



GHANA

2025 IFRC network country plan



Funding Requirement **CHF 12.7M**

24 March 2025

In support of the Ghana Red Cross Society



10

National Society
branches



261

National Society
local units



50

National Society
staff



66,000

National Society
volunteers

People to be reached



250,000

Climate and
environment



160,000

Disasters
and crises



220,000

Health and
wellbeing



40,000

Migration and
displacement



36,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action
- Epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response
 - Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Climate change adaptation and environmental protection
- Migration and displacement-related needs

Capacity development

- Communication and advocacy
 - Resource mobilization
 - Financial management

Key country data links

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Medium**

Human Development Index rank **145**

World Bank Population figure **33.8M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **23.4%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for
Nigeria, Togo, Benin & Ghana, based in Abuja

Funding requirements

2025

Total 12.7M CHF

Through the Host National Society



→ **6.7M CHF**

Through the IFRC



→ **6M CHF**

HNS Breakdown

Longer term needs

3.5M CHF

Climate & environment

1.5M CHF

Disasters & crises

1.3M CHF

Health & wellbeing

310,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

50,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

100,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

2M CHF

Climate & environment

1.1M CHF

Disasters & crises

1.2M CHF

Health & wellbeing

310,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

200,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

1.2M CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

The Netherlands Red Cross*

**National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC*

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAGH002

Hazards



Floods



Droughts



Disease outbreaks



Migration and displacement

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

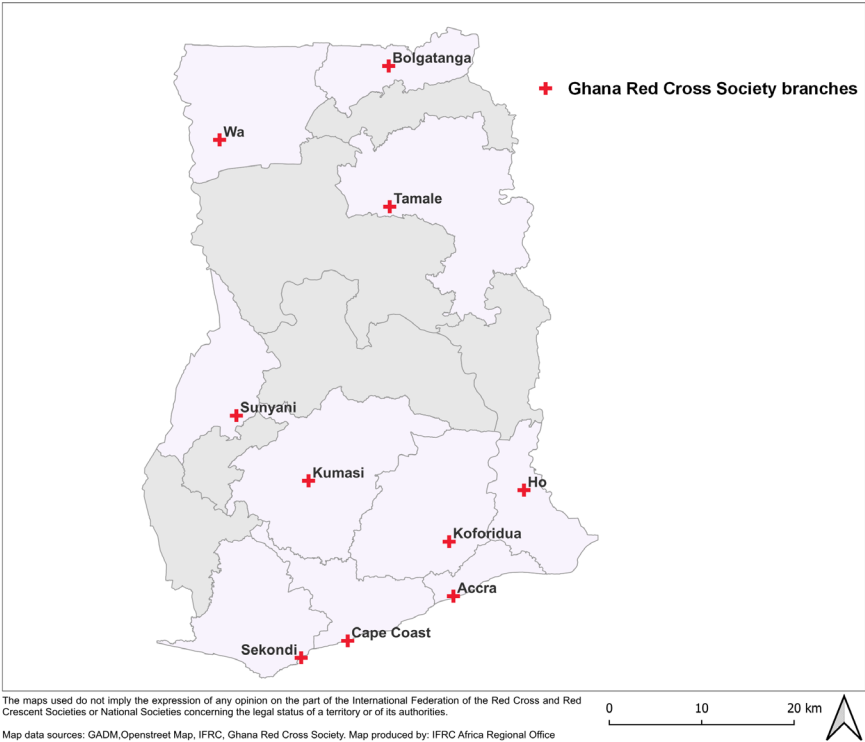
NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Ghana Red Cross Society** was established in 1958 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1959. It is the largest volunteer-based humanitarian service organization in the country and has a presence in all 10 regions, with 261 district organizers and 66,000 volunteers. It works directly under the Ministry of Health as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field.

Every district chapter supports communities in need through volunteers trained in First Aid, disaster management, water and sanitation, health and disaster risk reduction. The volunteers also respond to emergencies and carry out community rescue missions.

In 2024, the Ghana Red Cross Society sustained water supply services for 40,000 people and connected 415 households via the Urban WASH project with Ghana Water Company Limited. Over 25,000 people were reached through a Behaviour Change component, enhancing better customer service practices with Ghana Water Company. It trained 2,854 staff in First Aid and reached 12,000 people with humanitarian services following floods impacts in Savannah and Volta regions.

The National Society has also developed its Strategic Plan 2022-2025 which outlines its vision and goal attainment strategy. Additionally, it's reviewing its 1958 Act and the 1989 National Society Constitution to align with contemporary realities and has initiated a transformation roadmap in accordance with the 2022 Accra Commitments.



