



# PACIFIC ISLANDS

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

23 October 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 7.08M**

## In support of 11 Pacific Island Red Cross National Societies



**72**

National Society branches



**189**

National Society staff



**3,276**

National Society volunteers

## People to be reached



**39,822**

Climate and environment



**62,159**

Disasters and crises



**199,898**

Health and wellbeing



**4,739**

Migration and displacement



**31,324**

Values, power and inclusion

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk management • Climate change adaptation
- Health care • Social inclusion

### Capacity development

- Branch development • Financial sustainability • Financial management
- Volunteer development and youth engagement

**IFRC Country Cluster Delegation  
for Pacific Islands, based in Suva**

# Funding requirements

2024	2025**	2026**
<b>Total 6.3M CHF</b>	<b>Total 390,800 CHF</b>	<b>Total 390,800 CHF</b>
Through IFRC <b>5.1M CHF</b>	Through Participating National Societies <b>391,000 CHF</b>	Through Participating National Societies <b>391,000 CHF</b>
Through Participating National Societies <b>1.2M CHF</b>	**Projected funding requirements	

## IFRC Breakdown

### Longer-term needs

**174,991 CHF**  
Climate and environment

**1,870,382 CHF**  
Disasters and crises

**336,913 CHF**  
Health and wellbeing

**20,500 CHF**  
Migration and displacement

**237,891 CHF**  
Values, power and inclusion

**2,405,911 CHF**  
Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

- Australian Red Cross\*
- French Red Cross\*
- Italian Red Cross
- Japanese Red Cross Society
- New Zealand Red Cross

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

## IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

- MAACK001**    **MAAWS001**
- MAAFJ002**    **MAASB001**
- MAAKI001**    **MAATO001**
- MAAHM001**    **MAATV001**
- MAAFM001**    **MAAVU001**
- MAAPW001**

## Hazards



Climate change



Cyclones



Earthquakes



Volcanic eruptions



Disease outbreaks



Tsunami

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The 11 Pacific Island National Societies covered by this plan face similar challenges and share common values and principles. They all act as auxiliaries to their governments in the humanitarian field, focusing on disaster response and contributing to their respective national disaster management frameworks. Red Cross leaders in the Pacific region have committed to a range of outcomes relevant to their regional context, as well as to the challenges and strategies outlined in the [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies \(IFRC\) Strategy 2030](#). These commitments include maintaining community and partner trust through locally led humanitarian action, initiatives on integrity and accountability, building skills and improving knowledge so that the National Societies can continue to deliver effective services in a rapidly changing world.

The IFRC also provides secretariat services to the Australian Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross. It helps facilitate a connection between these 14 members in the Pacific, including the Papua New Guinea Red Cross. This approach aligns with Pacific values fostering cooperation and solidarity as one International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

A brief description of the 11 Pacific National Societies covered under this plan:

## Cook Island Red Cross Society

Number of staff	5
Number of volunteers	329
Branches	11

The **Cook Island Red Cross Society** was founded in 1989 and was [admitted](#) to the IFRC in 1973. The National Society serves as an auxiliary to public authorities, providing essential supplementary and additional support. Its strategic objective is to enhance and strengthen the Government's efforts by delivering supplementary services with the assistance of our regional and international Red Cross Red Crescent partners. The National Society focuses on addressing the impacts of cyclones and other climate-related natural disasters, recognizing that climate change may increase its frequency and intensity.

Given the history of frequent natural disasters in the Cook Islands, particularly affecting the Outer Islands, the National Society's Strategic Plan emphasizes this area as crucial for

achieving its core objective. The Cook Island Red Cross Society also aims to make a significant difference in the lives of all people in the Cook Islands while supporting the Government during times of greatest need.

By [2022](#), the National Society had reached 365 people through its long-term services and development programs and 14,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery initiatives.

## Fiji Red Cross Society

Number of staff	28
Number of volunteers	539
Branches	16

The **Fiji Red Cross Society** began as a branch of the British Red Cross in the early 1950s and was [admitted](#) to the IFRC in 1973. As an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, it works to prevent disasters, promote health, and alleviate human suffering. The National Society's governance and management structures ensure that local expertise guides global support for local action. Its structure fosters branch ownership and encourages active participation in well-coordinated efforts involving planning, resource mobilization, skill sharing, advocacy, and operational responses.

The Fiji Red Cross Society fulfils its role by meeting obligations under the revised [Disaster Risk Management Act](#), collaborating with divisional governments on its implementation. It supports national health and youth strategies, assists with national health and disaster campaigns, and communicates its disaster management capabilities to stakeholders. The National Society provides humanitarian advisory support as a permanent member of the National Disaster Council and aids communities with disaster preparedness and national pandemic preparedness. It also promotes humanitarian education, increases understanding of humanitarian standards, principles, and laws, supports risk reduction and healthy lifestyle initiatives in schools and communities, and acts as a first responder during disasters.

By [2022](#), the National Society had reached 39,000 people through its long-term services and development programs and 789,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery initiatives.

## Kiribati Red Cross Society

Number of staff	13
Number of volunteers	132
Branches	3

The **Kiribati Red Cross Society** was founded in the year 1965 and [admitted](#) to the IFRC in 1997.

