



# TIMOR-LESTE

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2024

14 November 2024

## IN SUPPORT OF THE TIMOR-LESTE RED CROSS SOCIETY



13

National Society branches



14

National Society local units



792

National Society volunteers



134

National Society staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



15,807

Disasters and crises



10,926

Health and wellbeing



6,974

Migration and displacement



524

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement	1.2M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term Funding Requirement	910,000
	Funding	Not reported
	Expenditure	Not reported
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	318,000
HNS other funding sources	Funding	Not reported

### Timor-Leste Red Cross Society

#### Overview

Funding | Not reported

Expenditure | Not reported

#### Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat | Not reported





Participating National Societies | Not reported

HNS other funding sources | Not reported

Appeal number **MAATP001**

\*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups.	Yes
	Number of people reached with activities to address rising climate risks.	 16,000
Disasters and crises	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction.	 11,000
Health and wellbeing	Number of people donating blood	542
	Number of people reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services.	 7,000
	Number of people reached with effective water treatment materials and promotion.	 58,000
	Number of people trained by National Societies in first aid.	173
Migration and displacement	Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection.	524

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Diversity of National Society's staff at senior level.	8
	National Society increases the number of government led platforms in which they are actively participating to achieve humanitarian or development goals.	0
	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of.	0
	Number of National Societies where a Federation-wide approach is used for planning, monitoring and reporting the impact of the IFRC network.	1
National Society development	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of their volunteers.	Yes

# IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Bilateral Support						
	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
American Red Cross		●	●				●
Australian Red Cross			●			●	●
Indonesian Red Cross Society			●				
Italian Red Cross						●	●
Netherlands Red Cross		●	●	●		●	
New Zealand Red Cross							●

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

In 2023, Timor-Leste faced significant [challenges](#) related to climate and the environment, with El Niño-related extreme weather events becoming more frequent and intense. Preliminary research indicates that these trends have been evident over the past 20 years, reflecting data from neighbouring regions such as Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province.

The rainfall pattern in Timor-Leste is heavily influenced by the Australian Monsoon. During the [Australian Summer Monsoon](#), most of the country experiences wet conditions, while the dry season typically lasts from May to November. However, global warming has led to a shift toward a hotter climate, with increasingly hot days and nights becoming the norm.

As [heat waves](#) and [warm spells](#) are projected to increase dramatically in the coming years, the drastic rise in days with temperatures exceeding 35°C and the prevalence of tropical nights will necessitate adaptive measures. While the people of Timor-Leste are accustomed to a tropical climate, these changes pose new challenges. Additionally, hazardous seasons can impede the timely implementation of programmes. Certain areas are prone to floods and landslides during the rainy season, which can cut off access from both within and outside these regions.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

During the reporting period, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society has been working on a national roadmap for [anticipatory action](#) to improve disaster preparedness over the next five years. It is developing [early action protocols](#) for floods in municipalities outside Dili, set for completion by June 2024. A partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme involved assessing community-based [early warning](#) systems and conducting practical exercises to enhance local response skills. The National Society also submitted a proposal for extending the Integrated Community-Based Risk Reduction project along with a strategic partnership plan to address climate challenges from 2024 to 2029.

### Disasters and crises

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society launched the Global Crisis Data Bank project to improve disaster and crisis response, enhancing information management by hiring a specialist and collaborating with local data stakeholders. The project also provided access to historical disaster data and built capacity within the the National Society. To strengthen community resilience, it submitted a proposal for the third phase of the Integrated Community-Based Risk Reduction project in October 2023, focusing on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and health, which was approved by the Republic of Korea in June 2024 and will start in the second half of 2024. Additionally, the National Society procured family kits for shelter and household support, which are ready for distribution in municipalities, while planning training on shelter management and community engagement in the coming months.

### Health and wellbeing

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society actively disseminated health information, distributed brochures and conducted mosquito control campaigns while supporting the Ministry of Health in monitoring cases. It provided regional first aid training for disaster response teams and collaborated with health authorities to develop a pandemic fund proposal. The National Society also organized refresher training on epidemic control and WASH, enhancing community preparedness. Additionally, a nutrition programme for adolescent girls was launched with Catholic Relief Services, promoting awareness of anemia risks and improving dietary practices. To support vulnerable communities, the National Society installed clean water systems in various municipalities and trained local personnel in facilities management to ensure sustainability.

### Migration and displacement

During the reporting period, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society focused on humanitarian support for displaced individuals affected by disasters, responding to floods in Covalima Municipality in June 2024. It coordinated the evacuation of households in collaboration with the government authorities and local disaster management teams.

