



RWANDA

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

13 November 2024

IN SUPPORT OF THE RWANDAN RED CROSS



30

National Society branches



31

National Society local units



67,886

National Society volunteers



97

National Society staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



1,138,987

Disasters and crises



3,762,007

Health and wellbeing



5,785,014

Values, power and inclusion



51,945

Migration and displacement



127,683

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement	4.4M
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	
	Funding	498,000
	Expenditure	498,000
	Longer-term	
	Funding Requirement	817,000
	Funding	195,000
	Expenditure	186,000
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	3.6M
	Funding	2.7M
	Expenditure	2.8M
HNS other funding sources	Funding	985,000

Rwandan Red Cross

Overview

Funding	4.8M
Expenditure	3.9M

Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat	634,000
Participating National Societies	3.2M
HNS other funding sources	985,000

Appeal number **MAACG002**

In addition to: CHF 500,000 DREF Funding

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	Developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks?	Yes
	Implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups?	Yes
	Implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)?	Yes
	Number of trees planted	723,000
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	1.1M
	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	1.1M
Disasters and crises	National Society has COVID-19 perception surveys conducted	Yes
	Number of staff and volunteers trained on COVID-19 vaccine introduction	300
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	174,000
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	3.8M
	People reached with livelihoods support	65,000
	People reached with shelter support	10,000
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	57%
Health and wellbeing	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	5.8M
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	803,000
	People reached with immunization services	3M
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	234,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	7,000
	People transported by National Society ambulances/medical transport to health facilities	3,000
Migration and displacement	Advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move?	Yes
	Data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move?	Yes
	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	128,000
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes	8
Values, power and inclusion	Integrity Line (Hotline and Case Management System) is established	Yes
	Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes
	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	52,000
	People reached by RCRC educational programmes	19,000

Percentage of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information	87%
Percentage of surveyed affected people who believe their views are taken into account in decisions made around the support they receive (disaggregated by sex and age)	83%

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	6
National Society development	One National Society Development plan in place	Yes
	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
	Youth engagement strategy developed or in place	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	Participation in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society have strengthened their integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes
	National Society is showing progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Bilateral Support							Multilateral Support
	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	
National Society								Through IFRC
American Red Cross								✓
Austrian Red Cross	835,000	●	●	●		●	●	
Belgian Red Cross	6.1M	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Finnish Red Cross	55,000	●					●	
Japanese Red Cross Society				●		●	●	
Netherlands Red Cross							●	
Spanish Red Cross	1.2M	●	●	●		●	●	
Swiss Red Cross								✓

Total Funding Reported **CHF 8.3M**

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Rwanda, a small, landlocked country in central Africa, is bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). With a population of over 13.2 million and a high density of 523 people per square kilometer, Rwanda's economy largely depends on agriculture, though modernization efforts are leaving many farmers unemployed. Despite its recovery from the 1994 genocide and significant economic progress, Rwanda faces challenges like high poverty rates (30.4%), limited access to essential services, and frequent natural hazards. Youth unemployment is a major issue, with over 72% of the population under 35 years old. Political instability in the region, particularly in Eastern DRC, adds security concerns, though Rwanda itself experiences few violent incidents. Urban centers like Kigali are growing, with employment in commerce, agriculture, and emerging light industries from foreign investment. Rwanda has achieved Vision 2020 goals and is making gradual progress toward Vision 2035.

This report highlights the key achievements of the Rwanda Red Cross in line with its 2022–2026 strategic plan and the Unified Plan 2023. Major successes were driven by the dedication of volunteers and stakeholders, despite challenges from the increased conflict in Eastern DRC, floods, and landslides in 2023, which impacted livelihoods and agriculture. Rwanda's GDP grew by 8.2%, though agricultural growth was only 2%, while tourism revenue rose by 36%. New funding was secured for disaster preparedness, risk reduction, and livelihood projects, including early warning systems and financial empowerment initiatives supported by Finnish and Spanish Red Cross partners.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

