



# BAPHALALI ESWATINI

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

3 October 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 4.19M**

In support of the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society



**5**

National Society branches



**66**

National Society staff



**4,700**

National Society volunteers

## People to be reached



**83,000**

Climate and environment



**1.2M**

Disasters and crises



**160,000**

Health and wellbeing



**5,000**

Migration & Displacement



**184,000**

Values, power and inclusion

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk reduction
- Food security and livelihoods
- Climate change adaptation
- Health • Water, sanitation and hygiene

### Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
- Branch development
- Internal systems strengthening
  - Financial sustainability

## Key country data

**Population** **1.2M**

**INFORM Severity rating** **Medium**

**INFORM Climate Risk Index** **Low**

**Human Development Index rank** **144**

**Population below poverty level** **58.9%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho & Namibia, Pretoria

# Funding requirements

2024

2025\*\*

2026\*\*

Total 3.1M CHF

Total 0.55M CHF

Total 0.54M CHF

Through IFRC



→ 1.1M CHF

Through Participating National Societies



1.8M CHF

Through Host National Society



→ 221,000 CHF

## IFRC Breakdown

### Longer-term needs

400,000 CHF

Climate and environment

600,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

121,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

Through Participating National Societies

556,000 CHF

Through Participating National Societies

540,000 CHF

\*\*Projected funding requirements

## Participating National Societies

American Red Cross\*

Belgian Red Cross

British Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

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

## IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAASZ003**

## Hazards



Drought



Floods



Storms



Food insecurity



Social unrest

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society** was founded in 1933 and was admitted into the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1979. In 1970, King Sobhuza II, the then patron, named it Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society. In the same year, the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Act of Parliament legally recognized the National Society's role as an auxiliary to the public authorities to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. The IFRC and International Committee of Red Cross then formerly registered it in October 1979.

The National Society's mandate facilitates its cooperation with the Government and the administrative authorities, while it remains independent and guided by the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society is governed by the national executive committee (board), which is elected by the General Assembly. The board has a total of 14 members, two of which are from the government of Eswatini. The National Society also has a management structure which provides support to the regional offices and oversees the general administration of the National Society while monitoring programme implementation.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society continues to provide services to the public on disaster management, healthcare and first Aid. These services are provided in collaboration with the deputy prime minister's office. The National Society provides its services to people in Eswatini through five branch offices and three health facilities. The branches have a total of 159 Red Cross units, 66 staff members and 3,800 volunteers. In 2022, the National Society reached more than 33,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

The National Society's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 identifies four broad strategic aims to address the needs of people in Eswatini:

- Disaster management: people anticipate respond to and quickly recover from crisis
- Health care and livelihood: people lead safe, healthy and dignified lives and have opportunities to thrive
- First aid: people capacitated on first aid knowledge and skills to enable to give appropriate care in the event of an emergency
- Community engagement: people mobilize for inclusive and peaceful communities

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## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Eswatini is a landlocked country bordering Mozambique to the northeast and South Africa to the east, west and south. It extends about 110 miles (175 kilometres) from north to south and about 80 miles (130km) from west to east. The country is home to major perennial rivers with their sources in South Africa. They flow through Eswatini to the Indian Ocean. Rainfall can be unreliable, and periods of drought occur in some of the regions. About 80 per cent of the precipitation falls during the summer months from October to March, usually in the form of thunderstorms and frontal rains, often bringing floods.

Eswatini has a young population of nearly 1.2 million people, with a median age of 20.5 years. People aged 14 or younger

comprise 34 per cent of the total population. Literacy rates are high at 88 per cent, and there is access to education across the country. According to the constitution of Eswatini, the King is a symbol of unity and the eternity of the Swazi nation. For the purposes of local administration, Eswatini is divided into four regions: Hhohho, Lubombo, Manzini and Shiselweni. Each has an administrator appointed by the King. Parallel to the government structure is the traditional system of the King and his advisors, traditional courts, and 59 traditional Tinkhundla chiefdoms.

