

IN SUPPORT OF THE GAMBIA RED CROSS SOCIETY



PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and
environment



30,000

Disasters
and crises



55,000

Health and
wellbeing



150,000

Migration and
displacement



50,000

Values, power
and inclusion



15,000

No information at time of publication. Figures reflect targeted reach in 2025 plan

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

IFRC network		
Country	Funding Requirement	6.9M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term Funding Requirement	1M
	Funding	2.2M
	Expenditure	706,000
	Emergency Operations Funding	Not reported
	Emergency Operations Expenditure	Not reported
	Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement
	Funding	721,000
	Expenditure	151,000
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	5.9M

IFRC NETWORK BILATERAL-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Spanish Red Cross	721,000						

Total Funding Reported **CHF 721,000**

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

During the first half of 2025, the country continued to face economic pressures, particularly due to high food and fuel prices driven by global market volatility. These challenges affected the coping capacities of vulnerable households, increasing demand for humanitarian and social support. Additionally, recurrent flooding, seasonal windstorms, and localized disease outbreaks (including heightened vigilance on [Mpox following the WHO's declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern](#)) further shaped the health landscape in the country.

The national political environment remained relatively stable, though community expectations on service delivery and humanitarian assistance continued to grow amidst ongoing vulnerabilities. The government has placed strong emphasis on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Gambia is a destination country for migrants from other regions in Africa — the migrant population comprised nearly 21 per cent of the total population in 2020, often refugees fleeing from areas of conflict, but also a small number of skilled African migrants. It is also an important transit country for unauthorized migrants from sub-Saharan Africa en route to Europe. Currently, 20 per cent of the country's GDP comes from remittance inflows, and the only other industry that has a considerable stake in the economy is tourism.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In line with its commitment to the Climate and Environment Resilience Programme, the Gambia Red Cross Society trained youth and community members in horticulture management and promoted the adoption of [climate-smart agriculture practices](#). As part of the mangrove restoration initiatives, the National Society planted over 12,000 seedlings in the lower river region. Volunteers also cleared gutters, drainage systems, hospitals, markets, and other public places to prevent the spread of diseases and reduce flood risks.

Disasters and crises

During Based on the impact of natural disasters and crises in the previous years, the Gambia Red Cross Society's operations focused on the development and implementation of contingency plans. It is also strengthened [community-based disaster risk reduction](#) and worked to enhance effective coordination with local partners, international partners, and stakeholders in the humanitarian sector. The National Society finalised and validated the roadmap for the [Early Warning for All \(EW4All\)](#) initiatives. The roadmap is expected to be validated by the Gambia Government with the full participation and contribution from the National Society.

Health and wellbeing

In 2025, the primary efforts of the Gambia Red Cross Society were aimed at the prevention of malaria. Through a China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) project, the Gambia Red Cross Society conducted house-to-house sensitization, primary school visits, and open-field days to raise malaria awareness. Children under five years of age also received a full course of anti-malarial preventive chemotherapy. Additionally, [first aid](#) also remained a priority, supported through the provision of training for police officers, the Gambia Hotel Association, Logix Petrol Station, and Merina International School. Through a [water, sanitation, and hygiene \(WASH\)](#) project, the National Society also rehabilitated and constructed hand-wash facilities and drilled boreholes in Sami and Nianija districts.

Migration and displacement

The Gambia Red Cross Society has begun implementing a programme focused on the social and psychosocial reintegration of returnees and disadvantaged local populations. This initiative is designed to provide assistance related to protection, social cohesion, [mental health and psychosocial support \(MHPSS\)](#), and awareness raising to migrants. In addition, [Restoring Family Links \(RFL\)](#) is a core activity under the National Society's efforts, which facilitated successful calls, allowed migrants to reconnect with their families, provided assurance of their safety, and supported tracing

requests, initiating the search for missing loved ones. In tandem, the IFRC [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#) supported the provision of humanitarian assistance and protection services to migrants with various vulnerabilities.

