



KENYA



2026-2028 IFRC network country plan

16 February 2026

In support of the Kenya Red Cross Society



47

National Society branches



65

National Society local units



739

National Society staff



280,263

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



300,000

Ongoing emergency operations



1.5M

Climate and environment



2.5M

Disasters and crises



3M

Health and wellbeing



150,000

Migration and displacement



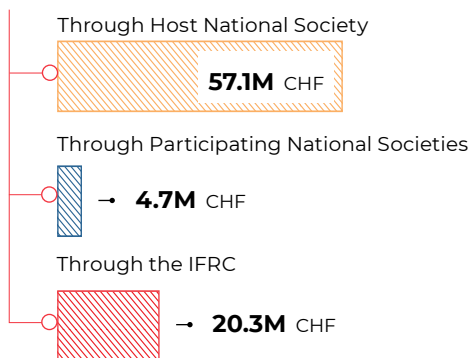
250,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 82M CHF



2027

Total 1.7M CHF

2028

1.4M CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

- American Red Cross
- British Red Cross
- Canadian Red Cross*
- Danish Red Cross
- Finnish Red Cross
- The Netherlands Red Cross
- Norwegian Red Cross
- Swedish Red Cross*

IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

MDRS1003 (MDRKE061)
African Regional Mpox Epidemic

MDRKE068
Kenya Complex Emergency

Longer-term needs:

MAAKE002

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

Hazards



Drought



Floods



Disease outbreak



Food insecurity



Climate Change

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Disease outbreak
- Complex emergency
 - » Drought and flood
 - » Food insecurity
 - » Epidemics

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction
 - Community health
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Climate change adaptation
 - Food insecurity

Capacity development

- Branch development
- Resource mobilization
- Youth development

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

High

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Medium

Human Development Index rank

143

World Bank Population figure

56.4M

World Bank Population below poverty line

40%



Kenya Red Cross Society conducting a training in 'epidemic control for volunteers' and 'community-based surveillance' as part of the Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3) with community health volunteers in Tharaka Nithi (Photo: IFRC)

Detailed funding requirements

2026

	Host National Society	IFRC	
Ongoing emergencies	15M	10M	<i>Funding requirement for the Regional Mpox Emergency Appeal is not available</i>
Longer-term needs			
Climate and environment	10.3M	465,000	
Disasters & crises	10.5M	5.3M	
Health & wellbeing	12.4M	2.4M	
Migration & displacement	1.1M		
Values, power & inclusion	4.2M	73,000	
Enabling local actors	3.6M	2M	
Total	57.1M	20.3M	

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
American Red Cross	2028	50,000			50,000				
British Red Cross	2026	1.3M	1.3M						
	2027	1.3M	1.3M						
	2028	1.3M	1.3M						
Danish Red Cross	2026	2.2M	1.6M						
Finnish Red Cross	2026	650,000	500,000		500,000	150,000			
	2027	400,000	250,000		250,000				150,000
Netherlands Red Cross	2026	48,000				16,000			31,000
Norwegian Red Cross	2026	441,000	441,000						

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Kenya Red Cross Society** is a national humanitarian, voluntary organization, established in Kenya by an Act of Parliament in 1965 and admitted to the IFRC in 1967. It is auxiliary to the public authorities, working together in the provision of humanitarian assistance for vulnerable people in Kenya. It is the only humanitarian organization in the country to be established by an Act of Parliament and the only one with a mandate to complement the work of both national and county level governments. Its auxiliary role also protects the independence of the National Society and of the Fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (RCRC).

The Kenya Red Cross Society has capacity for both emergency and developmental programming at national and community levels. It has its headquarters in Nairobi and eight regional offices and 47 county branches in Kenya. This capability allows the National Society to be the first to respond and the last to leave when disasters occur. Additionally, it ensures a constant on-the-ground presence to support community-driven. The Kenya Red Cross Society serves a diverse range of communities, with a focus on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and hard to reach communities in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), informal urban settlements, remote rural areas and geographically marginalized areas. The National Society is deeply rooted in communities, ensuring that programmes are informed and governed by the needs and perspectives of these communities.

