



GABON

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

23 October 2024

IN SUPPORT OF THE GABONESE RED CROSS SOCIETY



PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and
environment



23,000

Disasters
and crises



1,600

Health and
wellbeing



191,808

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement		3.2M	
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	Funding	567,000	
		Expenditure	486,000	
	Longer-term	Funding Requirement		3.2M
		Funding	55,000	
	Expenditure	20,000		
HNS other funding sources	Funding	719,000		

Gabonese Red Cross Society

Overview



Funding Sources



Appeal number **MAAGA002**

In addition to: CHF 585,000 DREF Funding

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	2,000
	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	23,000
Disasters and crises	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	1,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	2,000
	People reached with shelter support	1,000
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	100%
Health and wellbeing	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	192,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	144,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	2,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	938
Values, power and inclusion	Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes
	Percentage of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information	78%

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	2
National Society development	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of their volunteers	Yes
	One National Society Development plan in place	Yes
	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA policy to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Gabon is located on the west coast of Central Africa, bordered by the Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and the Gulf of Guinea. It is one of the least densely populated countries in the world. More than 70 per cent of the total population live in the coastal areas, which are also home to the majority of economic activities. Gabon is rich in extractive natural resources, mainly manganese, oil and its timber and forest reserves. Abundant oil, foreign private investment and low population density have helped make the country one of the most prosperous in sub-Saharan Africa, with the third highest GDP per capita in the region. Gabon has the highest human development indices in sub-Saharan Africa.

However, despite abundant natural resources, Gabon is dependent on imports of food and capital goods and is lacking infrastructure (transport and electricity). It is also facing high unemployment rates, endemic poverty, poor wealth distribution and has an informal economy (estimated at between 40 per cent and 50 per cent of the GDP).

In February 2023, an outbreak of Marburg disease in neighbouring Equatorial Guinea raised a risk for Gabon and led the authorities to take preventative measures. In Gabon, the rainy season generally lasts from October to May or June, depending on climatic variations. Torrential rains in Gabon are slanting and heavy, generally accompanied by landslides and/or violent winds throughout the rainy season. In May 2023, torrential rain accompanied by violent winds hit Franceville, the chief town of the Haut Ogooué Province in Gabon, causing extensive damage. The damage affected a large number of families, as well as public and private infrastructures, destroying schools, shops and electricity poles.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In 2023, the National Society actively engaged with authorities to establish partnerships focused on environmental initiatives, including tree planting efforts. It communicated the urgency of the climate crisis to communities, highlighting mitigation strategies.

Disasters and crises

During the reporting period, the National Society began collaborating with the Agence Gabonaise d'Etude et d'Observation Spatiales to establish an early warning system and strengthened its partnership with the national investigation office for aeronautical incidents. Volunteers received training in mapping risk areas using open-source software. Following the capsizing of the Esther Miracle ferry in March 2023, the National Society carried out rescue operations, saving a female survivor and providing mental health support to others affected by the tragedy. It also communicated updates on the rescue efforts through its channels. Through the IFRC mechanism of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF), the Gabonese Red Cross Society provided assistance to people affected by severe weather in Franceville in May 2023. It also prepared to respond to potential election-related violence, focusing on health, first aid and disaster risk reduction in key cities across Gabon, working in coordination with other partners.

Health and wellbeing

For the period January to December 2023, the National Society enhanced its preparedness for responding to the Marburg disease risk, following an alert confirming a positive case in February. As people crossed the borders between Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon and Gabon, with suspected cases detected in neighbouring countries, the National Society focused on early detection and raising awareness about the risks of the disease. It actively participated in decision-making bodies at provincial and national levels through the Coopération Opérationnelle de Réponse aux Épidémies. Additionally, the National Society strengthened its role as an auxiliary to public authorities, particularly the Ministry of Health, positioning itself as a key actor in public health. It also conducted routine vaccinations and led campaigns to promote vaccine awareness, including for COVID-19.

Values, power, and inclusion

In 2023, the National Society prioritized training its volunteers in community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) and protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)). Using its e-learning platform, it promoted the principles and ideals of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement while addressing issues such as the prevention of child trafficking and exploitation, the protection and promotion of women's social status, and the prevention of gender-based violence.

Enabling local actors

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess humanitarian needs, agree on priorities, develop strategies for greater access and space, mobilize resources and maintain consistent public messaging. It focused on aligning humanitarian action with development efforts and reinforcing the auxiliary role of the National Society. The Gabonese Red Cross participates in [pan-African initiatives](#). Externally, the National Society coordinated with government ministries and partners with UN agencies, UNAIDS, OCEAC, and the Global Fund on areas such as health, disaster preparedness, climate and institutional development.