Map of Ghana Red Cross Society branches

The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Ghana, located in West Africa and bordered by Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Togo and the Gulf of Guinea, has a population of about 34 million, with a majority under 25 years old. Rapid urbanization is reshaping Ghana, with over 55 per cent of its population expected to reside in urban areas in 2025. Major urban centres such as Accra, Kumasi and Tema attract migrants seeking economic opportunities but face challenges such as inadequate urban planning, waste management issues and pressure on social services, which increase vulnerability to hazards such as floods and disease outbreaks.

Following two decades of GDP growth averaging above 5 per cent, Ghana has achieved lower middle-income status, yet economic gains have not been inclusive. A significant income disparity persists between the wealthier southern and poorer northern regions, impacting access to quality healthcare, education and financial services. Youth unemployment and a growing youth population add to the challenges, with 9 per cent of individuals aged 15-24 unemployed and 30 per cent not in school or employment.

Ghana faces environmental challenges, notably deforestation and the effects of climate change, which threaten agriculture, especially in rural areas and among lower-income populations. Rising sea levels and erratic weather patterns also endanger coastal and urban communities. Climate adaptation efforts focus on promoting resilient agricultural practices and improving urban infrastructure to withstand floods and other climate-related risks.

Gender inequality remains a concern, with Ghana ranking low on the Gender Inequality Index. Women, who represent just 14.5 per cent of parliamentarians, often have lower education levels and face barriers to economic empowerment. Although government policies target gender equality and youth skill development, socio-economic disparities persist, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas where access to resources and social protections is limited.

The country's growing debt and economic challenges are compounded by external pressures, including global inflation and high-interest rates. These macroeconomic imbalances have potential political and economic repercussions, impacting Ghana's ability to address disparities in income and social protections, which are crucial for achieving sustainable development and resilience against natural and economic shocks.



The Ghana Red Cross Society installs vital water supply systems in Eastern and Ashanti regions (Photo: IFRC)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Ghana is situated in one of the world's most complex climate regions, affected by tropical storms and the climatic influence of the Sahel and two oceans. Climate change is manifested in Ghana through rising temperatures, declining rainfall, increased variability, rising sea levels and high incidences of weather-related disasters. In Ghana, the major impacts of climate change affect various sectors and their objectives, places and population in diverse ways, depending on their respective levels of vulnerability. The most affected sectors in Ghana include the economic, social and infrastructural groups. The cumulative effects on these sectors determine the impacts and vulnerabilities of various livelihoods groups and locations in the country.

The primary source of livelihoods for the most impoverished households in Ghana is agriculture. About 52 per cent of Ghana's labour force is engaged in agriculture, which contributes to 54 per cent of GDP and 40 per cent of the country's export earnings. Agriculture contributes to 90 per cent of the food needs of the country. The sector is currently facing myriad challenges due to climate change. Changing rainfall patterns have had a devastating impact on food security and nutrition. An estimated 5 per cent of Ghana's population is food insecure and about 2 million are vulnerable to food insecurity. In addition to erratic rainfall patterns, productivity is also impacted by inadequate irrigation facilities, poor nature of roads, inadequate storage facilities, land degradation and bad farming and fishing practices. Combined, these factors have had significant economic implications on the livelihoods and economic empowerment of farming and fishing communities.

According to a UNDP paper, the annual cost of environmental and natural resource degradation in Ghana is equivalent to 9.6 per cent of the country's GDP. Ghana's forest cover decreased from about 7.5 million ha in 1990 to about 4.9 million ha in 2010, with a deforestation rate of approximately 2 per cent per year. This deforestation is largely due to the unsustainable management of the country's forests, wildlife and fisheries. The long-standing extractive industries in Ghana have also been destructive, polluting most of the country's water resources and degrading arable lands. The rapid deforestation of the country and loss of biodiversity has created an emergency in the country, with increased risks of desertification, loss of ground and surface water reserves, change in rainfall patterns, food insecurity and poverty.

Given Ghana's geographical and the evident impacts of climate change, particularly on vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, urgent action is needed to address these challenges. Therefore, the Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation

Strategy (NCCAS) has been developed to provide a systematic and targeted approach to enhancing climate resilience and reducing vulnerability across the nation. The Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy intends to:

- Ensure a consistent, comprehensive and targeted approach to increasing climate resilience and decrease vulnerability of the populace
- Deepen awareness and sensitization for the general populace particularly policy makers about the critical role of adaptation in national development efforts
- Position Ghana to draw funding for meeting her national adaptation needs
- Strengthen international recognition to facilitate the mainstreaming of climate change and disaster risk reduction into national development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ghana Red Cross Society is 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; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Ghana Red Cross Society is involved in the Early Warnings for All initiative (EW4All), which aims to ensure everyone on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027. In this United Nations-led initiative, the IFRC is the lead of Pillar 4 on preparedness for response to warnings and is also actively engaged in Pillars 1 and 3 of Disaster Risk Knowledge and Warning Dissemination and Communication. The National Society, with IFRC support, will be working with national authorities to coordinate Pillar 4 and implement activities.

