



BURUNDI

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

30 August 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 17.8M**

In support of the Burundi Red Cross



18

National Society branches



805

National Society staff



565,316

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



35,000

Climate and environment



75,000

Disasters and crises



2.5M

Health and wellbeing



50,000

Migration & Displacement



218,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Disaster preparedness and response
 - Community resilience
 - Population movement
 - Health care
- Water sanitation and hygiene

Capacity development

- Branch development
 - Communications
- Resource mobilization
- Digital transformation

Key country data

Population **12.9M**

INFORM Severity rating **High**

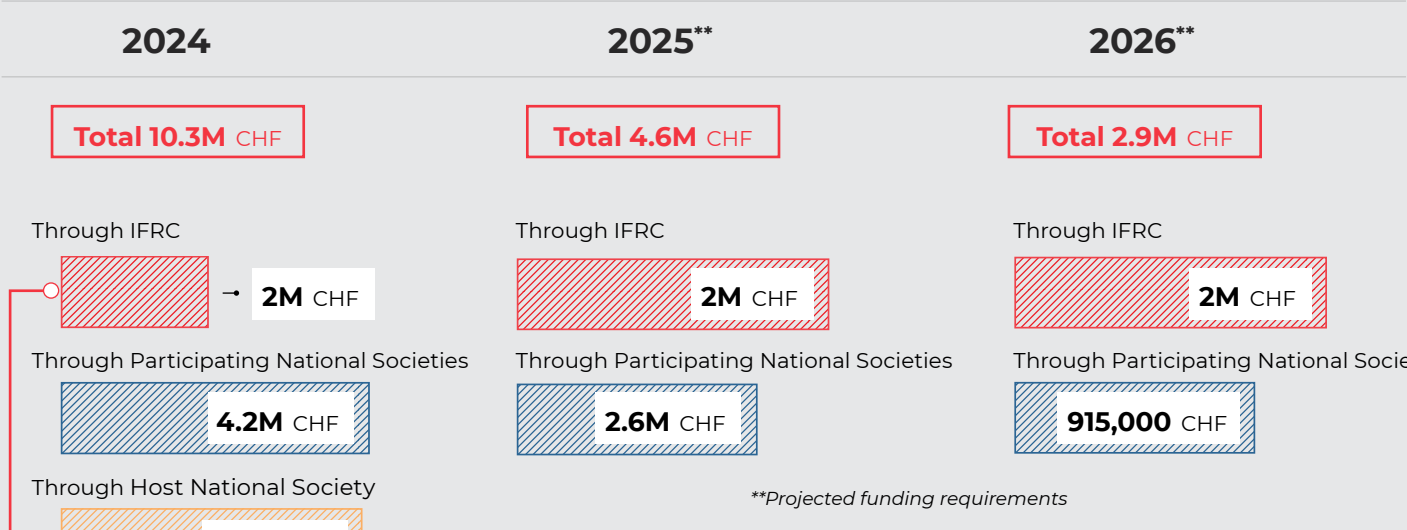
INFORM Climate Risk Index **High**

Human Development Index rank **187**

Population below poverty level **64.9%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for
Burundi, Congo, DRC & Rwanda, based in Kinshasa

Funding requirements



IFRC Breakdown

Longer-term needs

- 165,000 CHF**
Climate and environment
- 450,000 CHF**
Disasters and crises
- 540,000 CHF**
Health and wellbeing
- 25,000 CHF**
Migration & displacement
- 500,000 CHF**
Values, power and inclusion
- 300,000 CHF**
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

- Belgian Red Cross
- British Red Cross*
- Finnish Red Cross
- French Red Cross
- Luxembourg Red Cross
- Spanish Red Cross

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

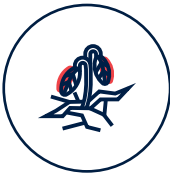
IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:
MAABI002