The National Society operates under a National Governing Board of ten members. Its primary sources of income include donor-funded programs, commercial first aid services, membership fees, office rental, and fundraising activities. The National Society is supported by a team of skilled staff and active volunteers. It focuses on first aid, disaster management, blood donor recruitment, and health promotion. The national Society concentrates its activities in Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati. Although the National Society has conducted sporadic activities on outer islands, primarily for first aid training and emergency response, it plans to expand its presence and provide more consistent coverage to these areas in the coming years.

By [2022](#), the National Society reached 1,197 people by its long-term services and development programmes and 95,000 people by disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.

## Marshall Islands Red Cross Society

Number of staff	9
Number of volunteers	459
Branches	3

The **Marshall Islands Red Cross Society** was founded in the year 2013 and [admitted](#) to the IFRC in 2019.

The National Society has achieved significant progress in pursuing its strategic goals. Its active engagement during disease outbreaks highlights its dedication to its auxiliary role. The National Society has strengthened its relationship with the government and gained increased recognition. It remains committed to collaborating with the government to enhance disaster resilience and response capabilities, ultimately benefiting the communities it serves.

By [2022](#), the National Society reached 33,000 people by its long-term services and development programmes and 28,000 people by disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.

## Micronesia Red Cross

Number of staff	9
Number of volunteers	275
Branches	4

The **Micronesia Red Cross** was founded in the year 2000 and [admitted](#) to the IFRC in 2003. The National Society aims to deliver essential humanitarian services in collaboration with partners, addressing the challenges faced by the most vulnerable individuals in the islands through voluntary actions as a unified society. The National Society works with partner agencies and groups to identify and assess social needs and priorities within communities. It advocates for key social issues highlighted by its existing programs in partnership with these agencies. The National Society also ensures that all programme approaches consider gender and diversity, including the needs of people with disabilities and various age groups.

By [2022](#), the National Society reached 31,000 people by its long-term services and development programmes and 13,000 people by disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.

## Palau Red Cross Society

Number of staff	8
Number of volunteers	97
Branches	1

The **Palau Red Cross Society** was founded in the year 1997 and [admitted](#) to the IFRC in the same year. The National Society has made significant efforts in building partnerships with key stakeholders, both internally and externally. These partnerships are crucial to the National Society's mandate of serving the most vulnerable in the community. While the Palau Red Cross Society functions as an auxiliary to the government, partner agencies play a vital role in identifying challenges across various aspects of life. Through collaborative efforts, the National Society and its partners work together to pinpoint solutions and develop effective strategies to address the specific needs and challenges faced by the most vulnerable individuals in the community.

By [2022](#), the National Society reached 5,613 people by its long-term services and development programmes and 1,069 people by disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.

## Samoa Red Cross Society

Number of staff	<b>35</b>
Number of volunteers	<b>615</b>
Branches	<b>6</b>

The Samoa Red Cross Society was founded in 1952 and admitted to the IFRC in 1985. The National Society aims to enhance its humanitarian support to the most vulnerable in the community, focusing on disaster and climate change preparedness and response, in line with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The National Society's fourth Strategic Plan 2021-2025 outlines three key goals: (i) enabling people to anticipate, respond to and recover from crises; (ii) helping people lead safe, healthy, and dignified lives with opportunities to thrive; (iii) mobilizing communities for inclusivity and peace. The plan also emphasizes organizational development to address current vulnerabilities and challenges. To overcome challenges, the National Society engages in partnerships with government agencies, sector partners, NGOs, UN agencies, the private sector, and local communities. The National Society is committed to enhancing its capacity to deliver effective humanitarian support and improve resilience against disasters and climate change impacts.

By 2022, the National Society reached 166,000 people through its long-term services and development programs and 132,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programs.

## The Solomon Islands Red Cross

Number of staff	<b>25</b>
Number of volunteers	<b>114</b>
Branches	<b>7</b>

The **Solomon Islands Red Cross** was founded in 1983 and admitted to the IFRC in 1991. The National Society maintains

its traditional programmes in disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness, health (including first aid and blood services), WASH, and special education, with a stronger focus on branch-led initiatives. The Solomon Islands Red Cross aligns closely with the broader Red Cross Red Crescent movement goals. This alignment includes integrating the principle of social inclusion throughout all organizational activities, acknowledging the high rates of gender-based violence in the Solomon Islands. Additionally, climate change adaptation is also being integrated as a core component of programming.

By 2022, the National Society reached 57,000 people by its long-term services and development programmes and 103 people by disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.

## Tonga Red Cross Society

Number of staff	<b>19</b>
Number of volunteers	<b>125</b>
Branches	<b>4</b>

The **Tonga Red Cross Society** was founded in the year 1997 and admitted to the IFRC in 1981. The National Society aims to prevent and alleviate human suffering in Tonga by focusing on disaster management, supporting persons with disabilities, promoting health, and upholding humanitarian laws and values. The National Society strives to be the leading humanitarian organization in Tonga by providing professional, effective, and high-quality services.

By 2022, the National Society reached 122 people by its long-term services and development programmes and 892 people by disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.

## Tuvalu Red Cross Society

Number of staff	8
Number of volunteers	188
Branches	8

The **Tuvalu Red Cross Society** was founded in 1981 and [admitted](#) to the IFRC in 2015. The National Society recognizes the importance of collaboration, especially in a small country like Tuvalu as it allows organizations with similar mandates to share resources and coordinate their efforts effectively and efficiently, avoiding duplication. The Tuvalu Red Cross Society looks forward to expanding its network of partners both locally and internationally. In its efforts to build resilient communities, the Tuvalu Red Cross collaborates with in-country partners at all levels, including communities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

By [2022](#), the National Society reached 1,000 people by its long-term services and development programmes and 88 people by disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.