Values, power and inclusion

The National Society worked to support Children affected by Armed Conflict through its project. It also demonstrated its commitment through its [Child Protection and Education in Emergencies](#) policy. The Gambia Red Cross Society engaged with the Mase community sensitization using the Bwiam community radio. The topics mainly focused on children's right to education, including the importance of sending children to both formal and informal schools. The National Society also financially supported a Bantaba (a traditional meeting place for communal decision-making and cultural education) and built the capacity of 36 other Bantabas as the region's [Protection, Gender and Inclusion](#) (PGI) focal points.

Enabling local actors

In the first half of 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society continued to align its priorities with National Society Development efforts. It actively engaged in peer-to-peer exchanges and benefited from technical and financial support. Its collaboration with its partners enhanced institutional resilience and provided access to National Society Development funding streams that support both organizational growth and programmatic expansion. Key achievements included the continued implementation of its communications strategy aimed at raising public awareness of its humanitarian role and increasing community engagement. In pursuit of high-level diplomatic engagement, the National Society leadership held courtesy visits with the President of the Republic of Gambia, the Vice President, several government ministers, and senior officials from UN agencies.



The Gambia Red Cross Society's worked to transfer a critically ill patient to a hospital. (Photo: The Gambia Red Cross Society)

Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

The Gambia Red Cross Society made several adjustments to its programmes and Operations which also affects the Unified Plan 2025 in response to evolving needs, operational realities, and contextual developments. For instance, the outbreak of Mpox declared as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by World Health Organisation and Africa Centre for Disease Control prompted the National Society to reactivate its volunteer core for possible rapid response where the needs arise. Consequently, some resources initially earmarked for measles campaigns were reallocated. Additionally, delays in fund disbursements from some partners caused postponement of planned activities, particularly in migration, youth engagement and livelihood initiatives. The changes and amendments made to the Unified Plan 2025 reflect the National Society's commitment to remain adaptive, responsive, and aligned with both evolving humanitarian needs and national priorities.

Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In line with its commitment to the climate and environmental resilient programme, the Gambia Red Cross Society trained 45 youth and community members. The activity aimed at enhancing the knowledge of the youth and community members on climate education, adaptation, and resilience. It also emphasized horticulture management and promoted the adoption of [climate-smart agriculture](#) to enhance productivity while protecting natural resources. The objective is to equip 100 youth and community members with skills in climate-smart horticulture, poultry farming, climate adaptation and resilient building programmes.

The National Society volunteers jointly conducted a mangrove planting drive in lower river region to contribute to the mangrove restoration initiatives. Over 12,000 seedlings were planted. The National Society senior management engaged partners locally for funding opportunity to continue implementation of project.

During this period, the Gambia Red Cross Society volunteers made tangible impact in their communities by engaging in crucial activities. These included clearing gutters, drainage systems, hospitals, markets, and other public places. Their efforts helped prevent the spread of diseases, reduced flood risks, and maintained a clean environment, ultimately enhancing the health and well-being of the communities they serve.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Gambia Red Cross Society in implementing climate-smart projects at the community level. Through the [IFRC Capacity Building Fund \(CBF\)](#), a funding mechanism that aims to strengthen the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the IFRC supported the Gambia Red Cross Society with training volunteers. It also provided funding, guidance, and technical support during the development of the Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) project through the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Platform Fund.



Disasters and crises

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

Progress by the National Society against objectives

With Gambia's experience with chronic and unprecedented flash floods and windstorms in the last four years, the National Society focused on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery phases of disaster management.

In addition, the country also faced droughts, fires, disease outbreak, and pest invasions. Based on the predicted impacts of natural disasters and crises, the National Society operations are focused on the development and implementation of contingency plans. It is also working to strengthen [community-based disaster risk reduction](#) to prevent the recurrence of identified hazards and vulnerabilities and support resilience building interventions to reduce future risk.