The Rwanda Red Cross has made progress in climate change and environmental initiatives across its 30 branch committees, reaching over 1,138,000 people through community sensitization efforts, including house-to-house visits, mobile cinema, and leaflets. With active volunteer participation and enhanced vulnerability assessments, the organization tailored risk mitigation measures. Key achievements include strengthening community action groups, especially among women and youth, and planting over 780,000 agroforestry, fruit, and forest trees in vulnerable areas. The promotion of fuel-efficient stoves reduced tree cutting, and terraces and anti-erosion trenches were installed to protect arable land. In flood-affected areas, communities received guidance to relocate from high-risk zones, leading to increased local participation through ongoing community mobilization. Additionally, the Rwanda Red Cross initiated forecast-based action by conducting hazard perception studies and developing an [early action protocol](#) with partners such as the Ministry of Emergency Management and the World Food Programme.

Disasters and crises

The Rwanda Red Cross has trained volunteers at national, branch, and local levels to enhance their emergency response capacity. In 2023, the organization responded to severe floods and landslides that impacted over 50,000 people, collaborating with government and humanitarian partners to provide immediate relief, including search and rescue operations, clean water distribution, basic relief items, and hygiene and sanitation support at evacuation sites. Cash assistance reached 6,315 individuals, addressing livelihoods, [shelter](#), and sanitation needs, with 97.8% of recipients expressing satisfaction. Additionally, over 3,700 Congolese asylum seekers and disaster-affected individuals received food, non-food items, and cash for housing rehabilitation. To strengthen community resilience, the Rwanda Red Cross distributed over 1,320 small livestock, supported 50 cooperatives with financial literacy, facilitated savings and loans groups, and promoted vegetable gardens, benefiting over 65,000 people with livelihoods support and 9,946 people with shelter assistance.

Health and wellbeing

The Rwanda Red Cross has made progress in health promotion, reaching over 5.7 million people through awareness campaigns on hygiene-related diseases, malnutrition, malaria, and non-communicable diseases via pamphlets, home visits, and radio programs. Vulnerable households received support for clean latrines, and hygiene infrastructure was improved in schools, benefiting 940 students. COVID-19 vaccination efforts were supported by over 300 trained volunteers, and voluntary blood donation initiatives reached over 8,000 people in the Southern Province. The

organization also began addressing eye health and trained 6,815 individuals in first aid, with ambulance services transporting over 3,200 people during emergencies, including the 2023 floods. For over eight years, the Rwanda Red Cross has supported refugees and host communities, providing first aid, psychosocial support, and medical equipment in camps like Mahama and Nyabiheke. Livelihood support initiatives included income-generating activities, vocational training, and the establishment of cooperatives, alongside the planting of over 118,000 trees. Humanitarian assistance delivered non-food items to 8,309 individuals and constructed kitchens in older camps. The National Society facilitated family tracing for 120 unaccompanied children and fostered social cohesion between refugees and host communities, with a satisfaction survey revealing that 92% of beneficiaries felt safe and secure and 90% noted improvements in health conditions.

Migration and displacement

For over eight years, the Rwanda Red Cross has provided essential support to refugees and host communities in camps like Mahama, Nyabiheke, Kiziba, and Nkamira. Key services include first aid, psychosocial support, and the transport of over 700 individuals to health centers, along with medical equipment to bolster health services. The National Society has strengthened economic inclusion through income-generating activities, vocational training, and cooperatives, benefiting refugees in agriculture and small business. Environmental and nutrition support included the planting of over 118,000 trees. Humanitarian aid reached 8,309 people with vital supplies, while new kitchens in older camps improved daily living conditions. Family reunification services helped connect 120 unaccompanied children with families, with 9,000 calls facilitated for refugees. Social cohesion programs, cooperative work, and clubs promoted positive relations between refugees and host communities, and a survey indicated high satisfaction with the support provided, with 92% of beneficiaries feeling safe and 90% noting improved health. Through these initiatives, the Rwanda Red Cross has significantly contributed to the integration and well-being of refugees and host communities.

