



LESOTHO

2024 IFRC network country plan

11 October 2024

Funding Requirement **CHF 2.1M**

In support of Lesotho Red Cross



10

National Society branches



73

National Society staff



534

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



30,000

Climate and environment



16,000

Disasters and crises



22,000

Health and wellbeing



15,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Food security and climate-smart livelihoods
- Disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action

- Health and care

- Protection, gender and inclusion

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
- Internal systems strengthening
 - Branch development
- Youth and volunteer engagement

Key country data

Population **2.3M**

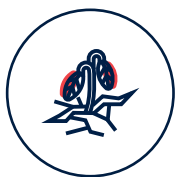
INFORM Climate Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **168**

Population below poverty level **49.7%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia & Kingdom of Eswatini, based in Pretoria

Hazards



Drought



Floods



High winds



Food insecurity



Disease



Migration

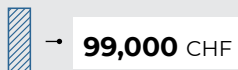
Funding requirements

Total 2.1M CHF

Through IFRC



Through Participating National Societies



Through Host National Society



IFRC Breakdown

Longer-term needs

400,000 CHF

Climate & environment

600,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

365,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAALS003

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Lesotho Red Cross Society** has provided humanitarian services in the country for 50 years, despite increasing challenges. Initially a branch of the British Red Cross Society, it was established on 9 November 1967, shortly after Lesotho's independence in 1966. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1971. Under the terms of the Lesotho Red Cross Society Act 1967, the National Society acts as an auxiliary to the government. This Act also ensures adequate humanitarian space for the work of the National Society at all levels, from national to district and local. The Lesotho Red Cross Society subscribes to the seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: humanity, impartiality, independence, unity, volunteerism, neutrality and universality. It assists communities in need through its network of trained volunteers at the national level, and by working in divisions across the 10 districts of Lesotho.

As an auxiliary to public authorities, the National Society aligns its work with countrywide priorities through health and social services and disaster management programmes. It has been providing First Aid services since its inception, and has made significant strides in saving lives, thanks to enhanced First Aid skills across its volunteer base, as well as extending the service

to other institutions and the private sector through its First Aid institutionalization programme. This programme also touches on capacity building of the National Society in terms of training, equipment and the development of policies.

The Lesotho Red Cross Society has more than 30 years of experience in delivering health services in its four health centres, located in the three districts of Lesotho. It has an existing Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health that supports the operation of these health centres. After HIV/AIDS was declared a national disaster in 2000, the National Society launched projects targeting HIV/AIDS, and it has also made significant contributions to the fight against COVID-19. It helps communities and schools with water, sanitation and hygiene services, risk communication and community engagement, mental health and support for livelihoods, among other activities.

Lesotho Red Cross Society has recently developed a new Strategic Plan (2023-2027). This plan is the result of a joint planning process and will facilitate joint monitoring and reporting.

In 2022, the Lesotho Red Cross Society reached 1,250 people through its long-term services and development programmes, and more than 3,592 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Lesotho is a small mountainous lower middle-income country of 11,720 square miles (30,335 sq. km.), enclaved by the Republic of South Africa, with a population of around 2 million people. It is mostly highlands, with its lowest point being 1,400 meters above sea level. A constitutional monarch, Lesotho is ruled by the King serving as the Head of State, and the Prime Minister acting as the Head of Government, governed by a 33-member Senate and a 120-member National Assembly. The last elections were held in October 2022, leading to a three-party coalition government.

Almost half of the Basotho people are economically dependent on informal crop cultivation or animal husbandry. Nearly two-thirds of the country's national income originates from the agriculture sector. In recent years, Lesotho has experienced sluggish economic, with the GDP expected to increase by only 2.6% in the financial year 2016-17. According to the last available nation-wide data from Household Budget Survey for 2010/11, poverty rates have remained very high, particularly in rural areas, with around 57% of the population living below the national poverty line.

Despite facing various challenges, including crop destruction due to excessive rainfall in December 2022 and subsequent decrease in maize and sorghum production, Lesotho's agricultural sector is expected to obtain positive growth. This growth is bolstered by strong forecasted harvests for crops, supported by government subsidies for items such as seeds and fertilizers as well as favourable seasonal rainfall. However, the sector faces ongoing difficulties such as high food prices, inflation, and reduced casual labour opportunities, particularly in the mountain livelihood zone. These challenges undermine the purchasing power of vulnerable households, exacerbating food insecurity among the rural population. Recurring climatic hazards further compound these issues.

