



UGANDA

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

27 August 2024

IN SUPPORT OF THE UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY



51

National Society branches



450,000

National Society volunteers



130

National Society staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency Operations



252,324

Climate and environment



141,578

Disasters and crises



287,934

Health and wellbeing



10,249,754

Migration and displacement



106,370

Values, power and inclusion



12,202

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement	15.5M
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations Funding Requirement	1.5M
	Emergency Operations Funding	3.4M
	Emergency Operations Expenditure	3.1M
Longer-term	Funding Requirement	5.2M
	Funding	5.3M
	Expenditure	3.8M
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	3.5M
	Funding	7.0M
	Expenditure	7.2M
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	5.3M

The Uganda Red Cross Society

Overview

Funding 14.1M

Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat 268,000

Participating National Societies 6.7M

Appeal number **MAAUG002**

In addition to: CHF 130,000 DREF Funding

ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRUG045 / Population Movement

People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	183,000
Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	100,000
Displaced persons, migrants and host communities in vulnerable situations who receive appropriate humanitarian assistance and protection services	100,000
People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	84,000
People provided with access to safely managed drinking water services or an improved drinking water source (according to context)	16,000
People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	11,000
People reached with shelter support	961
People reached with restoring family links (RFL) services	750
National Society has National Disaster Response teams trained and management systems in place	Yes
National Society has in place capacities to conduct Emergency Needs Assessment	Yes
National Society has adapted or developed its business continuity plan (BCP) considering a multi-hazard approach	Yes
National Society has a PSEA policy to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes
Volunteers involved in the response operation that have increased their skills in response and management of operations	155

MDR0UG049 / Human Anthrax Outbreak

People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	69,000
# of people reached through RCCE towards building vaccine acceptance.	64,000
People reached with epidemic preparedness, and health literacy information at community level	55,000
National RCCE plans for vaccines uptake integrated into national immunization plan	1
Volunteers involved in the response operation that have increased their skills in response and management of operations	100

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	142,000
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	142,000
Disasters and crises	People reached with disaster risk reduction	288,000
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	232,000
Health and wellbeing	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	10.1M
	People donating blood	1.6M
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	29,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	10,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	149
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	106,000
Values, power and inclusion	People reached by RCRC educational programmes	12,000
	People whose access to education is facilitated through National Society programming	2,000
	Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

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 is showing progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
	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
	National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
	Functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support
American Red Cross	●
British Red Cross	●
Canadian Red Cross Society	●
Japanese Red Cross Society	●
Monaco Red Cross	●
Netherlands Red Cross	●
Red Cross Society of China	●
Swedish Red Cross	●

■ Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa. It borders Kenya, South Sudan, the DRC, Rwanda and Tanzania and includes part of Lake Victoria. It lies within the Nile basin and has a varied equatorial climate. Despite a democratic multi-party system and equal rights for all citizens, the country struggles with significant challenges, including [inter-communal violence](#) and long-term conflict in the north and northeast, which have led to under-development in these regions.

As of the [2014 census](#), Uganda's population was 34.6 million, with young people aged 18 to 30 making up 22.5 per cent of this number. With a projected growth rate over 3 per cent, the population was expected to reach 43.7 million by mid-2022, including 11.4 million in urban areas. This rapid growth is straining resources and services, including food, employment, education, healthcare and housing.

In 2023, Uganda faced compounded pressures from multiple [crises](#). The country continued to host over 1.5 million [refugees](#), primarily from South Sudan and the DRC, while natural hazards and climate change exacerbated vulnerabilities. The strain on resources intensified with the [Ebola outbreak](#) caused by the Sudan strain, first announced on September 20, 2022, in Mubende, 130 km west of Kampala. This outbreak, along with ongoing economic pressures such as rising commodity prices and the lingering effects of COVID-19, further strained livelihoods and increased poverty risks throughout the year.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

During the reporting period, the Uganda Red Cross Society developed the first drafts of its [going green policy 2023](#) and climate and environment action plan 2023-2027, in collaboration with key stakeholders. It provided training in innovative approaches, including [forecast-based financing](#) and [cash and voucher assistance](#). The National Society also commemorated World Environment Day by planting tree seedlings and entered a long-term partnership with Kakira Sugar Works for additional tree planting. Additionally, the Uganda Red Cross Society participated in international climate meetings and engaged the youth in climate programmes, reaching households at-risk with climate change messages.