Values, power and inclusion

The Rwanda Red Cross has effectively integrated protection, gender, inclusion, community engagement, and youth empowerment into its strategic programs. It has established Red Cross youth clubs in at least two schools per sector, providing first aid training, blood donation initiatives, and discussions on sexual and reproductive health rights, environmental protection, and disaster risk reduction. The National Society trained students from 21 schools, reaching over 2,000 individuals in sexual and reproductive health education and empowering them to prevent sexual and gender-based violence. Overall, the educational program reached 18,629 people through various methods, including mobile cinema and interactive tools. Emphasizing community engagement, the organization ensures program designs prioritize the dignity, access, participation, and safety of affected individuals while strengthening community participation during assessments. Feedback mechanisms and improved data disaggregation by gender and specific needs enhance reporting. Capacity-building efforts for volunteers and staff have supported programming that reached 51,946 people. A perception survey conducted during the COVID-19 vaccination program revealed that 87% of respondents found the information useful, and 83.2% felt their opinions were valued in decision-making processes, reflecting the National Society's commitment to community engagement.

Values, Power and Inclusion

By working closely with the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), the Rwanda Red Cross has ensured effective coordination across its decentralized structures, from national to village levels, to enhance disaster response and resilience strategies. In collaboration with the Rwanda Meteorology Agency, it has disseminated early warning messages to support community preparedness, contributing to effective risk reduction practices locally. The partnership with the Ministry of Health and Rwanda Biomedical Centre has promoted public health initiatives, including blood donation, hygiene, sanitation, and mental health services, reinforcing community health support. Additionally, in refugee response efforts, the Rwanda Red Cross has worked with UNHCR to deliver essential services in refugee camps and reception centers, further enhancing local response capabilities in alignment with global humanitarian standards. Through these initiatives, the Rwanda Red Cross has empowered local communities and authorities to engage more effectively in disaster management and health service delivery, establishing itself as a crucial link between local actors and broader humanitarian networks.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, visit the [IFRC GO page: Rwanda](#)

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) was approved for Pluvial/Flash Flood:

Rwanda- Floods and Landslides

NAME OF OPERATION	Pluvial/Flash Flood
MDR-CODE	MDRRW022
DURATION	4 months (15-05-2023 to 30-09-2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 499, 957
PEOPLE TARGETED	49, 485
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Final report

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 499, 957 in May 2023 supported the Rwanda Red Cross in assisting approximately 49, 485 people affected by the floods in *Western province, Northern province and Southern province*. The National Society supported the targeted people over a four-month period with assistance in shelter housing, health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and Resource mobilization.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society made significant progress in addressing climate change and environmental issues through various initiatives across its 30 branch committees. Community sensitization efforts on [nature-based solutions](#) and strategies to combat climate change reached over 1,138,000 people in 30 districts. These efforts used a range of communication tools, such as megaphones, house-to-house visits, mobile cinema, and leaflets. Local, branch, and national emergency response teams actively participated in these activities.

Enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment exercises enabled the branch committees to design effective measures to mitigate risks. Community action groups, involving women and youth, were strengthened, and their initiatives supported. Over 780,000 trees were planted in private homes and vulnerable areas, while trees from the previous year were maintained. The promotion of fuel-efficient cooking stoves, using locally available materials, was also increased to reduce deforestation. Efforts to dig terraces and install anti-erosion trenches on steep slopes helped tackle soil erosion, protect arable land, and recover more agricultural land. During the disaster response, communities affected by floods were encouraged to relocate from high-risk zones to safer areas.

Continuous community mobilization increased awareness and strengthened participation in planned activities that addressed local issues. Additionally, the National Society is engaged in forecast-based action with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross. A hazard perception study in Rubavu district was conducted to understand community perspectives, which will inform future strategies. The process for developing an early action protocol has begun, with project proposals, contract signing, and discussions with in-country partners,

including the Ministry of Emergency Management and the World Food Programme.

IFRC network joint support

IFRC provided technical and financial assistance. Beside the IFRC, these activities were supported by Austrian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross – Flanders, Belgian Red Cross – Francophone, Finnish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society and Spanish Red Cross.



