



# GUINEA BISSAU

2024-2025 IFRC network country plan

30 August 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 13.5M**

In support of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau



**57**

National Society branches



**18**

National Society staff



**15**

National Society volunteers

## People to be reached



**85,000**

Climate and environment



**85,000**

Disasters and crises



**289,000**

Health and wellbeing



**9,000**

Migration & Displacement



**4,000**

Values, power and inclusion

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk management • Health • Water, sanitation and hygiene • Climate change adaptation and environmental protection
- Protection, gender and inclusion

### Capacity development

- Communications • Youth and volunteering
- Partnerships • Digital transformation

## Key country data

Population **2.1M**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **Medium**

Human Development Index rank **177**

Population below poverty level **47.7%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia & Sierra Leone, based in Freetown

# Funding requirements

2024

2025\*

Total 6.8M CHF

Total 6.7M CHF

Through IFRC

4.5M CHF

Through IFRC

4.4M CHF

Through Host National Society

→ 2.4M CHF

Through Host National Society

→ 2.3M CHF

\*Projected funding requirements

## IFRC Breakdown

### Longer-term needs

800,000 CHF

Climate and environment

880,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

1.2M CHF

Health and wellbeing

475,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

600,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

525,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

British Red Cross\*

Italian Red Cross

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

## IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAAGW002**

## Hazards



Droughts



Floods



Disease outbreak



Wildfires



Strong winds

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau was officially established by decree in 1977 as a voluntary relief society. It was created to assist the public authorities in the humanitarian field and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1986. It has its own legal personality and administrative and financial autonomy.

The National Society was created with the aim of preventing and alleviating, with absolute impartiality, the suffering of populations, without discrimination based on nationality, race, sex, class, religion or political opinion, striving also to promote and strengthen universal humanitarian law and principles. The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has a governance and an executive structure. The structure of governance is supported by the strategic orientation, decision-making and management bodies, while the executive structure is responsible for implementing all the guidelines issued by governance.

In its 45 years of existence, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has helped strengthen the capacity of

communities to deal with crises and disasters, supporting the most vulnerable people to access shelters, livelihoods, water and sanitation. With its 11 regional committees, 56 local committees and 3,000 volunteers in communities, the National Society has been able to provide timely support to the most at-risk groups. This has enabled them to mitigate and respond to emergencies and disaster outbreaks, and support people with rehabilitating their lives and livelihoods afterwards. These interventions build on recognition of the National Society as an auxiliary to the public authorities, and as a support system for communities and vulnerable people.

At the national level, the National Society belongs to and participates in different national and regional emergency coordination structures, namely the National Civil Protection Service, Operational health emergency centre. Internally, it has a central and regional coordination structure and an operational technical team.

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## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau located on the west coast of Africa borders Senegal to the north, Guinea to the east and southeast, and the Atlantic Ocean to the south and west. In addition to the mainland, it also includes an insular part with approximately 90 islands and islets that make up the Bijagós Archipelago, occupying a total area of 36,125 square kilometres. The country, endowed with numerous rivers and an island archipelago, suffers from limited maritime transport, hindering access to essential services like healthcare and education for island communities.

Guinea-Bissau has a history of political and institutional fragility dating back to its independence from Portugal in 1974. The politico-military conflict of 1998 and the democratic fragility of the past 20 years have created an unstable political environment, with a proliferation of political parties, lack of trust between these parties and changing motivations among

them. It is one of the most coup-prone and politically unstable countries in the world.

Since independence, four successful coups have taken place, with another 16 attempted, plotted or alleged. The 2019 presidential elections were followed by a political crisis that ended in April 2020. Although 2021 was characterized by relative political stability, a renewed episode of political violence in February 2022 inaugurated a new period of political crisis.