Disasters and crises

In 2023, the Uganda Red Cross Society enhanced Uganda's humanitarian capacity by strengthening disaster preparedness at national, district and local levels and advocating for [Disaster Risk Management](#). It established a multi-hazard preparedness and response system, and improved community resilience through early response efforts. The National Society reactivated [community-based disaster risk reduction](#) and supported those affected with [cash and voucher assistance](#), menstrual hygiene kits and other essential items. Efforts also focused on improving district-level early warning systems.

Health and wellbeing

For the period January to December 2023, the Uganda Red Cross Society focused on mobilizing COVID-19 vaccine uptake and [epidemic preparedness](#), reaching people through risk communication and community engagement (RCCE). Blood donor recruitment was intensified, and health promotion activities were conducted. The National Society also established mobile health clinics and expanded its emergency medical services and road safety. [Water and sanitation](#) infrastructure was enhanced, including the construction of rainwater harvesting tanks and latrines, and this was complemented with the distribution of menstrual hygiene management kits and hygiene promotion sessions utilizing the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation ([PHAST](#)) approach. Sanitation facilities were also improved at refugee settlements, in accompaniment with hygiene promotion sessions.

Migration and displacement

In 2023, the Uganda Red Cross Society provided [cash and voucher assistance](#) to households in the Nakivale refugee settlement and households in Nakasongola. This was undertaken under the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership ([DG ECHO-IFRC PPP](#)). The National Society also procured and prepositioned four 200-person capacity mobile shelter tents and finalized standard operating procedures for their use, to restore and strengthen the safety of displaced persons through shelter and settlement solutions. Additionally, a shelter and cash simulation exercise was conducted in Kasese to pre-test mobile shelter units and cash-for-work programmes. The National Society also reunited people with their families through [Restoring Family Links](#) services.

Values, power and inclusion

The National Society continued to ensure that the [Fundamental Principles](#) and humanitarian values were upheld in its interventions, ensuring safe, accessible and dignified assistance to vulnerable communities. This was done through the integration of community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) and protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) approaches in various aspects of programming including post-distribution monitoring. It promoted human rights and community engagement through international celebrations and dissemination sessions, fostering inclusivity and participatory action. Additionally, it supported the continuation of educational initiatives for vulnerable children through the Uganda Cash Consortium project and other efforts focused on education in emergencies.

Enabling local actors

In 2023, the Uganda Red Cross Society elected its governing board, approved its workplan and budget, and focused on improving membership engagement and retention. It developed and piloted new volunteer management systems and advocated for the National Disaster Risk Management Bill. The National Society conducted workshops on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse ([PSEA](#)), as well as [safeguarding](#). It developed a [digital transformation](#) strategy and made efforts to connect its branches to the internet. Additionally, the Uganda Red Cross Society advanced its information, communication and technology (ICT) capabilities with a management information system, data analytics and began upgrading its planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) system.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1

Emergency Operation	Uganda Population Movement
Appeal number	MDRUG045
People assisted	100,000
Duration	12 months (27 June 2022 to 30 June 2023)
Funding requirements	Through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 3 million Federation-wide: CHF 5 million
Link to emergency appeal	Uganda – Population Movement from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Latest Operation Update	Operation Update No. 2