Disasters and crises

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society's ability to act as a first responder relies on its network of trained volunteers, organized into national, branch, and local disaster response teams. Continuous training helped volunteers remain ready for response activities, with regular meetings to discuss risks and strategies, particularly before the rainy seasons in February and September. Volunteers reached 3,762,000 people with Disaster Risk Reduction activities, educating communities on how to face various risks. Efforts included increased tree planting, rainwater channel maintenance, roof reinforcement, and reminders to secure dwellings. At the branch level, strategic stocks were replenished with essential items to support affected populations.

Cash readiness improved through capacity assessments and staff training, with 26 staff members trained on cash and voucher assistance (CVA). Cash responses provided 57% of the total assistance in 2023, reaching over 400 million FRW out of a total of 700 million FRW. The National Society also participated in technical working groups at the national level, collaborating with government agencies on disaster management and early warning systems.

In May 2023, the country experienced heavy rains, leading to floods and landslides in 14 districts. This disaster left 51,905 people affected, 131 dead, and 5,472 houses destroyed. The National Society's emergency teams, in collaboration with local leaders and other stakeholders, responded with search and rescue, evacuations, clean water provision, and hygiene promotion at evacuation sites. Cash assistance reached 6,315 people for livelihoods, 1,509 people for shelter, and 860 people for latrine rehabilitation. Surveys indicated high satisfaction with cash assistance, with 97.8% of households reporting they used the cash for food, and 95.3% satisfied with the engagement process.

The Crisis Modifier fund allowed the National Society to respond quickly to the needs of 3,729 people, including Congolese asylum seekers and those affected by disasters. In total, 173,954 people received in-kind, cash, or voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery.

The National Society's strategic plan for 2022-2026 focuses on strengthening community resilience through the Model Village approach, aiming to expand this program to all 416 administrative sectors. While challenges related to decentralized structures have slowed progress, active villages continued to provide economic support through livestock distribution, savings and loans activities, and livelihood initiatives. Over 1,320 small livestock, mainly goats and pigs, were distributed, and 50 cooperatives with 2,300 members were supported in income generation. Additionally, 180 savings and loans groups with 6,900 members were strengthened.

In support of government efforts to combat malnutrition, beneficiaries were provided with vegetable seeds, and awareness sessions were conducted to educate families on nutrition and meal preparation. Hygiene and sanitation efforts, including support for latrines and waste management, led to a reduction in diarrheal diseases among children under five. Overall, 65,000 people received livelihoods support, and 9,946 people received shelter assistance during the reporting period.

The visibility of the National Society's emergency management activities increased through coverage on 9 radio stations, 6 TV stations, and several online and social media platforms.

IFRC Network joint support

The IFRC provided technical and financial assistance. Besides IFRC, these activities were supported by **Austrian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross – Flanders, Belgian Red Cross – Francophone** and **Spanish Red Cross**.



Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society's health promotion activities, aligned with its 2022-2026 strategic plan, focus on health emergencies, psychosocial support, epidemic control, voluntary blood donation, and improving water, sanitation, and hygiene for underserved communities. These initiatives, integrated into the Model Village approach, reached over 5.7 million people.

Trained volunteers educated communities on disease control, hygiene, malnutrition, malaria, and non-communicable diseases through methods like pamphlets, home visits, and mobile cinema. Clean latrines were provided to vulnerable households, and a school in Rutsiro district was equipped with a clean latrine and menstrual hygiene management room. Over 300 volunteers supported COVID-19 vaccinations for children aged 5-11, and global research on pandemic lessons reached 3 million people.

Voluntary blood donation was intensified, particularly in the Southern province, with 150 volunteers reaching over 8,000 people. The National Society also launched a pilot campaign to address eye diseases in collaboration with Kabgayi Hospital, with plans for expansion.

First aid training reached 6,815 people, mostly students, through a blended learning approach. The National Society's ambulance service transported 3,225 people to health facilities and provided disaster support. Efforts were made to strengthen the ambulance service and expand its network in collaboration with institutions like the Ministry of Health.

The National Society's 24/7 call center provided psychosocial support, COVID-19 information, and sexual and reproductive health advice, reaching 4,186 callers. Psychosocial and mental health services reached 233,758 people, with volunteers trained to handle gender-based violence and mental health issues during emergencies.