The Ghana Red Cross Society aims to focus on reducing the current and future humanitarian impacts of climate and environmental crises and supporting people to adapt and thrive in the face of it. Climate adaptation and mitigation are high on the National Society's agenda, integrating climate risk management across all programmes, operations and advocacy. Its other high-level objectives include to:

- Leverage the private sector to mitigate environmental degradation through innovative financing
- Support the government's initiatives such as the Green Ghana Annual Project and Africa Great Green Wall Project by raising awareness on afforestation and reforestation
- Provide training for communities and stakeholders on climate change-specific actions to ensure sustainability of mitigation efforts
- Involve communities by integrating climate-related activities into broader development plans such as enhancing agriculture and agroforestry productivity
- Foster collaboration with government agencies such as the Ghana forest commission and the Department of Environment to enhance effectiveness
- Conduct vulnerability and capacity assessment and undertake risk mapping and profiling
- Raise awareness on the available climate change information and analysis to support disaster risk informed planning
- Implement community-based disaster risk reduction and resilience building activities
- Enhance the technical and financial capacities of community members in alternative livelihood strategies and improve access to credit facilities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the National Society in promoting climate change adaptation measures, such as the adoption of drought-tolerant crops and diversified livelihood activities.

Additionally, the IFRC will support the Ghana Red Cross Society in conducting vulnerability and capacity assessments (eVCA) to identify the most at-risk communities. The Climate Centre will offer specialized guidance, tools and technical support, to help the Ghana Red Cross Society integrate climate risk management into its programmes.

The IFRC will facilitate access to international and local climate-related funding and advocate for the most vulnerable communities at global climate policy discussions. Additionally, through advocacy the IFRC will secure resources for climate resilience initiatives of the National Society.

Planned activities in 2025

- Mobilize resources for the planting and care of 1,000,000 trees in forest reserves
- Commemorate environmental days by promoting tree planting and care, amplifying community voices on climate impact and raising the profile of local climate action
- Support the establishment 10 volunteer and community climate groups for championing climate action at the local level
- Strengthen institution and technical capacities of the communities, National Society staff and volunteers through training



Disasters and crises

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

Ghana is prone to several hazards, both natural and human-induced, which have led to disasters affecting more than 100,000 people per year. According to the Department of Geography and Resource Development of the University of Ghana, out of the 9821 disasters recorded between 1900-2005, hydro-meteorological disasters ranked first with 7586 occurrences, followed by geological and biological with 1252 and 1083 occurrences, respectively. The impacts of the key hazards in Ghana such as drought, floods, wildfires, earthquakes and epidemics present the highest risks and vulnerability to majority of Ghanaians. The country's continued vulnerabilities to disasters of such frequency and magnitude require an integrated disaster risk reduction investment that can improve both the preparation for and mitigation of emergencies.

Flooding occurs annually during Ghana's rainy season (June-September) and affects the regions of Greater Accra,

northern, upper east, eastern, Volta, western, central, Ashanti, upper west and Brong Ahafo. In recent years, floods have become frequent in Ghana affecting all regions of the country. An estimated 70,000 people on average are affected by flooding in Ghana accounting for 0.24 per cent of the population. Recent trends indicate that climate change has resulted in an extension of the flood season into November. Flood-prone areas are located mainly along the riverbanks, beaches and dam sites. Urban and metropolitan areas such as Accra, Kumasi, Tema, Tamale, Cape Coast and Sekondi-Takoradi are also affected due to poor drainage systems, human activities and their low-lying topography.

There have been three major droughts in Ghana from 1900 to 2015 that have affected a total population of approximately 12.5 million people, resulting in an accumulative loss of USD 100,000. The specific regions that are prone to drought are the Savannah, Forest and Coastal belts of Ghana. Drought in Ghana is characterized by two main features: the reduction in

the amount and frequency of precipitation and the reduction in streamflow.

Ghana's dependence on food imports has increased its exposure to armyworms, which has had a significant effect on farmers' livelihoods and food security in the country by reducing harvests. Diminished productivity and increased costs of pesticides make it difficult for farmers to meet the nutritional, health and educational needs of their families.