Despite these hurdles, growth is predicted in the mining industry driven by an improved market outlook for rough diamonds and a current upsurge in commodity prices. The services sector is expected to benefit from adjacent growth in the construction sub-sector, even though some gains are likely to be offset by elevated consumer prices. Additionally, the services sector is poised to benefit from improved business and consumer confidence as the supply bottlenecks induced by COVID-19 gradually ease.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Lesotho's topography and location influence its temperate climate, characterized with alpine characteristics. This increases the country's vulnerability to climate variability and long-term climate change. Lesotho is already experiencing the negative effects of climate change, including increased frequency of extreme events such as droughts, increased rates of soil erosion and desertification, and reduced soil fertility. The country is likely to become generally hotter and drier across projected future climates. According to the World Bank Lesotho Climate Risk Country Profile 2021, high evaporation rates and the virtual absence of permanent surface water over large parts of Lesotho combine to make water a scarce resource, with some projections indicating that, even without climate change, water resources will be significantly reduced in the future. The primary challenges revolve around water resource availability, changing precipitation patterns and increasing population demands.

The risk of disaster due to rising temperatures in Lesotho is expected to exacerbate existing tensions between agricultural and livestock needs, as well as human population needs for water, especially during the dry season. It is also likely to alter the quality of available water from surface water and groundwater, while also intensifying pressure on urban areas due to increased urbanization. Changing rainfall patterns are expected to significantly impact agricultural production and harvest seasons. Later onsets are expected to affect crop productivity as well as livestock health. Droughts have remained one of the key drivers of food insecurity in Lesotho, with increased aridity and drought resulting in crop damage, loss of pasture and water sources, loss of animals, hunger, disease outbreaks, asset depletion, malnutrition and migration. Increased temperatures and degraded agricultural conditions are expected to adversely affect working days, affecting livelihoods and the economic resilience of vulnerable groups. Increased temperatures and aridity will also heighten the country's risk of wildfires.

Lesotho's agricultural system faces a growing number of climate-related vulnerabilities with drought, localized floods, snow and cold waves, pests, and extreme temperatures occurring more frequently. The current agricultural production pathway in Lesotho prioritizes extensive animal grazing and expansion of agricultural cropland to meet the growing food demand for the population. However, this has led to monoculture cropping systems dominated by maize production, which are unsustainable and gradually deplete the land's fertility over time.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lesotho Red Cross Society is also 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 Lesotho Red Cross Society also aims to design the necessary preparedness programmes and play a coordinated role in the implementation and communication around the interventions undertaken to mitigate effects of climate change. Additionally, it aims to promote the Pan-African Tree Planting and Care initiative through environmental campaigns to mobilize greater climate change mitigation efforts, to influence behaviour change and to promote environmentally sustainable practices in communities.

Planned activities in 2024

- Promote community-led solutions to address challenges and promote climate action
- Train skilled community-based organizations (volunteers, lead caregivers and farmers) on hunger safety net strategies, finance literacy and cash education
- Strengthen exchange and knowledge management on early action/anticipatory action through the anticipation hub and the dialogue platform on anticipatory humanitarian action
- Expand the use of anticipatory action approaches beyond hydrometeorological hazards
- Conduct community education and awareness raising activities such as school-based activities on adapting to and reducing climate-related risks

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support Lesotho Red Cross Society in implementing the IFRC Pan-African Tree Planting and Care initiative through environmental campaigns.

The **German Red Cross** focuses its support on forecast-based financing aimed at improving disaster preparedness and risk management undertaken by the National Society, as well as national stakeholders.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, go to IFRC GO page [Lesotho](#).

Disasters are projected to become increasingly frequent, costly, and intricate, disproportionately affecting communities least equipped to handle them. In Lesotho, demographic patterns indicate that the highland regions are particularly susceptible to severe impacts. Currently, Lesotho grapples with acute food insecurity exacerbated by persistent drought conditions, which predominantly affect a significant portion of its rural population. As the disruption to water and food supplies worsens, it poses a threat to people's livelihoods. Negative impacts such as migration, sale of assets, and reliance on child labour are expected to amplify as individuals and communities grapple with the challenges of dwindling resources and food scarcity.