Hazards



Floods



Drought



Population movement

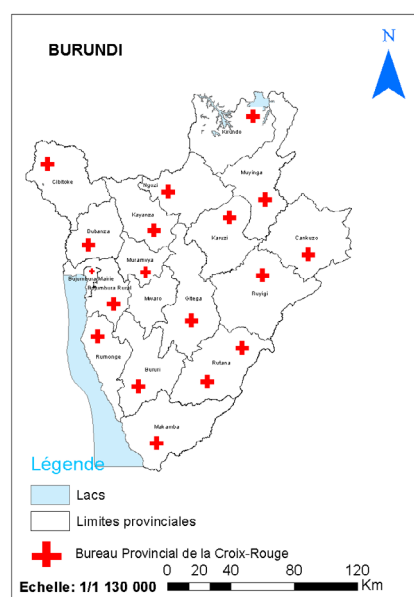


Disease outbreaks

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

Founded in 1963, the **Burundi Red Cross** is the largest community-based humanitarian organization in the Republic of Burundi. It was admitted into the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1963. The National Society has 805 employees at its headquarters, it has 18 provincial branches and 119 communal branches across the country. Its efforts are largely supported by its more than 565,000-strong volunteer community which enables the National Society to respond to emergencies in the country and provide targeted assistance. In addition to facilitating organizational development, the Burundi Red Cross's main areas of intervention include environmental resilience, community health, water, hygiene and sanitation, community resilience, and protection, gender and inclusion. The National Society serves as an auxiliary to the public authorities and ensures that the principles of the Movement are adhered to in times of dire humanitarian circumstances in the country.

The National Society's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 focuses on strengthening existing sectoral structures to be able to respond effectively to disasters such as public health emergencies due to natural hazards and to maintain essential health activities such as social mobilization during vaccination campaigns or when providing water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure. The strategic plan also includes a section dedicated to organizational development, which reflects its



Map of Burundi Red Cross branches

importance for the National Society in creating a strong and well-equipped organization.

In 2022, the Burundi Red Cross reached more than 349,000 people under its disaster response and early recovery programmes and more than 388,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Located between Central and East Africa, the Republic of Burundi is a small landlocked country with an area of 27,834 square kilometres. In 2022, the World Bank estimated the population of Burundi to be 12.8 million, of which more than 50 per cent constitute women. With a density ratio of 442 people per square kilometre, the country is one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

Most of the Burundian people live in rural areas, with the rate of country's urbanization lower than other countries in Africa. The four provinces of Kayanza, Ngozi, Muramvya, and Gitega alone are home to more than two-thirds of the Burundian people. While Burundi has made significant progress in terms of quality and access to education, there are still challenges that need to be overcome. A survey carried out by the Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Burundi in 2020 estimated

that 37.8 per cent of the population had no level of education and that women in general were less educated than men in the country. Burundi's literacy rate is estimated to be 69.4 per cent for persons aged 15 or over.

Burundi has experienced long-standing political violence which has impacted the country's trajectory towards development. Between 1993 to 2006, more than 300,000 were killed in the country due to violence. The Arusha Peace Agreement signed in 2000 led to the establishment of a multi-party republic in which institutions and political parties were required to respect quotas between various communities. The country's national assembly is composed of Hutu who make up 60 per cent, and Tutsi who make up 40 per cent.

Burundi is ranked 187 out of 191 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI), indicating stark socio-economic condition prevalent in the country. More than 90 per cent of the country's population, predominantly rural, live on subsistence farming while pressures on agricultural land keep increasing. The country's sectors that are sources of employment and

growth, mainly agriculture and beer industry, are increasingly being affected by population movements, rising prices and taxation, and the lack of foreign investments in the country. Since 2015, Burundi has witnessed a decline in external aid into the country, leading to budgetary and balance-of-payments difficulties for the country. To compensate for the decline of foreign aid, the Government has mobilised domestic resources. However, this has not been sufficient to meet the continuously increasing social demand, driven largely by sustained population growth.

The Burundian government's development priorities have been formalized in the [National Development Plan 2018-2027](#) which includes the Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework 2012-2015 developed with the United Nations. The plan aims to strengthen the country's industrialization, improve the training of pupils and students to better adapt to climate change.