The National Society's Strategic Plan (2021-2025) encompassed three strategic programmatic goals and one goal specifically

focused on National Society development (NSD), as outlined below:

- Enabling communities to anticipate, prepare, respond to and quickly recover from crises
- Empowering communities to have opportunities to achieve social, economic and psychosocial wellbeing, leading to healthy lives
- Encouraging youth to lead positive change in their communities
- Fostering a resilient National Society dedicated to reinforcing organizational culture, systems and human resources to achieve its humanitarian and development objectives

Building on this, the Strategic Plan 2026 focuses on strengthening its organizational culture, systems and cross-cutting processes and human resources to actualize its humanitarian and development goals. It will also seek to ensure that internal processes are strongly established for the smooth undertaking of the programmatic focused goals and effective support of the affected communities that remain at the centre of its existence

In 2024, the National Society reached about 3.4 million people through its long term services and development programmes and about 6.4 million people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of Kenya 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

The Republic of Kenya has a [population](#) of 55 million people. Its capital Nairobi is one of the fastest growing cities in east Africa. The country shares its borders with Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania and its southeast coastline borders the Indian Ocean. Most of the country's population lives in the highland farmlands, which lie between 1,500 and 3,000 metres above sea level. The main commercial crops are tea, coffee, vegetables, wheat, maize and flowers, complemented by livestock production. The tourism industry has long benefitted from Kenya's rich landscapes, nature and wildlife, with protected areas covering 8.2 per cent of the country's land.

Kenya has made significant political and economic reforms over the last decade, which have contributed to economic growth, social development and political stability. However, elections have often been characterized by political divisions and occasional violence.

The disaster landscape in Kenya is characterized by multiple natural and man-made hazards, including prolonged cycles of droughts and floods/landslides, disease outbreaks and epidemics, landslides and political instability and conflicts. Successive extreme climate events such as prolonged droughts followed by floods have severely affected livelihoods, particularly in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) that comprise

90 per cent of the country and support 16 million people. By late 2025, water and pasture shortages had intensified, leading to significant food insecurity and acute malnutrition among over 741,000 children and 109,000 pregnant and lactating women. These conditions worsened on account of outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and brucellosis and growing competition over dwindling resources, heightening the risk of conflict. Forecasts have also indicated above-average rains, which are expected to cause further displacement, damage to infrastructure and increased disease outbreaks.

The [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#) (IPC) projected 1.2 million people facing emergency conditions, with persistent malnutrition in arid areas. Climate change and the changing nature and frequency of extreme weather events is increasing overall social and economic risks for a large proportion of the population, particularly for low-income communities engaged in agriculture for their livelihoods.

As of [January 2026](#), Kenya hosts approximately 800,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, according to the latest data from the UNHCR. The [Dadaab refugee camp](#) accommodates over 400,000 individuals, while [Kakuma camp](#) houses over 300,000. Additionally, Kenya continues to experience significant internal displacement, with an estimated 700,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) recorded in 2025 due to factors such as conflict, drought, and flooding.

Beyond these challenges, Kenya grapples with [broader issues](#) such as poverty, inequality, youth unemployment, transparency and accountability.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

1.

Emergency Appeal name	Africa Regional Mpox Epidemic
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDRS1003 (MDRKE061)
People affected	300 million people
People to be assisted	30 million people
Duration	18 months (20 August 2024 to 31 March 2026)
Funding requirements	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 30 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 40 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Africa – Regional Mpox Epidemic
Link to Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Link to Operational Update	Operational Update No. 4

In 2024, a concerning surge in Mpox cases and deaths was reported across 12 African countries, with over 17,000 cases and 500 deaths. While the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was the epicentre, accounting for 92 per cent of cases, cross-border transmission extended to Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. Outbreaks were also observed in other endemic countries such as Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Central African Republic. The Kenya Red Cross Society has been actively involved in preparedness and response efforts in Kenya, with support from the IFRC and other National Societies. The IFRC has mobilized its vast network across Africa to provide critical interventions, including community-based surveillance, risk communication, vaccination efforts and psychosocial support to curb the spread of the virus.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The regional Mpox emergency appeal aims to assist National Societies in preparing for and responding to the Mpox epidemic. The strategy includes scaling up Health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and addressing socio-economic impacts. The operation is being guided by a risk-based approach and regional coordination, prioritizing preparedness, readiness and response. The Kenya Red Cross Society received support to develop country-specific response plan, enhance community-based advocacy and mitigate the spread of the virus, particularly in areas with imported cases or established transmission. The operation is also targeting vulnerable populations, including marginalized and immuno-compromised groups, with a focus on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI). The highlights of the assistance are:

Integrated assistance

Affected people and families are provided with a safety net scheme, including multipurpose cash to meet immediate needs and cover basic necessities while recovering from Mpox infections. Affected people who have lost their livelihoods due to Mpox are aided in reintegrating into the labor market through skills enhancement and diversification.

