



THE GAMBIA

2025 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec



10 July 2026

IN SUPPORT OF THE GAMBIA RED CROSS SOCIETY



7

National Society
branches



473

National Society
local units



56

National Society
staff



17,889

National Society
volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and
environment



10,208

Disasters
and crises



2,016

Health and
wellbeing



9,935

Migration and
displacement



23,026

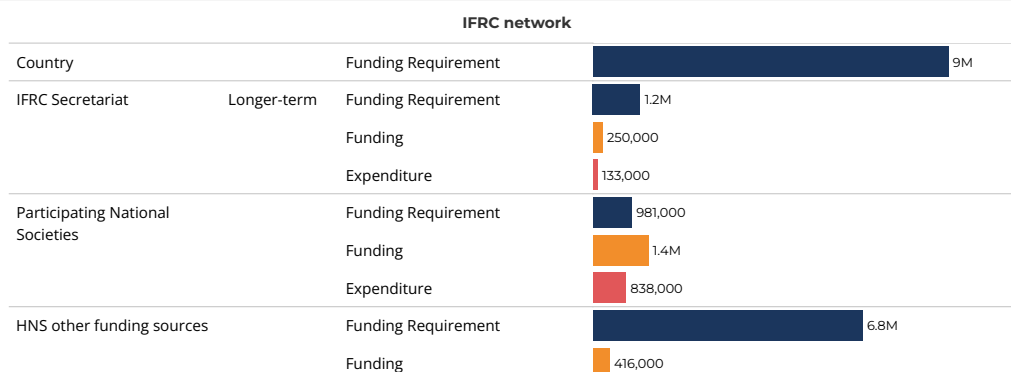
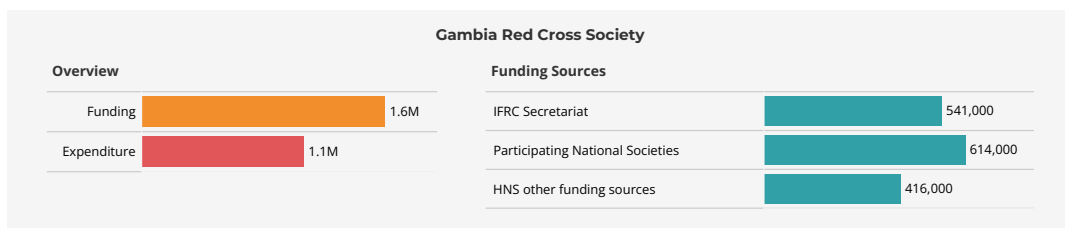
Values, power
and inclusion



19,889

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)



Appeal number **MAAGM002**

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

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	National Society has received IFRC Network's support to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change	Yes
	National Society implements environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction, clean-ups or reducing GHG emissions	Yes
	Number of people reached with activities to address environmental problems	558
Disasters and crises	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction	2,000
Health and wellbeing	Number of people donating blood	907
	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate health services	408,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	2,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society with training in first aid	72,000
	Number of people reached with psychosocial and mental health services	10,000
Migration and displacement	National Society has undertaken any advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move	Yes
	National Society has undertaken any data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move	Yes
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing assistance and/or protection to people on the move along migration routes	5
	Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	23,000

Values, power and inclusion	National Society has a Community Engagement and Accountability policy, strategy or plan	Yes
	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	20,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society's educational programmes	6,000

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Accountability and agility	National Society has a functioning data management system that informs decision making and supports monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of its actions	Yes
	National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes
	National Society has strengthened its integrity and reputational risk mechanism	Yes
	National Society is implementing a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
	National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns	Yes
National Society development	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of its volunteers	Yes
	National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies	Yes
	There is a National Society Development plan in place	Yes

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
Australian Red Cross							
Qatar Red Crescent Society							
Spanish Red Cross	1.4M						

Total Funding Reported **CHF 1.4M**

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

During 2025, implementation of the Unified Plan was influenced by evolving socio-economic conditions, climate risks, and humanitarian needs. The national context remained stable, although increasing demand for humanitarian assistance was observed due to economic pressures, including rising food and fuel prices. Climate-related hazards such as floods and windstorms continued to affect vulnerable communities. Migration dynamics remained significant, with increased numbers of returnees and maritime incidents, including the December 2025 Jinack incident, which required emergency humanitarian response.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society successfully mobilized resources from IFRC for the continuous implementation of the locally-led adaptation Project after the withdrawal of funding by USAID, positioning the National Society as a key national humanitarian actor on community-based climate change adaptation, disaster preparedness, and locally-led humanitarian action.