Burundi is exposed to ongoing and recurrent threats. This includes flooding caused by the rising water levels at

Lake Tanganyika and the Rusizi River, frequent epidemic outbreaks, the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and the increasing return of refugees which is placing pressure on host communities. Protracted displacement and repeated shocks have eroded the resilience of the country in managing internally displaced persons with increasing dependence on humanitarian aid. More than 80 per cent of [internal displacement](#) is currently caused by climate-related disasters, and the impact of these climate hazards also affects agricultural production, with 90 per cent of the population reliant on subsistence farming.

Although two successive harvesting seasons yielded good results in 2021, some areas in Burundi remain at risk of food insecurity. According to the latest data from the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#), 10 per cent of Burundians, or 1.1 million people, were classed as severely food insecure and in crisis (IPC phase 3) as of August 2022, while another 28 per cent ranked as stressed (IPC phase 2).

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The effects of rapid climate change in Burundi are multifaceted. There are droughts, land degradation, soil erosions, and frequent flooding that threaten to damage the progress that the country has made over the years. According to the [World Bank](#), the country is the lowest emitter of greenhouse gases out of 188 countries, yet it bears the consequence of climate change for which it is not largely responsible. The [UNOCHA](#) states that climate-related disasters, led by torrential rains, floods and landslides, were responsible for all forced displacement in Burundi in 2020.

With adverse weather patterns increasingly being witnessed around the world, this worsening climactic trend is likely to continue. The annual rainfall has decreased over the last few years, resulting in shorter or longer early rainy seasons. Climate model scenarios indicate that in the next few decades, there will be more frequent and intense droughts and hydrometeorological hazards in the country. In the case of the Bujumbura metropolitan area, repetitive and severe droughts, torrential rains accompanied by floods have led to mass movement and land losses. Tropical storms or epidemics due to droughts and floods have become commonplace for some time.

Burundi is also experiencing high deforestation, with a recorded annual loss of 64.54 square kilometre of forest

cover. The increase in the population in rural areas put enormous pressure on arable land, resulting in exponential decrease in the average size of farms. This population boom is often accompanied by the clearing of vegetation cover, leading to environmental problems in the long run. According to the UNDP, if no protection measures of the forest are undertaken, there is a danger of losing forest cover completely by 2040.

Burundi's rate of soil erosion per year also warrants immediate attention. The impending crises as a result of climate change highlight the need for humanitarian intervention and long-term investment in nature-friendly solution in the country in order to curb the adverse impact of global climate trends.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Burundi Red Cross 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.

Some of the National Society's core objectives are to adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contributing to climate change mitigation, harnessing the power of nature through [nature-based solutions focused](#) on disaster risk reduction, and implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on [behaviour change](#).

Planned activities in 2024

- Raise awareness and engage communities on the negative impacts of climate change
- Advocate for the establishment and operationalisation of a national early warning system
- Train communities on the development of environmental and habitat risk mapping
- Train community in enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (EVCA) and participatory safe shelter awareness (PASSA)
- Develop and implement action plans to mitigate major risks related to climate change at community level
- Promote [forecast-based financing](#) at the community level in Kirundo, Rutana, Rumonge, and Bujumbura Mairie provinces
- Carry out a large-scale dissemination of weather forecasts in partnership with institutes
- Protect riverbanks by planting bamboo, recover plant waste for energy purposes by creating waste processing units
- Promote nature-based solutions at a community-wide scale
- Organize tracing and protection of contour lines on all watersheds under the threat of erosion

- Encourage the establishment of community platforms to support initiatives to protect the environment and reduce the risks associated with climate change
- Support 1,000 smallholder farmers through climate-smart anticipatory action and support communities to improve storage and management of seeds, seedlings, and crops

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC The IFRC support to the National Society consists of components such as the supporting the National Society in the development and implementation of project proposals/ climate change response action plans and supporting the National Society in mobilizing resources to the implementing the tree planting initiative. The IFRC support to the National Society emphasizes the objective of reducing the current and future impacts of climate and environmental crises on the Burundian people.

The Belgian Red Cross - Flemish community provides support to the National Society through the HP1 project and in Bweru and Butezi in Ryuigi province.

The Belgian Red Cross - French community supports the National Society's objectives on environmental conservation in the municipalities of Mishiha, Cankuzo, and in the branches of Kayanza, Kirundo, and Karuzi.