Intensified conflict in North Kivu and Ituri has led to a large-scale refugee influx into Uganda through Kisoro, Bundibugyo, and Kasese, since late 2022. They were forced to camp in streets, schools and markets, overwhelming transit centres

such as Nyakabande and Bubukwanga, which were significantly overpopulated. Despite efforts to relocate refugees to settlement centres, many remained in transit facilities. This influx strained basic services, including water, health and sanitation, while also posing security and health risks, exacerbated by ongoing Ebola and COVID-19 outbreaks. The IFRC initially launched a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of CHF 409,293 on 13 April 2022, to provide the Uganda Red Cross Society with the resources to support the refugees. The continued influx led to the IFRC launching an Emergency Appeal in June, to scale up the National Society's activities and respond to the growing caseload of refugees and their urgent humanitarian needs.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The National Society plans has been addressing the basic needs of 100,000 refugees in Kisoro, Kasese, Bundibugyo and Isingiro with an integrated approach covering shelter, livelihoods, cash, health and water, sanitation and hygiene services in holding and transit centres and host communities. It has also been promoting health and hygiene awareness to combat cholera and COVID-19, especially during the rainy season, and considering the sustainability of its support in response to the Ebola outbreak and ongoing population movements.

For the period 27 July 2022 to 27 August 2022, the following assistance was provided:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Communities were supported with emergency housing interventions. Essential household items were provided to targeted communities.

Livelihoods

Affected households were provided livelihoods support through the distribution of fodder for livestock as well as multi-purpose cash.

Health and care

Integrated health services including first aid were delivered alongside health promotion messages.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Safe and culturally appropriate bathing facilities and communal toilets with handwashing facilities were established. Accessible sanitation facilities were constructed for the elderly and people with disabilities. Affected communities were provided with safe and clean drinking water and hygiene kits, complemented by menstrual hygiene management sessions for women and adolescent girls.

The operational strategy integrated the cross-cutting approaches of **community engagement and accountability** (CEA) and **protection, gender and inclusion** (PGI), with the aim of recognizing and valuing all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response.

2

Emergency Operation	Ebola Virus Disease Emergency Appeal
Appeal number	MDRUG047
People assisted	2.7 million people
Duration	15 months (23 September 2022 to 31 December 2023)
Funding requirement	Through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 5 million Federation-wide: CHF 10 million
Link to emergency appeal	Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak 2022
Operational Strategy	Operational strategy
Latest Operation Update	Operation Update No. 4

The Ebola outbreak, which started in September 2022, was declared over on 11 January 2023 by the Ministry of Health of Uganda. The National Society's focus changed from response to recovery and preparedness interventions. The main focus was on [community-based surveillance](#) (CBS) in the districts of Mubende, Kassanda, Kagadi, Bunyangabo, Kyegegwa, Masaka and Jinja, districts that registered the highest number of Ebola cases. A total of 580 volunteers were trained and are conducting community-based surveillance (CBS).

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The National Society's response strategy focused on safe burials, community-based surveillance, health promotion, psychosocial support and ambulance services, with an emphasis on preventing sexual abuse, ensuring gender protection and inclusion, and safeguarding staff and volunteers. The operational strategy also focused on early detection and community involvement and feedback. Protection efforts targeted vulnerable groups, emphasizing duty of care and community-led solutions, with data-driven assessments guiding the response.

For the period [30 September 2022 to 12 September 2023](#), the following assistance was provided:

Health and care

Affected communities were trained in [community-based surveillance](#) and information, education and communication (IEC) materials were distributed to them. Additionally, safe and dignified burials were carried out for deceased individuals and communities were provided with psychosocial support services.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Hand-washing facilities were provided to the affected communities.

Protection, gender and inclusion

Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were supported, and awareness-raising sessions on prevention were conducted.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from climate and environmental crises

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Uganda Red Cross Society made significant progress in its environmental and climate action objectives. It developed the first drafts of its Going Green Policy 2023 and the Climate and Environment Strategy/Action Plan 2023-2027. The National Society trained District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) on innovative approaches such as [forecast-based financing](#) (FbF) and [cash and voucher assistance](#) (CVA). It celebrated World Environment Day by planting 5,000 tree seedlings and formed a partnership with Kakira Sugar Works for a long-term tree-planting initiative. The National Society also actively participated in the COP 28 and fronted critical messages such as prioritization of locally led actions, involving meaningful [community engagement](#) and participation to co-implement solutions that build resilience to climate impacts.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical assistance for the development of its going green policy 2023 and the climate and environment strategy 2023-2027.