Vulnerable groups, including women, children, elderly and people with disabilities, were safely evacuated to centres where they were provided with essential aid such as food, water and medical support.

## Values, power and inclusion

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society integrated [protection, gender, and inclusion \(PGI\)](#) into its programmes, focusing on disaster preparedness and emergency response. Through the Chronic Crises project, it procured 500 dignity kits for vulnerable groups to ensure equitable access to basic services in future emergencies. The National Society also engaged with the Southeast Asia PGI network and attended webinars on PGI and safeguarding. Since 2022, it has developed guidelines for [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) in emergencies, though implementation has faced challenges due to limited resources. To address this, the National Society plans peer-to-peer learning and refresher training on CEA and feedback mechanisms for staff and volunteers in July 2024.

## Enabling local actors

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society has expanded its audience reach through social media and appointed a new communications manager in March 2024 to enhance peer learning and expertise exchange with other National Societies. Its 24th anniversary, celebrated on June 21, 2024, underscored the importance of bilateral cooperation and was attended by various dignitaries. To support [digital transformation](#), the National Society conducted training on integrating advanced data visualization and GIS capabilities into workflows, while also adopting paperless methods for PMER activities. To strengthen PMER capacity, the National Society held sessions to improve the project management team's understanding and conducted regular project reconciliations for accurate financial data. A revised finance manual, covering both headquarters and branches, was completed in December 2023, with socialization planned post-approval, alongside a finalized accounting policy to support bookkeeping in line with international standards for non-profits.

## Changes and amendments

Priority actions for climate and environment, disaster and crisis management, health and well-being and youth strategies are set to be implemented under the Integrated Community-Based Risk Reduction (ICBRR) Phase 3. The extension of Phase 2 was proposed last year and approved in mid-June. The new pledge will be signed in July, enabling these priority actions to commence in the second semester of 2024.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

Climate-related hazards, such as floods and droughts, have significantly impacted the lives of people in Timor-Leste, and forecasts indicate that these events will become more frequent and intense in the future. [Anticipatory action](#) aims to enhance Timor-Leste's preparedness and resilience in disaster management. Since 2023, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society has actively participated in developing the national roadmap, which provides a comprehensive framework for government ministries and partners to expand and integrate anticipatory action strategies over the next five years.

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society is also developing simplified [early action protocols \(EAP\)](#) for floods, which will be implemented in 12 municipalities outside Dili, considering the impacts of floods and geographical factors. The EAP is scheduled for finalization by the end of June 2024.

To strengthen disaster preparedness and community resilience to climate and environmental issues, the Viqueque branch of the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society partnered with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for a monitoring visit from June 25-27, 2024. This visit focused on the Camelitur and Aisahe Sub-Villages in Bahalara-Uain, Viqueque. The team assessed the community-based early warning system and conducted group discussions and simulation exercises on flood response. Led by village volunteers, these practical sessions engaged community members to improve their readiness and response skills.

To address climate-related hazards, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society submitted a proposal for the Integrated Community-Based Risk Reduction (ICBRR) project extension in October 2023. The Republic of Korea Government approved this proposal in late June 2024 and finalization will take place in July 2024. Additionally, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society developed a strategic partnership plan for 2024-2029 to address climate and environmental challenges.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** provided the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society with technical and financial support for the implementation of its activities.

**The American Red Cross** developed a strategic partnership plan for 2024-2029 in collaboration with the National Society on addressing climate and environmental challenges.

**The Australian Red Cross** and the Red Cross Climate Centre is providing support to the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society on developing simplified early action protocols for floods.



## **Disasters and crises**

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

### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

In a significant step toward digitalization, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society launched the Global Crisis Data Bank project in September 2023 to improve disaster and crisis interventions. Since the beginning of the year, this project has strengthened the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society's information management capabilities by investing in human resources, including the recruitment of a specialist. The project has also fostered collaboration between the National Society and local data stakeholders. It has also provided access to historical disaster data and built information management capacity within the National Society.

To address community resilience to hazards, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society submitted a proposal for the Integrated Community-Based Risk Reduction (ICBRR) phase 3 in October 2023. This proposal focuses on areas such as disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, livelihood, health and WASH and youth development. Initially planned for early this year, the project received approval from the Republic of Korea Government in late June 2024 and will begin in the second half of 2024.