## Vanuatu Red Cross Society

Number of staff	30
Number of volunteers	403
Branches	9

The **Vanuatu Red Cross Society** was founded in the year 1982 and was [admitted](#) to the IFRC in 1993. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the National Society plays a crucial role in supporting government efforts to address humanitarian needs across the country. The Vanuatu Red Cross Society is headquartered in Port Vila and has branches on other islands, which are managed by volunteers and led by executive committees. The National Society mobilizes resources primarily from local stakeholders, providing humanitarian services through its extensive network of volunteers.

By [2022](#), the National Society reached 1,294 people by its long-term services and development programmes and 1,497 people by disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Country	<u>Population below poverty line</u>	<u>INFORM Climate Change Risk Index</u>	<u>Human Development Index rank</u>
Fiji	24.1%	Low	99
Kiribati	21.9%	Low	136
Marshall Islands	7.2%	Low	131
Micronesia	41.2%	Low	134
Palau	24.9%	Low	80
Samoa	21.9%	Low	111
Solomon Islands	12.7%	Medium	155
Tonga	22.5%	Low	91
Tuvalu	26.3%	Low	130
Vanuatu	15.9%	Medium	140

The Pacific Islands encompass a diverse and expansive region, spanning more than 15 percent of the Earth's surface. Predominantly composed of small islands and archipelagos, these nations are situated in geographically vulnerable locations prone to disasters exacerbated by environmental degradation and the global climate crisis. Pacific Island countries frequently face external shocks that threaten lives and livelihoods. Challenges such as remoteness, small population sizes, and diminishing resources further strain governance systems and compound their ability to manage external crises.

Healthcare systems in many parts of the Pacific are weakened by communicable and non-communicable diseases, contributing to water and food insecurity and reduced life expectancy among communities. Access to quality education is also limited, particularly in remote areas where opportunities are scarce. Despite efforts to advance development, pervasive gender-based violence and entrenched social norms perpetuating inequality hinder progress.

Pacific Island countries are exceptionally susceptible to climate change, resulting in coastal infrastructure and land loss, extreme rainfall events, intensified tropical cyclones in the South Pacific, rising sea levels, and ocean acidification. Droughts are becoming more frequent and severe, leading

to failed crops, damage to coastal fisheries, coral reef and mangrove degradation, and increased disease spread.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) pose a significant challenge across Pacific Island countries. Health budgets and systems are struggling to manage the growing burden of NCDs, and individuals with pre-existing conditions are especially vulnerable during outbreaks or other health crises. Additionally, these countries face ongoing difficulties in controlling outbreaks and managing infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

The Pacific region also has one of the highest rates of violence against women and girls about twice the global average. Up to 68 per cent of women in the Pacific have reported experiencing physical and sexual violence by a partner in their lifetime.

The Pacific region has a young population, with youth unemployment rates at a troubling 23 percent. Young people are over five times less likely to find jobs compared to older workers, and the significant 'youth bulge' exceeds the capacity of existing labour markets and job creation strategies. Individuals aged 15 to 24 constitute half of the unemployed population in the region. Unemployment rates for young women in the Pacific are consistently higher than those for young men.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global temperatures are projected to increase continuously above pre-industrial levels between 2030 and 2052. This warming trend is expected to lead to more frequent and intense extreme temperatures over land and sea, higher sea levels resulting in coastal flooding, changes in precipitation patterns, and increased frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones.

Consequently, these extreme changes will increase droughts, coastal flooding, and saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources in the Pacific region. The Pacific climate is also significantly influenced by the naturally occurring El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle, which includes El Niño, characterized by warmer than normal tropical Pacific Sea surface temperatures, and La Niña, characterized by cooler than normal temperatures. Variations in these temperatures

can lead to prolonged periods of extreme weather events. The impacts of tropical cyclones and coastal flooding can further exacerbate sea level rise and ocean warming, leading to coral bleaching and reduced protection from coral reefs.

In recent years, the Pacific has experienced unprecedented climate impacts, including the occurrence of destructive tropical cyclones like Judy and Kevin in January 2023. Heavy rainfall and thunderstorms affected various parts of the region, with rough seas throughout Vanuatu waters. Both cyclones occurred within a week interval, underscoring the increasing frequency and intensity of such events.

According to the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Officer, approximately 66 percent of Vanuatu's population, totalling 197,388 people (43,623 households), were affected by the Category-4 twin cyclones. Over 80 percent of the population experienced impacts from cyclones at Category 2 and 3 levels.



The increasing intensity of tropical cyclones in the southwest Pacific, coupled with worsening droughts affecting atoll nations in the North Pacific, is attributed to changes in the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

Pacific Island nations have developed and implemented climate change policies and regulations tailored to adapt to climate impacts within their borders. Regionally, the [Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017–2030](#), governed by the Pacific Resilience Partnership, provides essential guidelines. The framework emphasizes localization, risk finance, human mobility, and risk governance. Additional strategic documents include the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy 2017–2026 and the Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services 2017–2026.