Through collaboration and partnerships with the government and relevant corporate bodies, the National Society continued to improve its operational capabilities in effective and efficient humanitarian service delivery. It is also working to enhance effective coordination with local partners, international partners, and stakeholders in the humanitarian sector.

With support from the IFRC, the National Society finalised and validated the roadmap for the [Early Warning for All \(EW4All\)](#) initiatives. The roadmap is expected to be validated by the Gambia Government with the full participation and contribution from the National Society.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Gambia Red Cross Society through mechanisms such as the [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(IFRC-DREF\)](#) and Emergency Appeals which are drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. It supported the National Society's application for a [simplified Early Action Protocol \(sEAP\)](#) for Flash Floods.

The IFRC also aided the National Society with the disaster and emergency response facilities such as the Gambia Red Cross Society Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and radio communications equipment and necessary appliances and network applications. It also supported the transformation of the Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) to Branch Disaster Response Teams and a National Disaster Response team at Headquarters level.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In Gambia, the National Society is working to accelerate national malaria elimination efforts by addressing critical gaps in the existing response. With support from the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), efforts are ongoing to eliminate malaria.

The Gambia Red Cross Society trained volunteers on malaria prevention and control strategies. In Brufut and nearby villages, the volunteers conducted house-to-house sensitization, primary school visits, and open-field day to raise malaria awareness. These activities focus on changing behaviour, raising awareness, and promoting malaria prevention.

As part of the Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities, the National Society distributed insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) across seven regions. The synchronized ITN mass distribution campaign was launched by the health ministers of Gambia and Senegal in Farafenni, North Bank Region (NBR) in May 2025. Through the CIDCA-funded malaria project, the Gambia Red Cross Society committed two banners, 100 T-shirts, snacks, and water for 150 people in the host community.

Another outcome of the project was to protect children under five years of age. As a result, 70,000 children in Kombo North between the ages of 3 to 59 months will receive a full course of anti-malarial preventive chemotherapy. To support this initiative, the National Society has procured anti-malarial blister packs. These medicines were officially handed over to the Ministry of Health. The delivery of these antimalarial medicines marks a significant milestone in our collective efforts to achieve malaria-free Gambia.

First aid also remained a priority for the Gambia Red Cross Society. Pre-deployment training was facilitated for police officers in the field. Volunteers provided training on basic first aid from the various regions/branches. The National Society also contributed to the National validation workshop with the Ministry of Health. The team also worked on the recommendations of the previous workshop, compiled and validated. Commercial First Aid Training was conducted for members of the Gambia Hotel Association, Logix Petrol Station, and Merina International School.

The National Society also worked on a water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) project that targeted communities and schools in Sami and Nianija districts. It rehabilitated and constructed hand-wash facilities in 9 schools and will drill 3 communities boreholes with complete reticulation systems.

In April 2025, an assessment of the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) of community members in Sami was conducted. The activity included 20 volunteers who were orientated and trained on how to use the GIS tool designed for the KAP survey. The orientation of the volunteers was facilitated by the project team and supported by the personnels from the Ministry of Health and Department of Water resources.

From 19 to 27 May 2025, the headquarters' technical field mission was organized for verification of identified communities. This was for the implementation of WASH promotion in Jalakoto, Tandi's, and Bati Jaha in the north of the country. The team visited all the concern communities, and met with local authorities, one of the main outcome engagements was communities were encouraged to participate in inclusive approach, empowering women to take ownership of the project. Meeting with community leaders and members of the Water Management Committee also gave the team an opportunity to introduce the project, explain its objectives, and obtain their consent for full participation. In all the communities visited, village development committees (VDCs), 'Alkalos' Elders, youths, and women leaders attended the meetings.

In May, five drilling companies visited all the sites identified by the project to Drill for Borehole through the WASH project. The establishment of participatory Water and Sanitation Management Committee and Training of Water Management Committees members was done. The process was witnessed by all the concern individuals at community level which included women, youth, village leaders, VDC, Alkalos, Ward Councillor (in the case of Bati Jaha) and Chief of Sami District (at the meeting in Jalakoto).