Health and care, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Affected people are provided with community-based surveillance to detect and actively find suspected Mpox

cases, feeding into existing surveillance systems. Clinical care pathways for screening, triage, isolation, testing and assessment are identified through national plans and guidelines, ensuring awareness among clinical facilities. Communities are engaged on Mpox transmission, symptoms and preventive actions. Health services ensure individuals with Mpox symptoms seek care, with support for isolation and referral. Vaccination efforts are supported through community engagement. WASH facilities are improved in health centres, with ongoing hygiene promotion to reduce transmission.

Cross-cutting approaches: the operational strategy integrates **community engagement and accountability (CEA)** and **protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)** as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities includes the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms.

For the period 22 August 2024 to 21 August 2025, the following assistance was provided by the Kenya Red Cross Society:

The Kenya Red Cross Society, working in close coordination with the Ministry of Health, played a critical role in containing the Mpox outbreak across Kenya by strengthening surveillance, case detection, risk communication, vaccination and WASH interventions. By September 2025, it had reached hundreds of thousands of people through community sensitization, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities and hygiene promotion across high-risk counties, while supporting traveller screening at multiple points of entry and contributing to national outbreak detection efforts. The Kenya Red Cross Society enhanced frontline capacity by sensitizing and training staff, volunteers and health workers in RCCE, epidemic preparedness, infection prevention and control, case management and psychosocial support. I supported the national vaccination campaign by producing and distributing IEC materials in priority counties and facilitating vaccination of high-risk groups, alongside the installation of handwashing stations and distribution of hygiene supplies to reduce transmission risks. The National Society also integrated Protection, Gender and Inclusion, community feedback and psychosocial support into the response, ensuring community trust and accountability.

2.

Emergency Appeal name	Kenya Complex Emergency
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDRKE068
People affected	2.1 million people
People to be assisted	300,000 people
Duration	14 months (22 October 2025 to 31 December 2026)
Funding requirements	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 10 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 15 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Kenya Complex Emergency
Link to Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Link to Operational Update	Operational Update No. 1

Kenya is experiencing successive extreme climate events, with prolonged droughts followed by floods severely affecting livelihoods, particularly in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) that comprise 90 per cent of the country and support 16 million people. By late 2025, water and pasture shortages had intensified, leading to significant food insecurity and acute malnutrition among over 741,000 children and 109,000 pregnant and lactating women. These conditions worsened by a sharp reduction in humanitarian funding, outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and brucellosis and growing competition over dwindling resources, which is heightening the risk of conflict. Forecasts indicate above-average rains, which are expected to cause further displacement, damage to infrastructure and increased disease outbreaks. This Emergency Appeal was issued in response to these escalating threats, highlighting the urgent need for increased support and investment in climate-resilient measures to prevent a worsening humanitarian crisis.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Kenya Red Cross Society has been supporting approximately 300,000 people across Kenya's arid, semi-arid and flood-affected western regions, focusing on urgent water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), healthcare and livelihoods needs. The response aims to address both immediate emergencies and long-term resilience by investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, strengthening local systems and fostering inclusive community engagement. The Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 15 million to reach the most vulnerable people, guided by needs assessments and community-led processes, prioritizing underserved, crisis-hit areas. Interventions will combine emergency relief, early warning systems, health risk reduction and durable solutions, with special attention to women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and other at-risk groups. The

National Society will coordinate closely with the government, ensure community-based beneficiary selection, and maintain robust feedback mechanisms to guarantee accountability and inclusive recovery.

For the period [18 November 2025 to 18 December 2025](#), the following assistance was provided:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Affected communities were provided with emergency shelter along with kitchen sets, tarpaulins, sleeping mats, blankets and mosquito nets. Households were also supported with emergency WASH items which included bar soaps, jerricans and water treatment chemicals.

Livelihoods

Food rations were distributed to affected households along with emergency feed and water supply for livestock.

Multi-purpose cash

Impacted communities were provided with unconditional cash assistance.