Seismic hazards, particularly earthquakes, is most prominent in the coastal regions and the eastern region of Ghana. Some communities in eastern, greater Accra and the central region are likely to be affected. A major challenge has been the construction and sand-winning activities along major ridges and coastal lines in earthquake-prone areas in the country.

To enhance its preparedness and response to disasters, the Government of Ghana has outlined strategic interventions such as developing a National Disaster Management Framework; enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities and critical infrastructure; strengthening public education and awareness in disaster risk reduction; and raising public education and awareness in disaster risk reduction. The National Development Plan emphasizes the need for trained local authorities with appropriate resources to assess disaster risks and support the development of mechanisms to reduce risks, prevent losses, respond effectively and recover quickly from disasters.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ghana Red Cross Society aims to focus on preparedness and readiness to respond to shocks and enhancing community risk resilience such as early warning early action and anticipatory action to mitigate risks from multi-hazards. It will collaborate with the Department of National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) in disaster management to manage disasters and assist in the preparation of national disaster plans for preventing and mitigating the consequences of disasters. The National Society also seeks to ensure the presence of appropriate and adequate facilities for the provision of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction after a disaster and support the Government in risk assessment and elaboration of

contingency plans at various levels, leading to the positioning of necessary resources. Additionally, it will reinforce coordination with the emergency operational centre and strengthen participation in the inter-agency working group on emergencies in line with the IFRC Pan-African Red Ready initiative. It also plans to focus on enhancing the effectiveness of community-level disaster response units by improving the presence of district chapters and strengthening their capacities.

Planned activities in 2025

- Revise standard operating procedures (SOP) for cash and voucher assistance (CVA)
- Identify mechanisms for cash and voucher-based transfer for vulnerable families in urban communities
- Develop and implement performance for effective response (PER) framework
- Set up emergency operation centre and develop standard operating procedures
- Develop a multi-hazard contingency plan
- Provide training to 30 National Disaster Response Teams
- Enhance coordination and collaboration with key stakeholders including national and sub-national actors, civil society, civil protection mechanisms, the private sector, reference centres and research institutions

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC The IFRC will support the Ghana Red Cross Society in formulating a preparedness for effective response plan and revising standard operating procedures for cash and voucher assistance. It will assist in analyzing the National Society's disaster profile and capacities to design preparedness programmes addressing multi-hazard scenarios as part of anticipatory action. IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be utilized as needed to enable the National Society to respond to disasters and crises.



Ghana has a complex disease burden influenced by risk factors such as the physical environment, education, socio-economic situation, population lifestyles and demographic characteristics of the overall population. Historically, major health problems affecting Ghanaians have been primarily communicable, maternal, perinatal and nutritional diseases. Recently, other conditions such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, mental health and neglected tropical diseases have exacerbated Ghana's health situation. Non-communicable diseases are also rapidly becoming common in developing countries such as Ghana.

Several nationwide research studies have revealed weaknesses and inadequacies in disease surveillance and response systems. These include underqualified staff, cultural beliefs and lack of trust in the formal health care sector. The studies have also identified gaps such as delayed reporting, low-quality protective equipment (for example, gloves and aprons), insufficient staff and a lack of laboratory capacity.

Ghana is among the most cholera-prone countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The last major cholera outbreak occurred in 2014, with more than 29,000 cases and 250 deaths reported in 130 districts of all 10 regions of Ghana. Most cases emanated from urban metropolitan communities, customarily associated with a lack of access to water and sanitation. Weak or non-existent waste management systems exacerbated by unplanned urbanization are also common in overcrowded informal settlements.

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene services remains a challenge in Ghana, provoked mainly by a lack of availability and quality of service. There is an apparent wealth disparity in basic water access, with the wealthy nearly twice as likely to benefit than the poor. Hydrologically challenged regions such as the northern, upper east and upper west regions have lower than national average access to essential water, meaning improved water within 30 minutes by foot. Additionally, urban dwellers are more likely to have basic access than those in rural areas.

