crisis Regional Population Movement Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Link to Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">Six-month update</a>

Through this emergency appeal, the Egyptian Red Crescent will be ready to assist up to 450,000 people as per projections, including 350,000 refugees, and 100,000 host communities. The Egyptian Red Crescent has set up five [humanitarian service points](#), to date, along the Sudan border along with routes to Cairo. Through its permanent presence in all 27 Egyptian governorates, the branches ensure access to the majority of people on the move. The National Society has been actively working with the Egyptian authorities since the start of the crisis, providing health care and basic needs assistance to refugees.

The National Society's interventions under this emergency appeal will consist of:

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through this emergency appeal, the Egyptian Red Crescent will be ready to assist up to 450,000 people as per projections, including 350,000 refugees, and 100,000 host communities. The Egyptian Red Crescent has set up five humanitarian service points, to date, along the Sudan border along with routes to Cairo. Through its permanent presence in all 27 Egyptian governorates, the branches ensure access to the majority of people on the move. The National Society has been actively working with the Egyptian authorities since the start of the crisis, providing health care and basic needs assistance to refugees.

The National Society's interventions under this emergency appeal will consist of:

### Health and care

- Provide first aid to displaced people and host communities and refer individuals requiring further medical/surgical assistance
- Provide infant and young child feeding support to pregnant and lactating women and referrals to nutrition services provided by nutrition partners
- Provide mental health and psychosocial support to affected populations, including psychological first aid, individual counselling, and support groups in humanitarian service points and other locations

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- Distribute WASH household items such as household water treatment products and dignity kits (including menstrual hygiene products) coupled with hygiene promotion
- Support water trucking in areas where supply is disrupted including in health facilities, schools, and establishing distribution points
- Procure and distribute water treatment consumables (coagulants and disinfectants) targeting built treatment systems based on need
- Support the construction of handwashing facilities coupled with soap distribution
- Support the construction of gender-sensitive emergency latrines/ disability-friendly latrines when possible and distribute mobile toilets at border crossings as well as collective sites

## Shelter, housing and settlements

- Support setting up new camps, including the provision of shelter, water, and sanitation facilities
- Support short-term rental assistance through cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#))
- Support the relocation of refugees at the borders to appropriate and safe shelters, including the provision of shelter kits and essential household items where necessary

## Livelihoods

- Provide food at border crossing points through the humanitarian service points and support the reintegration of returnees through training and income-generating activities

## Multi-purpose cash

- Determine the minimum expenditure basket, transfer modalities and service providers while strengthening coordination with cash and voucher assistance (CVA) actors at the national level
- Provide cash for transport for returnees and provide multipurpose cash assistance targeting the most vulnerable displaced people and host communities

## Protection, gender and inclusion

- Provide dignity kits to women and girls while setting up women and child-friendly spaces in humanitarian service points and other key locations

- Establish protection mechanisms such as safeguarding (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding), prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence, including mapping safe referral pathways, networks, and working with other actors
- Provide restoring family links (RFL) calls to displaced people including returnees to restore/maintain contact with their separate family members

## Community engagement and accountability

- Conduct review meetings with those assisted to discuss the response and implementation of activities
- Set up accessible feedback mechanisms including systems for collecting, responding, and analysing activities
- Provide contextualized, timely, accurate, and trusted information to displaced people and host communities based on information needs and their preferred information channel

## Migration and displacement

- Continue the scaling-up, enhancement and establishment of humanitarian service points to meet the needs of displaced people and members of host communities
- Providing dedicated technical support to National Societies to develop their capacities related to migration and displacement in line with the Movement's framework on migration (IFRC policy on migration, IFRC migration strategy)
- The [restoring family links](#) programme is based on the individual needs of each person

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

Due to its high population density, Egypt is extremely vulnerable to climate change hazards, impacting various sectors including agriculture, coastal zones, fisheries, water resources, human settlements, and healthcare. Egypt's coastal zones extend over 3,500 km along the Mediterranean and Red Sea, with the Delta and its north coast hosting several primary towns and cities such as Alexandria, Port Said, Damietta, and Rosetta. These areas face significant [risks from sea level rise](#) due to low elevation, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.