The staple crop in Eswatini is maize. Other crops such as sorghum (mainly used for brewing beer), pumpkins, beans, peas and other vegetables are also grown. Crop yields are generally low, but the more progressive farmers produce quantities that match those in the large-scale commercial sector. The livestock population in Eswatini is relatively high because cattle are traditionally used as a store of wealth.

Eswatini's economy is very closely linked to the economy of South Africa. It receives more than 90 per cent of its imports from and sends about 70 per cent of its exports to South Africa. Sugar and soft drink concentrate are the largest foreign exchange earners. Beyond domestically generated income, Eswatini's economy benefits from worker remittances from South Africa. However, poverty remains a challenge due to stunted economic growth (which is expected to be 0.9 by 2026), adverse weather patterns, a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and high unemployment rate (25.8 per cent in 2021, up from

25.5 per cent in 2020). Poverty levels have remained high over the last five years.

Chronic malnutrition (stunting) is a primary concern, afflicting 24.4 per cent of children aged 0 to 59 months. There is currently no comprehensive social protection policy to address the needs of the extremely poor and chronically vulnerable, potentially condemning future generations to vicious cycles of malnutrition.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Eswatini is prone to extreme weather events which have negative impacts on the most vulnerable people especially in the Lubombo and Shiselweni regions. These two regions are the poorest regions of the country and often marginalized. The country is prone to disasters such as drought, windstorms, hailstorms, fall armyworms and invasive species such as chromolaena odorata.

Climate change and variability are also evident in Eswatini in other forms, including hydrological disasters (droughts and storms), changes in rainfall regimes, including heavy rainfall events and extreme weather conditions. The country has recently been impacted by large variations in rainfall as well as recurring drought events. This is expected to have an increasingly adverse effect on agricultural production, particularly that of smallholder farmers. This is further exacerbating the country's existing challenges of food insecurity, affecting its ability to attain development goals. Land degradation and resulting erosion is also further exacerbated by heavy rains, increasing vulnerability for more than 70 per cent of the population that is reliant upon the agricultural sector.

Through its National Development Plan for 2019–2020 and 2021–2022, Eswatini's Government emphasized that the environment is strategically important in the areas of tourism growth and development, environmental sustainability and climate change, and the management of natural resources. This included sustainable forest management, wildlife and culture conservation, meteorological services, and building a climate-resilient nation ready for growth and development for the present and future generations. The national plan also recognized that there are only weak regulatory frameworks and institutional arrangements in place for addressing climate change issues.

Eswatini launched a national tree planting campaign entitled Hlanyela Sihlahla, Wonge Imvelo (Plant a Tree and Save the Environment) in 2020. The campaign aims to plant 10 million trees of indigenous and high-value species in Eswatini over five years, to help mitigate the effects of climate change. The tree planting aims to support improved livelihoods, reduce land degradation, improve nature conservation, increase biodiversity, build resilience to climate change in the long run.

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

The National Society will actively support the reduction and adaptation to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises by participating in environmentally



A Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society volunteer conducting a post-distribution monitoring survey, in June 2023 (Photo: IFRC)

sustainable practices that contribute to mitigation of risks associated with climate change. The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society will innovate technologies in areas of early warning systems, community mobilization as well as reporting systems between the National Society, community stakeholders and strategic partners.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society is part of the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the IFRC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) with implementation support from the Finnish Red Cross, the Belgian Red Cross and the IFRC. Through the ECHO PPP, the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society will apply a climate-smart agriculture approach that is customized to the Swazi context. The National Society will support households to produce food in difficult climatic conditions.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Build capacity of communities to address the evolving impacts of climate change
- Develop an environmental policy
- Train local leaders in land and water management challenges such as erosion, deforestation and wetlands preservation, while creating community committees to manage project activities and raise awareness in water harvesting

- Engage stakeholders dealing with climate response programmes
- Develop plan of action mapping areas for 2024
- Disseminate the early action protocols among all stakeholders
- Train National Society staff and volunteers on community engagement, with a focus on behaviour change approaches for climate adaptation and environmental protection

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society through the training of its staff, volunteers and community members in all aspects of tree planting and care. The IFRC will also continue supporting the National Society to expand its forecast-based financing approach, which will initiate activities taking into consideration extreme weather events such as droughts. It will identify relevant environmental screening tools, such as the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+), along with training and piloting.