Under the Chronic Crises project, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society procured 500 family kits for shelter and settlement assistance, as well as basic household support for targeted families in upcoming emergency responses. The family kits have been delivered to the warehouses of 12 municipalities and branches. In the next quarter, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society will focus on building shelter management capacity and providing cash basic training at the national level. Additionally, the National Society will conduct [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) refresher training at the branch level.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the National Society through its Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC DREF](#)). It also provided the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society with technical assistance for its projects and initiatives.

The IFRC and the **Australian Red Cross** will also support the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society on shelter management capacity building and cash basic training both of which will be conducted at the national level along with CEA refresher training at the branch level.

Under Chronic Crises project supported by the **Netherlands Red Cross**, the National Society provided shelter, settlement and basic household assistance to targeted families during emergency response.



## Health and wellbeing

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### Progress of the National Society against objectives

Dengue fever is a significant concern in Timor-Leste with peak transmission expected from December 2023 to April 2024. To address this issue, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society has played a crucial role in disseminating essential health information, distributing brochures and conducting mosquito abatement and fogging campaigns. The National Society has also supported the Ministry of Health in monitoring dengue cases and is prepared to provide health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance if necessary. As a primary provider of first aid training in Timor-Leste, the National Society continues to train communities in collaboration with various institutions.

From May 22-24, 2024, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society and the Civil Protection Authority conducted regional first aid training for members of the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Commission and the National Society's branch disaster response team. This training aimed to improve emergency readiness and response capabilities and marked the first phase for branches in Baucau, Lautem, Viqueque, Aileu, Ainaro, Covalima and Manufahi with 40 participants.

As an auxiliary to public authorities, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society collaborated with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop the Pandemic Fund proposal. The National Society has played a critical role in disease prevention through health promotion and community-based surveillance. Aligned with the Asia Pacific Regional Health and Care Framework, the National Society sent a representative to a planning workshop in Kuala Lumpur from May 8-10, 2024, to enhance planning processes within its health unit.

Under the community preparedness programme, the National Society held a national refresher training for epidemic control from June 18-20, 2024. This training included comprehensive community-based surveillance modules, equipping participants with essential skills for epidemic response.

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society also conducted refresher training on WASH and health promotion under the Chronic Crises Project to strengthen financial and technical capacity for disaster response. Over 40 personnel received training in health, hygiene, and psychosocial support.

From January to June 2024, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society, in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), achieved significant progress in its nutrition programme for adolescent girls and young women. To support vulnerable communities in accessing public health services, staff members received basic nutrition orientation training from CRS. This training equipped them with the skills necessary to implement the programme effectively. Additionally, the National Society conducted awareness sessions on the importance of iron-folic acid tablets and anemia risks, reaching adolescent girls in Covalima municipality. A workshop on social behaviour change was also held, focusing on strategies to improve nutritional practices.

In alignment with the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society's objectives to support vulnerable population, it installed safe and clean water systems in villages across Viqueque, Covalima and Liquiça municipalities. This initiative benefited communities in Viqueque Municipality, particularly in the villages of Lacluta, Ossu, and Uatulari. In Covalima Municipality, the project served over 2,000 people in the villages of Fatumea, Fohorem, Maucatar and Zumalae. Additionally, 50 individuals received training in facilities management to ensure the sustainability of these water systems.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided both financial and technical support to the National Society to carry out targeted initiatives aimed at improving the health and dignity of communities in emergencies.

Under the community preparedness programme, the **Australian Red Cross** provided support to the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society in epidemic control.



## Migration and displacement

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### Progress by National Society against objectives

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society prioritizes humanitarian support for displaced individuals affected by disasters. In June 2024, it responded to floods in Covalima municipality. The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society coordinated the

evacuation of households working alongside the Civil Protection Authority, the National Police of Timor-Leste, the Fire Institution and Covalima Municipality's Disaster Management Team. Vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities, were swiftly and safely transported to the evacuation centre. At the centre, essential aid, including food, water, and medical support was provided to the evacuees.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided financial and technical support to the National Society for the implementation of its activities.



## Values, power and inclusion

### Progress by National Society against objectives

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society has mainstreamed protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) into its programme implementation, including disaster preparedness and emergency response. Through the Chronic Crises project, the National Society has procured 500 dignity kits. These dignity kits will be provided to vulnerable groups to ensure safe and equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender, in the upcoming emergency response.

In terms of networking, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society participated in the Southeast Asia PGI network. The National Society also attended webinars on PGI and safeguarding.