In 2023, the National Society prioritized financial sustainability by developing applications for the [IFRC Capacity Building Fund](#) and updated its volunteer policy, with a focus on [youth engagement](#). It participated in a sub-regional event for peer-to-peer learning and trained volunteers in mapping risk areas using open-source software. The National Society worked on its humanitarian diplomatic plan, met with key partners and ambassadors, and defined its auxiliary role and mandate. It maintained a zero-tolerance policy for fraud and corruption while increasing accountability training for volunteers and staff, prioritizing the [prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse](#), and enhancing [safeguarding](#) policies. The National Society also diversified budget holders, reduced overdue reporting, and simplified procedures across various departments, including administration, logistics, finance, human resources and deployments.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Gabonese Red Cross Society lobbied the authorities at the National School of Water and Forestry to sign a partnership agreement for tree planting. It also conveyed messages to the community about the climate change crisis and mitigation methods. Additionally, the Gabonese Red Cross Society participated in several regional and sub-regional meetings, such as a conference on disaster risk reduction in Malabo in March 2023.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Gabonese Red Cross Society by sharing with it the seasonal and weekly weather forecasts and monthly climate watch updates produced for Central Africa by the Centre for Climate Application and Forecasting in Central Africa. The IFRC also supported the National in the engagement of youth volunteers for tree plantation and care activities.



Disasters and crises

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

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC DREF) was approved for three separate emergencies. Two of these are listed below, while the third is included in the 'Health and wellbeing' section of this report.

1. Flooding and High Winds in Franceville

NAME OF OPERATION	Gabon Windstorm
MDR-CODE	MDRGA010
DURATION	6 months (25 May 2023 to 30 November 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 181,545
PEOPLE TARGETED	3,000
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Final Report

The DREF allocation of CHF 181,545 in May 2023 supported the Gabonese Red Cross Society in aiding 3,000 people affected by torrential rain accompanied by violent winds hit Franceville, Gabon. The support included shelter support and cash assistance through mobile money transfers and other methods. Other support comprised of first aid and psychosocial support services. Affected communities were also provided with access to purified water and containers to store it, items such as soap and bleach, and mosquito nets.

2. Gabon Election Preparedness 2023

NAME OF OPERATION	Gabon Election Preparedness 2023
MDR-CODE	MDRGA011
DURATION	4 months (27 July 2023 to 30 November 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 254,560
PEOPLE TARGETED	10,000
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Operation Update

The DREF allocation of CHF 254,560 in July 2023 was to support the Gabonese Red Cross Society to be ready to respond to the humanitarian needs of the Gabonese population in the event of pre- or post-election violence. The allocation supported the National Society in providing support in the health, first aid and disaster risk reduction sectors in Libreville, Franceville, Koulamoutou, Port gentil, Mouila and Oyem, in coordination with other actors and partners present in the country.

Progress by the National Society against objectives

For the reporting period, the National Society embarked on the process of setting up an early warning system in collaboration with Agence Gabonaise d'Etude et d'Observation Spatiales. It also increased collaboration with the national investigation office for aeronautical incidents. The volunteers of the Gabonese Red Cross Society were trained in mapping risk areas using open-source software such as QGIS and Lotus map. In March 2023, Esther Miracle ferry capsized off the coast of Gabon, claiming 30 lives and leaving several people still missing at sea. The Gabonese Red Cross Society performed rescue operations and rescued a female survivor in the aftermath of the [Gabon Ferry disaster](#). The National Society also supported other survivors of the incident through mental health recovery. Additionally, the Gabonese Red Cross Society also focused its communications and reported on the rescue operation through its communications channels.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society to participate in the platform for the exchange of disaster management managers for Central Africa as well as in the platform and monthly meetings of the Cash for Work community of practitioners. IFRC actively participated in the latest Africa climate week forum in Libreville (Gabon) where serious discussions on climate and humanitarian crises were undertaken, including meeting with Nigeria's Environment Minister in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund.



Health and wellbeing

Anticipatory actions for Marburg risk

NAME OF OPERATION	Marburg Risk
MDR-CODE	MDRGA009
DURATION	3 months (06 March 2023 to 30 June 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 149,282
PEOPLE TARGETED	141,877
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Operation Update

In March 2023, the DREF allocation of CHF 149,282 supported the Gabonese Red Cross Society in preparing to respond to the risk of Marburg disease. This followed a February 2023 alert confirming a positive sample for the disease. More than 163 people crossed the land border between Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, and Gabon, with suspected cases also detected in Gabon's two neighboring countries. The support included early detection of suspected cases and sensitization of the populations on the risks of the disease.