The estimated population of the country in 2021 was 1,801,109, according to data provided by the National Institute of Statistics (INE). Like most countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the Guinea-Bissau population, with a high growth rate (2.4%), is characterized by a preponderance of young people (nearly 50% of Guineans are aged between 0 and 17 years). In 2021, the elderly population (65 years and over) represented only 3%. Of this 64.7 per cent were reported to be living below the poverty line (1US\$ per day), while 20 per cent were reported to be living in extreme poverty (less than 1 US\$ per day). Nevertheless, ensuring social stability, economic recovery, and the effective implementation of poverty reduction measures poses substantial challenges.

Guinea-Bissau is economically vulnerable due to its strong dependence on exports of walnuts and cashew nuts. Cashew nuts represent more than 90 per cent of total exports and about 17 per cent of revenue. About 80 per cent of the country's population depend on agriculture to survive, given the limited possibilities of access to other sources of income. Rural food producers are faced with a lack of technical and financial support, a low valuation of national products, and low levels of industrial development. The private sector is weak and consists mainly of informal activities, with little capacity to generate new jobs. Access to banking services is limited to less than 10 per cent of the population. The main obstacles

to economic development in Guinea-Bissau are deficiencies in the business environment, particularly a severe shortage of basic infrastructure, including energy and transport, as well as weak capacity in the public sector.

Guinea-Bissau is one of the most fragile states in the sub-region and is marred with violence, poverty and an increased number of vulnerable people due to an environment of political and socio-economic instability. It is also affected by a range of natural hazards and environmental degradation. Weak infrastructures and a fragile political state make it difficult to provide affected populations with humanitarian support.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Located between the equator and the Tropic of Cancer, Guinea-Bissau enjoys a tropical climate with an average temperature of 27°C, with a low amplitude during the year depending on the region. The country experiences a six-month rainfall period. Precipitation increases from northeast to south, reaching between 1200 and 2400 millimetres per year.

Rising sea levels caused by climate change affect Guinea-Bissau's coastal region, posing a serious threat to the 70 per cent of the country's population who live along the coast. Increased salinization from the ocean has caused coastal erosion and harmed rice production and caused water in coastal aquifers to become salinized.

Guinea-Bissau remains among the African countries most vulnerable to climate change due to its flat topography and

large meandering coastal area invaded by the tides. Coastal areas in Guinea-Bissau and elsewhere in West Africa are bordered by mangrove forests. In several of these places, swaths of mangrove forest have been removed and the landscape has been technologically adapted to produce mangrove rice, a regionally important staple. However, the effects of global warming, in particular sea-level rise, pose challenges to these socioecological environments.

Many communities in Guinea Bissau have experienced the drastic effects of climate change. Increased temperatures and humidity may increase malaria transmission, while flooding may incite the spread of waterborne diseases. Drought escalates the risk of meningitis which can cause the emergence of infections and epidemics, and increased temperatures will worsen air pollution and increase the threat of acute respiratory illnesses. Heavy rainfall events occur often in the country and causes flooding that have severe impacts on infrastructure, agriculture, and public health.



A volunteer of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau conducting a session of good hygiene practice with community members, in 2021 (Photo: IFRC)

Effects of climate change have affected the socioeconomic status of citizens, with increased poverty, particularly in the lives of vulnerable citizens and communities whose livelihoods are mainly dependent on the natural habitat and the environment. Access to economic resources and activities have been hampered by increased environmental degradation mainly caused by human activities. Likewise, in recent years, the regularity of rainfall has been low, which has led to insufficient agricultural production at the national level in view of the growing domestic demand for food products. In search of more prosperous livelihoods, young people have moved to urban areas, further reducing the available workforce in rural areas. This cycle of low production and loss of labour makes the countryside more vulnerable to unexpected shocks.

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

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau 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.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau aims to:

- Work with communities to take urgent action to heed to the growing and evolving risks of climate and environmental crises
- Strengthen the capacity of communities to cope with the evolving consequences of climate change

- Encourage communities to take ownership of programmes that combat climate risks by giving them more opportunities to share their points of view, their knowledge and their ideas
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices within the National Society that contribute to climate change mitigation
- Integrate nature-based solutions into all National Society systems

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Support the communities with shelter, livelihoods, water and sanitation
- Collaborate with partners adopt environmentally sustainable practices that contribute to climate change mitigation

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the National Society to increase its efforts to preserve biodiversity and address rising climate risks. The IFRC will also continue to collaborate with the Ministry of Forestry and provide technical support to the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau to implement climate change projects and programmes.

