



REPUBLIC OF CONGO

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

11 October 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 2.98M**

In support of the Congolese Red Cross



12

National Society branches



20

National Society staff



13,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



125,000

Climate and environment



320,000

Disasters and crises



520,000

Health and wellbeing



15,000

Migration and displacement



120,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- food insecurity
- disaster preparedness and response
- epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response
- protracted displacement

Capacity development

- human, material, and financial capacities
- partnership development
- digital transformation
- accountability
- regulatory texts

Key country data

Population **6M**

INFORM Severity rating **Medium**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **High**

Human Development Index rank **153**

Population below poverty level **40.9%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, Kinshasa

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

2026**

Total 1.1M CHF

Total 0.99M CHF

Total 0.89M CHF

Through IFRC

1M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ 40,000 CHF

Through Host National Society

→ 105,000 CHF

Through IFRC

890,000 CHF

Through Host National Society

→ 105,000 CHF

Through IFRC

790,000 CHF

Through Host National Society

→ 105,000 CHF

**Projected funding requirements

IFRC Breakdown

Longer-term needs

20,000 CHF
Climate and environment

600,000 CHF
Disasters and crises

250,000 CHF
Health and wellbeing

20,000 CHF
Migration & displacement

110,000 CHF
Values, power and inclusion

50,000 CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

French Red Cross

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

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAACG002

Hazards



Floods



Strong winds



Drought



Food insecurity

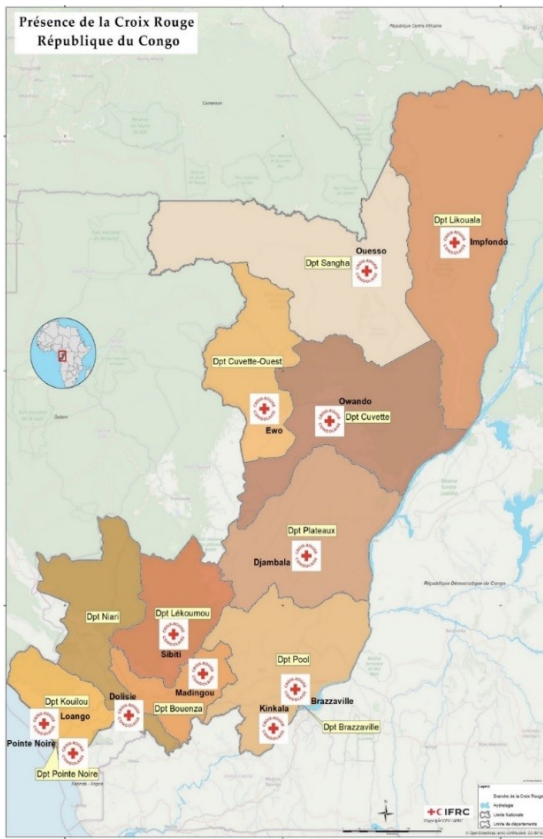


Disease outbreaks



Population movement

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE



Map of the National Society branches

The **Congolese Red Cross** was established in 1964 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1977. The National Society fulfils its mandate towards the population as an auxiliary of the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The National Society is present in all 12 of the country's Departments and has been very active in recent operations such as assistance to populations affected by flooding in the Departments of

Cuvette and Plateaux in 2021 and 2022, and in Sangha and Likouala in 2023. The Congolese Red Cross has a network of 13,000 volunteers in the country's 12 departments and plans to mobilise around 1,500 volunteers in 2024 for its humanitarian operations in the country.

As part of its development, the Congolese Red Cross' most recent five-year strategic development plan for 2019-2023 outlined the National Society's strategies and priorities for growth, which included health and social action, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), climate change, disaster preparedness and response, community engagement and accountability (CEA), organizational development, administration, finance and logistics, and communication. This five-year strategic development plan for the National Society has come to an end and will be updated in 2024. As part of its transformation process, the National Society has also developed skills in digital transformation and set up an early warning system with the help of the DG-ECHO project in Mossaka and Loukolela in the Cuvette region off the Congo River.