Only one in every five households in Ghana enjoys an improved sanitation facility. More than one in every five still practice open defecation, nearly half of the poorest quintile households, which significantly drops as wealth increases. Open defecation is more prevalent in rural areas. Sharing of sanitation remains dominant and one in every four households uses public facilities. Nearly half of the population have access to mobile or fixed handwashing facilities with soap and water. About one in every five women feels excluded from social activities during menstruation. The low levels of sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services give rise to higher incidences of water-borne diseases, which affect, to a greater extent, women as well as children under the age of five.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ghana Red Cross Society aims to continue promoting the uptake of testing for non-communicable diseases and engage with the Ministry of Health to collaborate in health promotion activities and support the government of Ghana in mobilization of community health workers. It aims to train over 50 staff and volunteers in oral rehydration therapy (ORT) and continue social mobilization for oral cholera vaccination campaigns and collaborate with organizations such as UNICEF and UNAIDS for routine immunization for diseases such as polio and roll out the malaria vaccine. The National Society will also focus on partnering with leading agencies such as GHS, UNAIDS and the Ghana AIDS Commission to support the fight against HIV through community outreach programmes and outreach creation as well as supporting government efforts towards ensuring sustainable improvement in the quality of life of the most vulnerable individuals, households and communities in Ghana. Additionally, it seeks to enhance its institutional and organizational development for efficient and effective service delivery to the most vulnerable.

Planned activities in 2025

- Revise and implement its health strategy
- Engage 10 radio stations, 150 community information centres and deploy 10 mobile vans to raise awareness and educate about HIV and AIDS prevention
- Develop data collection tools to support community-based surveillance activities
- Set up a community feedback mechanism
- Promote eye health in the northern, northeast and Savannah regions targeting 1,300,000 people with eye health services including outreach programmes in schools, health promotion, screening and surgeries
- Develop the capacity of 20 staff members and 150 volunteers to respond to pandemics and epidemics, including cholera
- Through the MasterCard Foundation Saving Lives and Livelihoods programme, advocate for and contribute to the Ministry of Health's risk communication and community engagement strategies, to increase vaccine acceptance and uptake, integrate immunization into community health initiatives and strengthen the role of the healthcare workforce in promoting vaccines through community-centred participatory approaches
- Train 20 staff members and 200 volunteers in health promotion and immunization

- Train staff and volunteers in mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPPS](#)) services and community-based health and first aid ([CBHFA](#)) services
- Continue providing water supply and hygiene promotion services to an estimated 50,000 people through existing and operational water supply systems
- Support the construction, rehabilitation or repair of 10 water supply systems
- Develop three sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene management systems

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Ghana Red Cross Society's health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme to strengthen its role as an auxiliary to public authorities. It will contribute to the community health worker pool, extending

essential health information and sustainable WASH services to vulnerable communities, thereby assisting the National Society in advancing Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 6. Additionally, the IFRC will assist the Ghana Red Cross Society in fulfilling its role as a water and sanitation service provider by offering training in business management.

The **Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran** has a clinic in Accra, providing clinical and preventive health services to its catchment areas. It collaborates with the Ghana Red Cross Society to provide outreach services in the outskirts of Accra city.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** will expand its support to Ghana Red Cross Society in the Ashanti region, scaling up the project to provide subsidized water supply connections to low-income households. The initiative will include a software component to boost community awareness and responsibility in bill payment, reporting leaks and ensuring service quality from the Ghana Water Company.



Migration and displacement

Ghana's urbanization rate is high, with [59.24 per cent](#) of the population living in urban areas as of 2023. This has exacerbated the [neglect of rural infrastructure](#), concentrating economic benefits in cities such as Accra, Kumasi, Tema and Takoradi. This disparity has driven significant rural-to-urban migration, along with emigration to foreign countries. While emigration has outpaced immigration since the 1990s, Ghana remains a [key destination](#) for Economic Community of West African States nationals, other African countries, Europe and North America. Students account for a significant proportion of immigrants and the overall immigrant population has remained stable, although [asylum seekers and refugees](#), primarily from Liberia, have risen sharply.

More than [two-thirds](#) of emigrants from Ghana remain within West Africa, though increasing numbers are moving to destinations such as the United States and the United Kingdom. Migrants face heightened vulnerabilities, including abuse and health risks, with irregular migrants often unaware of their rights or access to essential services. Despite efforts, Ghana continues to [face challenges](#) in migration governance, border management, irregular migration and legal migration assistance. Weak coordination, unreliable data and insufficient reintegration support hinder sustainable migration management. Corruption and identity fraud complicate border management, while migrant smuggling, trafficking and reintegration hurdles persist. Internally displaced persons, asylum seekers and refugees face obstacles in accessing aid, with limited emergency assistance and sustainable solutions for vulnerable populations.

The northern regions are most affected by internal and cross-border displacement, driven by chieftaincy conflicts and

increased insurgency in neighbouring Togo and Burkina Faso. [Asylum seekers from these countries](#) have increasingly sought refuge in Ghana, straining local resources and highlighting gaps in government capacity to manage displacement. Host communities often feel sidelined and [diaspora engagement](#) remains underutilized due to investment challenges and limited realization of potential 'brain gain.'