The **Belgian Red Cross** will support volunteer training in climate change until 2025.

The **Italian Red Cross** will continue its support to the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau in mitigating and responding to climate and environmental crises. This support has enabled it to implement a tree planting project in two regions (Oio and Bafatá), in line with the IFRC Pan-African Tree Planting and Care initiative.





## Disasters and crises

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

The [INFORM Country Risk Profile](#) ranks Guinea-Bissau as experiencing medium risk, at 3.8 out of 10, with a vulnerability level of 4.8 out of 10. The lack of coping capacity is assessed at 7.9 out of 10, with weaknesses identified at both institutional and infrastructure levels.

Guinea-Bissau has a countrywide [chronic malnutrition rate](#) of over 25 per cent. Overall, 11 per cent of Guinea-Bissau households are food insecure, rising as high as 51 per cent in some areas. Locust invasions are prevalent in the country, and severely affect agriculture. In addition to natural hazards, road accidents, fires, political and socio-economic conflicts, shipwrecks, population movements, tornadoes, floods and locust invasions, food insecurity, deforestation and a marked risk of change climate remain a major concern for Guinean authorities and humanitarian organizations working in the country.

[Floods are a recurring natural hazard](#) in Guinea-Bissau, especially along its coast. Similarly, [drought](#) is a recurring disaster. Guinea-Bissau has experienced some devastating droughts in the recent past. Heavier rainfall events in the future along with higher tides from rising sea level, are being predicted to continue to impact the coast. [Sea-level rise](#) continues to affect the country's coastal region and is a serious threat to 70% of the population who reside along the coast. Increased salinization from the ocean has harmed rice production, caused coastal erosion, and inundated coastal aquifers.

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

- Provide appropriate and timely assistance and support to communities affected by disasters and crises
- Systematically integrate measures to support the hardest-to-reach people and improve the approach taken to address protracted crises
- Increase preparedness to ensure [early action](#), response and recovery, and thereby strengthen resilience and social cohesion
- Work collaboratively with cities on [disaster risk management](#), and increase understanding of urban risks in order to build systems that strengthen local resilience

- Promote localization of humanitarian response by strengthening the capacity of local branches and volunteers in line with the [IFRC Pan-African Red Ready initiative](#)
- Establish mechanisms for [anticipatory action](#) and the management of disaster and emergency responses – functioning at all levels and reducing people's exposure and to hazard
- Reduce incidents of internal and external migration caused by civil, political, and environmental disasters

### Planned activities in 2024

- Use [cash and voucher assistance](#) as a flexible and adaptable modality to promote human dignity and choice
- Collaborate with community networks such as the civil society, schools and healthcare providers to increase resilience

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will continue supporting the National Society to work towards achieving the goals set out in IFRC's Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative, which aims to reach zero hunger for up to 25 per cent of vulnerable people in Africa by 2030. This will be achieved through investment in small-holder farmers, and scaling up cash assistance and support to youth entrepreneurs. The **IFRC** will also:

- Support the National Society to improve the quality of its programmes and align them better with the Zero Hunger Initiative goals
- Provide technical assistance to develop integrated interventions that address basic needs, prevent asset depletion, and restore or strengthen livelihoods
- Support the National Society to advocate with the authorities in Guinea-Bissau to develop and build capacity around [disaster law](#)

The **Belgian Red Cross** will continue to support the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau on capacity building for disaster response and [cash and voucher](#) assistance. It delivers capacity building, mainly in training, to volunteers on disaster response, including how to implement preventative measures and prepare for floods and strong winds. Volunteer training in disaster risk and climate change will continue until 2025.