After the effective establishment of the water management committees, the training of committee members followed from 22 to 27 May 2025. The training was facilitated by the Department of Water Resources Regional officer for the Ministry of Health Regional Health Promotion Education Officer.

Tracking and monitoring of the Early Warning System (EWS) in Kombo North District for possible outbreaks that endanger health, improving the health of the population, especially children, in the districts of Kombo North, 20 volunteers were trained will be engaged with the support of ministry of Health unit.

The National Society also worked to support people through mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). It traced cases in the communities of Foni and made referral to specialized professionals to support. Three cases requiring assistance were found in the communities during Psychological First Aid (PFA) engagement and were referred to clinics in Bwiam for further professional support.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society with efforts to eliminate malaria as well as to promote first aid.

The **Spanish Red Cross** provided assistance to the Gambia Red Cross Society in implementing a WASH project in the Sami and Nianija districts to constructs hand wash facilities in schools.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Following a project grant from German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Gambia Red Cross Society began to implement a comprehensive programme focused on the social and psychosocial reintegration of returnees and disadvantaged local populations. This initiative is designed to provide immediate assistance related to protection, social cohesion, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and awareness raising to migrants. By extension these skills would also assist with development and livelihood support programmes through a collaborative framework involving NEDI and GYIN Gambia. The programme aims to foster sustainable reintegration and community resilience.

Another instrumental assistance was procured through the Global Migration Lab's grant to conduct a nationwide study on missing migrants in Africa, with a particular focus on The Gambia. The study, scheduled to commence in late August through September 2025. It will explore the underlying causes and patterns of migrant disappearances, especially among women and children. Findings from this research will inform national policy and contribute to broader regional and international efforts to prevent migrant disappearances and improve protection mechanisms.

Restoring Family Links (RFL) is a core activity under the National Society's efforts. In terms of direct assistance to migrants, a total of 1052 migrants were returned through the IOM voluntary repatriation programme. Over 800 successful calls were facilitated, allowing migrants to reconnect with their families and provide assurance of their safety.

Core RFL services were also successfully carried out. A fact sheet detailing all available services was prepared to improve access to information for those in need. Eleven Tracing Requests (TCs) were collected, initiating the search for missing loved ones, and two 'Salamats' (a message from a family member) and a Red Cross Message were successfully delivered to a beneficiary.

During the reporting period, the Gambia Red Cross Society's RFL Unit provided timely support to migrants in distress. One migrant from Guinea-Bissau was assisted after experiencing difficulties, while two other migrants, who had been forcefully pushed out of Mauritania and found themselves in The Gambia for the first time, also received the necessary support and guidance. These cases highlight the continued relevance of RFL services in responding to the needs of vulnerable migrants and ensuring their protection and dignity.

In May, the National Society had the chance to participate in the African Family Links Network (AFLN) Workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop provided an in-depth understanding of Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities across the African continent and created a valuable space to exchange experiences, strengthen networks, and learn about best practices being implemented by other National Societies. This further enhanced my knowledge and capacity to strengthen RFL work in The Gambia.

Additionally, a five-day technical support mission was conducted. This mission provided practical office-based working sessions that focused on strengthening operational coordination, improving technical capacities, and aligning approaches to ensure quality service delivery to affected families.

Through the IFRC [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), the Gambia Red Cross Society continues to provide humanitarian assistance and protection services to 9935 migrants with various vulnerabilities. These services aimed to address immediate needs and ensure safe and dignified migration experiences.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supports the Gambia Red Cross Society in strengthening its capacity in migration and displacement.

The **Spanish Red Cross** provided support to the National Society in securing funding from Cabildo De Gran Canaria for its efforts to support those displaced.

The ICRC provides support to the National Society under the [Restoring Family Links](#) (RFL) initiative.



Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Gambia Red Cross Society continues to uphold the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. These principles aim to build a more informed, compassionate, and resilient society. As part of its efforts, the National Society worked on the project implementation for Children affected by Armed Conflict in the Gambia. In collaboration with IFRC and stakeholders in [Child Protection and Education in Emergencies](#) in the country, it successfully conducted a three-day convergence to assess child protection risk factors and emerging issues. These efforts informed the successful implementation of the project in ten communities located in the Five Districts of Foni in the West Coast Region.

The National Society also participated in the workshop facilitated by the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education and Child Protection Alliance. The participants were identified by their institutions based on their expertise and roles in Child Protection and Education. Sessions were conducted through presentation, and focused group discussions, group work and presentation on findings from the various groups.

The first two days were used for the assessment of the risk factors for children in general narrowing to the Foni communities affected by the complex and long-standing armed conflict in the southern Senegalese region of Casamance. The third day was dedicated to the development, review and validation of over 35 key messages. These messages are now readily available to be disseminated to the communities using the various Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) channels.

This achievements were registered through the support of several partners, notably the Ministry of the Gender Children and Social Welfare (MoGCSW), National Youth Council (NYC), child Protection Alliance (CPA), Network Against Gender Based Violence, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), Child Fund, UNICEF, UNFPA, SOS Children Villages The Gambia, National Agency for Trafficking in Person (NATIP), Gambia Arm Forces (GAF), Gambia immigration Department (GID), Gambia Police Force (GPF), Gambia Press Union (GPU), Supreme Islamic Council (SIC), and the Gambia Christian Council (GCC).

In April, the [Protection, Gender, and Inclusion](#) (PGI) unit conducted two day training of participants from ten schools located in the five districts in the Foni area of West Coast Region. Participants included representatives from teachers, mother's clubs, school management committees, care givers, regional education authorities, village development committees, and civil society organization. Key topics covered during the training included child protection, gender, and human rights. One outcome of the training was the identification of major challenges faced by children affected by armed conflicts such as extreme weather conditions, access to special needs, added obstacles faced by girls, and the long distances to schools acting as deterrents.

In May to July, the Gambia Red Cross Society engaged with the Mase community sensitization using Bwiam community radio. It had a coverage of over 5,000 people, spanning Kuloro to Binjorna in Casamance. The topics mainly focused on children's right to education, including the importance of sending the children to both formal and informal schools.

In June, the National Society conducted an orientation of volunteers and staff as the team in Foni supporting the CAAC Project. The orientation was centred on child protection, and [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS). This was followed by an engagement to support the children affected by armed conflict and their families to access services. Education in Emergency and Referral Parth ways were made available in the communities, followed by three days of community engagement using the house-to-house method to sensitize the community members.

The National Society also financially supported a Bantaba (a traditional meeting place for communal decision-making and cultural education) and built the capacity of 36 other Bantabas as the region's PGI focal points. The training was centred on the Red Cross Red Crescent principles such as the [Dignity Access Participation Safety](#) (DAPS) during an operation and [PGI Minimum Standards in Emergencies](#).

One attempted sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) case was found and reported to the Kalagie Police station. The National Society also followed up with the coordination of the Referral Team Network Against Gender Based Violence (NGB) and child protection. The man was arrested and taken to Tanka Tanka Psychiatric Clinic for further treatment.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supports the Gambia Red Cross Society in strengthening its PGI programming. The IFRC also collaborated with the National Society in Child Protection and Education in emergencies in the country.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-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, of links with development assistance, and of efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Gambia Red Cross Society is part of the Red Cross Red Crescent Sahel+ Resilience Platform. This Platform, created in 2018, comprises of a steering committee and three technical groups, on food security and livelihoods, migration, and shelter – which convene with designated focal points and technical staff, as part of the overall Resilience Platform. Their ambition is to create a shared understanding and vision among members, to increase communications, information production and capacities, and to shape a collective voice through common advocacy tools and messages. Since 2018, the [food security and livelihoods](#) technical group, included in the Sahel+ Resilience Platform, is being partially financially supported by the British Red Cross, through a coordinator position and support for parts of the action plan. This thematic group, under the new Action Plan 2022-2024, aims to strengthen the technical, participatory, and influencing capacities in food security, livelihoods, and nutrition of the ten National Societies of Sahel+, including the Gambia Red Cross Society. The National Society receives ongoing technical and financial support from a number of participating National Societies, including the **Italian Red Cross, Kenya Red Cross Society, the Netherlands Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent Society, Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Authority, and the Spanish Red Cross.**