The Finnish Red Cross provides support to the National Society in the province of Muramvya, in Bujumbura, with the support of ECHO through the World Food Programme (WFP).

The Luxembourg Red Cross supports the National Society's objectives through the Isare Climate Project, the AMoPaH Giteranyi Project, and the Kanyosha Climate Project.



Disasters and crises

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

Burundi is regularly impacted by various disasters, particular among them are destructive weather events such as winds, torrential rains, landslides, and floods along the Lake Tanganyika. In 2022, UNOCHA [estimated](#) that more than 1.8 million Burundian people would be in need of humanitarian assistance. Among them, 947,000 people affected by the various shocks were targeted by humanitarian actors to receive emergency aid. The country's infrastructure and socio-economic progress has already sustained extensive damage from the global COVID-19 pandemic. Climate-related hazards in 2021 such as landslides and floods resulted in

the loss of lives, displacement, and affected agriculture production, infrastructure, and livelihoods. The Government has integrated disaster risk reduction and management into its National Development Plan for 2018-2027, which aligns with the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In October 2023, intense rainfall accompanied by strong winds and floods affected the Cibitoke region along with several other less-affected areas. The floods and the destructive wind killed 7 and affected more than 4,000 in the commune of Buganda, Murwi, and Rugombo in Cibitoke. Following landslides and floods, hundreds of households were displaced and the affected sought refuge in other localities.

Food security continues to account for majority of the humanitarian needs in Burundi. An analysis of acute food insecurity published in 2022 by OCHA shows that 1.18 million people were classified as In Crisis (IPC Phase 3 and above) and 3.1 million as Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Climatic hazards, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the conflict in Ukraine are some major factors responsible for food insecurity in the country. The combined effect of structural factors such as poor access to land and other factors of production and cyclical factors, including natural shocks, are also the reasons behind the current levels of food insecurity in the country.

Burundi's history is also marked by socio-political crises that have seriously harmed the social fabric of the country. The scope of these crises, however, have diminished in time due to mechanisms of conciliation and peaceful settlement of disputes.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Burundi Red Cross is a member of the National Platform for Risk Reduction and Prevention, which puts it in a unique position to influence disaster risk reduction and climate risk policies and practices. The National Society will continue to focus on preparedness and response to various emergency situations. The National Society is one of the targets of the Africa Red Ready programme which aims to develop and strengthen the capacity of the National Society through existing assessment methodologies and approaches. These methodologies will be implemented in complementarity so that the National Society is consistent in its preparedness to respond to shocks, thereby improving risk reduction and community resilience.

The National Society aims to scale-up humanitarian action and risk reduction, integrating cash transfers into intervention operations, enhance the capacity of the National Society in preparedness and capacity building processes, and ultimately strengthen the leadership of the National Society in the field of humanitarian law.

Planned activities in 2024

- Under its cash and voucher assistance (CVA) initiative, the National Society will reach at least 1000 people per year with support services, in kind, cash and vouchers for emergency response and recovery
- Implement and popularize a standard guide for identifying vulnerable people

- Develop and implement action plans to mitigate major risks related to climate change
- Raise awareness and improve the knowledge of communities in relation to disaster risks and promote water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices
- Develop and translate into local languages appropriate tools (IEC/training/manual/guide) on disaster risk reduction for use by the National Society staff as well as communities
- Implement and popularize volunteering and youth policies
- Leverage the IFRC's response mechanisms to support the National Society's emergency operations to more than 100 affected population household

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the National Society consists of technical and financial support for the implementation of community readiness programme, resource mobilization to implement the preparedness and readiness and zero-hunger initiatives, implementation of cash assistance and to develop the use of mobile money, mobilize resources for response through Movement funding mechanisms, among other areas of relevant intervention. IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2023, IFRC provided a DREF allocations in Burundi. The DREF allocation has been described below:

IFRC-DREF – Burundi Floods and Landslides: the DREF allocation of CHF 252,077 for a planned operating timeframe of 5 months from November 2023 will support the Burundi Red Cross in assisting 2,490 people affected by floods and landslides in the areas of Bunjumbara Mairie and Cibitoke. Over the 5-month period, the National Society will support the targeted people with assistance as the distribution of tents, reinforcing foundations of shelters, and dissemination of rainfall forecasts, among others.

