



GHANA

2026 IFRC network country plan



27 January 2026

In support of the Ghana Red Cross Society



10

National Society branches



153

National Society local units



50

National Society staff



66,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



200,000

Climate and environment



120,000

Disasters and crises



210,000

Health and wellbeing



40,000

Migration and displacement



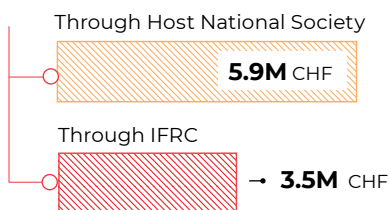
36,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 9.4M CHF



Participating National Societies

Swiss Red Cross

The Netherlands Red Cross*

IFRC Appeal code

Longer-term needs:

MAAGH002

*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in 2025.

Hazards



Floods



Droughts



Disease outbreak



Migration & displacement

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

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

Capacity development

- Communication and advocacy
 - Resource mobilization
 - Financial management

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

Medium

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Medium

Human Development Index rank

143

World Bank Population figure

34.4M

World Bank Population below poverty line

23%



Women leaders from Shigu in Tamale after a public enlightenment session on the importance of immunization. (Photo: IFRC)

Detailed funding requirements

2026

	Host National Society	IFRC
Longer-term needs		
Climate and environment	2M	1.5M
Disasters & crises	2M	600,000
Health & wellbeing	1M	750,000
Migration & displacement	175,000	175,000
Values, power & inclusion	50,000	200,000
Enabling local actors	700,000	250,000
Total	5.9M	3.5M

Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Swiss Red Cross	2026								-

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Ghana Red Cross Society** was established in 1958 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1959. It is the largest volunteer-based humanitarian service organization in the country and has a presence in all 10 regions, with 153 district chapters and 66,000 volunteers. It works directly under the Ministry of Health as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field.

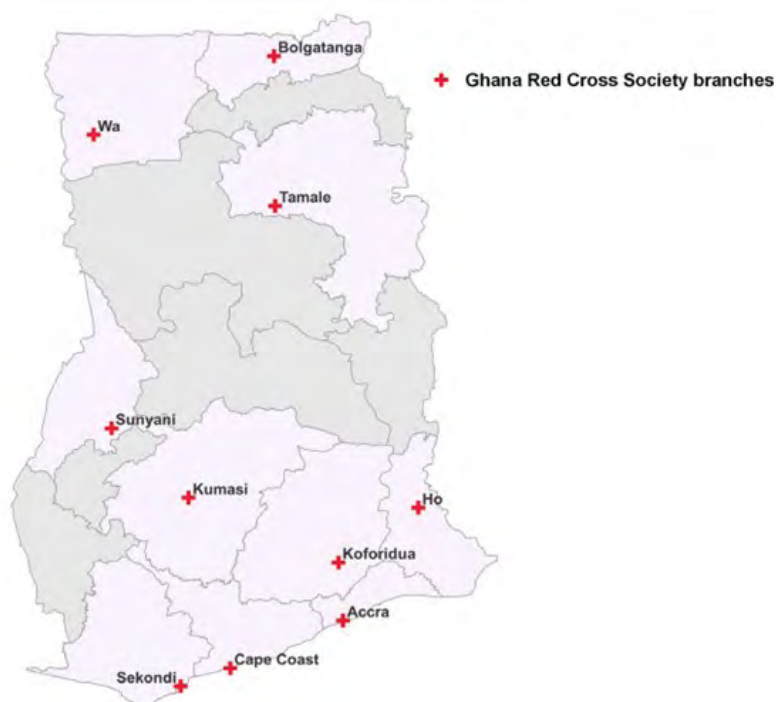
Every district chapter supports communities in need through volunteers trained in First Aid, disaster management, water and sanitation, health and disaster risk reduction. The volunteers also respond to emergencies and carry out community rescue missions.

Over the last three years, the National Society has seen programme results in the areas of climate, health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and disaster preparedness and response. This includes sustained water supply service delivery to households, supporting people with election readiness, developing simplified Early Action Protocol and training people in First Aid.

In 2025, the National Society held its General Assembly where new governance members were elected to serve for a period of two years. The National Society has also continued to enhance financial compliance through the use of the SAFGE 300 software.

The National Society has also developed its Strategic Plan 2022-2025 which outlines its vision and goal attainment strategy. The National Society development transformation plan 2024 has continued to receive support from the IFRC with 50,000 CHF from the CBF accelerator funding allocated to fund a feasibility study to contribute to the National Society's financial sustainability.