Over 80 per cent of Egypt's urban population, concentrated in these vulnerable cities, is expected to grow by 41.4 million

over three decades, straining urban services and exacerbating climate risks. Projections indicate an increase in mean annual temperature by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius by 2050, with sea level rise along the Nile Delta projected to increase by almost 61 centimetres by 2085. Long-lasting heatwaves are also expected to increase significantly. These climate stressors will impact water flow along the Nile River, crucial for Egypt's water and food security, as demand for water and food continues to rise.

Climate change is anticipated to increase [rainfall variability](#) by 50 per cent, leading to more frequent droughts, high-flow years, and intensified flash flooding along Egypt's coast. Egypt relies on the Nile for 97 per cent of its water and imports 40 per cent of its food, making potential reductions in Nile River inflow a significant threat, with implications for irrigated land,

productivity, and agricultural employment. These challenges will exacerbate social inequalities in Egypt. In response, the government's recent [announcement](#) to expand wheat cultivation to two million acres by the end of 2024 aims to bolster Egypt's food security as a viable medium-term strategy.

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

The Egyptian Red Crescent 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.

In the coming years, the Egyptian Red Crescent will focus on community sensitization to promote [environmentally sustainable](#) and energy saving practices through community campaigns and awareness on sustainable natural resources management. It will work to adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation in the short and long term in all National Society programs. The National Society will also focus on increasing advocacy

between the National Society and other partners including private organizations, other local and international NGOs, and governmental sector working on climate change.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Implement community and school-based [disaster risk reduction](#) programmes aimed at addressing climate change impacts
- Conduct community campaigns and awareness on sustainable natural resources management (water conservation, ecosystem protection and restoration)
- Develop training materials on disaster risk reduction tailored to the Egyptian context for use in schools and community settings

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC support to the Egyptian Red Crescent in the coming years will consist of financial and technical support to promote environmentally sustainable practices in the National Society offices and branches. It will also support the National Society in mainstreaming nature-based procurement into programming, increasing the number of initiatives and projects directed toward eco-friendly solutions, building the capacities of staff and volunteers through training-of-trainer workshops, and developing a climate and resilience team that is capable of operating climate-based projects and programmes within the National Society.



## Disasters and crises

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

Egypt is vulnerable to natural hazards, and has recently experienced flash floods, sandstorms and earthquakes. In March 2020, the country had the heaviest rainfall recorded since 1994, according to the [Egyptian Meteorological Authority](#) and this led to flash floods. Egypt is susceptible to flooding, particularly along the Nile River and in low-lying areas during the annual inundation period.

Egypt is situated in a [seismically active region](#), and earthquakes pose a potential threat to the country. While major earthquakes are relatively rare, seismic activity can cause damage to buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities, particularly in urban centres. The government has implemented measures to enhance seismic resilience, including building code regulations and earthquake preparedness initiatives.

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

In the coming years, the Egyptian Red Crescent will focus on increasing the [resilience of communities](#) towards natural hazards and preparing them for timely and effective mitigation, response, and recovery from crises and disasters. It will concentrate efforts around community awareness sensitization to improve coping mechanisms in response to disasters.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Establish five additional emergency response teams within the headquarter and National Society branches
- Conduct two training-of-trainer workshops for volunteers and staff to improve [emergency response units](#)



- Conduct training on weather forecasting and early warning, crisis and disaster management, flood response, first aid, cash in emergencies, and emergency needs assessment
- Conduct training for dead body management and search and rescue response for earthquake hazards

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will continue to

be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. IFRC support to the Egyptian Red Crescent will include advocacy towards enhanced official recognition of the National Society auxiliary role, particularly in disaster risk management. This will be done through the drafting of disaster response law to expand the National Society's leadership in the field of disaster law and to improve ongoing coordination with ministries and local authorities. The IFRC is also supporting the National Society in its forecast-based financing and preparedness for effective response workplan. Other areas of coordination and support include the development of the multi-hazard contingency planning and capacity training for staff and volunteers.