IFRC Secretariat and National Societies adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Uganda Red Cross Society participated in the IFRC Climate Champions meetings and developed a workplan to expand its climate action agenda. Additionally, it engaged the youth in climate change programmes and reached households with [water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\)](#) and climate change awareness messages.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical and financial assistance in its operations.



Disasters and crises

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

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Funds ([IFRC-DREF](#)) was approved for one emergency.

Uganda Anthrax Outbreak

NAME OF OPERATION	Uganda Anthrax Outbreak
MDR-CODE	MDRUG049
DURATION	3 months (12 December 2023 to 31 March 2024)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 129,613
PEOPLE TARGETED	69,340 people
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Operations Update

The DREF allocation of CHF 129,613 in December 2023 supported the Uganda Red Cross Society in aiding 69,340 people affected by an anthrax outbreak in Kabira, Kasasa and Lwankoni sub-counties of Kyotera district in Uganda. The support included sensitization on the preventive measures for anthrax and other communicable diseases, strengthening health promotion at household level and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE). Communities were also trained in [community-based surveillance](#).

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

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Uganda Red Cross Society continued to lead the Ugandan humanitarian capacity. It focused on strengthening national, district and local level capacities in disaster preparedness and advocated for a [Disaster Risk Management](#) Bill. The National Society also established a well-functioning multi-hazard preparedness and response system to ensure effective early warning and early action. It also enhanced resilience of communities through coordinated and effective anticipatory and early response to multi-hazard emergencies. The Uganda Red Cross Society conducted rapid needs assessments following outbreaks of epidemics, natural calamities and disasters to inform the severity of the situation. Additionally, it reactivated [community-based disaster risk reduction](#) activities to reduce the vulnerability of communities in high-risk areas.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical support for the development of disaster control plans. It also supported the Uganda Red Cross Society with financial assistance to assist districts across the west Nile and the northern, western and eastern regions. This was undertaken under the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership (DG ECHO – IFRC PPP).

People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through access to assistance and support that is timely,

adequate, flexible, and strengthens their agency

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society responded to those most affected by emergencies and crises, assisting them with multi-purpose cash, menstrual hygiene kits and non-food essential items. Efforts are also underway to strengthen structures at district level to bridge gaps in the early warning chain.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical and financial assistance to integrate community engagement and accountability approach in its emergency response.



Health and wellbeing

National Societies capitalize on their auxiliary role to ensure their position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy, and policy platforms and mechanisms

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Uganda Red Cross Society played a key role in operations such as the Ebola response in Mubende, cholera response in Adjumani and anthrax outbreak in Kyotera. The National Society continued to address health emergencies by preventing and reducing morbidity and mortality through community sensitization, risk communication and health promotion at the household level. It also collaborated with the Ugandan government to facilitate a coordinated response to public health emergencies. Additionally, the Uganda Red Cross Society made efforts to empower communities through education and implemented health promotion programmes focused on disease prevention, blood donation, menstrual hygiene and adolescent reproductive health.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC assisted the National Society in collaborating with the Ugandan government during public health emergencies.



Uganda Red Cross Society team participated in a cross-border workshop focused on Ebola Virus Disease, in 2023 (Photo: URCS)

The health and wellbeing of communities are 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 Uganda Red Cross Society delivered road safety awareness sessions and conducted occupational health and safety sessions. It revamped its ambulance and first aid services by stationing of a fleet of ambulances across 51 branches spread all over the country to effectively respond to emergencies. In addition, it deployed its emergency medical personnel and ambulance teams to treat injury victims wherever necessary. The National Society also conducted evacuations related to health emergencies including both maternal and medical crises and reached households with

health promotion and disease prevention messages. Additionally, the Uganda Red Cross Society procured emergency mobile clinics to offer first line help to displaced individuals at the Nakivale refugee settlement. This was undertaken under the DG ECHO - IFRC PPP.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with financial assistance for the establishment of emergency mobile clinics. It also supported the Uganda Red Cross Society in the implementation of its health-related initiatives.