In 2024, the Ghana Red Cross Society reached more than 360,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes and approximately 76,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the Ghana Red Cross Society branches

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

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

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

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

Ghana faces environmental challenges, notably deforestation and the effects of climate change, which threaten agriculture, especially in rural areas and among lower-income populations. Rising sea levels and erratic weather patterns also endanger

coastal and urban communities. Climate adaptation efforts focus on promoting resilient agricultural practices and improving urban infrastructure to withstand floods and other climate-related risks.

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

In 2025, the country experienced a large cholera outbreak which affected a population of 150,000 in five of the country's 16 regions. The 2024/25 outbreak is the most recent recorded after the 2014-2016 episode. Just like several African countries, Ghana also experienced an outbreak of Mpox, in 15 out of the 16 regions with number of people affected rising as high as 494 by the third quarter of 2025.

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



Climate and environment

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

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

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

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

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

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

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ghana Red Cross Society is part of the IFRC [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led, climate-smart, disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

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

- Leverage the private sector to mitigate environmental degradation through innovative financing
- Support the government's initiatives such as the Green Ghana Annual Project and Africa Great Green Wall Project by raising awareness on afforestation and reforestation

- Provide training for communities and stakeholders on climate change-specific actions to ensure sustainability of mitigation efforts
- Involve communities by integrating climate-related activities into broader development plans such as enhancing agriculture and agroforestry productivity
- Foster collaboration with government agencies such as the Ghana forest commission and the Department of Environment to enhance effectiveness
- Promote low-cost smallholder tree-planting processes to enhance local livelihoods and environmental services
- Engage local leadership to champion tree planting and care initiatives, leveraging the influence of the King of the Ashanti region as an ambassador
- Facilitate access to seedlings and plants through collaboration with the Green Ghana annual project and government departments
- Advocate for innovative financing mechanisms with private sector partners to mitigate climate change and environmental degradation

Planned activities in 2026

- Finalise and implement the MoU with COCOBOD to position National Society as a key partner in afforestation and climate change mitigation
- Mobilise resources and partnerships with government, communities, carbon buyers, and private sector actors to support climate initiatives
- Train communities and stakeholders on climate change-specific actions to build awareness and promote sustainable mitigation practices
- Collaborate with public and private sectors to plant and care for 1,500,000 trees as part of the [Pan Africa Initiative for Tree Planting and Care](#)
- Support integration of climate adaptation measures into household and community development plans, particularly agriculture and agroforestry
- Strengthen community institutions (associations, cooperatives, savings groups) to add value to agroforestry products and improve livelihoods

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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

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

The IFRC, including the climate centre, will mobilise local and international support to the National Society to enable it to undertake diverse initiatives which will position the Red Cross in Ghana as an important actor in climate mitigation and adaptation.



Disasters and crises

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

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

require an integrated disaster risk reduction investment that can improve both the preparation for, and mitigation of emergencies.

Flooding occurs annually during Ghana's rainy season (June-September) and affects the regions of Greater Accra, northern, upper east, eastern, Volta, western, central, Ashanti, upper west and Brong Ahafo. In recent years, floods have become frequent in Ghana affecting all regions of the country. An estimated [70,000 people on average are affected by flooding](#) in Ghana accounting for [0.24 per cent of the population](#). Recent trends indicate that climate change has resulted in an extension of the flood season into November. Flood-prone areas are located mainly along the riverbanks, beaches and dam sites. Urban and metropolitan areas such as Accra, Kumasi, Tema,

Tamale, Cape Coast and Sekondi-Takoradi are also affected due to poor drainage systems, human activities and their low-lying topography.

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

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

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

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

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In 2026, the Ghana Red Cross Society will focus on preparedness and readiness to respond to shocks and enhancing community risk resilience. It includes early warning, early action, and anticipation to mitigate risks from multiple hazards negatively affecting the lives, livelihoods, homes, and living conditions of vulnerable communities, and the most disadvantaged and hard to reach.

The government of Ghana launched its national Early Warning for All ([EW4All](#)) initiative with the official handover of a national roadmap to the National Centre for the Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanism (NCCRM) in 2025. This roadmap is designed to strengthen Ghana's early warning systems to protect citizens from disasters by improving infrastructure, integrating local knowledge, and enhancing

community preparedness. The National Society has a lead role in Pillar 4 which is focusing on national and community preparedness level of response.

The Ghana Red Cross Society has a flood response plan but lacks a multi hazard contingency plan which is critical to operationalize the Preparedness for Effective Response ([PER](#)) which was formulated by the National Society in 2022.