## Health and wellbeing

In Egypt, there are disparities in healthcare access between urban and rural areas. Rural populations in the country often face challenges in accessing healthcare services due to limited infrastructure, healthcare facilities, and healthcare professionals. Remote areas, such as those in upper Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula, tend to have reduced access to healthcare, resulting in disparities in health outcomes.

Egypt's life expectancy has been steadily increasing, reaching an average of around 70 years. Infant mortality rates have declined, with the latest data indicating a rate of approximately 18 deaths per 1,000 live births. According to the 2021 Egypt Family Health Survey, anaemia is more prevalent among children under five. By the third quarter of 2019, the Egyptian Ministry of Health launched a campaign to treat malnutrition among primary school children to address this issue. The campaign found that the percentage of children in primary schools suffering from anemia was estimated at 33 per cent. To further combat these issues, Egypt enhanced its National School Feeding Program, which provides fortified meals to students, aiming to improve nutrition and academic performance. The programme has been expanded to reach all public schools, benefiting approximately 12.2 million students.

Egypt has been actively working to enhance its healthcare infrastructure and service delivery. However, the challenges posed by a rapidly growing population are multifaceted. In 2020, the density of primary healthcare (PHC) facilities was 0.59 per 10,000 population, which is below the World Health Organization's recommended threshold of two PHC facilities per 10,000 population.

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity and tumours are a significant concern in Egypt. Cardiovascular diseases (including ischaemic heart diseases, hypertension and cerebrovascular diseases) were the leading cause of death. To address this issue, the Egyptian

Government launched a national presidential campaign in 2019 for the screening and treatment of NCDs.

In reference to the incidence of major communicable diseases (CDs) in Egypt, there was a marked reduction in these such as Hepatitis B and polio, particularly vaccine-preventable diseases. In October 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) certified Egypt as malaria-free. Egypt once faced one of the highest global prevalence rates of Hepatitis C, with approximately 9.8 per cent of the population aged 15–59 chronically infected as of 2011. In response, the government launched the '100 Million Healthy Lives' campaign in 2018, aiming to screen over 60 million people and treat more than 4.1 million patients. By April 2024, Egypt had effectively eliminated Hepatitis C as a public health concern, achieving a remarkable reduction in prevalence and associated mortality rates.

The water infrastructure in Egypt has grown substantially over the last few decades. According to the World Bank's 2022 data, 99 per cent of the people in Egypt have access to basic drinking water services, with 89 per cent coverage reported for handwashing facilities.

Disasters and crises can further exacerbate healthcare access challenges. Natural hazards such as floods or earthquakes can damage healthcare infrastructure and disrupt healthcare services, particularly in affected areas. At the country level, Egypt has identified specific health priorities and made commitments to address them. These priorities include the importance of achieving universal health coverage and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare services for

all its citizens. Efforts have been made to expand access to essential healthcare services, particularly in rural areas. These include Improving maternal and child health, reducing the burden of communicable diseases, tackling non-communicable diseases through prevention and management programs, and enhancing mental health services.

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

The Egyptian Red Crescent views health as an integrated approach, starting with community health and covering primary and secondary healthcare. In the coming years, the National Society will continue to focus on maintaining the health and dignity of communities in emergencies by providing access to appropriate health services by ensuring adequate health emergency response and psychosocial needs for the affected population.