In its prioritization workshop and as part of the implementation of the National Society's transformation process, four strategic priorities have been selected for its development:

- Branch development
- Resource mobilization
- Humanitarian diplomacy
- Coordination

In 2022, the National Society reached more than 98,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Republic of Congo, located in Central Africa, covers a land area of 342,000 kilometres. The rainforests of the Congo Basin are sometimes called the second lung of the Earth because of their ability to store carbon. In addition to the trees of the

forest, the basin is home to the largest tropical peatlands in the world, discovered in 2017. Scientists estimate that these peatlands store carbon worth approximately 20 years' worth of US fossil fuel emissions. The Congo Basin is also rich in biodiversity and minerals.

The Republic of Congo's population of more than 5.9 million people. More than half of the population live in the country's

The Congolese economy is heavily reliant on the oil industry which constitutes more than 50 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). During periods of low oil prices, such as as the significant drop in oil prices observed in 2014-2016, the Congolese government faced challenges in generating sufficient revenue to finance its budget and meet public expenditure needs. This led to budget deficits, reduced investment in public infrastructure and social services, and increased pressure on the country's external accounts. The decline in oil prices also impacted investment in the oil sector, as companies faced lower profitability, impacting employment opportunities. Economic recovery is a major priority for the Republic of Congo, including restoring growth and resuming

From 1993 to 1999, the Republic of Congo witnessed several fratricidal conflicts that destroyed the political, economic, social and cultural fabric of the country. In the aftermath of the armed conflicts, the Republic of Congo integrated the issue of human rights into the remit of the Ministry of Justice. Concerted efforts by the Government, associations and NGOs have led to better coordination and coherence in the management of human rights promotion in the Republic of Congo. Since 2015, human rights defenders and activists have been denouncing the consequences of the economic crisis and its impact on people's daily lives, particularly in regard to access to health care. Measures taken by the Government to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the impact of the health crisis on economic activity have increased the vulnerability of communities, rendering them unable to meet basic needs and cope with shocks. This has resulted in heightened social demands that have brought the country to the brink of crisis.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The Republic of Congo has a tropical climate, with high temperatures and humidity throughout the year. The country experiences two main seasons: a wet season from October to May and a dry season from June to September. Rainfall is abundant, particularly in the coastal regions and the Congo Basin, which contributes to the country's lush vegetation and biodiversity. The country is heavily dependent on rain-fed agriculture, leaving it vulnerable to rising temperatures and extreme weather shocks as a result of climate change. Accelerated global warming is leading to an increase in rainfall anomalies, causing adverse effects on crop nutrient content, yields, livestock, fisheries, biodiversity and land use.

The rainforests of the Congo Basin are under serious threat from climate change and other man-made factors, including commercial logging, mining, extensive agriculture, infrastructure development, rapid urbanization, energy consumption and transnational wildlife poaching. According to the Rainforest Foundation UK, forests cover approximately 65 per cent of the Republic of Congo's land area and play a major ecological and socio-economic role. Seventy-four per cent of the country's forest area is allocated to logging concessions, a major driver of forest degradation. Agro-industrial expansion, palm oil production and oil exploration and extraction are all affecting Congo's rainforest environments in the long-term.

Oil-related pollution is also a major concern in the Republic of Congo. The chain of activities in the oil sector consists of exploration and exploitation: exploration includes research activities and the production and marketing of crude oil, while exploitation covers refining activities, transport, storage and the distribution of petroleum products. These activities are sources of pollution, causing a number of issues that are negatively affecting the areas adjacent to Pointe-Noire.