Disasters and crises

Between January and December 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society reactivated and trained/oriented Rapid Response/First Aid Teams (RRTs) across all regions to enhance readiness for disasters, crises, and other emergencies. The National Society advanced its disaster risk management and climate agenda through the development and submission of the Simplified Early Action Protocol (sEAP) for flash floods, positioning the Gambia Red Cross Society to access anticipatory financing and act ahead of predictable climate shocks. Approval of funding under the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Platform for Locally Led Adaptation further strengthened the National Society's capacity to support community-driven climate resilience initiatives.

Health and wellbeing

In this reporting period, the Gambia Red Cross Society rolled out the accelerating malaria elimination through Community-Led Initiatives project through large-scale community-based Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC), logistics support, and volunteer mobilization for Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) and Insecticide-Treated Net (ITN) campaigns. These interventions directly contributed to improved awareness, uptake, and coverage of malaria prevention services, particularly among caregivers of children under five. Complementary first aid and health promotion activities further reinforced community-level health resilience with strong government and partner engagement, reinforcing the National Society's auxiliary role in public health and directly contributing to national malaria elimination targets.

Migration and displacement

In this reporting period, the Gambia Red Cross Society continued to provide critical humanitarian assistance and protection services to migrants and returnees across the country. This included emergency response to maritime incidents, provision of restoring family links (RFL) services, psychosocial support, and coordination with government and Movement partners. Engagement in national migration dialogue platforms and the initiation of Migration and Displacement policy and SOP development strengthened the strategic and operational foundations of migration programming under the Unified Plan.

Values, power and inclusion

In 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society strengthened its commitment to values, power and inclusion by embedding Protection, Gender and Inclusion and Community Engagement and Accountability across its operations, prioritising the needs of vulnerable groups and improving equitable access to services. It deepened two-way communication with communities, actively used feedback to adapt programmes, and built trust through responsive engagement, particularly in health campaigns. The National Society reinforced participatory approaches by involving community leaders and

structures in programme design and implementation, while strengthening local ownership in areas such as [WASH](#). It maintained a strong focus on safeguarding and protection, ensuring dignified and culturally sensitive support—especially in emergency and migration contexts—and provided targeted psychosocial and referral services. Through ongoing training and organisational strengthening, it advanced inclusion, community acceptance and ownership, while recognising the need to further improve data systems, feedback mechanisms and documentation.

Enabling local actors

In 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society strengthened its institutional capacity, governance and operational effectiveness through internal reforms, stronger leadership and active partner engagement. The successful convening of the General Assembly reinforced accountability and inclusive governance, while progress on the Constitution Review aligned systems with Movement standards. The National Society stabilised and enhanced programme delivery by strengthening its organisational structure, advancing strategic planning, expanding programme pipelines, and improving planning, monitoring and reporting systems. It also increased its institutional visibility and credibility through stronger engagement with Movement partners, government and development actors, while investing in branch development, financial sustainability, leadership and volunteer capacity to support inclusive, community-based action.

At the same time, the National Society advanced humanitarian diplomacy, systems strengthening and operational efficiency to support growing programme delivery across sectors. It deepened strategic partnerships and expanded its presence in national and international forums, strengthening its influence and resource mobilisation, while enhancing communications and visibility to support public engagement and advocacy. Internal systems were reinforced through stronger safeguarding, risk management, financial controls and supply chain processes, alongside progress in results-based management and digital transformation. Investments in staff capacity, youth and volunteer engagement, and locally driven innovation further strengthened institutional resilience, adaptive leadership and community-level impact, positioning the organisation for sustained growth and effectiveness.

Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

During 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society implemented its Unified Plan in a dynamic context shaped by evolving humanitarian needs, public health risks, climate impacts and funding shifts, requiring continuous adaptation to programme design, resource allocation and implementation sequencing while remaining aligned with planned outcomes. Climate and disaster programming was expanded through the Scaling up Locally-led Adaptation and Transforming Humanitarian Responses to Climate Change Project, with strengthened focus on anticipatory action, early warning systems and climate-smart livelihoods, while operational adjustments ensured continuity following the withdrawal of USAID support. Health programming was also adapted in response to emerging public health threats, with realignment of activities and updated scheduling to align with national priorities and operational realities.

Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society continued to strengthen its leadership role in climate resilience, community adaptation, and anticipatory action. Building on earlier investments, the National Society sustained momentum despite shifts in external funding and evolving operational realities.

Community-based environmental actions included mangrove restoration, drainage clearing, sanitation campaigns, and awareness raising on environmental stewardship. Over 12,000 mangrove seedlings were planted in Lower River Region, contributing to ecosystem restoration, flood mitigation, and long-term livelihood protection.

The National Society also strengthened local resilience capacities through training of youth and community members on climate-smart agriculture, horticulture, adaptive practices, and risk-informed livelihoods. These interventions promoted practical solutions for communities affected by climate variability.

During the second half of the year, important strategic progress was achieved through approval of funding under the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Platform for a Locally Led Adaptation initiative; submission of the Simplified Early Action Protocol (SEAP) for flash floods for IFRC validation; participation in the IFRC Climate Champions initiative and related global learning platforms, and continued engagement with national stakeholders on climate preparedness and environmental action.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC support includes technical and financial assistance under the “Scaling Up Locally Led Adaptation and Transforming Humanitarian Response to Climate Change” project, implemented in partnership with the IFRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. Through this and related initiatives, the National Society benefits from training workshops, technical guidance, tools to integrate climate risk into programmes, access to early warning and forecast-based financing mechanisms, and participation in global knowledge-sharing platforms. These efforts collectively enhance preparedness, response, recovery, and locally led adaptation to climate-related shocks.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit IFRC GO page [The Gambia](#).

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society finalized and validated the implementation roadmap for the Early Warning for All ([EW4All](#)) initiatives. This roadmap is expected to be validated by the Gambian government with the full participation and contribution from the National Society. The Gambia Red Cross Society and IFRC are the Lead agencies for Pillar 4: Preparedness for Response Capabilities.

The Gambia Red Cross Society has submitted a Simplified Early Action Protocol (sEAP) Anticipatory Action Approach CHF 200,000 for two-year implementation for flash floods to the IFRC Validation Committee, Geneva, Nairobi, and Dakar. With the precipitation situation in the country this year, the National Society is bracing itself for imminent flooding intervention.

The Community Trust Index Survey, developed by the IFRC Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) Unit, comprises various models grouped into two categories: 1) trust in humanitarian organizations, encompassing their capacities and values in delivering services, and 2) trust in humanitarian programs and thematic across different organizations for effectiveness and community were accomplished by the National Society in July 2025.

At the end of 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society responded to a major maritime migration incident affecting multiple coastal locations. The National Society rapidly activated internal coordination systems and deployed staff and volunteers to key response points.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides both financial and technical assistance to the Gambia Red Cross Society for emergency response mechanisms. IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([DREF](#)) and the IFRC Emergency Appeal are utilized by the National Society in times of disasters and crises to effectively support those who face immediate needs during times of emergency.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Health remained one of the strongest performing pillars of the Unified Plan in 2025. Through strategic partnerships and volunteer-based delivery models, the Gambia Red Cross Society supported disease prevention, community health promotion, emergency health response, and water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) services.

Under Malaria Elimination Support, the National Society made contributions to national malaria elimination priorities with support from the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA). Achievements under this intervention include support for implementation of four Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) cycles in Kombo North, deployment of trained volunteers for house-to-house and public outreach campaigns. The National Society reached more than 90,000 people reached with malaria prevention and treatment adherence messages. It provided support to campaign logistics, visibility, mobilisation, and community acceptance.

Under First Aid and Emergency Health interventions, the Gambia Red Cross Society continued to expand first aid services through community and commercial trainings, public event coverage, sea rescue operations, and emergency standby services. Preparatory work for establishment of the First Aid Training School also progressed during the year.

Under Mental Health and Psychosocial Support ([MHPSS](#)), the National Society invested in strengthening MHPSS capacity through training of trainers, step-down sessions, and deployment of trained personnel during migration incidents and humanitarian operations. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). Through partnerships, it advanced WASH programming in Central River Region through ongoing construction of boreholes and water systems in targeted communities; training of Water Management Committees, and hygiene promotion in schools and communities.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supports the Gambia Red Cross Society in promoting health behaviours, addressing stigma, and combating communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health, WASH issues, among others. It supports the National Society in training its staff and volunteers in new skills to address health problems within communities and ensures that operations are inclusive and reach vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities. During outbreaks, the IFRC emphasizes the role of local actors and communities in implementing interventions such as the community-based surveillance and early detection.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Migration and displacement remained a priority area throughout 2025. The Gambia Red Cross Society continued to provide humanitarian assistance and protection services to migrants, returnees, and vulnerable mobile populations.