Health services in Guinea-Bissau continue to be seriously challenged across the 11 health regions, including the Autonomous Sector of Bissau. The country faces high rates of child mortality. The sixth [Multiple Indicator Survey, carried out in 2018–2019](#), found that the probability of an infant dying between birth and their first birthday had reached 55 per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate for children under the age of five was 89 per 1,000 live births. Diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and malaria continue to seriously affect Guinean children, while children living in rural areas are at higher risk of infant mortality than those living in urban areas. Guinea-Bissau has one of the highest rates of [maternal mortality in the world, at 725 per 100,000 live births](#).

Guinea-Bissau also faces a high burden of life-threatening infectious diseases including malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, ischemic heart disease, measles and diarrhoeal diseases, as well as lower respiratory infections and strokes. The burden of [HIV/AIDS](#) in Guinea-Bissau is the highest in West Africa and disproportionately affects [more women than men](#). Although there is no catastrophic food insecurity, it is concerning that acute malnutrition persists in Guinea-Bissau. Almost one in six [children under the age of five](#) is moderately or severely underweight (16.3 per cent), and 3.8 per cent are classified as severely underweight. More than a quarter of children – 27.7 per cent – have moderate and severely [stunted growth](#), and 8.7 per cent have severely stunted growth.

Around 60 per cent of households [do not have access to drinking water](#) in the home. This means that for most of these households (88 per cent), an adult woman is usually forced to fetch drinking water, sometimes taking more than 30 minutes in total. In terms of [sanitation](#), only 25 per cent of this population live in households with improved sanitation facilities for the disposal of human excrement.

The cholera epidemic has been recurrent over the past decades, reappearing on average every two years at the national level, and in the border region of Tombali. There is almost one cholera outbreak every year, forcing the regional health authorities and National Team to take measures to prevent and combat this very deadly epidemic.

Guinea-Bissau's borders with Senegal and the Republic of Guinea are busy with cross-border trade activities, huge concentrations of people and massive public transport traffic. It is a hazardous situation that encourages disease outbreaks, and requires special attention from national health authorities, particularly after the emergence of the [Ebola virus in neighbouring Guinea](#).

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

- Contribute to efforts to achieve and maintain national immunization goals, and promote equitable access to new vaccines
- Respond effectively to mental health and psychosocial support needs in emergencies
- Protect and enhance [community health](#) and well-being through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate and quality health services across an individual's lifespan
- Help communities to identify and reduce health risks through approaches that promote local solutions to address unmet needs, and emphasize community mobilization, accountability and behaviour change
- Strengthen systems and mechanisms that support survivors and victims of sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies
- Build referral pathways and systems for survivors and victims of sexual and gender-based violence at all levels
- Meet the needs of people living with communicable diseases, such as HIV and tuberculosis, through appropriate risk reduction approaches
- Coordinate and collaborate with community networks, schools, health care providers and civil society organizations (at both regional and national levels) on evolving public health challenges
- Capitalize on its auxiliary role to ensure its position on its public health strategy is maintained, using relevant advocacy, policy platforms and mechanisms at the national level

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Distribute insecticide-treated bed nets to ensure effective prevention of malaria
- Provide, through trained first responders, quality [First Aid](#) services to diverse groups ranging from vulnerable communities to public and private sector institutions, hard-to-reach communities and those experiencing high levels of violence
- Provide context-appropriate sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services
- Respond to the [mental health and psychosocial support](#) needs of communities, volunteers and staff

- Improve community access to drinking water, and provide information on good practices regarding the treatment and reuse of wastewater
- Increase communities' access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally friendly [water, sanitation and hygiene](#) (WASH) services
- Develop a [water, sanitation and hygiene](#) strategy
- Increase the number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donations

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the National Society to improve community awareness of epidemics and pandemics, and to promote good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices and services. It will also support resource mobilization and

advocacy efforts that increase opportunities and partnerships around better WASH practices, such as furthering the [IFRC One WASH](#) initiative to eliminate cholera.

The **British Red Cross** will support the recruitment and training of new volunteers, and risk communication and community engagement on disease prevention and potential epidemics. It will also support the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau with training in good hand washing and sanitation practices in local schools and supports the planning of the cash transfer programme.