The Republic of Congo aims to offset the impact of its oil activities by planting 40,000 hectares of forest land to sequester more than 10 million tons of carbon. The launch of the Bacasi Project coincided with COP26 in Glasgow, where the Republic of Congo advocated for the financing of the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin – an initiative to preserve the second-largest carbon reservoir in the world. The country has also signed a voluntary partnership agreement with the European Union on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade in Timber and Timber Products to the European Union. Under this agreement, all timber and timber products from the Republic of Congo must be traceable and compliant with applicable Congolese laws.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Congolese Red Cross is part of the IFRC's 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 and 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.

Planned activities in 2024

- Train trainers on climate change (contact with the Meteorological Service and the IFRC for harmonization of documentation on training curricula)
- Implementation of early warning systems on the river corridor and in other identified risk departments (Pointe-Noire, Brazzaville, Likouala)
- Develop an action plan on the Congo Basin (Cuvette, Sangha Likouala, Cuvette-Ouest)
- Popularize scientific information in the community using the communities trusted sources of information
- Train National Society staff on enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (EVCA)
- Train volunteers/members of target communities/civil society actors/media on environmental protection/green response topics
- Plant 1,000 trees per department in a year by participating in the National Tree Day on November 6 in the 12 departments of the country
- Produce and disseminate educational materials on the prevention of climate and environmental crises based on trusted sources of information and local languages

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides support to the Congolese Red Cross on components such as training of trainers on climate change, developing appropriate tools for managers, volunteers, and community members on the prevention of climate

and environmental crises, popularizing scientific weather information within communities in Pointe-Noire, Brazzaville, Likouala, Cuvette, Plateaux and Sangha, and other initiatives aimed at promoting coordination and consultation on

preservation and protection of the Congolese environment. The IFRC will also support the Congolese Red Cross in resource mobilization for the fight against climate change.



Disasters and crises

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

The Republic of Congo is affected by frequent and intense hazards, mainly of hydro-meteorological origin (urban and river flooding, drought, storms and heavy rainfall); the consequences of climate change and disastrous global warming on a regional scale; a high risk of epidemics; relative human vulnerability, particularly in areas of conflict or near-conflict between countries, with the presence of refugees; relative poverty; latent failings in risk planning and management, caused by flaws in successive government processes.

In 2023, the Congolese government conveyed an emergency meeting with country partners following the unprecedented increase of Congo River and its main tributaries. In urban areas such as Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire and Dolisie, the occupation of unsuitable living areas and a lack of rainwater drainage systems can lead to flooding, often accompanying torrential rains. Heavy rainfall also causes silting, erosion and landslides. Urban erosion and landslides due to physical degradation of the soil are frequent in the Republic of Congo, affecting urban areas in particular.

In addition to the natural hazards, access to food has been deteriorating over the past 10 years in the Republic of Congo, while floods have also become more regular, exacerbating food insecurity caused by a lack of local food production and rising prices. Floods also cause material damage to drinking water infrastructure, leading to water contamination risks and increasing disease epidemics. Chronic malnutrition affects 21.2 per cent of children between six months and four years of age, while only 20 per cent of households have access to basic sanitation facilities.

The country's National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2023 provides a framework for national consultation. However, the disaster risk management situation is marked by the absence of a clear and permanent mechanism for coordination, both nationally and institutionally. Factors contributing to the challenges include a period of decentralization of local authorities, weak capacities at both local and central levels, and insufficient knowledge of disaster risk management at all levels.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In the coming years, the Congolese Red Cross will focus on its preparedness and response capacities during various emergencies. This includes early action and anticipation activities to mitigate disaster risks that affect the lives, livelihoods, homes and living conditions of vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities. The National Society has also developed its capacity to provide cash and vouchers to people affected by disasters or crises, as a dignified means of assistance. It also has a framework contract with a financial service provider, allowing for mobile transfers. The contract finalizes the identification of beneficiaries, the provision of SIM cards, applicable rates, the opening of accounts, and data protection and collection.