The participating National Societies providing support to the National Society in disaster risk management and response to crises are:

The Belgian Red Cross

The Finland Red Cross

The Luxembourg Red Cross

The Spanish Red Cross



The major health-related challenges faced by Burundians is the persistence of endemic diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. Despite remarkable efforts made by health stakeholders, the health situation in the country continues to remain precarious. At a national level, maternal mortality ranges from 500 to 740 deaths per 100,000 live births. Neonatal mortality is at 36 deaths per 1,000 live births, and infant mortality stands at 142 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The most prevalent diseases in the country's epidemiological profile are communicable diseases, which particularly affect the health of pregnant women and children, the most vulnerable population groups. Malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, diarrhoeal diseases, vaccine-preventable diseases, and acute respiratory infections are the most common communicable diseases in the country. While the Burundi government has made commitments towards accelerating the achievement of all the Millenium Development Goal (MDGs), one of the main challenges in this strategic agenda is ensuring universal access to quality healthcare.

Diseases with epidemic potential under surveillance include measles, cholera, meningococcal meningitis, malaria, acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), viral haemorrhagic fevers (Ebola, Lassa, and Marburg), and neonatal tetanus. The potential spread of these epidemics is tied closely with access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities, and population density. Results from the Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) show that 80 per cent of households nationwide have access to an improved water source for drinking, but only 61 per cent have access to such a source within 30 minutes of their homes. The survey also shows gaps between rich and poorer households in getting adequate access to safe water, indicating existing inequalities between provinces. A report prepared by the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research showed that only 3,205 schools of 5,629 in the country had water facilities. Unavailability of water in sanitation facilities present risks of communicable diseases.

Due to the high number of road accidents in the country, the Government has taken steps to minimize the loss of life and disability caused by road accidents. More than 80 per cent of the immediate causes of these accidents are due to human error accompanied by the poor condition of the vehicle fleet and roads. The Ministry of Trade, Transport, Tourism and Industry, in collaboration with the Burundi Red Cross, has set up a training and awareness-raising plan on road safety. Environmental factors such as rain and fog were also a contributor in five per cent of cases. A lack of comprehensive statistics on the victims of road accidents inhibit proper planning for interventions in this area. Failure to care for victims at health facilities in the first night after an accident also handicaps relief actions.

Acknowledging the presence of mental health related problems in the society, the Government developed a strategic plan on mental health in 2018. The plan outlines how the Government will improve access to mental health services in the country.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society has put in place a public health strategy that is in line with the country's risk profiles and aligned with Government plans. Building on the lessons learned from previous operations, the National Society is strengthening its capacity to prepare for and respond to epidemics and pandemics through the preparedness for effective response (PER) approach and advocating for inclusion in relevant national plans, strategies, and policies in line with its role and sub-mandate.

The National Society's strategic priority will focus on ensuring that people have safe and equitable access to health, sanitation, and adequate living conditions. The aim is to contribute to the development of integrated health, care, and community first aid programmes, as well as water, hygiene, and sanitation programmes. By 2025, the National Society targets contributing to overall improved health and wellbeing of communities through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services, contribute to preserving the health and dignity of communities in emergencies, and reduce deaths from cholera and diarrhoeal diseases by more than 50 per cent. Based on these objectives, the National Society will work towards.