The recently approved [Pacific Islands Forum Strategy 2050](#) for the Blue Pacific Continent also plays a crucial role. This strategy promotes regionalism to enhance collective impact, focusing on partnership, resilience, education, research, inclusion, and governance. It offers valuable opportunities for national and regional humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy efforts.

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

The National Societies of the Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are 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.

In 2024, Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) will remain a priority. Throughout 2023, several Pacific National Societies engaged in EWEA initiatives, laying a solid foundation for increased action. For example, the Palau Red Cross worked with Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS), while the Tuvalu Red Cross Society undertook early action in anticipation of a potential drought.

Established in 2021, the Pacific Green Team (PGT) comprises experts in health, shelter, logistics, disaster management, and climate resilience. The team has created a compendium for green response and recovery initiatives. The PGT is part of the Global Green Response Working Group, piloting innovations in environmental practices. These efforts support the IFRC Disaster Risk Management Policy 2020 and IFRC Environmental Sustainability Policy 2019.

The Pacific Climate Coordination Hub (PCCH), based in Nadi, Fiji, is developing a Pacific-wide Climate Action theory of change to drive collective impact. The Pacific National Societies will align their climate ambitions with this overarching theory of change. By 2024, each National Society aims to finalize the development of its own theory of change to localize the overall approach. PCCH will continue to support all 11 National Societies through technical workshops.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Implementing climate and health programmes pilot integrated approaches addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Serving as agents of change to catalyze climate change mitigation efforts and promote sustainable environmental practices
- Supporting engaged and trained volunteers, youth, and senior management in climate action initiatives
- Supporting the IFRC network in identifying, reducing, and mitigating adverse environmental impacts from humanitarian responses and long-term programmes



Vanuatu Red Cross volunteers assisting the Health Ministry with their nationwide vaccination campaign. (Photo: Vanuatu Red Cross Society)



- Mainstreaming 'green response' practices into all operational systems and procedures to minimize environmental footprints
- Promoting sustainable practices across communities served by the National Societies to enhance resilience to climate change impacts

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Societies to work with partners in the region to continue to deepen the collective impact on climate issues using the theory of change developed through the IFRC-hosted Pacific Climate Hub. The IFRC aims to strengthen existing partnerships by working with communities through the National Societies, adapting to the impacts of climate change through low-cost, environmentally traditional practices.

The IFRC supported Cook Island Red Cross Society and Samoa Red Cross Society at the Global Climate Champions initiative

workshop in Geneva. These National Societies developed draft climate action plans, which will be refined in 2024.

The IFRC will continue supporting early action based on timely warning information to empower National Societies in addressing both gradual and sudden hazards. Additionally, it will work with various Pacific partners to implement the UN Secretary General's global initiative, Early Warnings for All (EW4All), launched in November 2022. It will also assist National Societies in gathering evidence and articulating their specific climate-related needs, advocating for awareness on early warning systems, early action, and forecast-based financing in the region, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups.

The **Japanese Red Cross** will provide seed funding to Pacific National Societies to support environmentally sustainable response efforts.

Through the Y-Adapt program, the IFRC will support the National Societies in expanding youth engagement and leadership in climate action, including training facilitators and strengthening the Youth Climate Action Network to enhance community involvement.



## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC Go pages: [Cook Islands](#), [Fiji](#), [Kiribati](#), [Marshall Islands](#), [Micronesia](#), [Palau](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Tonga](#), [Tuvalu](#), [Vanuatu](#).

The Pacific Island nations are located in the [Pacific Ring of Fire](#), characterized by major volcanoes and seismic events. Approximately 73 per cent of the population and 65 per cent of economic stock are exposed to seismic hazards. Tsunamis generated by seismic activity pose devastating threats to low-lying islands. On land, seismic activity can cause landslides and damage to infrastructure such as buildings, transport, power lines and information and communication technology infrastructure.

Despite some advancements, significant challenges persist in initiating early response actions to prevent slow-onset weather events from escalating into major humanitarian crises. The Pacific Islands' populations and resources are comparatively small globally, yet Micronesian countries, though often spared from major disasters, continue to endure substantial impacts from slow-onset climate-related events. These slower-onset disasters, lacking the immediacy of sudden emergencies, often receive less media attention until situations become dire. There is a pressing need for resilience programs that draw global attention to the challenges faced by small island developing states and provide robust support to enhance their resilience.

The [2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent](#) advocates for regionalism as a strategic approach to foster collective impact. The strategy is organized around five strategic pathways:

- Partnership and cooperation
- Resilience and well-being
- Education
- Research and technology
- Inclusion, equity, and governance

To ensure a more community-centric approach, the National Societies will explore area-based approaches also known as 'neighbourhood approaches,' which will involve the National Society leadership and participation to address needs in other sectors such as health, [water, sanitation and hygiene](#) and livelihoods. [Community engagement and accountability](#) will be integral to all training and quality programming, ensuring that community involvement is central across all activities and phases. The disaster management network will facilitate the sharing of experiences as a crucial part of post-distribution monitoring and lessons learned.

The National Societies will collaborate on pilot initiatives, setting up framework agreements with financial service providers, testing delivery mechanisms, and developing training and standard operating procedures for [cash and voucher assistance](#). Additionally, a resilience library initiative will be

introduced to support eight National Societies, including Cook Island Red Cross Society, Fiji Red Cross Society, Kiribati Red Cross, Samoa Red Cross Society, Solomon Islands Red Cross, Tuvalu Red Cross Society, Tonga Red Cross Society and Vanuatu Red Cross Society. This library will serve as a repository for reports and case studies, providing valuable insights into past experiences and best practices.