Planned activities in 2024

- Develop a disaster risk reduction strategy (preparedness and readiness)
- Engage/improve communities' knowledge of disaster risks
- Develop and strengthen the partnership local media to promote key messages on disaster risk in urban and rural areas
- Include cash transfer systematically in humanitarian responses
- Participate alongside the public authorities in addressing the specific needs of affected communities in terms of accommodation
- Contribute to the resilience of affected communities in the distribution of cash transfers
- Contribute to the implementation of priority activities of the National Strategy for Risk and Disaster Reduction/ Humanitarian Action Management Mechanism (MASAH)
- Implement a food security plan (Zero Hunger)
- Participate in the development of national contingency plans on risks and multi-hazards

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides technical and financial assistance to the Congolese Red Cross, with a particular focus on the IFRC's Pan-Africa Red Ready and Zero Hunger initiatives. The IFRC supports the National Society for the development and the implementation of a community readiness programme (ECHO PPP) and support the National Society in resource mobilization to implement the preparedness and readiness, and Zero Hunger initiatives. The IFRC also provides technical and financial support to the National Society for the implementation of cash transfer assistance and to develop the use of mobile money to pay for volunteers' expenses.

Additional support also includes the usage of innovative risk communication approaches to share vital information with at-risk communities.

The IFRC-DREF allocation of 490,335 in January 2024 supported the Congolese Red Cross to assist 16,000 people affected by floods which broke out in the areas of Brazzaville, Plateaux, and Pointe-Noire. The National Society will support the affected people over a four-month period with assistance such as the distribution of multipurpose cash, first aid interventions, WASH initiatives, implementing PGI minimum standards, and ensuring community engagement and accountability in the National Society's response.



Health and wellbeing

The health status of the Congolese population is characterized by a high disease burden stemming from communicable, infectious, and parasitic diseases. Malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical disease pose significant public health challenges and contribute to morbidity, mortality, and healthcare expenditure. The neonatal mortality rate in the country stands at 18.41 per 1000 live births, infant mortality rate at 31.98 per 1000 live births, and under-five mortality rate at 42.97 per 1000 live births in the country. Limited access to maternal healthcare services, skilled birth attendants, and essential obstetric care contributes to maternal deaths and complications during childbirth.

Malnutrition is a persistent challenge in the Republic of the Congo, particularly among children under five years of age. Chronic malnutrition, stunting, and micronutrient deficiencies undermine child growth and development, leading to long-term health consequences. Malnutrition rates are exacerbated by poverty, food insecurity, inadequate healthcare, and limited access to clean water and sanitation.

Approximately 74 per cent of the population had access to improved drinking water sources. Improved water sources include piped water, boreholes, protected wells, and springs, which are designed to provide safe and clean drinking water. However, access to improved water sources remains uneven, with disparities between urban and rural areas.

Aligned with the National Health Plan and the planning cycles, the Republic of Congo has formulated a new macro-economic strategic framework known as the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2022, reflecting the country's vision outlined in the social project 'The March towards Development.' Despite notable health achievements, such as the reduction in maternal and infant mortality, the country fell short of achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since 2016, Congo has dedicated its efforts at fulfilling the third Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) by 2030.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Congolese Red Cross has prioritized interventions in reproductive health, including maternal and childcare and family planning, sexual and gender-based violence, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, community-based surveillance of epidemics and HIV/AIDS activities, social mobilization for immunization. The National Society seeks to increase the scale and quality of its health and water, hygiene and sanitation services at the community level, in emergency and non-emergency situations. This will involve:

- Increasing the number of people reached with mental health and psychosocial support services
- Training at least 800 people per year in first aid
- Contributing to increasing community access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally friendly water and hygiene services, with the aim of reaching 250,000 people per year with water, sanitation and hygiene services adapted to the emergency context
- Contributing to a 50 per cent reduction in deaths related to cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases by promoting access to, and use of, water and sanitation infrastructures

Planned activities in 2024

- Conduct advocacy for funding the implementation of the epidemics contingency plan
- Participate in central, intermediate and peripheral sub-regional technical coordination platforms on pandemic response
- Target four departments with a high rate of marginalized indigenous populations to improve access to primary health care/reproductive health/WASH awareness