From October 2023 to March 2024, approximately 325,000 individuals, constituting 22 per cent of the population are expected to face acute food insecurity across eight districts of Lesotho. This level of food insecurity corresponds to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 or higher, indicating a crisis or worse scenario. Only two districts are projected to remain in IPC Phase 2 (stressed), while the remaining districts are anticipated to transition to a higher phase. The primary hazards during this period include the impact of El Niño, which is likely to affect both food utilisation as well as food access negatively.

A political commitment to end hunger has been reflected in Lesotho's adoption of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the active involvement of His Majesty King Letsie III at the national, regional and global levels.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lesotho Red Cross Society aims to form a disaster management committee to promote continual internal response capacity consistent with best practices with the objective of overseeing the development, implementation and maintenance of the National Society disaster management programme. It will also design the necessary preparedness programmes and play a coordinated role in the implementation and communication around the interventions undertaken in response to declared disasters in collaboration with other humanitarian agencies operating in Lesotho.

Planned activities in 2024

- Implement a comprehensive end-to-end early warning early action or anticipatory action learning approach with tools and guidance
- Serve as leaders in anticipatory action, influencing the government to integrate anticipatory action into its disaster risk management policy and increase investments including through multilateral funding facilities such as the Green Climate Fund and World Bank
- Engage in forecast-based financing related events at the local, regional and national level for continued awareness raising and advocacy
- Invest in the development of systems and tools that will ensure the delivery of cash at speed and scale
- Promote usage of cash and voucher assistance across thematic and sectoral areas



6 June 2023, Lesotho Cross volunteers supporting school child during a climate response strengthening programme (Photo:IFRC)

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. It will provide technical support to the Lesotho Red Cross Society in disaster law and help it strengthen its auxiliary role through legislative advocacy efforts including the review and implementation of disaster risk management laws and policies as well as the review of the Lesotho Red Cross Society Act. Additionally, it will help the National Society reduce the risk of disasters by supporting it in implementing the preparedness for effective response (PER) approach, conduct training and workshops in disaster preparedness including contingency planning as well as improving early warning systems to save lives and property.

The IFRC will also support the National Society in the activation of the drought early action protocol to help the communities

receive early warning messages and cash transfers to address their basic needs

In December 2023, IFRC launched a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for drought, in support of future assistance provided by the Lesotho Red Cross Society to affected communities. The available funding from IFRC's DREF is of CHF 549,991.

In January 2024, IFRC launched a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for storm surge, in support of assistance provided by the Lesotho Red Cross Society to affected communities and individuals. The available funding from IFRC's DREF is of CHF 71,435 and will help support 770 people. The operation will continue for 4 months and will conclude in May 2024.

German Red Cross will support the Lesotho Red Cross Society in implementation of a forecast-based financing project on drought. The knowledge sourced from this project can be mainstreamed to other programmes for informed response.



Health and wellbeing

Lesotho's greatest health challenge remains HIV/AIDS, with nearly a quarter of the adult population affected by the virus. The country has been ranked second highest in the world for HIV/AIDS prevalence (most recently estimated to be 22.7 per cent), and the highest in the world in incidence among people aged 15–59. However, HIV/AIDS incidence declined from 1.9 per cent (identified in the 2014 Demographic and Health Survey) to 1.1 per cent (in the 2016–2017 Lesotho Population Based HIV Impact Assessment) and most recently to 0.5 per cent in 2020.

Tuberculosis incidence in Lesotho stands at 788 cases per 100,000 according to the 2018 Global TB report, the second highest globally.

The recurrent disasters in Lesotho consistently disrupt community health service systems, thereby limiting access to essential health services. Concurrently primary healthcare initiatives suffer interrupted as resources are diverted towards disaster response efforts. During periods of disaster, whether it be a pandemic, drought or floods, the already high rates of communicable and non-communicable diseases, surge rapidly.

The disparity between urban and rural areas is increasing, with acute shortages in hard-to-reach mountainous areas. Moreover, the distribution of skilled health practitioners is uneven, with majority concentrating in urban areas. As a result, health worker in remote areas face task-shifting and work overload. Inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure also makes delivery of health services challenging.