Support for skills development and employment, especially for returnees and youth, remains inadequate, driving irregular migration. Similarly, training programmes and credit access for lower middle-class Ghanaians and returnees are also insufficient.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ghana Red Cross Society is part of the IFRC three-year [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through [humanitarian service points](#); (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The Ghana Red Cross Society will focus on making sure that all people who migrate and are displaced are safe, are treated humanely and with dignity and have the assistance and protection support they need to thrive in inclusive societies. It will conduct a [needs assessment](#) in border communities

and migratory routes to understand the situation and identify needs. The National Society also aims to support asylum seekers in areas of operational communication, [restoration of family Links \(RFL\)](#) and livelihoods support and conduct a review of its operational strategy and policy to guide its actions in the country.

Planned activities in 2025

- Establish two [humanitarian service points](#) in border regions
 - Raise awareness about the negative impacts of irregular migration and provide information on legal migration pathways to intending migrants
 - Integrate migration programmes in routine disaster management activities
 - Engage with opinion leaders of migrants, displaced persons and host communities for equitable access social services and understanding of the need of migrants
 - Design tailor-made services such as maternal and child health services for migrant mothers and children under five
 - Partner with the Ghana Immigration Service and the Ghana Refugee Board to reduce the negative impact on migrants and displaced persons in the country
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Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Ghana Red Cross Society in addressing migration dynamics and providing humanitarian aid to migrants and displaced people. With nearly 80 per cent of all [Restoring Family Links](#) cases in the West Coast region related to migration, the IFRC will assist the National Society in focusing its efforts on Northern Ghana, particularly near the borders with Togo and Burkina Faso. It will support regional branches in Northern Ghana to strengthen their humanitarian role. Additionally, the IFRC will assist the National Society in collaborating with the EU, Ghana Refugee Board, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) to assist migrant populations.

Under wider Movement support, the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** will support the Ghana Red Cross Society in areas of operational communication, Restoring Family Links services and livelihoods. It will also provide support to the National Society in conducting needs assessment in border communities and along migratory routes to understand the migration situation and identify needs. Additionally, the ICRC will provide support to the Ghana Red Cross Society in the establishment of humanitarian service points (HSPs) and provision of information on legal migration pathways to intending migrants.



Values, power and inclusion

Ghana is said to have made impressive economic growth over the past decades leading to a drastic reduction in general poverty. Nevertheless, Ghana is becoming an increasingly unequal country where the benefits of economic growth and poverty reduction are not equally distributed across the nation, across gender and across economic quintiles. This [trend has the potential to undermine earlier progress](#), weaken social connections and substantially slow poverty reduction effects. While electoral democracy has seemingly gained a foothold in Ghana, there are [grave issues regarding the transparent and harmonious conduct of elections in Ghana](#), from local to the national level and an even greater challenge regarding the equal application of the law and justice systems and structures in Ghana. [Unemployment rate in Ghana](#) increased to 3.60 per cent in 2023 from 3.50 per cent in 2022. Additionally, according to Ghana Statistical Service, the national youth unemployment rate for young adults of 15-24 years, is about [32.8 per cent](#).

Ghana has progressed in gender equality and women's empowerment, but social norms remain inadequate. Ranked 130 out of 162 countries in the [2022 Gender Inequality Index](#), women participation in Ghana, especially in politics and the

economy, still leaves much to be desired. Only [14.5 per cent](#) of parliamentarians are women. The education level, too, remains lower for women. Only 59 per cent of adult women enjoy [secondary education](#) compared with 74 per cent of adult males. On average, women have [only 6.6 years of schooling](#).

Ghana does not fully meet the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, although it is making significant efforts. Ghana is a source, transit and destination country in trafficking women and children for sexual exploitation and domestic and commercial labour. According to the [2024 Trafficking in Persons](#) report, human traffickers exploit both domestic and foreign victims in Ghana and traffic Ghanaians abroad. Ghanaian children face forced labour in inland and coastal fishing, domestic work, street hawking, agriculture (notably in the cocoa sector) and other hazardous industries such as artisanal gold mining and quarrying. In Lake Volta's fishing industry, children as young as four are subjected to forced labour, using violence and food deprivation for control. Boys are forced into dangerous tasks such as deep diving, while girls are exploited in onshore work and vulnerable to sexual abuse and trafficking.

Women and girls in the fishing sector face heightened risks of sexual exploitation.