Core achievements included continuous service delivery at reception centres and humanitarian service points, provision of food, clothing, hygiene kits, first aid, information, restoring family links ([RFL](#)), and psychosocial support. It participated in national migration dialogue platforms and policy discussions and made progress in development of a Migration and Displacement Policy, Strategy, and operational SOPs. The launch and operationalisation of the EU Migration Project further strengthened the National Society's readiness to scale migration programming nationwide.

A USD 7,000 mini grant was obtained from the Global Migration Lab to conduct a nationwide study on missing migrants in Africa, with a particular focus on The Gambia. The study was conducted by the National Society-trained data collectors by conducting interviews or group discussions with migrant women and young adults, migrant children (aged 8+), the relatives of missing migrants, and/or key informants within the country. Upon completion of the training, the data collectors conducted a minimum total of 60 interviews focusing on group discussions with migrant women or young adults, migrant children and/or relatives of missing migrants, five key informant interviews with relevant women- and youth-led organizations or organizations representing migrants and families within the country.

The Gambia Red Cross Society continues to provide humanitarian assistance and protection services to 9,935 migrants with various vulnerabilities under the Global Route-Based Migration Programme. These services aim to address immediate needs and ensure safe and dignified migration experiences. It supported the Bantaba with an amount of GMD 125,000 and built the capacity of 35 participants on Migration (14 freshmen introduced to the RCRC Approach, while 21 benefited ToT on RCRC approach and are about to begin follow-up activities).

Restoring Family Links (RFL) is a core activity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The RFL strategy is a global framework that guides the work of the ICRC, national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies:

The Gambia Red Cross Society conducts community outreach activities across all the regions of The Gambia. Volunteers engage directly with community members to raise awareness and share key messages. Its key achievements include a total of 12 volunteers conducted outreach sessions, approximately 3,730 people with outreach, 5 posters displayed in strategic community locations and distribution of 40 leaflets. These activities contributed to strengthening community awareness and visibility of the program while promoting greater access to information.

In terms of direct assistance to migrants, a total of 1,052 migrants were returned through the IOM voluntary repatriation program. A remarkable 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. A total of 11 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.

The 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 RFL officer attended 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 in collaboration with the FO PFL of ICRC Dakar. 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.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides both technical and financial support to the National Society in its interventions under migration and displacement.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supported the National Society under migration and displacement through the Cabildo De Gran Canaria grant.

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



The Gambia Red Cross Society offered phone call service to returnees under its migration and displacement interventions. (Photo: Gambia Red Cross Society)



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society sustained a strong commitment to values, power and inclusion by embedding Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) across its operations, with notable strengthening in the second half of the year. Across all sectors, it prioritised the needs of vulnerable and at-risk groups, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, and displaced populations. It reinforced inclusive targeting criteria in migration and cash-based interventions, integrated safeguarding considerations into emergency responses—particularly during the maritime incident—and applied more gender-sensitive approaches in communication and outreach. These efforts improved equitable access to services and reduced barriers faced by vulnerable communities.

The National Society expanded its community engagement and accountability practices by deepening two-way communication with communities and increasing the use of community feedback to inform programme delivery. It implemented the Community Trust Index Survey to better understand community perceptions, while volunteers and field teams strengthened ongoing dialogue through sensitisation activities and direct engagement. During seasonal malaria chemoprevention campaigns, It actively used community feedback to address caregiver hesitancy, adapting messaging approaches to improve acceptance and coverage. This emphasis on listening and responsiveness strengthened trust and enhanced programme effectiveness.

The National Society also reinforced community participation in programme design and implementation by engaging traditional communicators, opinion leaders and volunteers, and by including community representatives in local structures such as WASH committees. It applied participatory approaches during field missions, consultations and monitoring activities, and further institutionalised these practices in the latter half of the year. In WASH programming, the Gambia Red Cross Society trained and supported Water Management Committees to take greater ownership of infrastructure management, strengthening local capacity and sustainability.

Safeguarding and protection remained central to National Society's operations, particularly in emergency and migration contexts. Staff and volunteers consistently applied protection principles during response activities, while psychosocial support services respected dignity, confidentiality and cultural sensitivity. Following the maritime incident, it provided

targeted psychosocial and referral support to affected individuals, ensuring that the most vulnerable received appropriate care and protection.