From 2026 onwards, the staff and volunteers who are members of the National Disaster Response Teams will be deployed internally to carry out assessments and response activities within the regions, re-established and equipped with the necessary skills and tools, including pre-positioning of stocks based on disaster profiles across the country. Community-level disaster response units will be strengthened by the improved presence of district chapters.

At the national level, coordination with the Emergency Operational Centre and participation in the Interagency Working Group on Emergencies will be strengthened.

Planned activities in 2026

- Contribute to the development of its [early warning for all \(EW4All\)](#) roadmap
- Revise standard operating procedures (SOP) for cash and voucher assistance (CVA)
- Identify mechanisms for [cash and voucher-based](#) transfer for vulnerable families in urban communities
- Develop and implement performance for effective response ([PER](#)) framework
- Set up emergency operation centre and develop standard operating procedures
- Develop a multi-hazard contingency plan
- Provide training to National Disaster Response Teams
- Enhance coordination and collaboration with key stakeholders including national and sub-national actors, civil society, civil protection mechanisms, the private sector, reference centres and research institutions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC and its partners supported the National Society by carrying out a self-assessment capacity for disaster management which led to the formation of the Preparedness for Effective Response Plan ([PER](#)) for the National Society. This plan aligns with the IFRC vision for National Societies. As part of the Anticipatory Action support from the Italian Government, the National Society will be supported to analyse its disaster profile and capacities in coordination with other stakeholders

to design preparedness programmes which can respond to multi-hazard scenarios.

Under the [IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster

risk reduction and adaptation efforts, the IFRC will support the National Society to promote knowledge of the risk, adaptation, and mitigation of climate change among communities, governments, and public institutions.



A community volunteer leading advocacy effort in Shigu community in Tamale, northern Ghana. (Photo: IFRC)



Health and wellbeing

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

Several nationwide research [studies](#) have revealed weaknesses and inadequacies in disease surveillance and response systems. These include underqualified staff, cultural beliefs and lack of trust in the formal health care sector. The

[studies](#) have also identified [gaps](#) such as delayed reporting, low-quality protective equipment (for example, gloves and aprons), insufficient staff and a lack of laboratory capacity.

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

The leading causes of child deaths in Ghana for 2025 are infectious diseases like malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea,

alongside complications from preterm birth, birth asphyxia, and sepsis. These issues are disproportionately common in Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly among malnourished children, and are often exacerbated by limited access to quality healthcare facilities and resources, according to data from [UNICEF Data](#) and the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)). Ghana is one of the more cholera-prone countries in sub-Saharan Africa, most cases occur in urban areas lacking access to water, sanitation, and waste management, worsened by unplanned urbanization. In Ghana, Cerebro Spinal Meningitis (CSM) is a significant public health concern, particularly in the northern region of the country. The country typically experiences CSM outbreaks during the dry season from December to June.

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

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

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

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

Ghana. Additionally, it seeks to enhance its institutional and organizational development for efficient and effective service delivery to the most vulnerable.

The National Society will work to contribute towards improved health status of the communities through increased access to health services and improved health behaviour among beneficiaries. It will work to ensure that communities have increased access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) services.

Planned activities in 2026

- Engage with the Ministry of Health to collaborate in health promotion activities and through the volunteer network
- Train staff and volunteers in oral rehydration therapy and social mobilization of Oral Cholera Vaccination campaigns
- Explore joint ventures in establishing health facilities in at least two major towns outside Accra
- Collaborate with partners to support routine immunization, such as polio and the introduction of the malaria vaccine
- Continue to operate its 19 water supply systems
- Adopt the 'Regional' maintenance artisan approach, allowing local artisans to maintain multiple systems for faster, cost-effective repairs and reducing delays
- Work towards increasing the number of household connections to safe drinking water through volume guarantees under Water Users Association (WUA)
- Train staff and volunteers in mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) services and community-based health and first aid ([CBHFA](#)) services
- Continue providing water supply and hygiene promotion services to an estimated 50,000 people through existing and operational water supply systems
- Support the construction, rehabilitation or repair of 10 water supply systems
- Develop three sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene management systems

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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

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

IFRC mechanisms such as the [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(IFRC-DREF\)](#) and Emergency Appeals will continue to be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2025, IFRC provided DREF allocations for an emergency in Ghana. The DREF allocation has been described below:

[IFRC-DREF Ghana Cholera Outbreak](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 135,759 in January 2025 supported the Ghana Red Cross

Society in assisting more than 150,000 people with sensitization efforts after the outbreak of cholera in the Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Western, and Western North areas of Ghana. The National Society supported the targeted people over a period of three months with assistance such as awareness raising, distribution of WASH items, feedback collection, community engagement, among others.