The National Society's establishment of a WASH team with a defined WASH strategy has significantly increased its capacity to undertake WASH emergency response. The National Society will continue to work on providing communities with access to safe water, information on water treatment and its re-use, and adequate, appropriate, and safe sanitation.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Train 50 staff and volunteers in the public health in emergency training
- Enhance the development of the emergency clinic module (health emergency response unit type 1)
- Scale up peer-to-peer support (caring for staff and volunteers) within 10 of the National Society branches
- Support the rehabilitation of two blood banks including the related medical equipment
- Procure two vehicles for scaling up blood donation campaigns

- Develop a community based integrated mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and National Society development programme at three slum communities
- Support two developmental programmes in two of the poorest villages
- Strengthen the core WASH team to respond effectively at time of emergency through capacity building training and tools
- Include awareness programmes about treatment and reuse of wastewater (and about environmental hygiene in general) in the African Centre for Disease Control community health workers (CHW) programme

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the core components of the National Society's healthcare capacities such as the development of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials, increasing the blood bank capacities of the National Society, supporting the National Society in carrying out sensitization campaigns on behaviour change, and ensuring mental health support for National Society staff and volunteers.

IFRC will also support the National Society's efforts to strengthen its WASH capacity. This support will comprise quality assurance of WASH programmes through tailored technical support and capacity building. IFRC will also work towards increasing the regional emergency response capacity through MENA Regional Emergency Response Unit deployments.



## Migration and displacement

Since the 1990s, Egypt's location in the Middle East has made it a country of destination and transit for many migrants. As of 2023, more than 9 million migrants and refugees originating from 133 countries reside in Egypt according to the International Organization of Migration (IOM).

Due to conflicts in the Middle Eastern region and North Africa, Egypt hosts displaced people from Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Yemen. Most refugees and asylum seekers live in urban areas of Greater Cairo and on the North Coast.

In April 2023, fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) broke out in the Sudanese capital Khartoum and spread rapidly across the country. The resulting unrest led to the death of more than 1,000 civilians. The crisis led to the mobilization of more than

350,000 refugees towards Egypt within six months, with the numbers projected to increase in further months.

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

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

also remain challenging in Egypt, particularly for migrant and refugee families.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Support the establishment and implementation of humanitarian service points (HSP), in line with the HSP toolkit in four locations
  - Provide humanitarian assistance for migrants, including health, psychosocial support, safe referrals, food items, shelter, cash and voucher assistance, information, livelihoods, education, protection, among others
  - Activities to build social cohesion between migrants and host communities
  - Support partnerships with national and international organizations to provide comprehensive services to the migrants and refugees (people on the move)
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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Egyptian Red Crescent in strengthening its capacity in migration and displacement, including needs assessments, development of migration policies and strategies, training, workshop, and peer-to-peer support. It will facilitate the exchange of information and good practices between the National Society and other Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and regional networks. IFRC will also facilitate engagement in intra organizational and regional discussions and consultations to coordinate the work of the National Society along trans-regional routes. Other areas of targeted support include the implementation of the rental assistance programme, enhancing the scope of the National Society's cash and voucher assistance, developing intervention maps that support basic needs, prevent asset depletion, and protect livelihoods, among others.



## Values, power and inclusion

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More than 62 per cent of Egypt's population is under the age of 29, indicating that there is a huge potential for Egypt's younger generation to drive positive change and address many of the challenges faced by the country. Despite significant strides in boosting school enrolment - 25.1 million students now attend 58,800 schools - a significant number of children still lack access to education and remain out of school.

Although primary education participation is nearly universal with complete gender parity, pre-primary enrolment stood at only 19 per cent in the 2021-22 academic year, leaving over four-fifths of 4 to 5 year olds without early education opportunities.

Women's empowerment remains a critical national priority in Egypt, with ongoing efforts to address challenges such as the low female labour force participation rate. Recognizing that the unemployment rate for women is twice that of men, the country is implementing initiatives to bridge this gap and create more opportunities for women in the workforce. Similarly, programmes aimed at reducing youth unemployment (which in 2020-2021 affected 19 per cent of Egyptians aged 18-24) are being prioritized, for the benefit of 39 per cent of young people (6.9 million) who are neither employed nor in education or training. Targeted efforts are also underway to close the skills gap, particularly for adolescent girls aged 16-18, with a special focus on empowering those from rural and economically disadvantaged backgrounds to transition successfully into the workforce. It should be noted that women

held 27.7 per cent of seats in Egypt's parliament as of February 2024, highlighting the country's commitment to enhancing women's empowerment.