The **British Red Cross** will support the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society with resources such as personnel and provide technical support where needed. The British Red Cross and other national stakeholders will also provide support to ensure the successful implementation of the forecast-based financing approach.



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## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page Eswatini.

Eswatini is prone to disasters and crises of different magnitudes. While windstorms and hailstorms are the most commonly occurring natural hazards, droughts affect the highest number of people severely. Drought not only destroys crops but also leads to livestock death. Eswatini also experiences heavy storms every year, usually starting in September. The main impact of these events is on housing, damaging or destroying roofs and other possessions. In recent years, Eswatini has experienced several disasters that have contributed to the economic challenges currently faced by the country.

The country has also been struggling with HIV/AIDS for over 30 years, which has affected several skilled people including farmers and extension officers. These challenges have resulted in Eswatini unable to produce enough food to feed its people, leading to the country suffering from food insecurity.

In the summer of 2020–2021, the country experienced five hailstorms covering the Manzini, Shiselweni and Hhohho regions. The impacts included blown-away roofs, damaged livelihoods, and the loss of field crops and poultry. Over the last two years, 318 households were affected on average – 84 per cent lost their roofs and 16 per cent were fully destroyed – and approximately 4,000 people were affected. Communities affected by hailstorms in the past did receive shelter support, but not all losses were compensated and some people who lost their livelihoods did not receive assistance.

In the Lowveld in November 2022, a hailstorm with strong winds and massive hailstones affected mostly the Nsingizini and Nsubane communities under Hosea and Somntongo in the Shiselweni region. An estimated 1,058 people (213 households) were affected by the storm, with some families losing their roofs, which were blown away or damaged by the hailstones. The people affected were exposed to further danger and had no choice but to remain in damaged property overnight. The affected communities were mostly subsistence farmers who thrive on agricultural activities such as crops and



poultry. Their economic status categorizes them as the most vulnerable, which means they may struggle to recover from the impact of the storm. Assessments further revealed that food items were destroyed by rainwater after roofs were damaged by hailstones. Households in Shiselweni were already affected by food insecurity – the storm exacerbated their situation and afterwards they needed an even higher level of support.

In mid-2021, social unrest and violent protests broke out in Eswatini, leading to a number of injured people and the destruction of property. Various anti-government protests by students, police forces and trade unions have been organized in recent months to demand better working conditions and pro-democracy reforms. In response, the authorities have increased security at recent protests and deployed the armed forces.

The Government enacted the Disaster Management Act in 2006 and the Disaster Management Policy in 2010, forming a legal framework for disaster risk reduction in the country. The National Disaster Management Agency's strategic plan aims for a substantial reduction in disaster risk and loss, by harnessing the power of coordination and cooperation.

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

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society will continue to increase capacity in disaster risk management through the ECHO PPP. The National Society will focus on the three hazards of drought, storms, and civil unrest as identified in its national multi-hazard contingency plan. The National Society will pre-position emergency stock (shelter items, non-food items) in the new storage warehouse and train staff and volunteers in first aid to be ready to respond to civil unrest. Other multi-year objectives of the National Society include:

- Build resilience to evolving shocks and hazards, thereby ensuring people lead a dignified life by adequately meeting their needs through life-saving and life-sustaining interventions. These will include food distribution, cash transfers, health and nutrition and strengthening community assets
- Expand disaster law capacity and leadership to effectively respond to the wide spectrum of evolving crises thereby strengthening its auxiliary role and enhancing the disaster risk management
- Collaborate with the Government on Zero Hunger and other national plans

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Support and train disaster management committees to scale up community-led disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities in urban and rural areas, including enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments (eVCA)

- Develop a strategic plan for reducing disaster risk (including climate risk), particularly in high-risk areas, with identified priority areas for action, aligned with existing or planned projects
- Provide training to the staff and volunteers on forming regional response teams
- Provide timely response to disaster affected communities through cash and voucher assistance
- Establish livelihoods and resilience building activities for communities affected by shocks through trainings such as climate smart agriculture

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in designing programmes such as livelihood support for distribution of food and non-food items to people affected by drought, floods, conflicts and other disasters in Eswatini. This will help meet the basic needs of people who have been displaced or whose livelihoods have been disrupted. The IFRC will also work to reduce the risk of disasters in Eswatini by supporting the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society to implement IFRC preparedness for effective response (PER) approach, conduct training and workshops on disaster preparedness including contingency planning as well as improving early warning systems to save lives and property.