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



Migration and displacement

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

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

The northern regions are most affected by internal and cross-border displacement, driven by chieftaincy conflicts and increased insurgency in neighbouring Togo and Burkina Faso.

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

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

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

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

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

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

Planned activities in 2026

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

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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

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



Values, power and inclusion

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

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

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

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

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

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

Planned activities in 2026

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

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

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Ghana Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening, and it carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2017. The self-assessment is designed to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies concerning a wide range of organizational capacities. The National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is in the action and accountability phase. The PER Approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, and ultimately take necessary action to improve.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategy
- Digital transformation roadmap



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Actively engage and position the National Society as a credible organization within the Red Cross Red Crescent network with a clear strategic accountability framework
- Position the National Society as a partner of choice in the humanitarian and development space with government, private sector and civil society organizations in Ghana

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will advocate for the Ghana Red Cross Society with local and international funding partners and establish a coordination forum for neighbouring countries to monitor

humanitarians needs and cross border operations. The IFRC will also provide support to the National Society to engage with humanitarian partners, embassies and international agencies based in Ghana for increased partnerships in the delivery of humanitarian and developmental assistance. The IFRC will coordinate with partners for resourcing and implementing a unified plan, ensuring that targets are achieved and reported under one platform.

The IFRC will support ongoing efforts around resource mobilisation to help the Ghana Red Cross Society mobilise resources internally for its core and program costs. The IFRC will support the Red Cross Act revision, which is now at the cabinet level awaiting approval, and thereafter undergo a parliamentary approval process before the presidential assent.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Review National Society Strategic Plan 2021-2025 to reflect the new direction and the strategic focus for the National Society
- Finalize the National Society's 1989 statutes and reengage with the government to review the 1958 Act to reflect new realities
- Facilitate training sessions for staff and volunteers in leadership, partnership engagement and management at all levels to drive behavioural and policy change
- Expand Commercial First Aid training to attain financial sustainability

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supported the Ghana Red Cross Society in recruiting for a new Secretary General. The identification of a suitable candidate was led by the MoH as part of a five-member committee composed of the MoH, NADMO, National Society and the IFRC. The Ghana Red Cross will also be encouraged to expand its regional presence to all official 16 regions of the country for more visibility and equity in the distribution of responsibilities among Regional Managers.

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



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

- Conduct stakeholder analysis to identify partners and influential figures for advocacy at the national, regional, district and sub-district levels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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

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



The Ghana Red Cross Society set up 18 water projects across regions to provide clean water to citizens. (Photo: IFRC)



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen the leadership/management of the National Society through the recruitment of a Secretary General
- Strengthen the National Society accountability framework that suits the community, partners, government, donors and the public
- Expand financial system to include regional branches and increased functionalities (payroll, invoicing, receipts and financial report)
- Improve IT infrastructure to meet trending changes in technology
- Complete and maintain a risk register with mitigation strategies
- Disseminate organizational risk mitigation strategies across all levels
- Maintain the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) [Integrity Line](#)
- Ensure continued resourcing for internal auditor
- Conduct Code of Conduct training, including flagging and reporting misconduct, sexual abuse and harassment

- Organize workshops in whistleblowing processes and protection for whistleblowers
- Set targets and procedures to ensure gender balance within its governance and management structures.
- Promote female participation in training and deployment opportunities.
- Strive to improve its IT infrastructure to meet the trending changes in technology and carry out [digital transformation](#) activities, including roll out of digital volunteer management system

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Ghana Red Cross Society to identify strategies to address gender and diversity issues, involve women and marginalized groups in all programmes and initiatives, and advocate for diversity in the workplace, continue the digital transformation of systems and data management through the Digital Divide Initiative being supported by the Icelandic Red Cross. The Ghana Red Cross Society has been supported by the IFRC to undertake a child safeguarding risk analysis and developed a plan of action in 2025 and ready for implementation in 2026 and beyond.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

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

and participating National Societies, thus supporting the IFRC network's strategic priorities and membership services.

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

IFRC membership coordination

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Movement coordination

The Ghana Red Cross Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and

Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

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

Coordination with other actors

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

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

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

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



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

Additional information

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

Contact information

Ghana Red Cross Society [ghana-red-cross society](#)

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Awan
Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation
for Nigeria, Togo, Benin & Ghana,
based in Abuja
T +92 320 1222266
ghulam.awan@ifrc.org

Louise Daintrey-Hall
Head of Strategic Partnerships
& Resource Mobilization
IFRC Regional Office for Africa,
Nairobi
T +254 110 843978
louise.daintrey@ifrc.org

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