To support these efforts, the National Society continued to strengthen organisational capacity on PGI and CEA through step-down trainings and briefings for staff and volunteers, incorporating lessons from regional and global initiatives into its programming. These efforts contributed to tangible progress, including improved community acceptance of interventions, stronger inclusion of vulnerable groups in response activities, and increased community ownership of services. At the same time, challenges remained around data disaggregation, standardised feedback systems and consistent documentation of community insights.

Building on progress made in 2025, the National Society plans to further advance its values, power and inclusion agenda by developing a formal CEA policy and strategy, strengthening PGI integration across sectors, improving data systems, and expanding meaningful community participation in programme design and evaluation.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supports the National Society with both financial and technical assistance to conduct protection, gender and inclusion and community engagement and accountability initiatives. It supports the National Society in initiatives such as education of displaced children in the country, distribution of learning materials and dignity kits, and ensuring the dignity and protection of vulnerable individuals.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging, and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development assistance and contribute to reinforcing 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 technical and financial support from a few Participating National Societies, including the **Italian Red Cross, Kenya Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Saudi Arabia Red Crescent, Netherlands Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross** and **Spanish Red Cross**. The Gambia Red Cross Society in 2022 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Belgian Red Cross (French Speaking) to support the emergency preparedness activities of the National Society. The Spanish Red Cross is present in the country and is the main partner of the Gambia Red Cross Society, and provides support in Livelihoods, Migration and Lifesaving (Sea search and rescue).

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, works in close coordination with national and local authorities. From the onset of disasters, it partners closely with the National Disaster Management Agency, which leads the coordination of disaster-related interventions nationwide. At regional and local levels, coordination is led by the Offices of Governors or Mayors, working alongside the National Disaster Management Agency and other partners to implement response activities.

The Gambia Red Cross Society is an active member of the National Disaster Management Committee and relevant thematic sector committees and working groups, including information management (as co-chair), food and livelihoods, shelter and protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, and environment. Through its branch network, the National Society also participates in Regional Coordination Groups, contributing to joint assessments, information sharing and harmonized planning, with assessment findings jointly validated and disseminated.

The National Society actively involves the National Disaster Management Agency and other partners in training programmes aligned with their mandates. During emergencies, coordination extends to humanitarian actors operating in the country, including United Nations agencies such as the World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund, International Organization for Migration and World Food Programme, as well as international and local non-governmental, community-based and faith-based organizations, through established coordination platforms.

Outside emergency contexts, the Gambia Red Cross Society maintains strong partnerships with development and humanitarian actors, including the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, bilateral partners such as the United States Agency for International Development, and diplomatic partners including the Chinese Embassy, strengthening preparedness, resilience and long-term humanitarian impact.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society strengthened its institutional capacity, governance systems and operational effectiveness, with particularly notable progress in the second half of the year driven by internal reforms, strengthened leadership and active partner engagement. A key milestone was the successful convening of the General Assembly, which reinforced accountability, enabled inclusive representation from branches and partners, and facilitated strategic decision-making across governance, volunteer development and programme priorities. In parallel, the National Society advanced its Constitution Review process, engaging with the Joint Statutes Commission and preparing for branch-level consultations to ensure alignment with Movement standards and strengthen transparency and compliance.

The Gambia Red Cross Society also improved its organisational structure and human resource capacity to support programme delivery. It initiated recruitment for critical programme roles, made strategic redeployments to address operational gaps, and collaborated with government institutions to enhance technical capacity in key sectors. These efforts helped stabilise operations and strengthened continuity despite earlier capacity constraints. At the same time, the National Society advanced its strategic planning and programme development by developing the Food Security, Livelihoods and Resilience Strategy and expanding project pipelines in priority areas such as climate, migration and research, ensuring closer alignment between strategic priorities and emerging funding opportunities.

Efforts to strengthen internal systems focused on improving planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes through increased use of standardised tools, stronger coordination for timely reporting and greater emphasis on results-based management. While these improvements enhanced accountability and performance tracking, further work remains to strengthen data management and system-wide integration. Operational efficiency was also supported through infrastructure planning, including office reorganisation and improvements in logistical coordination and response readiness mechanisms.