In Gisagara district, a water supply project provided clean water to over 8,500 people, while similar projects in Nyamasheke and Kayonza districts are in progress. In Nyagatare district, a rainwater harvesting system benefited vulnerable households. Overall, 802,700 people were reached with water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical and financial assistance. Besides IFRC, these activities were supported by **Austrian Red Cross**, **Belgian Red Cross – Flanders**, **Belgian Red Cross – Francophone**, **Japanese Red Cross Society** and **Spanish Red Cross**



Rwanda Red Cross Society provides essential support to families affected by recent floods and landslides in the Western Province, distributing non-food items such as blankets, clothing, and hygiene kits in collaboration with local authorities. (Photo: IFRC).



Migration and displacement

Progress by National Society against objectives

For over eight years, the Rwanda Red Cross Society (RRCS) has been actively involved in refugee response efforts, partnering with UNHCR and MINEMA across multiple camps and reception centers. During this period, RRCS reached over 127,600 people, providing essential services.

Health and psychosocial services, including first aid, ambulance transport, and essential supplies (soap, masks, sanitary pads), were delivered to refugees and host communities. Over 700 individuals were transported to health centers, and ambulance services were regularly provided in Mahama, Nyabiheke, and Kiziba camps. Support for health centers was strengthened through medical equipment and rebuilding efforts, with a focus on addressing SGBV cases and raising disease prevention awareness through mass sensitization and household visits.

Livelihood activities supported refugees' economic inclusion through agriculture, vocational training, and income-generating initiatives, benefitting over 1,300 cooperative members and youth. Additionally, 118,000 trees were planted, and vegetable gardens were maintained around the camps to promote [food security](#).

Humanitarian aid reached 8,309 people with non-food items, menstrual hygiene kits, and kitchen construction in Kiziba camp. RRCS also supported [restoring family links](#), registering 120 unaccompanied children and facilitating over 9,000 phone calls.

Social cohesion initiatives, such as cooperative work and engagement clubs, fostered stronger relationships between refugees and host communities. According to an October 2023 survey, beneficiaries reported improved safety (92%), health (90%), hygiene (99%), and protection (100%) due to RRCS interventions.

IFRC network joint support

These activities were supported by **Belgian Red Cross – Flanders, Belgian Red Cross – Francophone** and **ICRC**.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Rwanda Red Cross Society's (RRCS) strategic plan integrates protection, gender inclusion, community engagement, accountability, and youth empowerment across all programs. Mobilization efforts focused on schools, aiming to identify two schools per sector (832 total) to pilot [youth engagement](#) initiatives. These include forming Red Cross youth clubs, first aid training, blood donation, sexual and reproductive health education, disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, and promoting Red Cross principles.

For sexual and reproductive health education, over 2,000 students from 21 schools received training on sexual and gender-based violence prevention and sexual and reproductive health rights. The program, which employed tools like mobile cinema, debates, cartoons, and the Tantine App, reached 18,629 people. Students reported feeling empowered with the knowledge to make informed decisions and protect themselves from exploitation.

Community participation and accountability are central to all programs, ensuring dignity, access, and safety for affected people. Communities are involved in assessments, beneficiary selection, and feedback mechanisms. Capacity building for volunteers and staff includes training on protection, gender, and inclusion, which has reached 51,946 people.

A perception survey related to the COVID-19 vaccination program showed that 87% of respondents found the information they received useful, and 83.2% felt their views were considered in decisions about the support they received.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** provided technical and financial assistance. Besides IFRC, these activities were supported by **Austrian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross – Flanders, Belgian Red Cross – Francophone, Japanese Red Cross Society** and **Spanish Red Cross**.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

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 Rwandan 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. The National Society has been a member of the IFRC eastern Africa Disaster Management platform since its revival in 2017. The platform brings together disaster management staff from East African National Societies and other participating National Societies. Its aim is to encourage information sharing among National Societies and provide opportunities for mutual learning through peer-to-peer initiatives. The Rwandan Red Cross is also a member and co-chair of the East Africa cash working group, which brings together National Societies to share their experiences in implementing cash-based interventions. It also works to strengthen their cash preparedness capacities.