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

The Pacific National Societies aim to establish the Pacific Emergency Responder Capacity Initiative to address several challenges, including:

- Outdated training methods for emergency responders that do not align with current adult learning approaches and necessary skills.
- Emergency responder training being treated as a standalone annual event rather than integrated with ongoing training at various levels.
- Limited opportunities for experiential and peer learning among emergency responders.
- Insufficient support systems for emergency responders.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Develop model guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures to include logistics in response simulations for 11 National Societies
- Develop specialized logistics training in 11 National Societies, following the introductory training in Emergency Response Teams

- Conduct contextualized emergency shelter assistance trainings
- Explore the feasibility of [cash and voucher assistance](#) for shelter assistance
- Identify, procure, and distribute appropriate shelter-related household items considering climate-smart and environmental factors
- Pilot test new approaches for pre-positioning emergency relief items and delivery

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Pacific National Societies that are frequently affected by disasters, particularly during the cyclone season from November to April each year. It will focus on strengthening expanding the capacity of Pacific National Societies to deliver high-quality and context-specific shelter and settlements responses during both preparedness and response phases. This includes tailored training and ongoing technical assistance to ensure timely provision of emergency shelter and essential household items, leveraging traditional knowledge and local materials where possible. The IFRC will also support preparedness efforts related to cash and voucher assistance. IFRC mechanisms such as the [Disaster Response Emergency Fund](#) (DREF) will continue to be drawn on as needed for the National Societies in the Pacific to respond to disasters and crises.

The IFRC will sustain its support for National Societies in disaster law, encompassing reviews and policy development to mainstream protection, gender, and inclusion considerations into planning and risk data collection processes.



## Health and wellbeing

[Non-communicable diseases \(NCDs\)](#) remain a challenge across Pacific Island countries and represent the single most significant cause of premature death in the region. While some Pacific countries have seen a reduction in diet-related risk factors for non-communicable disease over time, most have not. Eighty-eight per cent of adults in the region consume insufficient fruit and vegetables and 82 per cent are overweight or obese. Thirty-three per cent live with high blood pressure and 40 per cent with high cholesterol. Stronger population-wide approaches are needed to promote eating more fruit and vegetables and to reduce sugar, salt and fat intake.

The 2014 Pacific Non-Communicable Disease Roadmap gives guidance on implementing strategies to combat the region's epidemic of non-communicable diseases. It outlines a multi-sectoral approach for each country, as well as regional coordination.

Eight Pacific Island countries meet the global target of 90 per cent [coverage for vaccines](#) against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. Half of the countries fall significantly below global targets for the measles-containing vaccine second dose of 90 per cent coverage (Kiribati at 57 per cent, Micronesia at 67 per cent, Palau at 83 per cent, Samoa at 44 per cent, the Solomon Islands at 51 per cent, Tuvalu at 85 per cent and Vanuatu at 78 per cent). Declining immunization coverage has led to measles cases in Fiji and pertussis cases in Kiribati and is expected to lead to further outbreaks in the region.

The Pacific Development Report 2022 reveals that nearly half of the Pacific population lacks access to basic drinking water facilities, and over two-thirds are without basic sanitation. For children under five in the Pacific, water and sanitation-related diseases are the leading causes of death. Despite this,

engagement in water security remains notably low compared to other sectors.

The Pacific Island countries continue to face significant challenges in managing epidemics and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Many areas require improved health system capacities for disease surveillance, preparedness, early detection, and outbreak response.

The Pacific First Aid Roadmap, established in 2019, aims to expand first aid programs to as many households as possible through both commercial and community-based methods. It focuses on enhancing first aid knowledge, skills, and confidence using affordable, low-tech solutions and locally available resources. The roadmap emphasizes integrating first aid into broader development efforts, including community resilience programs, emergency response training, and health initiatives.

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

A primary objective for all National Societies is the advancement of the [First Aid Vision 2030](#). This foundational programme aims to build community resilience across various settings by increasing preparedness for daily crises and large-scale disasters. This involves promoting healthy behaviours and engaging diverse stakeholders who play critical roles within their communities.

The implementation of the FA Vision 2030 faces challenges in the Pacific, with slow progress observed in disseminating the vision to all the National Societies in the region and initiating initial steps at the National Society level. Addressing these challenges requires dedicated support from GRARC and/or the vision team to facilitate timely advancement.

Some National Societies are actively engaged in specific non-communicable disease programs that significantly impact their communities. To optimize their support efforts, these initiatives are aligned closely with their respective Ministries of Health and the Pacific Community.

Additionally, building capacities in mental health and psychosocial support remains a critical focus through 2024 to 2025. The region currently lacks sufficient trainers to deliver psychological first aid training, necessitating prioritization in the coming years.