The National Society continued to strengthen its institutional positioning through active engagement with Movement partners, government ministries and development actors, increasing its visibility as a credible and reliable humanitarian organisation. At the same time, it advanced broader National Society Development efforts by consolidating statutory and legal frameworks, strengthening compliance with national and international standards, and investing in branch development through targeted capacity-building in governance, infrastructure, volunteer management and community outreach. Financial sustainability was further enhanced through diversified resource mobilisation and strengthened partnerships, alongside improvements in internal systems that promoted transparency, accountability and the digitalisation of processes.

The National Society also invested in leadership development and promoted the active engagement of youth and volunteers, strengthening its inclusive approach to humanitarian action. Volunteer and youth development initiatives expanded skills in disaster response, health and climate adaptation, while dedicated programmes on climate-smart livelihoods and youth empowerment strengthened local capacity, resilience and opportunities for green entrepreneurship. Community-based initiatives, including volunteer training camps and branch-led infrastructure development, reinforced grassroots engagement and strengthened the presence and contribution of volunteers at the community level.

Through peer exchange, technical support and access to dedicated funding mechanisms, the National Society strengthened institutional resilience and accelerated progress in governance reform, branch capacity development and innovation in community engagement and accountability.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC support has been central to strengthening the National Society's governance, operational effectiveness, accountability and long-term sustainability. A core area of assistance has been governance and leadership development, with continuous technical guidance, mentoring and training for Governing Board members and senior leadership. IFRC funding mechanisms such as the IFRC-ICRC National Society Investment Alliance ([NSIA](#)) and the IFRC Capacity Building Fund ([CBF](#)) are utilized for National Society development initiatives.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society strengthened its humanitarian diplomacy and communications capacities to enhance its visibility, influence policy dialogue, mobilise resources and reinforce its auxiliary role to public authorities, with notable progress in the second half of the year. GRCS expanded its engagement in national and international platforms, contributing to dialogue on migration, climate resilience and disaster management while increasing the participation of senior leadership in regional and global forums. These engagements strengthened its credibility and positioning as a key humanitarian actor and enabled it to shape national humanitarian priorities while building stronger relationships with partners and stakeholders.

A significant development during the latter part of the year was the deepening of bilateral cooperation with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, reflecting the National Society's strategic approach to humanitarian diplomacy. Engagement focused on priority areas such as health, disaster preparedness and institutional capacity development, while complementing existing collaboration under the CIDCA-supported malaria programme. This partnership strengthened trust, enhanced the diplomatic visibility and created opportunities for future technical and financial cooperation, demonstrating the National Society's ability to leverage strategic relationships to advance humanitarian objectives.

The National Society also strengthened its institutional capacity through international learning and knowledge exchange, with staff participating in seminars and training programmes in China covering public health, disaster risk management, climate adaptation and humanitarian logistics. These engagements provided exposure to global best practices and innovative approaches, while strengthening technical capacity across departments. Upon return, participants supported internal knowledge sharing and contributed to the adaptation of relevant practices into National Society systems and programming, reinforcing institutional learning and continuous improvement.

Humanitarian diplomacy efforts translated into strengthened partnerships and resource mobilisation, enabling the National Society to expand and sustain its programming. The National Society advanced major initiatives including the EU-funded Migration Project and the continued implementation of the ECOWAS Humanitarian Assistance Project, while also progressing in accessing climate financing through the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Platform. At the same time, the National Society deepened collaboration with Partner National Societies, UN agencies and government institutions, supporting the scaling of interventions, diversification of funding sources and alignment with national development priorities.

Communications and visibility efforts were strengthened to support public engagement, transparency and advocacy. The Gambia Red Cross Society increased documentation and dissemination of programme results across key sectors, enhanced media engagement and used targeted communication tools to support awareness and behaviour change campaigns. Communications played an important role in supporting seasonal malaria chemoprevention campaigns, highlighting migration response operations, including the maritime incident, and promoting climate and environmental initiatives. Internally, the National Society improved information sharing between headquarters and branches, strengthened coordination during emergency responses and ensured regular briefings to support programme delivery.