Gabon Red Cross volunteers responding to the Esther Miracle ferry in March 2023. (Photo: IFRC)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Gabonese Red Cross Society has been participating effectively in decision-making bodies in the area of health. At both provincial and national levels, the National Society takes part in meetings of the Coordination Opérationnelle de Réponse aux Épidémies (CORÉ). In 2023, the National Society worked on strengthening its role as an auxiliary to the public authorities, particularly the Ministry of Health, to position itself as a key public health actor. It also conducted routine vaccinations and campaigned among communities for vaccine-awareness, including the COVID-19 vaccine.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in strengthening its auxiliary role to the public authorities. It also supported the Gabonese Red Cross Society in strengthening community engagement for vaccinations, both routine and campaigns. Additionally, the IFRC supported the National Society in providing assistance to vulnerable households to limit the spread of malaria and combat poverty.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Gabonese Red Cross Society focused on training its volunteers in community engagement and accountability as well as on protection, gender and inclusion. Through the e-learning platform, the National Society promoted the principles and ideals of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, as well as the prevention of child trafficking and exploitation, promotion and protection of the social status of women and the prevention of gender-based violence.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical and financial assistance in integrating the cross-cutting approaches of protection, gender and inclusion and community, engagement and accountability throughout its operations.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

Progress of the National Society against objectives

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 Gabonese Red Cross also participates in the IFRC's pan-African initiatives focused on tree planting and maintenance, the Readiness and Preparedness programme and the development of National Societies.

Support to the Gabonese Red Cross by other National Societies is channeled through the IFRC, and there are no participating National Societies present in Gabon.

Movement coordination

The Gabonese Red Cross Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In

times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC collaborates regularly with the National Society from its delegation in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The ICRC provides legal support to the National Society, as well as technical and financial support and undertakes other cooperation and capacity-building activities.

External coordination

In line with its auxiliary role, the Gabonese Red Cross continues to maintain close coordination with a range of government ministries, departments and agencies. In particular, it works with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Environment, in the areas of disaster preparedness and response, health, climate, community involvement and responsibility, and institutional development.

The National Society also works in partnership with UN agencies, in particular with WHO in the areas of health, community involvement and responsibility, and with UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP in the areas of health, climate, community involvement and responsibility, and institutional development. Other partnerships also exist: UNAIDS on health, community involvement and responsibility, and institutional development; Organisation for Coordinating the Fight Against Endemics in Central Africa (OCEAC) on disaster preparedness and response, health, climate, community involvement and responsibility, and institutional development; and the Global Fund on health and community involvement and responsibility.



National Society Development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Gabonese Red Cross Society focused on financial sustainability by developing three applications for the [IFRC Capacity Building Fund](#). It updated its volunteer policy and made efforts to engage the youth in its activities. The National Society also participated in a sub-regional event for peer-to-peer learning and sharing. Additionally, it trained its volunteers in mapping risk areas using open-source software such as QGIS and Lotus map.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the Gabonese Red Cross Society with technical support for meeting its statutory requirements and conditions. It also provided assistance to the National Society in updating critical policies and strengthening the Coordination of Red Cross National Societies in Central Africa (COSNAC) for peer-to-peer support in governance and management. Additionally, the IFRC supported the financial sustainability efforts of the Gabonese Red Cross Society through grants such as the IFRC Capacity Building Fund.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Gabonese Red Cross Society focused on developing its humanitarian diplomatic plan and meeting with key partners and ambassadors. It also worked on defining its auxiliary role and mandate.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Gabonese Red Cross Society in strengthening its mandate. It also facilitated visits between the National Society and institutions such as the Commissioner of the Economic Community of Central African States, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabon, Minister for Health and Social Affairs of Gabon, Ambassadors of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Japan in Gabon and the UN Resident Coordinator.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Gabonese Red Cross Society upheld a zero-tolerance policy for fraud and corruption, while increasing the number of volunteers and staff trained on accountability policies. The National Society prioritized the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse through training and increased understanding of safeguarding policies. It also organized comprehensive onboarding processes for new staff. Additionally, the Gabonese Red Cross Society diversified budget holders, reduced overdue reporting and simplified procedures across administration, logistics, finance, human resources and deployments.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with financial and technical assistance in upholding a zero-tolerance policy for fraud and corruption. It also supported the Gabonese Red Cross Society in prioritizing the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation.



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

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Gabon 2023 Financial Report](#)
Note: For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRGA009](#), [MDRGA010](#), [MDRGA011](#)
- [IFRC network 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](#)

Contact information

Mme TSAKOURA Véronique

President
Gabonese Red Cross Society
T +24162147024
tsakura@croixrougegabon.org / tsakourav2@yahoo.fr
croixrougegabon.org

Louise Daintrey

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

Adesh Tripathee

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Cameroon,
Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome & Principe,
based in Yaounde
T +237 6506 59991
adesh.tripathee@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

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