In Ghana, people living with disabilities account for 8 per cent of the population. According to UNICEF, about one in every five children aged two to 17 years have a functioning difficulty and this is more prevalent in the five- to 17-year age group than in children aged two to four years. Furthermore, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 10 per cent of Ghanaians live with a mental health condition or psychosocial, intellectual and/or cognitive disability.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ghana Red Cross Society will increase its engagement with youth and women by prioritizing humanitarian education for action. It aims to strengthen local branches, empower youth and engage with the education community to foster inclusivity, diversity and the protection of people and their dignity while building resilience and peaceful environments. The National Society prioritizes the participation of minority groups and all gender identities across its programmes to ensure inclusivity. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders, it will continue to contribute to designing emergency contingency education plans to support uninterrupted learning for children and youth during emergencies.

Planned activities in 2025

- Develop a comprehensive programme on humanitarian education targeting 3,000 young people in schools and out of school

- Conduct humanitarian education activities including dissemination of humanitarian principles and values for 5,000 young people
- Enhance partnerships and coordination during education in emergency with key stakeholders
- Integrate protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) in its strategic plan
- Integrate and promote minimum standards of protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in emergency operations
- Develop key performance indicators disaggregated by sex, age and disability throughout the entire process of designing, assessing, monitoring and reporting on all programmes

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Ghana Red Cross Society in training staff and volunteers to adopt an inclusive approach in its programming, ensuring the integration of protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) across all activities. It will also assist the National Society in providing survivors and individuals at risk of sexual and gender-based violence with increased support, focused on building capacity to prevent, respond to and mitigate such risks through the development of coordinated programming standards and tools. Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society in the initiation of income-generating activities and provision of training in rights-based issues for youth and women.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Ghana Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and it carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2017. The self-assessment is designed to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies concerning a wide range of organizational capacities. The National Society is also committed to the

Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is in the action and accountability phase. The PER 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 ultimately take necessary action to improve.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Coordinate events to secure resources in collaboration with local companies and organizations
- Hire a resource mobilization relationship manager and a strategic partnerships officer to lead its efforts in resource mobilization and achieve a 30 per cent increase in funding for the year 2025
- Expand its regional presence to all the 16 official regions in Ghana for more visibility and equity in the distribution of responsibilities among regional managers

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will advocate for the Ghana Red Cross Society with local and international funding partners and establish a coordination forum for neighbouring counties to monitor humanitarians needs and cross border operations. The IFRC will also provide support to the National Society to engage with humanitarian partners, embassies and international agencies based in Ghana for increased partnerships in the delivery of humanitarian and developmental assistance. Additionally, it will provide support in the formulation of a resource mobilization and strategic partnerships strategy.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Revise its [Statutes](#) and review its Constitution
- Develop and approve the 2026-2033 Country Strategy Plan
- Facilitate training sessions for staff and volunteers in leadership, partnership engagement and management at all levels to drive behavioural and policy change
- Conduct a feasibility assessment for the expansion of two new regional branch offices
- Expand Commercial First Aid training to attain financial sustainability

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Ghana Red Cross Society in resubmitting the Red Cross Act and mobilizing resources for its dissemination and briefing to regional branches and external partners. It will support the review of the Ghana Red Cross Constitution in collaboration with International Disaster Response Law. It will further support the development of the 2026-2033 Country Strategy Plan and the review and approval of policies and guidance documents.

The IFRC will also support the business plan of the Ghana Red Cross Society through the IFRC/ICIC National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) grant. It will help create the right conditions for the National Society to increase its financial sustainability in order to reach more people in need and will provide it with guidance to effectively operate its governance and management units.



Community members using the water supply system installed by the Ghana Red Cross Society, in September 2023 (Photo: IFRC)



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Conduct awareness campaigns to enhance impact, build public trust and improve understanding of its roles and activities
- Maintain an active and updated presence on online and social media platforms
- Develop and publish programme case studies to showcase impact
- Create standardized and updated promotional materials to enhance visibility
- Organize and participate in national celebrations and events
- Commemorate Red Cross and Red Crescent Days
- Enhance its auxiliary role with local and national partners in Ghana

- Conduct advocacy among the UN, embassies, corporates and individuals of influence in Ghana
- Conduct stakeholder analysis to identify partners and influential figures for advocacy at the national, regional, district and sub-district levels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Ghana Red Cross Society to integrate humanitarian diplomacy into its day-to-day work, helping it to be better positioned and have a stronger capacity to protect the most vulnerable and safeguard the humanitarian space. The IFRC will also help strengthen the auxiliary role of the National Society with its public authorities and support it in the development of communication materials which will be featured both in the print and electronic media.