The Rwandan Red Cross actively participates in the Red Cross-NET, and its programme staff participate in regional meetings, workshops and training sessions – all of which foster cross-border cooperation and the sharing of experiences through the IFRC.

The **Austrian Red Cross** has supported the Rwandan Red Cross on emergency medical services in 2022; EcoCare in 2022–2024 (disaster risk reduction, community resilience, water, hygiene and sanitation); and the Skybird project in 2022, which promotes water, hygiene and sanitation.

The **Belgian Red Cross** (Flanders) supported the Rwandan Red Cross with a project on disaster preparedness (disaster risk reduction, emergency response and blood donation) in 2020–2022. It also supports other projects on humanitarian protection for refugees and host communities, including emergency response, and a component of institutional capacity development in 2022–2023. The overall partnership agreement for 2022–2026 focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene, disaster risk reduction, first aid and blood donation.

The **Belgian Red Cross** (Francophone) has an overall partnership agreement with the Rwandan Red Cross for 2022–2026, which focuses on community resilience and institutional capacity development. Other support includes the AMOPAH project, which is focused on humanitarian protection in the area of refugee response and host communities, and institutional capacity development in 2022–2023.

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** supports the Rwandan Red Cross with the Gisagara model village and community resilience. It also supports institutional capacity development in 2020–2024.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supported the National Society with funds from European Union to support awareness-raising among the adolescent youth on their sexual and reproductive health rights and fight against sexual and gender-based violence. This partnership has extended into a new project focusing on food security which will start in beginning of 2024. The Spanish Red Cross also supports the Rwandan Red Cross with projects on the socioeconomic development of rural communities and cooperatives – including livelihoods, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene in 2022–2023.

Other National Societies such as the **Danish Red Cross**, **Finnish Red Cross** and **Qatar Red Crescent Society** have explored partnerships with the Rwandan Red Cross on emergency medical services, psychosocial support programmes, climate change and early warning systems.

Movement coordination

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

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

The ICRC promotes international humanitarian law and its incorporation into legislation. It works with the Rwandan Red Cross to reunite children with their families and restore family links, and helps the National Society expand its response capacity.

External coordination

The Rwandan Red Cross works with the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), which is responsible for the overall coordination of disaster response in the country, including population movement. The National Society's decentralized structures – at national, district, sector, cell, and village levels – enable it to coordinate with the Ministry and local authorities at all levels during disaster responses. The National Society collaborates with MINEMA on developing national [disaster risk management](#) strategies and policies.

The National Society works in partnership with the Rwanda Meteorology Agency in spreading early hazard warning messages, particularly weather forecasts, and ensuring that target communities undertake adequate risk reduction actions.

The Rwandan Red Cross collaborates with the Ministry of Health and Rwanda Biomedical Centre on mobilizing blood donation, community health, hygiene and sanitation, and mental health.

In refugee response operations, the Rwandan Red Cross collaborates with UNHCR in camp activities and reception centres.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

For efficient service delivery, strong structures, leadership, branch committees, and well-organized volunteer networks are essential. Following the election of new leadership and restructuring of the decentralized Rwandan Red Cross Society organs, significant efforts were made to mobilize members nationwide, resulting in 27,963 members (34% youth) renewing their memberships by the year's end. A total of 785 cells and 413 sectors were prepared for elections, scheduled for 2024, alongside a General Assembly and induction training for newly elected committee members. The National Society has designed a minimum delivery package for each committee to ensure strong performance.

The Rwamagana branch committee in the Eastern Province has transitioned from a rented office to an owned one, reflecting the National Society's commitment to providing decent working premises for branch and sector committees. Other branches, like Nyamasheke and Ngoma, received support for office renovations. The Kirehe branch committee's income initiative for constructing rental shops is progressing positively. Additionally, the Karongi Guest House is nearing full operational status, and the newly completed Nyanza Guest House opened its doors by hosting the National Society's annual partnership meeting in October 2023.