Currently, Egypt is home to 12 million individuals living with disabilities. While the 2018 Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (LRPD) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities (PWD) in employment, practical obstacles persist. Persons with disabilities encounter hurdles in securing employment, including discriminatory practices during recruitment and in the workplace, as well as challenges in accessing education. The LRPD mandates that private and public sector organizations with 20 or more employees reserve 5 per cent of their workforce for persons with disabilities. Incentives for employers to hire people living with disabilities include tax exemptions and reductions, with the benefits increasing in proportion to the number employed.

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

The National Society will continue to strengthen its mainstreaming of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI). This will include focusing on child safeguarding and the development of a policy on child safeguarding.

In reference to its prioritization of youth, the composition of the Egyptian Red Crescent's volunteer base is relatively young, with more than 80 per cent under the age of 35 and women comprising more than 56 per cent of this group. The National

Society seeks to invest in the health, education and well-being of this young demographic, to maximize its potential. The Egyptian Red Crescent plans to scale up its programmes aimed at young people, equipping them with the skills and knowledge required to bring about positive change in their communities. It will achieve this through greater technical and financial support for youth-led education and action, building on its [Youth Engagement Strategy](#) and other youth-led initiatives, such as Climate Champions, [Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change](#) (YABC), and [Limitless](#).

In the coming years, the National Society will work towards strengthening or establishing innovative mechanisms regarding collaboration on health and safety programme with key actors, developing strategic partnerships with universities in Egypt to promote humanitarian education among students, and contributing to a positive change in communities through a wider understanding, ownership, and concrete application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Adopt [PGI minimum standards in emergencies](#) and conduct PGI training connected to the dignity, access, participation, and safety (DAPS) framework

- Develop an action plan based on [child safeguarding risk assessments](#) in programmes to reach higher levels of safeguarding and community engagement
- Engage youth in climate initiatives such as climate change champions
- Enhance the e-learning platform to improve access and create greater standardization in the quality of education delivered

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the Egyptian Red Crescent in developing recommendations from child safeguarding risk assessments in programmes to facilitate higher levels of community engagement. It will also provide technical support in developing the child safeguarding policy of the National Society. Other support areas will include rolling out and monitoring the use of [PGI minimum standards](#) in IFRC-supported operations, and provide a community engagement and accountability (CEA) training workshop to ensure the proper incorporation of CEA in National Society programmes and projects.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The primary strategic direction of the Egyptian Red Crescent involves building capacity at an institutional and operational



### Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Engage government-led platforms to actively participate in achieving humanitarian and development goals
- Enhance participation in thematic, regional or global events or networks
- Enhance resource mobilization efforts
- Strengthen its role as auxiliary to the Egyptian government

level with the aim of continuously improving its services. As such, it is committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) (PER) process and is currently implementing its work plan.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society by facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges with National Societies in the region with similar goals and experiences, to discuss approaches and achievements. It will support the National Society in broadening its resource mobilization efforts. The IFRC will also provide support with pilot innovative and social financing schemes, and the development of digital global fundraising campaigns.





## National Society development

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

- Focus on branch development
- Strengthen financial autonomy at both branch and headquarters
- Conduct branch organizational capacity assessments ([IFRC-BOCA](#))
- Continue to upgrade its emergency operation centres (EOC) to include more up-to-date tools for early warning and an overall more effective coordinated response between the National Society headquarters and its branches across the nation
- Apply to available [National Society development-related funding mechanisms](#)

- Ensure that all volunteers are covered by comprehensive health, accident, and death compensation
- Build the capacity of its staff and volunteers to handle the digital volunteer management system and the e-learning platform