- Reaching 2.5 million people every year with health services adapted to the Burundian context
- Reaching 560,000 people each year with mental health and psychosocial services
- Training at least 800 people per year on first aid

Planned activities in 2024

- Revitalize specialised teams on community disease prevention and management
- Develop a response plan for endemo-epidemic diseases in the community
- Sensitization of target households for the correct use of locally produced food for the prevention and community management of malnutrition
- Integrate mental health and psychosocial support aspects into the planning and implementation of activities in the National Society's programmes and projects
- Training of trainers on EPIC module with a focus on diseases with epidemic potential monitored by the country

- Establish and operationalize at the community level teams of volunteers specialized in prevention, community management, and community-based surveillance of diseases and other targeted health challenges
- Improve access to drinking water through the construction and management of water infrastructure
- Establish mechanisms to listen to communities on target health topics and use this feedback to adapt approaches and materials, including updating key messages to promote healthy practices
- Promote construction of public and innovative latrines and solid waste management at the community level
- Implement WASH intervention with the country support platform (CSP) of the Global Task Force on Cholera Control

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in scaling up and improving the quality of health and water facilities and hygiene and sanitation services at the community level, during both emergency and non-emergency situations. The IFRC continues to provide financial and technical support to the National Society to scale up its interventions in the health sector and effectively serve humanitarian needs in Burundi while keeping global best practices as a guide.

The participating National Societies contributing towards the achievement of the Burundi Red Cross' priorities are:

Belgian Red Cross – Flemish community

Belgian Red Cross – French community

Finnish Red Cross

The French Red Cross

Luxembourg Red Cross

The Spanish Red Cross.



Migration and displacement

The reasons for population movement in Burundi are manifold. The three highest categories of need for emergency assistance in the country according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) includes returnees in need of immediate or transitional assistance packages. The second includes internally displaced persons, more than 80 per cent of whom have been affected by disaster. As of April 2022, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had identified more than 85,000 internally displaced persons, spanning 19,000 households across the 18 provinces of Burundi. The third category includes refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania. International migrants also

arrive from Kenya and Uganda. In this population movement, internally displaced people, refugees, and migrants have been exposed to protection risks, including child protection, gender-based violence, lack of access to education, healthcare risks including psychosocial care.

During the 2020 general elections, the Government called for the return of Burundians living in exile, based on the national strategy for the socio-economic reintegration of people affected in Burundi. The intensification of voluntary repatriation has steadily increased, with the UNHCR estimating that 40,400 Burundians have returned to the country. Despite



The Burundi Red Cross provides targeted assistance to vulnerable people through the distribution of tents and reinforcing foundations of shelters, among others. (Photo: IFRC)

these positive political developments, the issue of social, economic, and civic integration of returnees in Burundi poses many challenges and humanitarian needs. These consist of challenges such as marginalization, discrimination on the basis of status, lack of economic opportunities, lack of resources in the host country, and the gravity of these challenges differ in intensity based on gender, age, and disability.

More than 30,000 refugees are settled in urban areas, particularly in Bujumbura, and face significant obstacles, particularly in terms of their protection and their access to health care for chronic conditions. In the north and east areas of the country, meanwhile, more than 48,000 refugees are hosted in five refugee camps where they receive assistance and protection services.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society's objectives for the coming years are to engage with migrants, displaced people, and host communities to assess, understand, and respond more effectively to their needs. This will include a migration and displacement needs assessment. The National Society aims to contribute to providing humanitarian access to migrants and displaced persons and protection at key points along migration routes, as well as durable solutions where appropriate. The Burundi Red Cross will operate along the main migration routes with the ability to provide and access resources to establish humanitarian service points (HSPs).

Planned activities in 2024

- Contribution to provide targeted assistance to migrant and IDPs through health, nutrition, and WASH operations in the country
- Conduct training on community migration awareness raising for the volunteers of the National Society
- Organise awareness-raising sessions on migration in communities
- Create humanitarian service points that provide useful and current information, such as referrals, assistance services, and toll-free numbers to people on the move
- Install feedback mechanisms for migrants and displaced people
- Promote social cohesion by engaging with host communities and participating in coordination mechanisms with other stakeholders

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society to strengthen its capacity to understand and respond to the migration dynamics in the country, and provide appropriate humanitarian services to migrants, internally displaced persons, and others affected by migration and displacement, including families left behind. This is carried out in coordination with relevant local and international actors. The IFRC aims to ensure that all people who migrate and are displaced are safe, treated with humanity and dignity, and receive the protection, assistance and support they need to thrive in inclusive societies.