- Develop a mapping of relevant national plans, strategies, and policies
- Train volunteers on the [EPIC](#) level 1 module with a focus on infectious diseases
- Conduct awareness campaigns on tuberculosis, malaria, proper use and placement of long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets, and intramural spraying
- Develop health/WASH strategy for the Congolese Red Cross
- Create and operationalize Red Cross health posts
- Support the establishment of community mobilization and animation platforms in health districts in order to develop and strengthen community-based health education, hygiene and basic sanitation initiatives
- Organize capacity building sessions for 25 staff members and volunteers on emergency planning for rapid activation of the response

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Congolese Red Cross to regularly participate in the meetings of the humanitarian coordination platforms and in developing and implementing the community-based health projects and programmes. Components such as the National Society's efforts towards developing and implementing new WASH/health programmes, epidemic interventions, epidemic preparedness, and National Society health/WASH strategy will be supported through financial and technical assistance from the IFRC.



Migration and displacement

The Republic of Congo has a long history of hosting refugees from neighbouring countries, with large influxes from Angola and Rwanda in the 1990s, and the DRC and Central African Republic in the past two decades. According to the [UNHCR](#), there are currently more than 120,000 refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people in the country. Most of the refugees come from the Central African Republic, and asylum seekers from the DRC, and are settled in the departments of Likouala and Plateaux, where they are exposed to the potential risk of floods, which exacerbates their vulnerability due to poor livelihoods. Of the total figure, refugees consist of 44 per cent, 11 per cent asylum seekers, and 45 per cent stateless people.

The free movement of people and good between the states of Central Africa has been difficult to implement mainly due to failures in putting into practice the border opening treaties signed between the states. The proposed model for opening up borders, which describes the transition from alienated borders to integrated borders, seems to apply to the cross-border area formed by North Congo and the continental part of the Central African Region and Equatorial Democratic Republic of Congo. This region services as an example of socio-spatial integration to the transnationality of the Moya, Katangese, and Mbondzo ethnic groups, the establishment of border markets, and the decentralized cooperation initiated by local authorities.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Congolese Red Cross supports displaced people, refugees, and asylum seekers as part of its humanitarian work. In the coming years, the National Society seeks to take

advantage of its status as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field in the Republic of the Congo in order to carry out community integration activities for the wellbeing of vulnerable people. It will also lobby public authorities to improve the living conditions of vulnerable migrant populations.

Planned activities in 2024

- Participate in relevant cluster and partner meetings on [shelter](#), health, disaster management, and livelihoods
- Conduct advocacy to seek funding for the implementation of the multi-risk contingency plan
- Support youth camps to promote a culture of equality and access to education in transit sites

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts in strengthening its capacity in the area of migration and displacement, including needs assessment, development of migration policies and strategies, training, workshops, and peer-to-peer support. It supports the revision of tools and methodologies in the area of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery to integrate migration and displacement principles, practices and policies. The IFRC will continue to provide support for protection services for migrants, in line with the ERP guidelines and minimum protection approach, including legal assistance, safe referrals, border and detention surveillance, [restoring family link](#), child protection, and anti-trafficking initiatives.



Values, power and inclusion

Despite the formal recognition of the principle of equality between men and women in national legislation, discrimination persists in the Republic of Congo, often leading to moral and physical gender-based violence. A study carried out in 2020 by the [Association Avenir NEPAD Congo](#) explored the impacts of COVID-19 on gender-based violence in the Republic of Congo. The study showed how measures that were implemented to contain the virus have had an impact on women, leading to home confinement, curfews, regulation of state markets, closure of schools and cessation of economic activities, among others. The pandemic led to the closure of multiple educational institutions, causing number of problems for communities in the Republic of Congo, including a lack of access to vital education, rising school drop-out rates and incidences gender-based violence, lack of support for survivors in psycho-medical care centres, and increased vulnerability of children and women.