The National Society continued to reinforce its auxiliary role through sustained engagement with government authorities, collaborating with ministries and agencies across health, disaster management and migration sectors, and contributing to national coordination mechanisms. These efforts strengthened alignment with government priorities, promoted humanitarian principles and reinforced trust in the National Society as a key partner in national response systems. Despite progress, challenges remained related to limited communication resources, the need for a more structured communications strategy and inconsistent documentation of field-level impact.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supports the National Society in increasing its outreach through communications and through effective humanitarian diplomacy. The IFRC supported the National Society in conducting a training of the National Assembly members on the roles and responsibilities of the Red Cross and its auxiliary role. Radio and television programmes have also been conducted to promote the ideals and principles of the Red Cross.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Gambia Red Cross Society strengthened its institutional systems to enhance transparency, accountability, risk management and operational agility, ensuring that the expansion of programmes across health, climate, migration and disaster response was supported by robust internal controls and effective management structures. Across the reporting period, the National Society reinforced its safeguarding and accountability frameworks by mainstreaming Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, child safeguarding and safe programming approaches. Orientation sessions for staff and volunteers and strengthened reporting pathways at branch level improved awareness, access and confidentiality, while staff safety was enhanced through refresher briefings and reinforced protocols for field operations, particularly in high-risk contexts such as maritime migration response and flood-prone areas.

At the same time, the Gambia Red Cross Society invested in human resource development and organisational capacity by strengthening staff skills through technical training in priority areas, reinforcing branch leadership through governance orientation, and maintaining operational continuity through internal task redistribution and acting appointments. The organisation embedded gender, diversity and inclusion considerations into recruitment and programming, promoting balanced participation in volunteer mobilisation and strengthening the representation of women and youth in governance processes, while integrating PGI principles across key sectors.

Financial management systems were further strengthened to ensure transparency, compliance and efficient resource allocation. The National Society reinforced internal controls such as segregation of duties, regular account reconciliation and improved budget monitoring, while aligning expenditure with approved workplans. Adaptive financial planning allowed the organisation to respond to funding constraints and prioritise essential and donor-supported activities. Strengthened collaboration between finance and programme teams improved reporting quality and compliance, while timely financial reporting to partners reinforced donor confidence and accountability.

The Gambia Red Cross Society also strengthened its integrity, risk management and security systems to safeguard operations and personnel. The organisation maintained zero tolerance for fraud and misconduct by reinforcing integrity policies, promoting internal reporting mechanisms and addressing minor compliance issues through supervision. Risk management processes were systematically integrated into programme and management discussions, enabling the identification and mitigation of operational, financial and governance risks, while adaptive management approaches ensured continuity of activities in changing contexts. Security protocols were regularly reviewed to respond to emerging risks, supported by coordination with local authorities, ensuring safe access during field operations.

Operational efficiency was further enhanced through strengthened supply chain systems and improved coordination between programmes and logistics. The National Society improved procurement planning, documentation and compliance with donor requirements, ensuring the timely availability and distribution of essential supplies across health campaigns, WASH interventions and migration response activities. In parallel, the organisation advanced Results-Based Management by improving alignment between planning tools and strategic priorities, strengthening indicator tracking and using regular programme reviews to inform decision-making. Enhanced collaboration between programme, monitoring and finance functions improved coherence between narrative and financial reporting.

Digital transformation progressed steadily, with increased use of digital data collection tools, strengthened electronic documentation and expanded use of cloud-based systems and digital communication platforms. Staff and volunteers enhanced their digital skills, supporting more efficient reporting and data-driven programme management, particularly in health and migration interventions. While infrastructure and connectivity constraints at branch level remained a challenge, plans were put in place to expand digital access and strengthen systems under future funding opportunities.

The Gambia Red Cross Society also fostered innovation and adaptive leadership by promoting locally driven solutions and practical improvements across programmes. Senior management encouraged flexible and responsive approaches, particularly in climate and migration programming, while initiatives such as anticipatory action mechanisms and mobile outreach approaches improved programme effectiveness. Youth and volunteers played a key role in driving community-level innovation and resilience initiatives, supported by partnerships with IFRC, Partner National Societies and government institutions, which contributed to technical advancement and operational efficiency.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides both technical and financial assistance to the National Society in its efforts under accountability and agility. It provided support in the form of technical assistance in SEAP development and climate financing, PMER capacity strengthening, safeguarding and integrity framework alignment and others.