IFRC-DREF – Eswatini Drought: In November 2023, the IFRC launched a DREF operation for drought in Eswatini, which has impacted more than 268,000 people in the country. This DREF allocation will support future assistance provided by the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society to affected communities. This response will enable the National Society to support up to 30,000, with available funding of CHF 599,533 from IFRC's DREF. This fund will be available for use for a nine-month period.

A technical support platform has been set up by the IFRC to support the National Society in managing the current emergency and assisting communities in a dignified manner.

The **Finnish Red Cross** will support the National Society with cash and voucher assistance (CVA) as a way of providing food support to an estimated 800 households (4,800 people) in vulnerable situations as well as to create conditions for recovery for approximately 2,700 households (16,200 people) to engage in livelihood activities. Additionally, under DG ECHO and IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP), it will support the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society in dispensing First Aid to address civil unrest.



In Eswatini, the main causes of morbidity and mortality are lower respiratory infections, diabetes, tuberculosis and diarrhoeal diseases. The risk factors that drive most morbidities, disabilities and death are unsafe sex, malnutrition, dietary risk, water, insufficient sanitation and hygiene and intimate partner violence. The under-five mortality rate stands at 47 deaths per 1,000 live births, while the infant mortality rate is currently 37 children per 1,000 live births.

Eswatini is battling with conditions such as tuberculosis and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In Eswatini, approximately 37 per cent of hospital beds are occupied by individuals grappling with these health conditions. Most prominent NCDs are cardiovascular disease (CVD), type-2 diabetes, cancer, and chronic obstructive respiratory diseases. The Government has a running NCD programme aimed at addressing these threats.

Eswatini has the highest HIV prevalence globally with a prevalence rate of 27 per cent among 15- to 59-year-olds. Women are disproportionately affected, with 120,000 (63.16 per cent) out of the 190,000 adults living with HIV being women. New HIV infections among young women aged 15–24 years were more than four times higher than those among young men.

Eswatini is trying its best to meet the minimum recommended distance that patients need to travel when they seek medical assistance in health facilities. In Eswatini, some people still travel more than 15–20 kilometres to the nearest health facility, yet the recommended maximum distance is 5 kilometres. In addition to this challenge, the country is financially unable to provide adequate drugs and medication in these facilities. Staffing is also an issue, as the country is a long way from matching the recommended patient to health worker ratio.

There is a low level of investment, coordination and partnerships in the health sector, in terms of clean water, basic toilets and good hygiene practices. Influencing changes in behaviour towards good hygiene practices, while ending open defecation, also remains a national challenge. There is a clear discrepancy in access to water, sanitation and hygiene between rural communities, urban areas and the growing informal settlements around urban centres.

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

Leveraging its auxiliary role to the public authorities, the National Society will work to ensure that the wellbeing of communities is protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services. The National Society will work towards integrated WASH interventions, including waste management, in order

support the smooth function of the health system which is heavily reliant on electricity, water, and road networks.

