

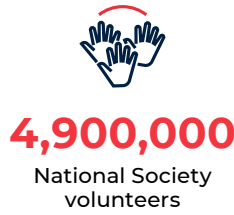


INDIA

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

18 December 2024

IN SUPPORT OF THE INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY



PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



24,000

Disasters and crises



66,785

Health and wellbeing



23,299

Migration and displacement



4,982

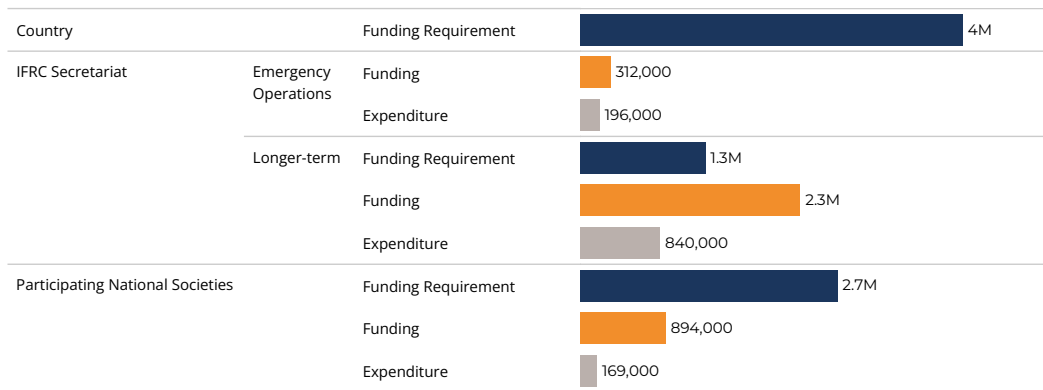
Values, power and inclusion



639

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)



Indian Red Cross Society

Overview









Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat	Not reported
Participating National Societies	Not reported
HNS other funding sources	Not reported

Appeal number **MAAIN001**

In addition to: CHF 539,000 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
	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	 24,000
Disasters and crises	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 67,000
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	63
Health and wellbeing	People donating blood	 15,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	 14,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 23,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	480
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	 5,000
Values, power and inclusion	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	639

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordina..	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
National Society development	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
Accountability and agility	Functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	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

IFRC Network Supported Activities

	Bilateral Support							Multilateral Support Through IFRC
	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	
National Society								
American Red Cross								✓
Australian Red Cross								✓
British Red Cross								✓
Canadian Red Cross Society	1.6M							
Danish Red Cross								✓
Italian Red Cross				●				✓
Korean Red Cross								✓
Netherlands Red Cross								✓

Total Funding Reported **CHF 1.6M**

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

India's growing young workforce and expanding middle class are propelling its rise as a global economic power. Following a successful moon mission and the G20 Summit, the country is poised to emerge from 2023 with heightened stability and optimism for its future. India's appeal as an investment destination remains strong, strengthened by its large-scale operations, skilled talent pool and leadership in technology and innovation.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, India now ranks as the fifth-largest global economy. Strategic efforts to streamline bureaucracy, improve infrastructure and improve logistics connectivity have attracted multinational corporations (MNCs) to establish production and assembly bases in the country.

However, India faces increasingly extreme weather patterns, largely driven by human-caused climate change. The monsoon season, once predictable, is now marked by erratic rainfall, contributing to devastating floods, landslides and cyclones. In 2023, regions like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Delhi experienced severe weather events, including heatwaves, heavy rains and flooding, with experts attributing these phenomena to growing impacts of climate change.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In 2023, the Indian Red Cross Society promoted [nature-based solutions](#) with local government bodies, integrating climate risk considerations into development planning and building community knowledge on climate risks, resource management and [green technology](#). It partnered with stakeholders to implement early warning systems for agriculture and fisheries, while continuing its collaboration with the Indian Meteorological Department to disseminate climate-related forecasts to vulnerable populations. The National Society strengthened the capacity of staff and volunteers in [forecast-based action](#), particularly in flood and heatwave-prone areas and empowered communities to address climate risks. Additionally, through the Flood Early Warning Project, volunteers in Assam and Bihar were trained to share flood warnings with hard-to-reach communities.

Disasters and crises

For the period January to December 2023, the Indian Red Cross Society worked closely with the Government of India and the National Disaster Response Force to support local administrations during disasters, including a train accident in Odisha, severe flooding in Himachal Pradesh and landslides in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. The National Society provided emergency relief, including tarpaulins, mosquito nets, hygiene kits and kitchen sets to affected households in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. At-risk communities received [early warnings](#) and were supported in reducing vulnerabilities to floods, cyclones and heatwaves using smart technologies. Relief stocks were prepositioned and used during disasters throughout the year, with replenishment ongoing to maintain preparedness.

Health and wellbeing

During the reporting period, the Indian Red Cross Society remained a leading humanitarian agency and essential service provider in blood services, recognized as critical by the Government of India. The National Society focused on promoting voluntary blood donation through its Blood Centre, collecting around 30,000 units annually with a 100 per cent voluntary donation rate. Blood collected underwent component separation for effective use and was provided free of charge to patients in government hospitals in Delhi and registered Thalassaemic patients. The Blood Centre also supplied various blood components to meet diverse medical needs.