Communities have increased access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, communities were granted access to potable water including the installation of three piped water supply systems and eight community-based rainwater harvesting containers. The Uganda Red Cross Society facilitated the construction of bathing shelters and drainable VIP latrines in schools and health centres. It also distributed menstrual hygiene management kits and conducted hygiene promotion through the [PHAST](#) approach. As part of its human protection initiative, the Uganda Red Cross Society supervised the installation of an ecological sanitation (ECOSAN) latrine at the Oluba Primary School in Yumbe. Additionally, through the Chronic Crisis 2 project households were reached with key awareness messages on [water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\)](#). The National Society also conducted water treatment and hygiene promotion at the water supply points, providing communities access to clean and safe drinking water.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the Uganda Red Cross Society with technical and financial assistance in the implementation of its interventions focused on water, sanitation and hygiene.

The **Austrian Red Cross**, **German Red Cross** and **Netherlands Red Cross** supported the National Society in the construction of bathing shelters and latrines in schools and health centres alongside the distribution of menstrual hygiene management kits.



Migration and displacement

Migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes as well access to durable solutions when appropriate

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Uganda Red Cross Society supported new arrivals of displaced persons at receiving locations including Nyakabande in Kisoro, Kitholhu and Karambi in Kasese as well as Busunga, Kisuba and Sindla in Bundibugyo. It conducted risk communication in sanitation and hygiene, Malaria, cholera, Ebola, and COVID-19 prevention and helped relocate the displaced individuals to refugee settlements. The National also extended emergency health services such as [first aid](#) at the transit centres. Additionally, through its [Restoring Family Links](#) services, the Uganda Red Cross Society reunited families.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical and financial support for the implementation of its interventions to support displaced persons.



Values, power and inclusion

National Societies contribute to a positive change in communities through a wider understanding, ownership and concrete application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles, focusing especially on young people's knowledge, skills and behaviour

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society has consistently applied fundamental principles and humanitarian values in all its interventions. It ensured that beneficiaries received assistance in a safe, accessible and dignified manner through post-distribution monitoring. The Uganda Red Cross Society also actively participated in international celebrations and conducted dissemination sessions to promote human rights awareness and community engagement. These efforts strengthened its role in fostering a culture of inclusivity, dignity and participatory action among community members. Additionally, the National Society made efforts to integrate the approaches of [community engagement and accountability](#) and [protection, gender and inclusion](#) in all its programmes.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided crucial support to the Uganda Red Cross Society in promoting humanitarian values and principles. Through collaborative efforts under various projects, the IFRC also assisted the National Society in the documentation of key practices in [forecast-based financing](#), cash transfer programming and community engagement to enhance its capacity to apply these principles effectively in its operations.

National Societies promote and support equitable access to quality education for all boys and girls affected by disaster, crisis or displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Through the Uganda Cash Consortium project and Education in Emergencies initiatives, the Uganda Red Cross Society provided educational support to several beneficiaries, focusing on children at risk of dropping out of school due to various crises. This included both formal and informal education programmes aimed at maintaining educational continuity and ensuring equitable access to learning opportunities for vulnerable children affected by emergencies.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Uganda Red Cross Society in the implementation of its initiatives related to education in emergencies. It promoted equitable access to quality education for boys and girls affected by disasters. Additionally, it provided financial support to the National Society for the Uganda Cash Consortium, through DG ECHO – IFRC PPP. This enabled the Uganda Red Cross Society to support the educational needs of vulnerable children in crisis-affected communities.