Values, power and inclusion

The humanitarian situation in Burundi has witnessed improvement in the past year. However, natural hazards, inflation, and socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 continue to affect the country's development trajectory. The significant number of internally displaced persons and returnees in the country present the risks of exploitation and gender-based violence. Gender-based violence (GBV) and human trafficking remain major challenges in the country. While sexual-based gender violence and gender-based violence continue to affect women and girls, adult boys and young men in the country's eastern provinces are exposed to work disproportionate to their age on plantations and small landholdings.

The reproductive health of women and girls, their empowerment and their participation in the labour market

remain problematic. Despite the critical role they play in ensuring food security, women still face inequitable access to productive assets, such as land ownership. This is reinforced in situations where displacement is a factor. These situations can provoke negative coping strategies and increase the risk of gender-based violence and human trafficking. According to IOM data, more than half of identified trafficking cases are also gender-based violence survivors.

The history of Burundi is punctuated by cyclical socio-political crises that have affected social cohesion. The impact of these crises has been reduced due to greater conciliation and peaceful resolution, but to solidify these further, it is important to rely on ancestral values.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Burundi Red Cross's aims to bring about positive change in communities through a broader understanding, ownership, and practical application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles. This will be done with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of young people. In order to ensure dignity, access, participation, and safety to people of all identities, the National Society will implement its gender and diversity policy and demonstrate tangible progress. The National Society aims to empower vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals and communities by influencing decisions that directly affect them.

Planned activities in 2024

- Organise mini movement induction course (MIC) sessions on governance and integrity
- Organise integrated training sessions for staff and volunteers on Safer Access, community engagement and accountability (CEA), prevention and response to sexual exploitation (PSEA), and emergency response framework (ERP)
- Provision of youth services at Hill Units and expansion of international humanitarian law clubs at educational institutions
- Strengthen community engagement through the implementation of feedback mechanisms

- Organise annual youth forums and competitions for the promotion of humanitarian values and principles on youth-focused platforms
- Integrate protection, gender, and inclusion into all the National Society's programmes and interventions
- Support women's associations and cooperatives in the development of production, preparation and marketing plans for production and sales committees
- Develop the skills of volunteer teams in the use of CEA's specific/innovative tools

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides support to the National Society in strengthening its capacities to reach more local branches and increase awareness and actions through empowering youth role and engaging with the community and ensuring meaningful efforts for more inclusive work dynamic. More concentrated area of support includes awareness raising sessions, training of key stakeholders; supporting the National Society in developing and validating the youth policy; disseminating available tools on PSEA, CEA, and PGI through collaborative meetings and training, and supporting the National Society in mobilizing resources and technical support to implement related programs.

The participating National Societies which will be contributing to the Burundi Red Cross Society's priorities are:

Belgian Red Cross – Flemish community

Belgian Red Cross – French community

Luxembourg Red Cross

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Burundi Red Cross is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process twice, once in 2012 and again in 2017. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Burundi Red

Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response process and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen engagement with partners within and outside the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Increase engagement in government-led platforms

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will coordinate with the National Society to strengthen the National Society's cooperation and coordination with external partners to address key challenges faced by vulnerable communities. It will also support the National Society in increasing its engagement in international fora organized by the Movement and other actors.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Focus on the development of the National Society by aligning with the principles of the [National Society development compact](#)
- Prioritize the development of volunteerism and youth action as key enablers of behaviour change
- Foster more diverse leadership through increased volunteer and youth participation, parity, and equitable geographic representation

- Strengthen its structures and committees
- Strengthen leadership and resource management

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in the coming years in key areas such as defining the development priorities of the National Society and using strategic and development plans to improve the sustainability of its services and finances. This includes facilitating the National Society's applications for capacity building funds such as the IFRC [capacity building fund](#) and the ICRC-IFRC National Society investment alliance ([NSIA](#)).