The high rate of maternal mortality (618 per 100,000 live births) is particularly acute among young girls aged 15 to 24 years due to complications with unwanted pregnancies, often resulting in them dropping out of school. This is raised as a great concern by the United Nations Population Fund in Lesotho.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lesotho Red Cross Society is collaborating with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to implement primary healthcare in the remote areas. The Lesotho Red Cross Society aims to scale up support for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), improving awareness of these topics among communities and responding to needs of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The National Society will also finalize and implement its WASH strategy plan. It aims to reduce the number of illnesses, deaths and wider impact from diseases and public health emergencies by focusing on primary healthcare, HIV/AIDS, blood donor recruitment and First Aid.

Planned activities in 2024

- Build capacity on health promotion, prevention, curative and rehabilitation services
- Train healthcare workers, village health workers and healthcare committees on health initiatives
- Respond to the health consequences of disasters and crises, including epidemics and pandemics

- Build and maintain community-level capacity in effective prevention, detection and response to infectious disease outbreaks
- Provide care and support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence as appropriate in disasters and other emergencies
- Build on community resilience activities, such as [community-based surveillance](#) systems
- Procure and distribute WASH and dignity packages in schools and vulnerable households

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC's primary objective in collaboration with the National Society is focused on strengthening community

health driven outputs and [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#) at a national level. This is driven through the key strengths available within the National Society such as the professional health services in clinics and long-standing government relationships. The IFRC will also support initiatives that are directed towards the establishment of accessible and sustainable [water, sanitation and hygiene](#) services by soliciting funding opportunities and providing technical expertise. It will support the National Society to actively participate in collective and coordinated approaches to risk communication and community engagement for epidemic response and for non-communicable diseases. Additionally, the IFRC will help the Lesotho Red Cross Society ensure that menstrual hygiene management programmes are designed to appropriately respond to disclosures of sexual and gender-based violence.



Migration and displacement

Migration, both internal and external, continues to be a dominant livelihood strategy for households in Lesotho, with almost half ([43 per cent](#)) of the households reporting at least one member living away from home. Most Basotho migrants in South Africa work in the mining industry, and the bulk of remittances sent to Lesotho originate from these migrants. Recent trends show increasing numbers of migrants working in other sectors, including the domestic and services sectors. Internal movements of the population from rural to urban areas, including women taking up employment in textile industries and domestic services is vital for socioeconomic development.

The COVID-19 situation in South Africa resulted in 15,000 mineworkers returning to Lesotho. Another 5,000 farm workers from Ceres came back as their farms closed, and others came back to escape from the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Cape province. Border management data system recorded 7,400 entries before the lockdown of South Africa. However, since some borders do not use automated border management system, an estimated 10,000 Basotho people returned to Lesotho through all points of entry, as reported by the IOM in 2020.

The [El-Nino drought](#) induced condition in Lesotho has left more people prone to food insecurity forcing many to leave their homes in search for work. The majority of these migrants are girls and women, who leave their rural homes for urban areas or South Africa in search of work, often as domestic workers or engaging in transactional sex for monetary or food-related benefits as reported by UN news in 2019. In addition, both

women and men, as well as boys and girls, are vulnerable to trafficking due to the circumstances surrounding this irregular migration.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lesotho Red Cross Society will provide assistance and protection services to migrants, displaced people and their families. It will promote these services through engagement with local and national authorities, host communities and affected people. These services include legal assistance, safe referrals, border and detention monitoring, [restoration of family links](#), child protection and anti-trafficking initiatives. The Lesotho Red Cross Society will undertake collaborative effort in partnership with relevant organizations to ensure support and advocacy for those in need.

Planned activities in 2024

- Carry out activities to support the establishment and implementation of humanitarian service points
 - Carry out activities to build social cohesion between migrants and host communities, including activities to address stigma and xenophobia
 - Strengthen restoring family links activities
 - Establish digital platforms to facilitate access to all tools, guidance and other documents related to migration and displacement
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National 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 the establishment and development of

humanitarian service points and help advocate for the rights of migrants and displaced people. Additionally, the IFRC will strengthen the capacity of the Lesotho Red Cross Society to respond to the needs of migrants and displaced people. This includes providing training, technical assistance, and funding in partnership with relevant donors..