The **Portuguese Red Cross** will support the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau with First Aid training.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will continue its support to the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau in building water tanks and digging wells to improve access to water in remote communities and schools.



## Migration and displacement

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The migrant situation is a concern for national authorities in Guinea-Bissau. According to some [estimations](#), in 2019 more than 100,000 people, or 5.39 per cent of the population, emigrated from Guinea-Bissau. Political instability, structural poverty, high unemployment, and difficulty in accessing education and health care are the main drivers of emigration. There is a lack of new job opportunities in Guinea-Bissau due to the country's high dependency on the cultivation and exploitation of cashew nuts, which has led to insufficient diversification of the economy.

Emigrants from Guinea-Bissau are principally young people, and the main destination countries are Senegal (29.5 per cent), Portugal (27.9 per cent), and Gambia (13.3 per cent). However, the figures do not account for non-registered movements through the porous borders. Young people face especially brutal situations when in transit, they are vulnerable to smuggling, and many die due to the extreme conditions while crossing the desert on the central Mediterranean route. In recent years, Guinea-Bissau has received many evacuees who have been assisted by rescue missions conducted by the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) in Libya. Sustainable reintegration of returned migrants is also a factor that needs to be addressed.

Guinea-Bissau features as a major centre of recruitment for [child trafficking in the West African region](#), as well as a transit point for smuggled migrants heading to Europe and other destinations, due to the weak control of the authorities and the geographical location of the country. The most recent (2017) official data on migration puts the number of migrants,

including refugees, in Guinea-Bissau at 22,700. This data found the principal countries of origin were Senegal, Guinea, Gambia, Liberia and Portugal. In [2022](#), Guinea-Bissau recognized 2,114 refugees, with the majority (2,075) from Senegal, and 37 asylum seekers. Senegalese refugees mainly come from the Casamance region of Senegal, between Gambia and Guinea-Bissau. Other protection seekers came from countries such as Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Burundi, and Guinea.

Internal migration is mainly related to economic and climate factors, in particular storms and droughts. There were [3,700 internal displacements registered due to storms in 2018](#).

Areas with high population mobility have also become vulnerable to the high risk of transmission of infectious diseases, such as sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, malaria and cholera.

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

- Ensure that assistance and protection services are promoted and provided in collaboration with local and national authorities, host communities and affected people
- Establish [humanitarian services points](#) at key stages along migration routes, and expand the range of services provided at these points in collaboration with relevant stakeholders
- Establish and strengthen systems and mechanisms that reduce rural-urban migration



- Integrate migration and displacement dimensions and approaches into all humanitarian work, including updating and contextualizing tools and methodologies for emergency preparedness, response and recovery
- Increase knowledge on migration and its effects among local populations through engaged and effective advocacy with stakeholders
- Strengthen its capacity to engage in migration issues
- Establish coordination and collaboration systems within the IFRC membership, and with state institutions, the IOM and other international organizations and civil society organizations

advocacy, policy and communications at the global and regional levels

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will:

- Continue to support the National Society to further integrate migration and displacement approaches in all its humanitarian activities
- Support resource mobilization and advocacy efforts to increase opportunities and partnerships to address migration, and increase joint awareness-raising activities on migration and displacement issues within the IFRC network
- Provide material and equipment support to the National Society
- Build the human resources capacity of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau

## Planned activities in 2024

- Provide global, regional and local analyses of current and emerging trends anticipating population movements
- Develop evidence-based programmes supported by organizations such as the Migration Hub and the Movement Reference Group on internal displacement
- Increase joint advocacy on migration and displacement issues within the network by coordinating collective



## Values, power and inclusion

Universal education and gender equality are progressing very slowly towards the [Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in Guinea-Bissau](#). In terms of access to education, the net primary school enrolment rate among seven to 12-year-olds is 68.7 per cent. This is even lower in rural areas, at 54 per cent, compared with 74 per cent in urban areas.

Young people under the age of 25 are a more vulnerable and marginalized group that faces social exclusion in Guinea-Bissau, despite making up 64 per cent of the population.