Since 2022, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society has developed guidelines for community engagement and accountability (CEA) in emergencies to integrate CEA into emergency responses. The institutionalization of CEA has stalled due to limited resources and funding. The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society plans peer-to-peer learning to enhance understanding of CEA feedback mechanisms. Despite these challenges, the National Society will conduct refresher training on CEA and feedback mechanisms at the branch level in July 2024, supported by the Chronic Crises Project, to improve staff and volunteer knowledge.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society in implementing community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) principles.

The **Australian Red Cross** provided technical support on PGI to the National Society.



National Society volunteers conducting rapid assessments and providing family kits, baby kits and mosquito repellent to families affected by floods in Sau Village, Manatuto Town, Timor-Leste, 1 May, 2022 (Photo: Timor-Leste Red Cross Society)

# ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

### Progress by National Society against objectives

#### IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

IFRC network partners in Timor-Leste include the **American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Indonesian Red Cross Society, Italian Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, The Netherlands Red Cross, and The Republic of Korea National Red Cross.**

#### Movement coordination

The Timor-Leste 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](#).

In Timor-Leste, **the ICRC** is developing the capability of the authorities to identify people who died during the 1975-1999 conflict and to react to large-scale emergencies. It promotes international humanitarian law within the armed forces and police and trains the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society in community engagement, restoring family links, and the management of dead bodies during emergencies. ICRC support in the country is covered by its regional delegation in Indonesia.

#### External coordination

In line with its auxiliary role, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society coordinates with the Secretary of State for Civil Protection to outline cooperation on disaster response and preparedness. The National Society has been a member of the national taskforce responding to COVID-19 and has maintained strong relationships with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, working closely with them on emergency response and the development of remote communities through the ICBRR project at the municipal level. The National Society also received funding support from the Government of Timor-Leste for its youth, organizational development, branch development, health, and disaster management programmes, as well as for operational support.

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society has built partnerships with various organizations in the country, including Oxfam for its disaster management programme, Partnership for Human Development (PHD) for its health programme, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for its disaster risk reduction and health programme, Child Fund for its youth programme and Catholic Relief Services for its nutrition programme. Since 2018, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society has received support from the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) to strengthen its national development capacity for response readiness through the Red Ready project.



## National Society development

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society is set to participate in a leadership development programme by McKinsey to empower employees with essential skills for organizational change. It is also implementing the National Society development priorities through the Red Ready project with support from USAID-BHA on response readiness. The National Society promotes youth engagement. It held a National Youth Assembly in June 2024, electing new youth leadership. It is developing a Strategic Partnership Plan and drafting new Strategic Plans for 2025-2029. Additionally, the National Society is enhancing financial capacity by rolling out a new system to 13 branches, developing a new finance department structure and revising the finance manual.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in its financial sustainability efforts through the IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF).

The **American Red Cross** has supported the National Society in developing a strategic partnership planning and drafting new strategic plans for 2025-2029.

The **Australian Red Cross** and the **Italian Red Cross** supported the National Society in implementing the NSD priorities through the Red Ready project with support from USAID-BHA.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Progress of the National Society against objectives

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society expanded its audience reach and positioning through social media content. A new communications manager was appointed in March 2024 and coordination efforts continue to foster further peer learning and expertise exchange among the National Society and other National Societies.

The 24th anniversary of the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society was held on June 21, 2024. The event, part of cross-border cooperation efforts, was attended by various dignitaries, including government and local officials. The anniversary highlighted the importance of bilateral cooperation between the Indonesian and Timor-Leste Red Cross Societies.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in expanding its reach. It regularly collaborates with the National Society's communications focal point to enhance regional visibility.

The IFRC, along with the **American Red Cross** and the **Australian Red Cross** supported the National Society for its 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary event.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society conducted a training from April 29 to May 3, 2024 aimed to leverage its ongoing digital transformation initiatives. This training enabled participants to integrate advanced data visualization and GIS capabilities into the workflow. Additionally, the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society has adopted paperless methods for PMER activities. Virtual meetings and paperless reporting have also been encouraged for monitoring and coordination.

To strengthen PMER capacity, a series of sessions facilitated by the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society were conducted to improve understanding among the project management team. Regular project reconciliations provide accurate financial data, mitigating risks and facilitating faster settlement processes. A revision draft of the finance manual was completed in December 2023, encompassing both the headquarters and branch manuals, with socialization

planned after board approval. A draft accounting policy was also finalized to aid in bookkeeping, following international standards for non-profits.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society with mandatory trainings updated security regulations for the National Society.



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

## DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2024. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a light grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods, and may be incomplete. "Not reported" could sometimes mean "not applicable."
- **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 Timor-Leste Mid-year 2024 Financial Report](#)
- [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

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