Through the ECHO PPP, the National Society will continue to work with communities and health authorities on community-based surveillance for the early detection and response to prevalent diseases, such as cholera, haemorrhagic fevers, and measles. The trained volunteers and staff will carry out awareness campaigns to spread key messages to prevent the diseases.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Be an active member of national and local coordination and advocacy platforms for mental health and psychosocial support
- Build capacity of staff and volunteers to respond to health emergencies by designing and implementing health promotion activities
- Offer training to 60 staff members and 3600 volunteers in mental health and psychosocial support to enable them to provide appropriate assistance to their communities
- Provide community-based health and first aid and conduct training on water points maintenance and repair for water, hygiene and sanitation committees
- Provide contextually appropriate sexual and reproductive health for girls and young women as well as offer maternal, neonatal, infant and child health services
- Promote the construction of tippy taps at public places for people to constantly adhere to hygiene protocols
- Train community members to protect water sources/springs from pollution, drill or rehabilitate existing boreholes and teach communities on how to make tippy taps
- Continue to provide health education, tuberculosis screening and case management, condom distribution, HIV/AIDS counselling and testing, antiretroviral therapy, child welfare, immunizations, family planning, antenatal and post-natal care through its three clinics

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society's health team with developing specific procedures and referrals for the comprehensive and holistic care of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). This includes the clinical management of rape cases, clinical responses and protective care, referrals and procedures. It will also support the

Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society in operationalization of its health strategy.

The **Belgian Red Cross**, **British Red Cross** and **Finnish Red Cross** will support the National Society in provision on sustainable health services to the communities.

The **Japanese Red Cross** will also continue to enable the National Society to support orphans and vulnerable children with health and psychosocial support.



## Migration and displacement

Eswatini has had a long history of migration, both internal and external. Traditionally, cross border migration was a male preserve with the majority of migrants headed for the South African mining industries. Increasingly, women also have been participating in migration, mainly seeking domestic work and for the sale of craft in neighbouring countries.

While a significant proportion of rural households and an increasing number of urban-based informal settlements in Eswatini rely on migrant remittances for their sustenance, high population mobility has been identified as one of the key drivers of the AIDS epidemic. It has also made the migrants vulnerable to increasing xenophobia, human trafficking and drug dealing.

Incoming migration is mainly from South Africa and Mozambique, with most of these migrants being settled in the Malindza refugee camp. The Government of Eswatini provides support to migrants and offers assistance in various forms.

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

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society will focus on supporting migrants and displaced persons and ensure that they receive dignified services and access to assistance and protection. The National Society will continue to assist with restoring family links activities such as providing telephonic service to migrants in the camp, which enables people to communicate with their families back home on quarterly basis. The National Society aims to ensure that essential needs of displaced persons are met through assistance and protection services, including through humanitarian service points (HSPs).

### Planned activities in 2024

- Collaborate with Ministry of Home Affairs and UN agencies in provision of essential services to asylum seekers and migrant workers in vulnerable situations
- Provide telephone service to the migrants in Malindza refugee camp
- Strengthen the capacity of National Society staff and volunteers to respond effectively to the needs of migrants and displaced people

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC is committed to providing longer-term support to migrants and displaced people in Eswatini and will assist in addressing the existing challenges to improve their lives. The IFRC will support the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society to strengthen the implementation of the integrated approach in responding to the needs of the migrants and displaced populations. It will support the National Society in advocating for the rights of migrants and displaced people through strengthening collaborations and working with governments and other stakeholders to ensure that their rights are respected and protected. It will also work to strengthen the capacity of the National Society to respond to the needs of migrants and displaced people through training, technical assistance, and funding.

The **British Red Cross** will be supporting the National Society to ensure that migrants and displaced people are given the necessary support by restoring family links (RFL) and that their other needs are met.





## Values, power and inclusion

The significance of local cultures and values for development and wellbeing are being increasingly recognized in Eswatini. This recognition is evident through the 2012 ratifications of key international instruments and the adoption of new policies and strategic development priorities, such as the [Swaziland National Council of Arts and Culture Policy](#) (2009) and the Government Priority Programme (2008-2013). With an average of 10 years of school attendance, the majority of Eswatini citizens participate in formal education in primary and secondary schools.

However, gender inequalities as well as other protection and inclusion-related issues remain a challenge in Eswatini. [To address this](#), in 2012, the government of Swaziland passed the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, which strengthened labour protection for children. The government of the Kingdom of Eswatini is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act became law in Eswatini in June 2018. The Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act plays an important role in mitigation of gender-based violence. However, more aggressive reforms and new legislation are needed to fully assure gender equity.