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the National Society in rolling out branch organizational capacity assessments (BOCA) to targeted branches. This will enable the development of action plans at branch level and inform the National Society's overall approach to branch development. It will also support the National Society in building the capacity of its staff and volunteers – this will include a special focus on youth-led education, building on the [Youth Engagement Strategy](#) and other youth-led initiatives.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Promote its image as the leading humanitarian agency in the country
- Advocate for change in the community and public behaviour for the betterment of Egyptian society
- Influence public policies and decisions on a domestic, regional, and on a global scale
- Prioritize behavioural change and local action to ensure access and nurture trust in all contexts

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the Egyptian Red Crescent's capacity for effective [humanitarian diplomacy](#), including cooperation within the IFRC network and local stakeholders, to strengthen processes across all organizational levels. It will provide technical support for development of effective communication tools and products. The IFRC will also provide the National Society support in developing longer-term partnerships with various international organizations.



*The Egyptian Red Crescent views health as an integrated approach, starting with community health and covering primary and secondary healthcare. (Photo: Egyptian Red Crescent)*





## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Implement its 5-year strategy towards digital transformation
- Adopt mechanisms such as a fraud and corruption policy, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy, and child safeguarding policy to prevent, manage and address integrity and reputational risks

- Reinforce a culture of accountability by mainstreaming and disseminating fraud and corruption policies and establishing feedback mechanisms

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Egyptian Red Crescent in adopting the digital maturity model outlined by the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy. The IFRC will also provide National Society staff with technical support for enhanced data management, monitoring, and reporting.

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## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

The IFRC has not yet established a legal and official presence in Egypt; however, it is currently working through the IFRC's regional office in Beirut. It works closely with the Egyptian Red Crescent on coordinating responses to emergencies within the country and also supports the National Society with its capacity building programmes. In recent years, the IFRC supported the Egyptian Red Crescent through a number

of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations in relation to floods, violent attacks and accidents, and neighbouring instability. 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, including immunization.

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### 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 National Societies of Egypt, Iraq and Jordan met in 2021 to discuss common challenges and areas of collaboration, in parallel with a similar meeting between the governments of the three countries. This culminated in a tripartite agreement between the respective National Societies, focusing on peer

exchange in disaster management, health, National Society development and volunteering capacity building.

In addition to IFRC members channeling overall support to sister National Societies through the IFRC, participating National Societies providing long-term support to the Egyptian Red Crescent are the following:

**German Red Cross** and **Swiss Red Cross**: Both National Societies are represented in Egypt and work alongside the Egyptian Red Crescent in responding to needs in health care, migration, disaster risk reduction and disaster management. This includes the implementation of a project which began in 2021 and aims to strengthen protection and resilience building in the country. The initiative aims to improve access to health services in the country, in particular among African migrants, refugees and their host communities.

The **Italian Red Cross** also supports the Egyptian Red Crescent in protecting children at risk of being recruited into child labour.

## Movement coordination

The Egyptian Red Crescent 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](#).

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The [ICRC](#) Egypt delegation works to promote and ensure respect for international humanitarian law and facilitates ICRC operations through dialogue with the government, multilateral organizations, civil society, and diplomatic officials. It helps reestablish contact between family members separated by conflict, other situations of violence, and migration, and works closely with the Egyptian Red Crescent and other partner organizations.

## Coordination with other actors

The Egyptian Red Crescent works closely alongside a number of government ministries as an independent auxiliary. It has representatives on the National Committee for Crisis Management and Disaster Risk Reduction, the National Taskforce for volunteering, and the National Committee for addressing mental health in emergencies. The National Society is a member of the National Crisis Management Committee at the level of the Prime Minister's cabinet. Its branches are represented at similar bodies at local governorate level.

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The National Society has developed working relationships with a number of organizations at a local and international level. These include UNICEF, UNHCR, UNRWA, IOM, WHO, EU, SDC and USAID, as well as private sector and civil society partnerships. The Egyptian Red Crescent also has partnerships with academia and universities, including Ain Shams and Al Galala University.



## 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 Egyptian Red Crescent, 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.

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