The **Belgian Red Cross** signed a memorandum of understanding with the Gambia Red Cross Society to support the emergency preparedness activities of the National Society.

The **Spanish Red Cross** is present in country and is the main partner of the Gambia Red Cross and provides support in livelihoods and migration.

Movement coordination

The Gambia 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** provides support to The Gambia Red Cross from its delegation in Dakar through its cooperation agreement covering restoring family links, communication and humanitarian diplomacy, emergency preparedness and response, institutional support, partnership building, and gender and diversity.

External coordination

The Gambia Red Cross Society, in line with its auxiliary role, coordinates closely with the authorities. From the onset of disasters, the National Society coordinates with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). The NDMA has the responsibility of coordinating all disaster-related interventions in the country. At regional level, the Office of the Governor or Mayor and partners including NDMA are responsible for the implementation and coordination of all disaster activities. The Gambia Red Cross is an active member of the National Disaster Management Committee and

attends regular meetings and briefing sessions to ensure a cohesive and harmonized response is guaranteed. The Gambia Red Cross Society, through its branches, is also a member of the Regional Coordination Groups, participating in meetings and briefings. Joint assessment missions are carried out together with these structures and reports from such missions are shared. The National Disaster Management Committee makes presentations on plans and activity implementation during such forums, to ensure and promote better understanding of implementation of planned activities. The National Society always requests the participation of the National Disaster Management Agency and other partners in all relevant training programmes.

During emergencies, other humanitarian actors operational in the country, including the UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM and WFP) together with other international and local NGOs, community-based organizations and faith-based organizations, usually play an active role in responding to the needs of the affected population. The Gambia Red Cross Society coordinates with these actors through the established platforms.

Outside of emergencies, the Gambia Red Cross Society also collaborates with UN agencies present in the country, such as UNDP, WHO, WFP, UNFPA and many other humanitarian institutions in the country.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Over the reporting period, The Gambia Red Cross Society made significant progress in strengthening its organizational development and alignment with its strategic priorities. Guided by its strategy direction, the National Society worked to consolidate statutory and legal frameworks, ensuring greater compliance with national regulations and international Red Cross Red Crescent standards. Branch development has also remained a key focus, with capacity-building initiatives rolled out to improve infrastructure, governance, volunteer management, and community outreach across several regions of the country.

Financial sustainability efforts have been advanced through the diversification of resource mobilization, including strengthened partnerships with government, private sector actors, and international partners. These efforts have been complemented by improvements in internal systems, with greater emphasis placed on accountability, transparency, and digitalization of processes to enhance efficiency and service delivery.

In terms of leadership, the National Society invested in strengthening governance and management capacities, while also fostering the active participation of youth and volunteers. The establishment of platforms for youth engagement and community-led initiatives has further enhanced the National Society's role as an inclusive humanitarian actor. Volunteer development programmes, including training in disaster response, health, and climate adaptation, have expanded the skills base of the National Society and ensured a strong presence at the community level.