Similarly, addressing gaps in [Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene \(WASH\)](#) remains a priority, with plans for regional training in 2024 aimed at improving human resources and knowledge and skills in this crucial area. The National Societies are

encouraged to participate actively in WASH forums within their countries, supporting and engaging in relevant activities where capacity allows. WASH activities will continue to be integrated into broader community resilience and disaster risk reduction programming across the region.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Building capacity for first aid instruction trainers within the region
- Develop a plan to strengthen first aid work based on identified needs
- Health coordinators facilitate emergency care and vaccination trainings for staff and volunteers
- Equip National Societies to support Ministries of Health with prevention, awareness, and response efforts as needed
- Roll out WASH programmes in targeted schools to improve hygiene practices and infrastructure/facilities
- Exploring opportunities to integrate environmentally sustainable practices into National Society emergency responses

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical assistance to health colleagues for conducting epidemic control and vaccination training at the National Society level. It aims to prepare communities for pre-seasonal outbreaks and enhance response capabilities during outbreaks. Facilitating knowledge exchange among National Societies will strengthen overall outbreak preparedness and response. Additionally, the IFRC will collaborate with the Asia Pacific Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Training and Learning Collaborative to develop tools enabling Pacific National Societies' staff and volunteers to implement psychological first aid at the community level. The IFRC will also work closely with National Societies to assess and enhance the selection of menstrual hygiene management kits procured for emergency response, emphasizing durability and environmental sustainability considerations.

The **Australian Red Cross** will support Pacific National Societies in outbreak and epidemic preparedness and control by hosting regional training on epidemic control and vaccination. It will also provide toolkits to National Societies to increase their capacity in this domain.



## Migration and displacement

Many Pacific Island countries are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, which are drivers of [migration](#). While planned relocation is the least favoured option, governments acknowledge that migration due to adverse climate conditions will likely increase as disasters intensify and render land less habitable. Planned relocations of communities have already occurred in some Pacific countries and several others have developed national frameworks to prepare for similar relocations.

[Worker emigration](#) creates shortages in key professions in Pacific Island countries, yet it also brings benefits to communities through remittances sent back by migrants and the acquisition of new skills by returnees. According to the [World Bank](#), seven of the top 10 remittance-receiving countries in the world in 2020 (by share of GDP) were located in the Pacific region.

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

The National Societies in the Pacific remain committed to provide essential support to displaced individuals during emergencies, including shelter, healthcare, and access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services. The goal is to ensure that all affected citizens are treated with dignity and have access to the necessary resources for their well-being in

inclusive societies. Additionally, these National Societies are actively working to develop effective strategies to support those displaced by climate change, acknowledging the unique challenges posed by environmental factors.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Conduct assessments on migration and displacement dynamics in the context of climate change
- Undertake studies to analyze climate-induced mobility patterns and their implications

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC aims to facilitate knowledge exchange by sharing best practices from the **Australian Red Cross** and **New Zealand Red Cross** with Pacific National Societies to strengthen migrant support systems. This initiative will encompass capacity-building sessions focused on combating human trafficking, along with participation in regional and international forums addressing migration issues. The IFRC will also assist in conducting migration and displacement assessments, alongside climate mobility studies, aimed at gaining deeper insights into and addressing the specific challenges encountered by displaced populations in the Pacific region.



## Values, power and inclusion

The Pacific region exhibits some of the highest rates of [violence against women and girls](#) globally, exceeding the global average by about twice. Women are disproportionately affected by disasters and exhibit varying levels of resilience and recovery capacity. Socioeconomic, political realities, and cultural gender norms significantly influence disaster risk mitigation and recovery capabilities.

In every Pacific Island country and territory, young women experience higher unemployment rates compared to young men. They are often engaged in childcare, parenting support, and domestic duties. Youth education in the Pacific varies in quality and access due to factors like location, gender disparities, infrastructure, and delivery standards. While more young women are staying in school longer and achieving higher formal education levels compared to previous generations, access to tertiary education remains low, with a higher proportion of males than females pursuing post-high school studies.

Thirteen Pacific Island nations have ratified the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#), embedding it into key regional policies such as the 2012 Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration and the Pacific Platform for Action (2018–2030). Each Pacific country has established a ministry or department focused on women, collaborating with NGOs, civil society, and regional/international organizations to address the root causes of gender inequality.

To enhance youth participation and engagement in the Pacific, the Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014–2023, led by the Pacific Community and the Pacific Youth Council, coordinates youth work across the region. Each Pacific Island country has its own youth council and a ministry or department of youth that guides youth policy. These entities collaborate with government stakeholders, NGOs, and regional and international organizations to implement youth-focused strategies and address issues faced by young people locally and regionally.



The Pacific National Societies are well-positioned to support their governments and complement civil society by providing volunteering platforms and supporting youth activities. The National Societies are also being assisted through the Quantum Leap Leveraging Enhanced Pacific Programming (QLEaPP) approach. This approach and toolkit help National Societies enhance programming quality, including aspects like safeguarding, community engagement, accountability, inclusion, adherence to Movement principles, financial accountability, and power analysis.