[Guinea-Bissau has a 25.7 per cent rate of child marriage prevalence, and a 52.1 per cent rate of female genital mutilation or cutting \(FGM\)](#). In 2021, UNICEF found that more than 400,000 girls and women in Guinea-Bissau alive today have experienced FGM, with ethnicity and location the main factors that influence the likelihood of it. The practice is more common in regions that are home primarily to ethnic groups who practice FGM almost universally, including the Fula, Mandinga and Beafada. UNICEF's research concluded that, regrettably, the SDG target of eliminating FGM by 2030 does not appear within reach for Guinea-Bissau. If current trends continue, half of the country's girls will still be experiencing this practice in 2030

According to the latest (2021) UNDP data, there are 11,584 people living with disabilities in all regions of Guinea-Bissau. The highest number live in the Oio region (19 per cent), while Bolama-Bijagós is the region that represents the smallest number, with a total of 490 (four per cent). There are more men (54 per cent) living with disabilities than there are women (46 per cent).

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

- Ensure that programmes and operations guarantee the dignity, access, participation and safety of all affected people
- Promote and support the systematic application and integration of the IFRC's minimum standards on protection, gender and inclusion during emergencies
- Ensure systematic collection and analysis of data disaggregated by age, sex and disability, in risk assessment and programme design
- Take concrete steps to ensure that all programmes and services are inclusive and accessible to people living with disabilities

- Increase efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence, and put in place systems for recording and monitoring activities to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence
- Promote the participation of women in disaster or emergency response teams, and involve community members, especially women, in decision-making processes around disaster risk management
- Institutionalize systems, processes and policies that enhance participation, protection and the inclusion of vulnerable persons and communities in its activities, and other social and economic services
- Increase understanding, ownership and practical application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles, including knowledge, views, values and behaviour of vulnerable people and groups

continued access to education during disasters and crises

- Advocate for the development of policies, laws and regulations that will support vulnerable and marginalized groups during emergencies

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will:

- Continue to support the National Society to prioritize values, power and inclusion in its activities
- Assist the National Society in improving its engagements and establish it as a support organization for vulnerable people
- Support the National Society to run Red Cross youth programmes, and to expand the reach of awareness-raising activities on humanitarian education, youth action, and protection, gender and inclusion
- Support to mobilize resources and conduct advocacy efforts to increase opportunities and partnerships in these areas

The **Spanish Red Cross** supports the inclusion of the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles into the education curriculum at primary school level

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Partners with the Ministry of Education and other humanitarian actors to meaningfully involve young people in decision-making
- Establish and strengthen coordination and collaboration mechanisms and systems with state institutions, NGOs and other civil society organizations
- Carry out effective awareness-raising activities on the humanitarian consequences of interrupted education, and the importance of ensuring safe, equitable and

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau is committed to institutional strengthening. It conducted the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2011, intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

An orientation training in OCAC, funded by the IFRC Capacity Building Fund has been planned. This will engage both governance and management representatives of the National Society. The training will introduce the OCAC methodology,

facilitator roles and key concepts like the auxiliary role and volunteering. This will empower the National Society to evaluate its organizational capacity, performance, and relevance within the country. Moreover, it will help identify areas for self-improvement while ensuring adherence to a comprehensive set of organizational minimum standards.

With support from the IFRC, the National Society intends to use a more strategic approach for engagement, accountability, trust and volunteerism.



## Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Strengthen visibility and resource mobilization, including through networking on key themes at regional and global levels
- Strengthen its cooperation with regional and global reference centres, including engaging in a spirit of shared leadership

- Collaborate with new and non-traditional partners, and with communities for joint problem-solving and innovation

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross Society of Guinea Bissau in renewing its partnerships and developing a new funding architecture to increase financial resources. It will also support the National Society to raise investments in forecasting and anticipating new challenges and opportunities.



## National Society development

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

- Strengthen the capacity of the National Society's governing board, staff and volunteers on protection, gender and inclusion in their ways of working
- Develop the role of volunteering for young people to become agents of behaviour change and initiate local action

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in strengthening its institutional and operational capacities at all levels as well as in implementing youth designed programmes and initiatives. The IFRC will also assist the National Society in equipping its volunteers with resources to allow them to improve their way of working. Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society in establishing volunteering management systems.