The ICRC will assist the Ghana Red Cross Society in institutionalizing security management, with particular attention to volatile and high-tension operating contexts.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop and implement an Accountability Framework covering transparency and accountability to all stakeholders.
- Complete and maintain a risk register with mitigation strategies
- Disseminate organizational risk mitigation strategies across all levels
- Maintain the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Integrity Line
- Ensure continued resourcing for internal auditor
- Conduct Code of Conduct training, including flagging and reporting misconduct, sexual abuse and harassment
- Organize workshops in whistleblowing processes and protection for whistleblowers
- Set targets and procedures to ensure gender balance within its governance and management structures.
- Promote female participation in training and deployment opportunities.

- Strive to improve its IT infrastructure to meet the trending changes in technology and carry out digital transformation activities, including roll out of digital volunteer management system

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Ghana Red Cross Society to implement risk management practices, transparency and zero tolerance on fraud and corruption within its structures. Additionally, it will support the National Society in the development of a solid country operational plan and the mechanism for monitoring and reporting on the plan as an accountability mechanism as well in reviewing its staff regulations.

Support will be provided to the National Society in ensuring that its procurement policy is updated and aligned with IFRC standards. This will include ensuring that the policy is relevant to both National Society staff and volunteers, with clear roles and responsibilities set for those involved in procurement to mitigate any associated risks. It will also support the National Society in training and informing all staff and volunteers about the updated procurement policies to ensure compliance and understanding across the organization.

The IFRC will also ensure integration of innovation in the design, planning and implementation of all programmes of the Ghana Red Cross Society and assist it with piloting the use of

mobile money to pay its volunteer incentives and allowances. Additionally, it will support the National Society to improve on its [digital transformation](#) and conduct its statutory meetings through an online platform.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Ghana Red Cross Society in strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also promotes accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC provides support to the National Society through its country cluster delegation in Abuja and its country office in Ghana, where it has legal status with the Government. The office plays a role in representation,

advocacy and coordination with the Ghana Red Cross Society and participating National Societies, thus supporting the IFRC network's strategic priorities and membership services.

In recent years, the IFRC supported the Ghana Red Cross Society through numerous Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#) concerning election preparedness, floods and dam spillage and explosions.

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

The Ghana Red Cross Society enjoys longer-term partnerships with the following participating National Societies:

The **Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran** has a clinic in Accra, providing clinical and preventive health services to its catchment areas. It collaborates with the Ghana Red Cross Society to provide outreach services in the outskirts of Accra city.

The **Italian Red Cross**, though not having an in-country presence, has funded the planting and care of 15,000 trees in Ghana.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** has no country presence in Ghana. However, through the IFRC, it has started supporting an urban pilot water, sanitation and hygiene project targeting Kumasi and Accra city, primarily targeting low-income communities with a number of interventions. The pilot project began in 2022, aiming to increase demand for safe drinking water and better service delivery from the Ghana Water Company. Low-income communities willing to get connections will have their costs subsidized. The project will also address community health through a hygiene promotion package to accompany the supported household connections. An innovation to this project delivery will be using [cash and voucher assistance](#) to subsidize the household connections and to deliver hygiene products to women and adolescent girls. The project will increase community awareness of preventable water, sanitation and hygiene diseases.

The **Swiss Red Cross** was active in Ghana from 1983 to 2023 when it supported projects in disaster risk reduction, health and WASH. Although it closed its delegation and projects in Ghana in 2023, the Swiss Red Cross has committed to continued support to the Ghana Red Cross Society in National Society development through the IFRC.

Movement coordination

The Ghana 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 visits places of detention and supports the Ghana Red Cross Society in its response to emergencies and assists the authorities promoting the international humanitarian law.

Coordination with other actors

The Ghana Red Cross works directly under the Ministry of Health as a parent ministry. In discharging its mandate as an auxiliary to the public authorities, the National Society works closely in consultation and collaboration with other sectoral ministries and departments. NADMO is responsible for emergency coordination at all levels. The National Society collaborates closely with NADMO for rapid assessments during emergencies and humanitarian assistance and this involves collaboration with district directors and regional coordinators of NADMO.

The National Society also collaborates with other main stakeholders including Ghana's health service, district assemblies, traditional leadership, UN agencies and other civil society actors.

There are no formal partnerships with international non-governmental organizations however, the National Society has previously collaborated on World Bank-funded initiatives for COVID-19 response, health programmes with the Japanese Embassy and with UNICEF and UNHCR on refugee and asylum seeker support. In 2023, the National Society, engaged with the EU delegation, USAID and the embassies of Australia, Turkey, Denmark, Korea and Italy. These engagements are expected to be further developed and strengthened by 2025 and beyond.

The National Society also closely collaborates with national entities such as the Rotary club, St John Ambulance services in areas of First Aid.



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.

About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2025 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 for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2025 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-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) 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
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research databank](#)
- [Donor response reports](#)

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