People and communities, vulnerable to and affected by crises, are empowered to influence decisions affecting them and trust the RCRC to serve their best interests

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society has demonstrated significant progress in empowering communities vulnerable to crises through effective community engagement and accountability (CEA) practices. By establishing CEA kiosks and help desks, URCS facilitated community members and refugees in forwarding complaints and feedback, ensuring timely response and resolution of issues. The Uganda Red Cross Society also engaged with community leaders for planning interventions to strengthen community ownership and trust in its initiatives. Additionally, it prioritized grassroots volunteer engagement, leading efforts to shape community-centric initiatives and advocate for the interests of vulnerable populations.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC assisted the National Society in strengthening its community engagement and accountability efforts. By providing technical expertise and financial support, the IFRC also enabled the Uganda Red Cross Society to establish effective feedback mechanisms.

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 Uganda Red Cross Society contributes to the implementation of the four IFRC Pan-African initiatives focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready, and National Society development.

The Uganda Red Cross Society is also part of the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission (DG ECHO) and the IFRC, with implementation support from the Netherlands Red Cross as lead EU National Society and the Austrian Red Cross. The IFRC provides technical support in the green response and overall coordination support.

The National Society is supported by the **Austrian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross (Flanders), German Red Cross, Kuwait Red Crescent, Netherlands Red Cross** and **Swedish Red Cross**.

Movement coordination

The Uganda Red Cross 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 Uganda, **the ICRC** contributes to addressing the humanitarian needs of people who have fled situations of violence in neighbouring countries and detainees. It also supports the integration and promotion of international humanitarian law, notably for troops deployed in operations abroad.

External coordination

The Uganda Red Cross Society has a well-established role as an auxiliary to the government, actively participating in national-level emergency and disaster planning and response. During national and regional emergencies, the Uganda Red Cross Society receives support from non-Movement actors (UN, private corporations, and businesses) and the government of Uganda. Within the framework of disaster risk reduction in Uganda, the national disaster risk reduction platform serves as a coordinating body for disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery efforts. The National Society is a member of this platform, which also houses the national task force for public health emergencies under the Ministry of Health. This task force, chaired by the Ministry of Health Director General of Health Services, oversees emergency preparedness and response. The National Society is a member of the national task force, and this structure is cascaded to sub-national levels as a district task force. It is also a member of the district disaster management committee.

The National Society is part of the cash working group with UNHCR and the World Food Programme, among others, and applies the group's agreed modalities such as the standard minimum expenditure basket and joint assessments.

The Uganda Red Cross Society is also a core member of the water, sanitation and hygiene sector for refugee operations, together with Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants, a national non-government organization. It is also a member of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. In the population movement response, the National Society is taking the lead on the provision of safe water and the installation of sanitation facilities.



National Society Development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Uganda Red Cross Society elected its central governing board and approved its institutional work plan and budget. The National Society focused on enhancing membership engagement, motivation and retention at the branch level. Additionally, it developed volunteer and member registration and management systems and piloted a digital volunteer management system in nine of its branches.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical assistance for the development of the digital volunteer management system.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

As part of its role as an auxiliary to public authorities, the Uganda Red Cross Society actively advocated for the enactment of the National Disaster Risk Management Bill. This legislation aims to regulate disaster response initiatives and marks a significant policy shift from disaster response to disaster preparedness.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Uganda Red Cross Society in defining its auxiliary role and mandate, strengthening its advocacy efforts for the enactment of the National Disaster Risk Management Bill.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Uganda Red Cross Society conducted workshops on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse ([PSEA](#)) and child [safeguarding](#), to enhance the integration of protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) in its programmes. The National Society also developed a [digital transformation](#) strategy and made efforts to connect its branches to the internet. Uganda Red Cross Society advanced its information, communication and technology (ICT) capabilities by developing a management information system, integrating data analytics. It also launched cybersecurity and data management training. Additionally, the National Society worked on upgrading its planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) system and planned the deployment of [Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central](#).

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Uganda Red Cross Society in mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion approach across its interventions. It also supported the National Society in its digital transformation efforts.



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 Uganda 2023 Financial Report](#)
Note: For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRUG049](#)
- [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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