Values, power and inclusion

The Indian Red Cross Society maintained gender balance across its leadership, staff and volunteer base. Emergency response and development programmes were inclusive, rights-based and focused on people's needs while maximizing localization. The National Society continued its efforts to ensure 40 per cent women were included in emergency response, including Social Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV), First Aid training, community-level training and as

recipients of disaster assistance. Capacity building for protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) was mainstreamed, with disaggregated data available on leadership, volunteer base and response and resilience-building programmes.

Enabling local actors

The National Society works closely with the IFRC and other National Societies to address humanitarian needs, mobilize resources and align strategies, particularly in emergencies. The National Society partners with the Canadian Red Cross in health and logistics and the Italian Red Cross in climate and youth. It coordinates with local disaster management bodies, the Indian Meteorological Department and various agencies, including WHO, UNDP and universities, to strengthen its disaster preparedness and response.

In 2023, the Indian Red Cross Society remained highly active on social media platforms, with nearly all state and union territory branches maintaining official accounts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The National Society shared regular updates on key activities conducted at the national headquarters, state and district levels across these platforms. It continued the process of hiring a specialist for Humanitarian Diplomacy to support it in enhancing communications and advocacy efforts, as well as in developing strategies and resources for reaching a broader audience. Additionally, the Indian Red Cross Society focused on financial management at its state branches and national headquarters. The National Society also organized regular training sessions for staff at the state branches in the project management cycle.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

For the period January to December 2023, the Indian Red Cross Society promoted nature-based solutions in collaboration with local government bodies, including village panchayats and urban local councils. These initiatives leveraged government development programmes to address climate risks while fostering local-level partnerships.

The National Society actively identified issues related to climate-induced vulnerabilities and established partnerships with stakeholders to implement early warning systems for agriculture and fisheries. Efforts focused on building community knowledge on climate risks, restoring natural resources, managing land and water resources, promoting green technology and collaborating with authorities to integrate climate risk considerations into development planning.

Throughout 2023, the Indian Red Cross Society maintained its collaboration with the Indian Meteorological Department to ensure climate-related forecasts were disseminated effectively to the most vulnerable populations. These activities included integrating climate risk reduction and environmental protection modules into Social Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV) training and strengthening climate resilience through outreach programmes in all 36 states and union territories.

The National Society staff and volunteers improved their knowledge and capacity as agents of change, particularly in implementing forecast-based action in areas prone to extreme events such as floods and heatwaves. This approach strengthened rural and urban community capacities to adapt to evolving climate impacts while empowering communities to take ownership of programmes addressing climate risks. The National Society was recognized as a key partner by communities and governments in scaling up climate action and supporting vulnerable populations.

Additionally, state branches of the Indian Red Cross Society coordinated with the national meteorological service to ensure timely dissemination of weather information, including rainfall, heatwaves and cyclones, to district branches and volunteers. Under the Flood Early Warning Project, over 1,200 volunteers in Assam and Bihar were trained to use Google alert systems, enabling them to disseminate flood warnings to hard-to-reach communities lacking access to

other information sources. These trained volunteers continued to play a critical role in ensuring that alerts reached at-risk populations in advance.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Indian Red Cross Society by raising awareness and building the capacity of staff and volunteers as agents of change for disaster preparedness. This collaboration strengthened the understanding and implementation of forecast-based action, particularly in areas prone to extreme events such as floods and heatwaves. The IFRC’s support also contributed to strengthening rural and urban communities’ capacities to address climate risks and encouraged the use of local knowledge and insights for adapting to environmental and climate challenges.



Disasters and crises

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

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) was approved for a flood emergency.

India Flood 2023

NAME OF OPERATION	India Flood 2023
MDR-CODE	MDRIN028
DURATION	5 months (31 August 2023 to 31 January 2024)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 539,063
PEOPLE TARGETED	40,000
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Final Report

The DREF allocation of CHF 539,063 in August 2023 supported the Indian Red Cross Society in aiding 40,000 people affected by the floods in the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. The support comprised of distribution of tents, tarpaulins, woolen blankets, kitchen sets as well as first aid and medicines. Affected communities were also provided with hygiene and dignity kits as well as WASH sensitization sessions.

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Indian Red Cross Society closely collaborated with the Government of India and the National Disaster Response Force to respond effectively to disasters. It provided vital support to local administrations in multiple incidents, including a major train accident in Odisha, severe flooding in Himachal Pradesh and landslides and cloudbursts in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

The National Society also delivered emergency relief items, such as tarpaulins, mosquito nets, hygiene kits and kitchen sets, to flood impacted households in Assam. Additionally, affected households in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand received similar assistance.

At-risk communities vulnerable to floods, cyclones and heatwaves received [early warnings](#) and were supported in taking proactive measures to reduce exposure and vulnerability. Efforts included leveraging smart technologies such as smartphones and digital platforms to improve response times, conduct rapid assessments and plan operations. The National Society also raised awareness among communities about disaster impacts on lives and livelihoods, promoting effective mitigation, response and recovery.