The Republic of Congo has committed to eradicating gender-based violence by signing the [United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) and the [African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights](#). The country also upholds various laws and regulations, including the Penal Code of 1810, the Family Code of 1918 and the Child Protection Act of 2010. These laws protect women and girls, including victims of violence. However, access to justice for women and girls is limited, and the laws and regulations are outdated, no longer fit for purpose and not implemented in many cases. As is the case in other countries, there is no specific law to criminalize violence against women and children.

Despite Congo's establishment of legal bases stipulating the recognition of the status of [indigenous people](#) in the country's constitution in 2010 and 2015, indigenous communities still face marginalization and discrimination. There are notable educational inequalities for children of primary school age in indigenous communities. In some areas, it is estimated that 65 per cent of indigenous children are not attending school, mainly due to extreme poverty, exclusion, lack of birth registration, and ethnic and cultural discrimination.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Congolese Red Cross seeks to be a safe and inclusive organization where the dignity, access, participation, and safety of people of all identities are ensured. This will involve actively implementing the [gender and diversity policy](#) and demonstrating tangible progress agreed institutional and programming objectives, including equal gender representation at all levels of leadership. The National Society will utilize the community

engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) approaches and tools to improve youth commitment and leadership in promoting humanitarian standards and values and will disseminate the youth policy and internal rules to volunteers. Through these actions, the National Society aims to contribute to positive change in communities through a broader understanding, ownership, and practical application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles.

Planned activities in 2024

- Train and sensitize population in Likouala, Sangha, and Lekoumou on protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) and community engagement and accountability
- Conduct youth as agents behavioural change ([YABC](#)) programme
- Organize training sessions for young people in schools and universities on gender-based violence prevention, social inclusion, social inclusion, peacebuilding, among others
- Establish youth competitions for the promotion of humanitarian norms and values
- Disseminate the youth policy and internal regulations to volunteers and branches
- Sensitize affected communities to promote equitable access for girls and boys to information literacy by relying on trusted sources of information
- Develop information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to engage young people on themes promoting equitable access to education
- Develop guidelines on protection, gender and inclusion, sexual abuse, and gender-based violence
- Train leaders and project/program managers on [PGI minimum standards in emergencies](#)
- Advocate for the adoption and implementation of national gender policy in the Republic of the Congo
- Establish community feedback mechanisms to inform changes based on the perceptions and concerns of target groups

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Congolese Red Cross to reach more local branches and to develop an equal partnership with communities in projects and programmes implemented by the National Society. It supports the National Society to actively

implement the IFRC's gender and diversity policy, developing protection from sexual exploitation and abuse ([PSEA](#)) policy, and an action plan to implement prevention and support to

survivors. The IFRC will continue support the National Society to integrate and institutionalize community engagement and accountability into their policies, operations, and procedures.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Congolese Red Cross is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening, having carried out the self-assessment part of the IFRC Organizational Capacity

Assessment and Certification ([OCAC](#)) process in 2022. The assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen cooperation with government agencies and implementing partners
- Participate in coordination meetings of the shelter cluster and share Red Cross experience there
- Develop a resource mobilization strategy

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Congolese Red Cross in its efforts to increase its cooperation and coordination with external partners. This includes organizing in-country events on [Pan-African initiatives](#). It facilitates the National Society's engagement with peer National Societies in the sharing of experience and good practices. It also supports the National Society in resource mobilization.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Establish a quadripartite commission (MASAH-SN-IFRC-ICRC) to draft a decree on the recognition of the Congolese Red Cross
- Strengthen its auxiliary role in order to become the partner of choice for public authorities
- Focus on branch development
- Provide insurance coverage for all its volunteers
- Prioritise the development of volunteering and youth action as key catalysts for behavioural change and local action
- Develop a youth engagement strategy
- Work on National Society development in line with the principles of the [NSD compact](#)