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

The National Society aims to increase its capacity on [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) with the support of the ECHO PPP. The staff that have been trained on CEA will support the development of the CEA strategy and standard operating procedures (SOPs) and support the establishment of community feedback mechanisms. In 2024 and ahead, the National Society's high-level objectives will also include to:

- Foster behavioural change especially among young people to ensure there is a wider understanding, ownership and concrete application of humanitarian values
- Prioritize widespread adaptation of [protection, gender and inclusion \(PGI\)](#) policy to ensure there is equitable access to quality [education](#) for all boys and girls thereby

uplifting and supporting gender diversity in all National Society programming

### Planned activities in 2024

- Provide [psychosocial support](#) services to displaced children or those affected by emergencies and disasters
- Scale up [community engagement and accountability](#) learning and capacity development efforts and opportunities
- Innovate by using online approaches such as distance radio learning solutions for volunteers
- Conduct PGI organizational assessments using the revised [PGI organizational assessment toolkit](#)
- Conduct training on Red Cross humanitarian values and [fundamental principles](#) for volunteers and communities
- Develop and adapt trainings that support core competencies for safe and inclusive leadership with operational managers and team leads

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society by providing it with the IFRC's revised [protection, gender and inclusion \(PGI\)](#) organizational assessment toolkit to enable it to conduct an assessment. It will support the National Society in adopting and implementing the [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) minimum actions for emergencies using participatory approaches that centre the communities and prioritize their safety. Additionally, the IFRC will develop and implement procedures for investigation of cases and comprehensive care for survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse. This will include building investigating capacity, clarifying and advertising reporting lines and procedures and strengthening referrals.

The **British Red Cross** and **Finnish Red Cross** will support the National Society with initiatives on safeguarding the rights of migrant and vulnerable populations.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and has carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2017. The self-assessment part of the process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The National Society is also committed to the preparedness for

effective response (PER) 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 analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it. The IFRC is committed to support the National Society's institutional strengthening in line with its priorities.



### Strategic and operational coordination

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

The National Society will focus on community-based resource mobilization and other domestic fundraising initiatives for financial sustainability. This will include donor mapping and training in resource mobilization. It will continue to enhance its network by participating and coordination at a regional and global level in order to have adequate resources at its disposal.

The National Society will continue to strategically position itself through strengthened engagements with partners to work collectively in the key challenges facing communities.

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will work with the National Society to build its capacity to develop deeper, more diverse, and innovative strategic partnerships which could lead to funding opportunities.



### National Society development

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

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society will work to strengthen its network of branches and undertake activities to strengthen local action. The National Society will also focus on financial sustainability efforts.

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in its review of statutes. The IFRC will also work with the National Society to identify development priorities and facilitate the efficient use of financial resources. It will continue to provide technical and financial support to the National Society to encourage financial sustainability initiatives and will support components such as youth programming and volunteer management.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

The National Society will develop stronger visibility through key messages on [humanitarian diplomacy](#) issues.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support in working closely with public authorities for better support in executing its auxiliary role. It will also work

with the National Society to enhance its visibility and empower it to amplify the voice of the most vulnerable to influence policy and resource allocation.

The **Finnish Red Cross** will support the National Society in humanitarian diplomacy by maintaining good coordination of the Pilot Programmatic Partnership project with the European Union.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society will continue to build the capacity of its staff and volunteers in budgeting and finance management policies, and conduct an annual audit. It will implement an improved payroll system and formulate welcome pack materials for new employees. It will work to improve assessments and evaluations of projects and increase the quality and frequency of reports as necessary to ensure accountability. The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society will also create a [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) performance measurement framework with clear benchmarks, ensuring consistency and alignment with international commitments. Through CEA it will cultivate and strengthen trust in the Red Cross Red Crescent among

vulnerable communities by empowering them to actively influence decisions impacting their well-being. Furthermore, it will review key policies to ensure it is inclusive and will develop gender, age, and disability-responsive monitoring and evaluation tools for project implementation.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in undertaking Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) initiatives that encompass innovative monitoring and evaluation of projects, along with improved information management capacity and the digitalization of monitoring and evaluation systems. It will also support the National Society to enhance [digital transformation](#).

## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

The IFRC's Southern Africa country cluster delegation, with an office based in South Africa since 2010, currently works with five National Societies in the region, namely, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa. The IFRC's support to the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society centres on strategic and

operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including strengthening its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. In November 2023, the IFRC supported the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society through a [DREF operation](#) on drought.



## 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.

Eswatini is part of the DG ECHO-IFRC [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#). The National Society in Eswatini is benefitting from the support of the Finnish Red Cross (the lead EU National Society) in the implementation of activities in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, and cash and voucher assistance. Risk communication, and community engagement and accountability, will be addressed as a cross-cutting theme integrated in the main pillars of intervention. The partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with greater impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the biggest donor for international aid in the world.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society receives support from the **American Red Cross**, **Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)**, **British Red Cross**, **Finnish Red Cross** and **Japanese Red Cross Society**. The National Society in Eswatini is working

closely with the following in-country participating National Societies in the following thematic areas:

The **Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)** has had an active partnership with the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross since 2015. During two consecutive regional first aid programmes (2015–2017, 2019–2021), the national first aid capacity of the National Society (both at community level and commercially) was strengthened with a focus on quality, standardization and institutionalization. During the COVID-19 crisis (2020–2021), support was provided to the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society nationally to raise awareness, promote water, sanitation and hygiene practices, and purchase protective equipment. In recent years, the Belgian Red Cross (Flanders) has used its vast national blood expertise in international projects to support the National Society in Eswatini in blood collection management












The **British Red Cross** provides support to the National Society in forecast-based financing, food security and livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene and National Society development.

The **Finnish Red Cross** maintains an office at the National Society's headquarters in Mbabane and has been providing support in food security, health, community resilience and organizational development since 2001. The support on food security and HIV/AIDS has been funded by DG DEVCO; drought relief, food security and nutrition support was funded by DG ECHO; and livelihoods, nutrition and organizational development support was funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.



Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross volunteers conducting an exit survey after cash transfers, in June 2023 (Photo: IFRC)

## 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							
British Red Cross	583,000						
Finnish Red Cross	1.3M						

Total Funding requirement

**1.8M**

## Movement coordination

The National Society coordinates with the IFRC and the ICRC to ensure Movement alignment as required. 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 provides support to the National Society in restoring family links, addressing civil unrest and volunteer and staff capacity building.

## Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, all humanitarian interventions of the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society are coordinated with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister through the Disaster Management Department and the National Drought Management Authority. In times of emergencies, the National Drought Management Authority coordinates all interventions by humanitarian agencies with support from other UN agencies through the Command-and-Control Centre.

The National Drought Management Authority has several sectoral technical working groups focused on specific areas, and the National Society has a representation in the following: food security, agriculture and livelihoods, health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, social protection, security and education.

Close coordination with relevant authorities is ensured at all levels, from constituency to regional and national levels. The National Society has a permanent seat on local disaster management committees. At regional level, the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Society's technical officers work together in assessments, response and other support areas. The National Society is also part of the food security cluster and the disaster risk management cluster, under the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), where plans and updates are shared. In addition, the National Society engages traditional leadership systems at community level.

Epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response activities are closely coordinated with the Ministry of Health and development partners such as the World Health Organization and UNICEF. For food security and livelihoods, the National Society sustains a constant operational dialogue with the World Food Programme, which has implemented a significant assistance intervention in Eswatini. Coordination in terms of geographical locations, delivery approaches, feedback and complaint mechanisms, and joint targeting and monitoring tools between the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society and World Food Programme have been undertaken since 2016.

Another key organization with which the National Society will continue close coordination is World Vision, which plays an important role across the country – particularly in Shiselweni – in supporting longer-term livelihood protection and water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives for communities affected by drought.

The Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society is also working in partnership with the Africa Centre for Diseases Control (CDC) and the LAF (LARS Amundsen Foundation), local corporations, individuals and the government of the Kingdom of Eswatini. Some of these partners provide both financial and technical support to the National Society





## 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 Baphalali Eswatini 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.

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