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Promote the actions of the National Society in order to influence the national humanitarian agenda
- Develop and implement strategies that strengthen its auxiliary role to the public authorities and position the National Society as the key humanitarian actor in Burundi
- Maintain the trust of key stakeholders comprising the government, donors, the media and vulnerable communities

- Adopt a strategic and evidence-based approach to humanitarian diplomacy

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide financial and technical support to the National Society to ensure that the National Society is respected and recognized as a neutral and impartial humanitarian actor and is effectively positioned to promote values, policies, and legislation in support of humanitarian action. The IFRC's support will include improving the National Society's visibility among media partners and facilitating communications training.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop and disseminate a policy and action plan on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), to instil awareness within the organization and when providing services to vulnerable communities
- Develop an action plan on mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) minimum standards
- Continue to secure externally audited financial statements

- Fully embrace digital technologies that will include a data management system that informs decision-making and supports monitoring and reporting

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide technical guidance on policy development or training, particularly in reference to safeguarding and prevention of fraud and corruption. Support will also be extended to digital transformation efforts and strengthening planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER).

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Burundi Red Cross from its Country Cluster Delegation based in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. It primarily provides support to the Burundi Red Cross in strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. This includes reinforcing its auxiliary role to the public authorities. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has also provided assistance through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations that relate to floods and landslides, election preparedness and Ebola preparedness. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it supported the National Society's response and its immunization programme. The IFRC also provides technical support to the Burundi Red Cross for a broad range of other services.



The Burundi Red Cross will mobilize resources to implement tree planting initiatives in Burundi. (Photo: IFRC)

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-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, of links with development assistance, and of efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The **Belgian Red Cross - Flemish community** has supported the National Society in disaster preparedness and response, first aid, blood donations; water, sanitation and hygiene; community resilience building, humanitarian protection, and National Society development in the areas of communication and resource mobilization.

The **Belgian Red Cross - French community** has supported the National Society in community health; water, sanitation and hygiene; disaster risk reduction, nutrition, community resilience, social peace and cohesion, humanitarian protection,

the socio-economic reintegration of returnees and other vulnerable people, National Society development in terms of strengthening operational structures and mobilization of resources.

























The **Finnish Red Cross** has provided support in community health; water, sanitation and hygiene; nutrition and food security, social cohesion and disaster response. It is also collaborating with the Burundi Red Cross on programmes currently under development on sexual and reproductive health.

The **French Red Cross** is currently exploring potential support to the Burundi Red Cross in the areas of health, nutrition, disaster risk reduction and migration.

The **Luxembourg Red Cross** has helped with initiatives related to climate change and protection of the environment, as well as humanitarian protection and socio-economic reintegration of returnees and other vulnerable people.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has worked with the Burundi Red Cross on nutrition, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene and social cohesion.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Belgian Red Cross	2.3M						
Finnish Red Cross	339,000						
French Red Cross	556,000						
Luxembourg Red Cross	934,000						
Spanish Red Cross	29,000						

Total Funding requirement

4.2M

Movement coordination

The Burundi Red Cross works closely alongside the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies. It organizes quarterly Movement coordination meetings and an annual partners meeting. In times of emergencies, close 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 Burundi, the ICRC repairs water and sanitation systems, restores family links and reunites families. It works with prison authorities to ensure that detainees are treated according to internationally recognized standards and supports training in international humanitarian law for the armed forces. In addition, the ICRC supports the Burundi Red Cross in the areas of community health, mental health, first aid, protection, restoring family links and migration. It also supports National Society development in the areas of safer access, humanitarian diplomacy and resource mobilization..

Coordination with other actors

The Burundi Red Cross is a member of several government platforms at both national and provincial levels. This includes the national disaster risk reduction and risk management platform, the sectoral protection platform and the health cluster.

The National Society also enjoys strong partnerships with several United Nations agencies, including the World Food Programme with whom it works on building capacity for early action, and the International Organization for Migration with

whom it aligns on monitoring internally displaced persons and updating the Displacement Tracking Matrix – a tool designed to track displacement and population mobility. It also works with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to distribute dignity kits, and with the Global Fund for Acceleration programme, to better manage and control the transmission and spread of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in Burundi.



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 Burundi Red Cross, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with [IFRC Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Contact information

Burundi Red Cross
croixrouge.bi

Mercy Laker

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation
for Burundi, Congo, DRC & Rwanda,
based in Kinshasa
+256 7729 20725
mercy.laker@ifrc.org

Louise Daintrey-Hall

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

Sumitha Martin

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