Youth Empowerment through innovative climate actions aimed to equip youth with skills in climate-smart horticulture, poultry farming, climate adaptation, and resilient building programmes. These activities aim to mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as erratic rainfall and rising temperatures, desertification, and drought. The programme would strengthen youth adaptive capacities on locally led climate fight and create sustainable livings for youth and volunteers. This will amplify and strengthen the voices of young people, and foster youth entrepreneurship and green jobs at local branches.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides both financial and technical support to the Gambia Red Cross Society in aligning its priorities with the global National Society Development agendas. It also facilitated peer-to-peer exchanges between the National Society and Participating National Societies. This collaboration enhanced institutional resilience and provided access to National Society Development funding streams that support both organizational growth and programmatic expansion.



Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of the year, the Gambia Red Cross Society made notable strides in advancing its communication and advocacy goals. Key achievements include the continued implementation of its communications strategy aimed at raising public awareness of its humanitarian role and increasing community engagement. The National Society effectively used digital platforms and traditional media to disseminate timely and accurate information on its programmes and emergency responses, contributing to enhanced visibility and trust.

Strategic messaging was tailored for target audiences, including youth, volunteers, and vulnerable communities to strengthen understanding of the National Society's work and humanitarian principles. The advocacy efforts also focused on strengthening partnerships with local authorities, civil society, and the private sector, positioning the Gambia Red Cross Society as a key actor in disaster preparedness and response.

Under its Humanitarian Diplomacy, the National Society intensified its engagement with key stakeholders through a series of high-level advocacy and outreach activities. Notably, the National Society conducted targeted training sessions on International Humanitarian Law for Gambian Army recruits and Master's students in International Relations at the University of The Gambia. These sessions aimed to deepen understanding of humanitarian principles and foster stronger civil- military and academic collaboration in humanitarian action.

In pursuit of high-level diplomatic engagement, the National Society leadership held courtesy visits with the President of the Republic of Gambia, the Vice President, several government ministers, and senior officials from UN agencies. These included strategic engagements with the UN Resident Coordinator, WHO, and other international development partners.

These collective efforts have enhanced the profile of the National Society nationally and internationally, contributing to greater understanding of our humanitarian mission, improved partnerships, and increased trust among the public and stakeholders.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in its humanitarian diplomacy and public communication efforts. The IFRC provided consistent support to the Gambia Red Cross Society in the form of technical guidance, resource mobilization, and capacity-building initiatives. This includes capacity building, surge training, as well as facilitating knowledge exchange with peer National Societies, enabling the National Society to adopt best practices and innovative approaches in its advocacy work.

Q4. AFFECTED PERSONS (PEOPLE REACHED)

See cover pages

Q5. PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

See Strategic Priority on 'Values, power and inclusion' under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q6. RISK MANAGEMENT

This information is not available in Mid-Year Reports

Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

See *Strategic Priorities* or *Enabling Local Actors*, where relevant under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q8. LESSONS LEARNED

- **Importance of Locally Led Approaches:** It was learned that interventions are most effective when communities are meaningfully engaged in decision-making, planning, and implementation. While community participation was integrated into many activities, some areas showed that early involvement and continuous dialogue with local stakeholders significantly increased ownership and sustainability
- **Flexibility and Adaptive Management:** The Unified Plan highlighted that rigid project designs can become challenging in dynamic contexts, particularly in responding to overlapping crises (climate shocks, health emergencies, or socio-political changes). Therefore, adaptive planning and flexible funding mechanisms improve responsiveness and effectiveness
- **Integration of Multi-Sectoral Interventions:** Addressing humanitarian needs in silos is less effective than integrated approaches. For instance, linking disaster response with livelihoods recovery and psychosocial support strengthened resilience outcomes
- **Strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL):** While data collection and reporting were carried out, gaps were observed in systematically capturing and analysing learning from interventions. We learned that stronger MEAL frameworks enable better evidence-based decision-making and accountability

SUCCESS STORIES



1

Relaying a message to a father from his lost son

During the Gambia Red Cross Society's efforts under the Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme, it successfully delivered a Red Cross Message (RCM) that reconnected a father in Gambia with his son, who had been detained in Algeria. When the RFL officer first contacted the father to request directions to his home, he was reluctant to cooperate. However, after further discussions, the officer reassured the father enough to allow a visit for the delivery of the message. During the visit, the father received the message from his son, whom he had lost contact with for over two years. Overcome with emotion, the father explained that the family had assumed the worst and assumed their son had died on the journey. They had already performed all the Islamic funeral rites for him. Hearing his son's words and knowing he was alive brought shock, relief, and renewed hope to the entire family. This case powerfully demonstrates the impact of the Restoring Family Links programme. Even after years of silence, the Red Cross Red Crescent movement was able to assist families in coming back together and restoring hope.