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 Annual 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:** The National Society 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. Upcoming projects will dedicate more time and resources to structured community engagement at all stages, ensuring that solutions reflect local priorities and capacities.
- **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 (planned for measles and polio became the need for intervention), or socio-political changes). The National Society learned that adaptive planning and flexible funding mechanisms improve responsiveness and effectiveness. Future programmes will embed on adaptive management strategies, including scenario-based contingency plans and flexible resource allocation, to allow quick adjustments when contexts shift.
- **Integration of Multi-Sectoral Interventions:** Experience shows that addressing humanitarian needs in silos is less effective than integrated approaches. For instance, linking disaster responses with livelihoods of recovery and psychosocial support strengthened resilience outcomes. Future projects will emphasize integrated, cross-sectoral design, aligning with National Society and IFRC Strategy 2030 priorities to connect health, disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and livelihoods.
- **Strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL):** While data collection and reporting were carried out, gaps were observed in systematically capturing and analyzing learning from interventions. The National Society learned that stronger MEAL frameworks enable better evidence-based decision-making and accountability. Investments will be made in digital data systems, staff training, and regular reflection sessions to strengthen the culture of learning and adaptive programming.
- **Partnership and Coordination:** Collaboration with government institutions, Movement partners, and other stakeholders enhanced the auxiliary role of the National Society. However, coordination mechanisms were at times fragmented or ad hoc, limiting collective impact. More structured coordination platforms will be established, with clear roles, communication channels, and joint planning exercises to maximize synergies and reduce duplication.
- **Volunteer and Staff Capacity:** The Unified Plan confirmed that well-trained and motivated volunteers are central to effective programme delivery. However, uneven capacity across branches created disparities in service delivery. Future interventions will prioritize continuous training, mentorship, and incentive mechanisms to build a more consistent, skilled, and resilient volunteer network nationwide.

SUCCESS STORIES



1

Establishment of a Child Safe Friendly Space in Foni-Kanjabina

The Gambia Red Cross Society, with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC) project, established the first Child-Friendly Safe Space (CFSS) at Kanjabiana Arabic School in the Foni districts of The Gambia.

For years, children in this border community attended school without access to a structured, protective, and child-centered environment. Many faced psychosocial distress linked to cross-border insecurity, poverty, and limited access to formal education services. Teachers reported low concentration levels, irregular attendance, and limited parental engagement particularly among girls and children from vulnerable households. The establishment of the Child-Friendly Safe Space marked a transformative moment for the school and the wider community.

A 15-year-old girl attending the school shared: “Before this space, we just came to class and left. Now we can talk about our problems. We learn how to protect ourselves and support each other. I feel more confident and happier coming to school.”

Teachers also reported improved participation and concentration among students attending the sessions. Caregivers expressed relief knowing their children now had access to a safe environment within the school compound.

Child-friendly videos on protection and safeguarding issues were developed and made available to children, social media platforms and state TV.

2

Restoring Hope to Families Through Restoring Family Links (RFL)

One of the most emotional moments during the reporting period came through the work of the The Gambia Red Cross Society Restoring Family Links (RFL) Unit. A father in rural The Gambia had lost contact with his son for more than two years after the young man migrated through North Africa. The family had searched tirelessly for information but received none. Eventually, believing he had died during the migration journey, the family performed Islamic funeral rites in his memory.

When the GRCSRFL Officer first contacted the father to arrange delivery of a Red Cross Message (RCM), the father reacted angrily and refused to cooperate. The family had lost hope. After careful explanation and reassurance, the officer was allowed to visit the household. During the visit, the father received a handwritten message from his son, who was alive but detained in Algeria.

As he read the message, the father broke into tears. The family gathered around him in disbelief and relief. What had begun as despair turned into renewed hope and healing. For the first time in years, the family knew their son was alive.

3

A Mother Reunited with Her Son After Nine Years

At the migrant reception centre in Tanji, one returnee approached the Gambia Red Cross Society RFL team with a special request. He wanted to call his mother but feared the shock of hearing his voice after nearly nine years of silence. The young man had spent years detained abroad and had completely lost contact with his family. Before making the call, he asked the RFL Officer to first speak with his mother and prepare her emotionally.

When the call was connected, the young man could barely speak. He wept uncontrollably as his mother realised her son was alive. Within an hour, the mother arrived at the reception centre. The moment they embraced after nine years apart moved staff, volunteers, and migrants alike. Many present were unable to hold back tears.

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 Annual 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 annual reports
2. Visibility	Not included in annual 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 31 December 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 AR Financials.pdf](#)
- [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

Abdoulie Fye

Acting Secretary General
The Gambia Red Cross Society,
T +2202507929
abdoulie.fye@redcross.gm

Franciscah Cherotich Kilel

Acting Head of Strategic Partnerships
& Resource Mobilization
IFRC Regional Office for Africa, Nairobi
T +254 110 843978
Franciscah.KILEL@ifrc.org

Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for
Cape Verde, the Gambia, Mauritania &
Senegal, based in Dakar
T +221 783 719557
alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

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