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

The Pacific National Societies are prioritizing the mainstreaming of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) initiatives. This involves improving the utilization of disaggregated data based on sex and age. Training programmes will be conducted for staff of Pacific National Societies to integrate comprehensive data collection methodologies into their programming. This effort aims to improve monitoring, evaluation, and learning processes across all operational aspects.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Expand national YABC activities to local branches and communities

- Continue developing guidelines for Junior Red Cross Clubs to promote school safety, aligning with the Asia Pacific School Safety Coalition Initiative
- Establish and regularly update referral pathways for child protection, sexual/reproductive healthcare, counseling, justice, and mental health and psychosocial support
- Conduct learning reviews through internal, external, or peer review mechanisms
- Conduct evaluations focused on safeguarding policies and practices

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist Pacific National Societies in developing school programmes focused on emergency education for children and young people. This initiative includes building partnerships with Ministries of Education, Youth, and civil society organizations. Aligned with the IFRC Global Safeguarding Action Plan 2022-2025, this effort highlights the commitment to strengthen safeguarding measures for National Societies, their staff, and volunteers. The IFRC will also support National Societies in integrating child safeguarding risk analyses into all projects, including emergency responses, employing a participatory and locally-led approach.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Pacific National Societies are committed to pursuing National Society development. With the exception of the Marshall Islands Red Cross Society, all National Societies have carried out a self-assessment as part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process. The self-assessment process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The

National Societies are also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, and seven of them are at different phases of completion of the process. This approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, and take the necessary actions to improve them.



*The Samoa Red Cross Society volunteers participating in national fire drills and border control simulation aim to improve and assess effectiveness of response agencies. (Photo: Samoa Red Cross Society)*





## Strategic and operational coordination

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

All the Pacific National Societies will prioritize the diversification of their resource mobilization efforts through a balanced approach that includes both long- and short-term initiatives. Specific focus will be placed on emergency fundraising initiatives among all the Pacific National Societies to strengthen financial resilience during crises. The Fiji Red Cross Society, Samoa Red Cross Society, Kiribati Red Cross Society, Solomon Islands Red Cross Society and Vanuatu Red Cross Society will focus on developing business canvas models to identify and implement income-generating initiatives.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Pacific National Societies to bolster their financial resources through a combination of domestic fundraising and international support. This assistance includes guiding the National Societies in developing resource mobilization plans and strengthening fundraising capacities at the branch level, aimed at enhancing overall financial sustainability. Additionally, the IFRC encourages participation in regional skill-sharing events to build peer-to-peer support, facilitate information exchange, and provide learning opportunities for the National Societies. The IFRC will also assist in formulating corporate partnerships strategies.



## National Society development

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

Most Pacific National Societies aim to enhance their branch capacities and have sought assistance to implement the [Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment \(BOCA\)](#). Currently, the Fiji Red Cross Society stands as the sole National Society in the Pacific to have conducted a BOCA analysis workshop, enabling it to train the other Pacific National Societies and conduct BOCA assessments across the region. The Pacific National Societies also aim to enhance financial sustainability through the Core Costs and Financial Sustainability Initiative. Additionally, the Fiji Red Cross Society, Solomon Islands Red Cross Society, Vanuatu Red Cross Society, Palau Red Cross Society and Kiribati Red Cross Society will focus on accessing funding opportunities like the [IFRC Capacity Building Fund](#), the [IFRC ICRC National Society Investment Alliance](#) and the Empress Shoken Fund.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC continues to provide support to the Pacific National Societies to build their organizational capacities and attain financial sustainability. Through its e-learning courses, the IFRC supports the National Societies in training their staff in

the essential skills required for effective humanitarian service delivery. The IFRC also focuses on strengthening volunteer management practices across the region by supporting the ongoing review and enhancement of the common volunteer database. It also aims to ensure that volunteers are covered under the IFRC volunteers' insurance scheme for 2024, providing them with essential insurance coverage during Red Cross activities. Moreover, the IFRC will provide the Pacific National Societies with technical assistance in aligning their volunteer policies with the revised IFRC Global Volunteering Policy. It will support the National Societies in advancing volunteerism across the Pacific by organizing volunteer management workshops and conducting pacific volunteering research.

The **Australian Red Cross** will provide the Pacific National Societies with financial sustainability and core cost support.

The **Italian Red Cross** will support the National Societies in youth engagement and volunteer base enhancement.

The **Japanese Red Cross** will support the Pacific National Societies in youth engagement activities.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

The Pacific National Societies will focus on enhancing humanitarian diplomacy and strengthening their auxiliary role and mandate in the region. The Solomon Islands Red Cross and the Fiji Red Cross Society have developed a robust communications strategy combined with effective community outreach and engagement. Additionally, the Pacific National Societies aim to train communications officers in emergency communications.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will continue to support the Pacific National Societies by building their communications capabilities through

mentoring, coaching and collaborative media production. This initiative aims to empower local teams to effectively communicate their humanitarian efforts. The IFRC will actively support the Pacific National Societies in the development and dissemination of stories that highlight the impact of their initiatives and address humanitarian needs in the Pacific. It will also focus on amplifying the visibility of the accomplishments of the Pacific National Societies across local and international media platforms. Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Societies in building partnerships and engaging in humanitarian diplomacy.

The **New Zealand Red Cross** will support the Pacific National Societies in the development of their communications and outreach strategies.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

The Pacific National Societies will focus on the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) and code of conduct with support from the Asia Pacific Safeguarding Advisor. The National Societies will also focus on human resource (HR) development activities such as building the capacity of human resources, reviewing and revising human resources manuals, formulating human resources policies and conducting salary surveys and identifying staff retention strategies based on survey results

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Pacific National Societies in conducting evaluations of financial processes to ensure efficient and effective financial management. It will also provide support to the Pacific National Societies in achieving digital transformation through infrastructure upgrades, ICT health checks and building their capacity in data management. Currently, six National Societies are targeted for ICT assessments to optimize their digital capabilities: Tuvalu Red Cross Society, Samoa Red Cross Society, Kiribati Red Cross, Micronesia Red Cross, Palau Red Cross, and Marshall Islands Red Cross Societies.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Cook Islands Red Cross Society, Fiji Red Cross Society, Kiribati Red Cross, Samoa Red Cross Society, the Solomon Islands Red Cross, Tonga Red Cross Society, Tuvalu Red Cross Society and Vanuatu Red Cross Society. Its sub-office in the North Pacific supports the Marshall Islands Red Cross, Micronesia Red Cross and Palau Red Cross.