To maintain readiness, the Indian Red Cross Society prepositioned relief stocks, including tarpaulins, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits, which were promptly utilized during disasters in May, June, September and November 2023. The National Society is actively replenishing these stocks to ensure preparedness for future disasters, thereby reducing response times.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Indian Red Cross Society through the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF), enabling the provision of essential relief items in Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. IFRC also strengthened the National Society's disaster preparedness by streamlining procurement, enhancing warehouse management, deploying experts and promoting the use of digital tools to improve response efficiency and support vulnerable communities with early warnings and risk mitigation.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

For the reporting period, the Indian Red Cross Society maintained its position as a leading humanitarian agency and essential service provider in blood services, which are recognized as critical by the Government of India. The National Society continued to focus on promoting voluntary blood donation through its national headquarters Blood Centre, collecting approximately 30,000 units of blood annually with a 100 per cent voluntary donation rate. All collected blood underwent component separation, ensuring effective utilization. About 90 per cent of the total blood collection was provided free of service charges to patients in the general wards of government hospitals in Delhi and registered Thalassaemic patients. The Blood Centre also offered various blood components, including fresh frozen plasma, platelet-rich plasma, platelet concentrate, packed cells, cryoprecipitate and platelet apheresis, to meet diverse medical needs.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical guidance, resources and capacity building support to the Indian Red Cross Society to strengthen its operations and continued success in voluntary blood collection and effective blood component utilization.



Indian Red Cross Society providing First Aid training to Youth Red Cross volunteers at Gujarat state branch (Photo: IRCS)



Values, power and inclusion

Progress of the National Society against objective

In 2023, Indian Red Cross Society maintained gender balance across its leadership, staff and volunteer base. Emergency response and development programmes were inclusive, rights-based and focused on people's needs and priorities while maximizing localization. The National Society continued its efforts to include 40 per cent women in emergency response, including in SERV, First Aid training, community-level training and also as recipients of disaster assistance. Capacity building for protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) was mainstreamed within the National Society, with disaggregated data available on leadership, volunteer base and response and resilience-building programmes.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in scaling up its youth and education programme in selected states.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

Progress by the 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.

The IFRC also facilitates networking among the South Asian National Societies and supports capacity building initiatives.

The Indian Red Cross Society partners with two participating National Societies:

The **Canadian Red Cross** Society has a presence in India and supports the National Society in the areas of health and logistics development.

The **Italian Red Cross** plans to support the Indian Red Cross, in the areas of climate and youth. Discussions are ongoing and will be finalized soon.

Movement coordination

The Indian 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** supports the Indian Red Cross Society with a large scope of activities such as regularly responding to the needs of people adversely affected by situations of humanitarian concern, in particular armed conflict and violence.

External coordination

The Indian Red Cross Society coordinates with the National Institute for the Transformation of India and the National Disaster Management Authority at the national level and with the State Disaster Management Authority at state level and district authority level.

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the National Society participates in all coordination mechanisms. The National Society state branches work closely with the Indian Meteorological Department on weather forecasting and early warning systems, using the National Society's volunteer network.

The National Society is part of a group of humanitarian agencies in India. In the event of a large-scale disaster, the IFRC coordinates with the Indian Red Cross, participating National Societies and the ICRC to maximize the use of resources and deliver impactful programmes.

The National Society also partners with the St. John's Ambulance, United Nations agencies such as the World Health Organization and United Nations Development Programme and multinational corporations.

Google is supporting the Indian Red Cross with the implementation of a project entitled Improving Flood Early Warning Systems: Empowering People to Action, in the states of Assam and Bihar. The National Society has also developed partnerships with universities and research institutes, including the Indian Institute of Technology in Mandi, All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi, Birla Institute of Technology and Science in Pilani, Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai and University College Dublin.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Indian Red Cross Society remained highly active on social media platforms, with nearly all state and union territory branches maintaining official accounts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The National Society shared regular updates on key activities conducted at the national headquarters, state and district levels across these platforms. It continued the process of hiring a specialist for Humanitarian Diplomacy to support the Indian Red Cross Society in enhancing communication and advocacy efforts, as well as in developing strategies and resources for reaching a broader audience.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Indian Red Cross Society in hiring a humanitarian diplomacy specialist.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

For the period January to December 2023, the Indian Red Cross Society focused on financial management at its state branches and national headquarters. The National Society also organized regular training sessions for staff at the state branches in the project management cycle.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the Indian Red Cross Society with financial and technical assistance in the implementation of its activities.



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

- **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 India 2023 Financial Report](#)
Note: For emergencies for which financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRIN028](#)
- [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

Indian Red Cross Society Indian Red Cross Society

John Entwistle

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation
for India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and
Maldives, Delhi
T +7 09100010236
john.entwistle@ifrc.org

Robert Laprade

Head of Strategic Engagement
& Partnerships
IFRC Regional Office for Asia
Pacific, Kuala Lumpur
T +601 2204 3410
robert.laprade@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

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