2

A reunion after nine years of silence

As part of the phone services provided by the Restoring Family Links (RFL) unit to migrants, a migrant approached the unit officer and explained that he wished to call his mother. However, he requested that the officer speak to her first. With visible emotion, he shared that he had been imprisoned abroad for nine years, during which he had no contact with his family. He feared that hearing his voice after so long might affect his mother's health. The officer agreed and introduced themselves to the mother over the phone, preparing her before passing the call to her son. The son broke down in tears, unable to speak at first. The mother, equally overwhelmed, listened patiently and expressed her joy at hearing that her son was alive. The officer then guided her to the reception centre where the migrants were being processed. Within an hour, the mother arrived and embraced her son, who had been separated for nearly a decade. It brought tears to everyone around.

ANNEX 1. IFRC APPLICATION OF THE 8+3 REPORTING TEMPLATE

The IFRC network structures its result-based management along five Strategic priorities and four Enabling functions, developed based on the IFRC network's [Strategy 2030](#):

IFRC network Strategic Priorities	IFRC network Enabling Functions
SP 1 - Climate and environment	EF 1- Strategic and operational coordination
SP 2 - Disasters and crises	EF 2 - National Society development
SP 3 - Health and wellbeing	EF 3 - Humanitarian diplomacy
SP 4 - Migration and displacement	EF 4 - Accountability and agility
SP 5 - Values, power and inclusion	

The Federation-wide results matrix provides a standard way for the IFRC network to measure its progress towards Strategy 2030 implementation and supports consistent quality of the IFRC network planning, monitoring and reporting. To further advance coherence in monitoring across the IFRC network, a [Federation-wide Indicator Bank](#) has been developed and integrated into the Federation-wide monitoring systems for emergencies and longer-term work, structured along the Federation-wide results matrix as well. Signatory of the Grand Bargain Agreement, the IFRC has committed to its monitoring and reporting standards through integration of the [8+3 reporting template](#) contents into its results-based management approach. The following mapping demonstrate the way in which this report aligns with 8+3 reporting:

8+3 template	IFRC network Mid-Year Report (with variance in structure in red)
Core Questions	
1. Overall Performance	Overall Performance
2. Changes and Amendments	Changes and amendments
3. Measuring Results	Measuring Results
4. Affected Persons	Cover pages with indicators values
5. Participation & AAP	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 5: Values, power and inclusion – Community Engagement and Accountability
6. Risk management	Risk management
7. Exit Strategy and Sustainability	Under Q3 sub-sections by Strategic Priority/Enabling Function where relevant
8. Lessons Learned	Lessons learned
Additional Questions	
1. Value for Money/ Cost Effectiveness	Not included in mid-year reports
2. Visibility	Not included in mid-year reports
3. Coordination	Under Q3 Enabling Function 1: Strategic and operational coordination
4. Implementing Partners	Cross-cutting, with a focus on support to localization through the Q3 Enabling Functions 1 to 4
5. Activities or Steps Towards implementation	Cross-cutting in Q3 Strategic Priorities and Enabling Functions
6. Environment	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 1: Climate and environment



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 2025. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies.
- **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 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'. Also note that funding requirements are already reflected in the published 2025 IFRC network country plan. The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network has sought 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
- **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) 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

- [GM_Gambia MYR Financials.pdf](#) (Note: This financial report link will be fed upon the completion of the audit.)
- [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](#)

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