Values, power and inclusion

Lesotho is a source, transit and destination country for victims of human trafficking, especially women and children subjected to forced labour or sex trafficking and men forced to carry out hard labour. For instance, Basotho women who voluntarily migrate to South Africa in search of domestic employment often fall victim to sex trafficking. It has been reported that human traffickers exploit domestic as well as foreign victims in Lesotho. Basotho victims of trafficking are also forced into criminal activities such as theft, drug trafficking and smuggling. This is enforced by the trafficker through threats of violence or by forcibly administering drugs.

Children in Lesotho are engaged in the worst form of child labour, which includes commercial sexual exploitation. Victims of trafficking receive no protective services from the government, and frontline responders are often ill-equipped to address trafficking crimes. Victims of human trafficking are referred to NGOs that provide different services, such as shelter, medical care, counselling, job skills training, and legal assistance. The Lesotho Government covers the cost of the shelter's utilities. Amongst other safeguarding problems Lesotho is facing, only 46% of children between 12 and 18 reported having a birth certificate in 2018, severely limiting their access to services (such as education and health) as well as their opportunities later in life, 10,000 children experience sexual violence (including child marriage) each year and 1 in 3 children live with someone other than their biological parents. The government has taken proactive steps to combat human trafficking within Lesotho through the initiation of a 2021–2026 anti-trafficking action plan. This comprehensive strategy aims to address trafficking issues within the country.

Gender inequality and gender-based violence continue to contribute to the escalating spread of HIV/AIDS in Lesotho. This is compounded by the low socio-economic status and legal position of women and cultural norms and values. Generally, women are not empowered to make decisions affecting their lives. A study in 2018 looking at sexual violence against women in Lesotho found that 61 per cent of women reported having experienced sexual violence at some point in their life, with 40 per cent experiencing coerced sex, 50 per cent assault and 22 per cent rape.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Lesotho Red Cross Society will expand humanitarian education programmes focusing on values, a culture of peace and inclusion, as well as improving access for people whose education has been disrupted due to disaster or displacement. Priority will be given to initiatives that help foster and promote the fundamental principles. The National Society will also focus on initiatives that promote inclusion and diversity in opportunities, representation and decision making. It will expand its work in diversity and inclusion, to be more intersectional and support women's leadership across all levels of Lesotho Red Cross Society.

Planned activities in 2024

- Develop and implement sexual and gender-based violence (SBGV) preventive activities and modules such as psychosocial support groups for men and boys, in emergency operations
- Run trainings on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action
- Develop child-friendly communication tools for emergencies, migration crisis, and pandemic response
- Develop and implement systems for protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) data collection and analysis in collaboration with planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) and information management (IM)
- Integrate community engagement and accountability (CEA) commitments into key policy documents, guidance, tools and plans, programmatic operational procedures

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to operationalize and scale up its community, engagement and accountability (CEA) strategy (2023) and workplan. It will support the Lesotho Red Cross Society in the development and implementation of procedures for investigation and comprehensive and holistic care for survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse and child safeguarding concerns as well as the mainstreaming of protection, gender and inclusion (PGI). Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society in developing quality educational programmes targeting marginalized groups.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Lesotho Red Cross Society is committed to building a strong organization and carried out the [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process in 2015 and the [Branch Organization Capacity Assessment \(BOCA\)](#) in 2017, as a follow-up. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. It identified three areas of improvement: identity and image; resource mobilization and external communications; branch development, youth and volunteers. The National Society has acknowledged the

need for a paradigm shift in its programming, with greater focus on community resilience-building programmes to enhance operational sustainability and improved resource mobilization efforts.

The National Society is also committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) process and is at the orientation phase. This is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen participation in existing national and inter-agency coordination mechanisms
- Enter into memoranda of understanding or formal agreements with selected external partners with concrete delivery outcomes
- Organize joint events with external partners on issues of common interest

- Develop a joint resource mobilization strategy that also includes scope for larger joint programme development processes

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in forging partnerships and enhancing its leadership capacity. It will also assist the Lesotho Red Cross Society in mobilizing resources for its various activities.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Review the Lesotho Red Cross Society Act
- Develop a strategy and guidance tools for branch development
- Conduct training to establish a pool of facilitators for branch capacity assessments
- Implement a peer-support mechanism and branch pairing approach among branches
- Establish governance structures led by the youth and owned by the National Society

- Implement youth-led innovation programmes and educational outreach initiatives
- Establish effective volunteer management systems and capacity building at all levels to maintain a strong and motivated volunteer base