- Participate in the various statutory meetings of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in financial sustainability and branch development. It will continue to follow up with the National Society on the implementation of the OCAC recommendations and organize branch organizational capacity assessments ([BOCA](#)) in several National Society branches. The IFRC has supported the National Society in receiving IFRC Capacity Building Fund ([CBF](#)) support for a consultation on the implementation of the 2022 OCAC recommendations. It also supports the National Society to strengthen its auxiliary role by meeting key stakeholders at government level on a regular basis.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Promote its work to influence the national humanitarian agenda and maintain the trust of key stakeholders including the government, donors, the media and vulnerable communities
- Adopt a strategic and evidence-based approach towards [humanitarian diplomacy](#)
- Regularly evaluate its communications strategy to meet changing needs and trends

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts to engage with public authorities and opinion leaders. The IFRC will also continue to support the National Society in enhancing its presence within the national emergency response coordination, alongside other humanitarian partners and the Government.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Demonstrate accountability for gender, diversity and inclusion in its management and institutional culture, with monitoring and improvement mechanisms in place
- Publicise a policy and action plan on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)
- Develop and implement a risk management framework
- Submit an externally audited financial statement
- Train staff and volunteers in prevention of fraud and corruption
- Put in place a functional data management system that informs decision-making and supports monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the National Society's contributions
- Ensure that individuals and communities benefiting from National Society services are aware of their rights

- Make progress in digital transformation in alignment with the [IFRC's digital transformation strategy](#)
- Innovate, embrace and fully deploy digital technologies.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the efforts of the Congolese Red Cross to strengthen its accountability through annual external audits, and financial training for staff and volunteers. It also supports the National Society in its initiatives in digital transformation, including the development of a strategy and roadmap. The IFRC also supports the National Society in acquiring and developing financial management and human resources systems and supports the National Society in developing a functional data management system that informs decision-making and enables monitoring and reporting on reach and impact. The IFRC supports the National Society by monitoring and strengthening its compliance with donor requirements.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC country cluster delegation in Kinshasa supports the Congolese Red Cross to implement strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In the past five years, the IFRC has supported the Congolese Red Cross through a number of [DREF operations](#). These have included responses to floods, population movement, disease outbreaks and preparedness for the Ebola virus which affected neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

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

The **French Red Cross**, the sole participating National Society active in the Republic of Congo, is dedicated to enhancing the

capacities of the Congolese Red Cross through several projects. These initiatives encompass the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)

and IFRC, which focuses on risk and disaster management in the Cuvette department in the country's northern region along with the Congo-Oubangui River corridor.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
French Red Cross	40,000			●			●

Total Funding requirement

40,000

Movement coordination

The Congolese Red Cross 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 supports the Congolese Red Cross under a three-year cooperation agreement, implemented through an annual cooperation action plan focusing on crisis management preparedness, restoring family links and capacity building. The activities within the partnership are focused on six priority areas: Brazzaville, Plateaux, Pool, Bouenza, Likouala and Pointe-Noire.



Congolese Red Cross helping in the Polio Vaccine drive. April 2021 (Photo: IFRC)

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Congolese Red Cross works closely with various governmental bodies to deliver its emergency and longer-term work. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action leads humanitarian coordination in the country. The National Society participates in crisis meetings with humanitarian actors under the coordination of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action in Brazzaville and in the affected departments. Crisis committees, in which the National Society also participates, are set up by local authorities when required.

In each of the targeted localities, the National Society consults with the administrative and traditional authorities as well as

the Government's decentralized services. In particular, the National Society coordinates with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action to contextualize the targeting criteria and review the beneficiaries selected to ensure that there is no duplication of assistance with other projects. Regular meetings are held with the sub-prefects, mayors, traditional chiefs and the heads of social action districts.

For epidemics and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic response, the Congolese Red Cross works closely with the Ministry of Health and has developed partnerships with the Africa CDC, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA.



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 Congolese 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 the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process, and will serve 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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