The **Turkish Red Crescent Society** supports institution building through the purchase of computers and office equipment for the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Advocate for both public behaviour and policy change at national, regional and global levels
- Develop its auxiliary role
- Collaborate with new and non-traditional partners to build trust

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau with communications and public advocacy resources. It will help the National Society build relationships to work together in effective networks and promote its image and visibility as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field. Additionally, it will support the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Invest in more forecasting analyses and activities to anticipate new challenges and opportunities
- Develop concrete measures to ensure that men and women are equally represented at all levels, and that women are supported to access governance and leadership positions

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in compiling an evidence-base on the impact of the National Society's humanitarian work, including behaviour change in communities served. It will support the digitalization efforts of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau. Additionally, it will support the National Society in development of key strategies and policies.

## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

The IFRC Freetown cluster delegation is in the capital city of Sierra Leone and supports four National Societies including the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, the Red Cross Society of Guinea, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau and the Liberian Red Cross Society. The IFRC supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau in strengthening its institutional and operational capacities. It also provides the technical assistance

necessary to help the National Society fulfill its mandate as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The IFRC provides capacity building support to the National Society, through the deployment of technicians and experts with sectoral experience mainly in health; water, sanitation and hygiene; disaster risk reduction and management.



Volunteers of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau provide assistance to families affected by a severe storm, in 2021 (Photo: IFRC)

## IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau is part of the four [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau is part of the Red Cross Red Crescent Sahel+ Migration Technical Group, a network comprising the National Societies of Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal, as well as the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as observer members. The purpose of the technical group is to offer a framework for reflection, research, sharing experiences and information to better cooperate on migration issues. The group's main objective is to reduce the vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced persons in the Sahel region, mitigate the risks they are exposed to, address discrimination, and facilitate their inclusion and access to services – in view of building overall resilience. The National Society also cooperates with the IFRC network through working and sub-working groups, such as the Abidjan commitments for the Association des Sociétés Croix-Rouge Croissant Rouge Francophones, Hispanophones, Lusophones d'Afrique (ACROFA), the National

Societies of the African region and as a member of the Community of the Portuguese Speaking Countries.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has established partnerships with, and receives support from, the following participating National Societies:

The **Belgian Red Cross** supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau in capacity building for disaster response and cash and voucher assistance. Volunteer training in disaster risk reduction and climate change will continue until 2025.

The **British Red Cross** supports recruitment and training of new volunteers, and risk communication and community engagement on disease prevention and potential epidemics. It also supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau with training in good hand washing and sanitation practices in local schools and supports the planning of the cash transfer programme.

The **Italian Red Cross** has been supporting a climate mitigation tree planting project until the end of 2022, with prospects for further activities. Other support to the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau may include setting up a volunteer database, management system and related training.

The **Portuguese Red Cross** supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau with First Aid training.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supports the inclusion of the Red Cross Red Crescent fundamental principles into the education curriculum at primary school level. The Spanish Red Cross also supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau in developing its hygiene and health and well-being capacity.

The **Turkish Red Crescent Society** supports institutional strengthening through the purchase of computers and office equipment for the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau.

### Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Italian Red Cross							



## Movement coordination

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau 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](#).

**The ICRC** supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau by promoting international humanitarian law and encouraging its implementation.

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## Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau belongs to and participates in different national and regional emergency coordination structures, including the National Civil Protection Service and the Operational Health Emergency Centre. The National Society has been an advisory member of the National Civil Protection since 2011, and actively participates in disaster preparedness and response mechanisms at national level.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau works with various UN agencies (UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNFRA, UN-HABITAT), as well as national and international NGOs operating in the country, as part of its humanitarian mission. A partnership with UNICEF to run an awareness programme on disease prevention and vaccines is currently underway, and Plan-GB is supporting student and teacher training as part of the good school governance programme on risks and disasters.



## The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau, 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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