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the Lesotho Red Cross Society in its financial sustainability and transformational leadership agendas. It will support it with the review of the Lesotho Red Cross Society Act. Additionally, the IFRC will provide the National Society with technical support to attract quality staff and volunteers to its network of divisions and branches, and assist in the development of active youth structures.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Ensure the availability and implementation of an external communications plan to promptly provide information to the public during emergencies within a 24-hour timeframe
- Utilize both traditional and social media platforms to highlight unmet needs and advocate for the rights of affected individuals
- Regularly assess public perception of the organization's work, identify areas of improvement in terms of public image, and implement requisite measures

- Develop tailored content and key messages for specific audiences, utilizing the most effective communication channels and facilitating two-way communication
- Organize regular meetings at a senior level with relevant ministries and governmental departments, both for advocacy and profiling purposes

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will work with the National Society leadership to make the organization a humanitarian partner of choice with its public authorities and local as well as international organizations. It will promote the humanitarian diplomacy initiatives of the Lesotho Red Cross Society and support it in developing a communications policy and strategy.



16 November 2021, Lesotho Red Cross with girl child in school at Buthe-Butha, Lesotho (Photo: IFRC)



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop robust integrity systems, policies and procedures, improving transparency and accountability to partners and vulnerable people
- Implement a robust performance management system that includes regular feedback and performance evaluations, and offer training and support to managers to enhance their feedback skills, thereby fostering a culture of continuous learning and development
- Promote digitalization, and ensure both data protection and responsibility are addressed in all relevant plans and activities
- Design services that are inclusive of gender, diversity, language, and mobility, with a focus on placing communities and volunteers at the centre

- Implement a centralized information management system to monitor real-time information on cash distributions.
- Utilize analytics to refine content and measure its effectiveness, including monitoring public perception and beneficiary feedback
- Enhance talent acquisition efforts by implementing effective recruitment strategies, including building partnerships with educational institutions and professional networks

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will encourage the National Society to promote the prevention of fraud and corruption within the institution. It will support it in innovating its monitoring and evaluation processes. The IFRC will assist the Lesotho Red Cross Society in its digital transformation. It will also assist with the revision of its human resources policy and improving financial reporting.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Lesotho Red Cross Society through its country cluster delegation for South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho and Namibia. This delegation is based in Pretoria, South Africa. Its support 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.

The IFRC has, from time to time, supported the Lesotho Red Cross Society through its DREF and Emergency Appeal disaster response mechanisms, most recently through the IFRC DREF Early Action Protocol 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.

Participating National Societies supporting the Lesotho Red Cross Society comprise the following:

The **British Red Cross** supports the National Society's work related to migration and displacement, as well as values, power and inclusion including safeguarding. It also supports National Society development.

The **German Red Cross** focuses its support on forecast-based financing aimed at improving disaster preparedness and risk management undertaken by the National Society, as well as national stakeholders.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
British Red Cross	99,000						

Total Funding requirement

99,000

Movement coordination

The National Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) 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, through its Pretoria regional delegation, monitors the humanitarian situation in the region, promotes international humanitarian law, restores contact between family members separated by conflict and helps National Societies enhance their emergency response capabilities.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Lesotho Red Cross Society collaborates closely with authorities at national level. These include the Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education and Training, Department of Traffic, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water Affairs and Ministry of Communication. At district level, it works alongside the district administration, disaster management team, district health management team and district child protection team. At community level, it works with councils and chiefs, Ministry of Agriculture extension workers, and village health workers.

As part of the national disaster management mechanisms in Lesotho, the Lesotho Red Cross Society is typically a first responder and also supports with initial rapid assessments when a disaster strikes. It designs its own humanitarian

response based on assessments, in close coordination with the authorities.

The Lesotho Red Cross Society also collaborates with a range of international and local actors. These include UN agencies comprising the World Food Programme, the UN Development Programme, UNICEF, UNESCO, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, and UN Population Fund. International and national non-governmental actors and civil society organizations include the Lesotho Council of NGOs, Lesotho Network of People living with HIV and AIDS, Partners In Health, Johns Hopkins Programme for International Education in Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Lesotho Network of AIDS Services Organization, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and World Vision Lesotho.



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 Lesotho Red Cross Society, 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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