The IFRC also provides secretariat services to the Australian Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross, and helps facilitate a connection between the 14 members in the Pacific, including the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society.

The IFRC focuses on improving the organizational foundations of the Pacific National Societies and promoting transformative

behaviour change through peer networks. Its priorities include disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, healthcare improvement, and comprehensive social inclusion. The IFRC actively engages in capacity-building efforts such as branch development, financial sustainability, effective finance management, and promoting volunteer and youth engagement.

The IFRC leverages collective resources, experiences, and tools to benefit all the National Societies. It tailors support to meet each National Society's current performance level and facilitates continuous improvement. The IFRC will also pilot innovative initiatives adapted to the context of the Pacific, aiming to create and refine tools and approaches effectively.

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## 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 Pacific Leaders Meeting serves as a crucial platform for the National Societies to align with the IFRC Strategic 2030 and Agenda for Renewal. This meeting facilitates peer learning, showcases best practices in National Society development and local initiatives across the Pacific, and builds engagement with external partners and stakeholders.

The Pacific National Societies receive support from the following participating National Societies:

The **Australian Red Cross** supports with strengthening the National Society preparedness and response capacity (including pandemic preparedness), National Society development, financial sustainability and core cost support, shelter, logistics, and protection, gender and inclusion.

The **Italian Red Cross** will continue to provide support in youth, volunteering and health-related activities.

The **Japanese Red Cross** will continue to support the Pacific National Societies in developing their readiness and response roles as well as youth engagement activities.

The **New Zealand Red Cross** supports the National Societies in the development of their first aid capacities; communications; protection, gender and inclusion role and activities; and interventions related to building climate resilience.

## Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
American Red Cross	176,000	●					
Australian Red Cross	716,000		●			●	●
French Red Cross			●				
Italian Red Cross	6,000			●			
Japanese Red Cross	150,000	●					●
New Zealand Red Cross	160,000		●	●			

Total Funding requirement **CHF 1.2M**

## Movement coordination

The Pacific National Societies ensure regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation](#) (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

**The ICRC** supports the promotion of international humanitarian law and raises other humanitarian issues with governments, security forces, academic circles, the media and civil society. The ICRC, guided by its fundamental principles, provides support to the Pacific National Societies in conflict and violence-affected areas. This support includes capacity building for the National Society staff and volunteers, resource mobilization assistance, and collaborative initiatives to enhance humanitarian response and protection.

## Coordination with other actors

Collaboration with external partners has played a crucial role in providing robust multilateral and complementary bilateral support to the National Societies across the region.

Key partnerships include working with the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat to advance disaster law, resilience and risk governance. Through strategic collaboration with the Pacific Resilience Partnership, the IFRC supports the implementation of the PIF-endorsed 'Framework for Resilient Development' in the Pacific. Additionally, partnerships with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme focus on strengthening climate information and services to improve preparedness and reduce disaster risk for Pacific Islanders. The IFRC also collaborates closely with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in disaster preparedness and response, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives.

The IFRC continues its collaborative efforts with trusted development partners such as USAID, Australian DFAT, New Zealand MFAT, the Swiss Government, the Japanese Government and the EU. These partnerships, facilitated through its members, aim to support the National Societies in

accessing multilateral partnerships and resources effectively. The IFRC will maintain its role as a member of the Pacific Humanitarian Team and chair of the Pacific Shelter Cluster. It will facilitate reviews of the Pacific-level humanitarian architecture and assist the National Societies in actively engaging with the humanitarian community, including UN agencies, NGOs, and cluster systems, to ensure coordinated and efficient responses at the country level. Partnership agreements with key emergency response partners may be established to optimize operational effectiveness in-country.

The global shelter cluster is an inter-agency standing committee coordination mechanism and the IFRC has been leading the shelter cluster in disaster contexts since the establishment of the cluster approach in 2005. This critical mandate places the IFRC as one of the lead agencies in the international humanitarian coordination system. The IFRC leverages its leadership position in the global shelter cluster to advocate for improved coordination, stronger policies and standards across the sector, and better support for affected people in their recovery.





**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 eleven Pacific Island Red Cross National Societies, 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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**W** <http://www.facebook.com/cookislandsredcross>

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##### **Kiribati Red Cross Society**

**W** [www.facebook.com/KiribatiRCS](http://www.facebook.com/KiribatiRCS)

##### **Marshall Islands Red Cross Society**

**W** [www.msn.org](http://www.msn.org)

##### **Micronesia Red Cross Society**

**W** [www.redcross.fm](http://www.redcross.fm)

##### **Palau Red Cross Society**

**W** [Http://palauredcross.org](http://palauredcross.org)

##### **Samoa Red Cross Society**

**W** [www.facebook.com/samoaredcross](http://www.facebook.com/samoaredcross)

##### **Solomon Islands Red Cross Society**

**W** [www.facebook.com/solomonislandsredcross](http://www.facebook.com/solomonislandsredcross)

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