Annual performance contracts remain the primary planning tool for decentralized structures. Plans for 2022–2023 were evaluated, and new ones were established at sector and district committee levels. At headquarters, secured National Society Insurance Agency Bridge funds facilitated the design of a roadmap for productive investment, which aligns with the requirements of the City of Kigali. Two consultants were hired for this project: one to finalize a master plan and infrastructure design, and another to create a feasibility study/business plan for evaluating profitability. Extensive discussions and consultations with the National Society leadership, staff, stakeholders, and relevant government institutions ensured strong proposals and increased ownership.

With support from the Belgian Red Cross, the rehabilitation of part of the headquarters building is at the tender level, with renovations expected to begin in early 2024, aiming for operational status by mid-2024. The site was also enhanced with new roads for improved access to current services.

The National Society's social media presence has increased, with 8,930 followers on Facebook (4% increase), 4,143 on Twitter/X (19% increase), and 9,944 on TikTok (8% increase); Instagram was suspended in April 2023.

Capacity building efforts focused on developing human resources for both paid staff and volunteers, with various trainings conducted to enhance service delivery. Volunteer insurance was secured to improve their protection during

interventions, and efforts were made to provide necessary safety tools. The total staff count rose to 97 by December 2023, including 11 new hires and 3 departures (retirement), with 32% being female.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided both technical and financial support to the Rwanda Red Cross Society in its efforts to prioritize National Society development and in developing tools to facilitate the overall improvement of the National Society.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society strengthened its communications through digital media presence. It also assisted in humanitarian diplomacy efforts by engaging in dialogue with the government.

The International Humanitarian Law (IHL) training sessions were conducted for National Society staff members and volunteers, enhancing their understanding of humanitarian principles. A Training of Trainers on IHL was also held for Red Cross volunteers and staff with legal backgrounds, enabling them to disseminate knowledge further. Additionally, a workshop on context and risk assessment was organized, enhancing the organization's preparedness and response capabilities. Media coverage was facilitated for boosting visibility and support for Red Cross initiatives. Furthermore, a documentary film showcasing Rwanda Red Cross activities and achievements was produced, serving as a powerful advocacy tool. These efforts collectively aimed to strengthen communication, capacity, and engagement within the organization and the broader community.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in drafting key messages related to humanitarian diplomacy.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Financial accountability within the Rwandan Red Cross Society involves robust internal mechanisms for managing finances, including the Accounting Unit and the Internal Audit Unit. Periodic financial reports (monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual) are produced, verified, and shared with leadership to address gaps and enhance budget utilization. Regular communication between the Finance Team and the Partner National Societies/International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies ensures the sharing of relevant financial information with donors. During the reporting period, six external audits were conducted, with three completed and three ongoing.

Monitoring and evaluation systems were utilized to share implementation reports with partners, highlighting the impact of received funds and successful strategies for sustaining results. Four projects were evaluated by external consultants, providing lessons learned and recommendations for improvement. Additionally, the National Society recruited a dedicated Accountant to handle cash transfer operations, and the Financial Service Provider, MTN – Rwanda, trained the team to perform transactions independently, enhancing service efficiency and control.

The digital transformation process advanced with LAN rehabilitation at headquarters to improve connectivity and internet access. A workshop was held to assess the National Society's digital maturity and develop an action plan, and staff received training on information management in cash and voucher assistance programming. A digital platform for sharing plans and reports was created and is actively used. Efforts to manage volunteer data included exploring suitable digital tools by consulting with other National Societies.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supports the Rwandan Red Cross in strengthening its integrity and risk mechanisms, developing robust risk management frameworks, and acquiring essential financial and HR systems. It also provides the National Society with support in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER). The IFRC also guided digital transformation and emphasize consistency for effective impact monitoring.



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 16 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Rwanda 2023 Finance Report](#)
Note: For emergencies for which financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRRW022](#)
- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

Contact information

Rwanda Red Cross Society
www.rwandaredcross.org

Nadia Khoury

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Delegation Myanmar,
Yangon
nadia.khoury@ifrc.org

Louise Daintrey

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

Sumitha Martin

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