Health and care

Hygiene promotion was conducted to improve water access and sanitation in areas with diarrheal disease outbreaks. Health and nutrition interventions such as mass screening for children under five and pregnant and lactating women were conducted.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Targeted communities were provided with safe drinking water and improved hygiene facilities. Water infrastructure was rehabilitated and hygiene kits were distributed. These efforts

were complemented by awareness raising sessions focused on hygiene promotion.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and **Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)** were integrated as

pivotal elements. All community members were recognized and valued members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities included the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Kenya has a varied geography, with a tropical coastline, semi-arid to arid areas in the east and north and mild highlands around the Great Rift Valley. It experiences a bimodal rainfall pattern, with long rains between March and May and short rains between October and December. This topography influences the impacts of climate change, as does the El Niño Southern Oscillation periods, which bring more rainfall and the La Niña periods, which bring droughts. The Indian Ocean Dipole is also a driver of rainfall variability. The World Bank estimates that 70 per cent of disasters in Kenya are attributed to extreme climatic events, making the country highly vulnerable to climate change.

Drought cycles have shortened from five-to-seven-year cycles in the past, to two-to-three-year cycles, with droughts happening most frequently in the semi-arid and arid regions in 18 of the 20 most vulnerable counties. Rising temperatures and prolonged droughts are reducing water storage levels and wreaking havoc on agricultural productivity. It may result in damage to agricultural lands and infrastructure, significant economic losses and risk to life. Kenya's reliance on surface water sources, pressure on scarce water resources from population growth, as well as increasing temperatures and rain variability, are expected to further stress water supply in coming years.

Climate change is also expected to increase the risk and intensity of flooding, due to higher annual rainfall, which in turn is expected to increase the likelihood of mudslides and landslides, particularly in mountainous areas. As rainfall levels rise and flooding intensifies, soil erosion, land degradation and the waterlogging of crops will adversely impact agricultural productivity, resulting in reduced yields. This, in turn, will significantly affect the livelihoods of rural communities and contribute to heightened food insecurity.

According to the National Environment Management Authority, Kenya's ecosystem provides valuable resources and services that contribute to approximately 42 per cent of the country's GDP and support 70 per cent of people's livelihoods. Such resources are vital to Kenya's thriving tourism industry.

However, climate change is disrupting ecosystems resulting in increased coastal erosion, prevalence of wildfires, coral bleaching, etc. Rising sea levels are also putting pressure on coastal communities.

The government of Kenya is committed to enhancing resilience by mainstreaming climate change adaptation into the government's medium-term plans and integrated development plans. This includes improving early warning systems, reducing flood and drought risks and protecting natural assets such as forests, mangroves, seagrass and coral ecosystems. A key initiative is the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry's partnership to tackle deforestation by planting of trees to ensure a minimum of 10 per cent tree coverage of the country by 2030 and to sustainably manage and protect it. The government also intends to reduce its carbon emissions by 30 per cent by 2030 and is promoting and adopting clean energy technologies to reduce reliance on wood fuels.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Kenya Red Cross Society is part of the IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Platform, 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 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; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Kenya Red Cross Society aims to mitigate the humanitarian impacts of the climate crisis and seeks to enhance community resilience and adaptation. It actively promotes environmental sustainability through county-wide tree-planting initiatives. By leveraging its presence in all 47 counties, the Kenya Red Cross Society seeks to strengthen its branches as hubs for

community engagement, resilience and service delivery, ensuring alignment with local needs.

Planned activities in 2026

- Develop and implement a climate change response strategy
- Develop an anticipatory action roadmap to address the effects of climate change
- Create climate and environmental assessment tools based on the climate change response strategy
- Undertake risk mapping and risk profiling, as well as vulnerability impact and capacity assessments (eVCA) to assess risk from climate change, to inform the planning and implementation of programmes
- Promote joint planning to address the identified risks
- Build capacity for National Society staff and volunteers on climate and environmental issues, tools, innovations and technologies, including Nature-based Solutions, to enhance their ability to respond to climate and environmental crises
- Implement tree planting initiatives across the counties through its branches
- Promote [green response](#) integration in operations, ensuring environmental risks are assessed in needs assessments and sustainability is prioritized in sector interventions
- Promote use of [nature-based solutions](#) to strengthen disaster risk reduction and increase [food security](#)
- Increase awareness of climate change adaptation in vulnerable communities and encourage climate-smart agriculture

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Kenya Red Cross Society in improving [early warning systems](#), raising flood risk awareness and constructing flood-resilient infrastructure to address climate-related hazards. It will advance [early warning and early action](#) in urban and rural areas and develop an anticipatory action system integrating forecast analysis, contingency planning and readiness measures. The IFRC will assist the National Society to work with farmers and promote climate-resilient agriculture, including drought-tolerant crops and efficient irrigation systems, while advocating with government, private sector and public stakeholders on the environmental impacts of climate change. Through climate-friendly policies and practices, disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation training, the IFRC aims to enhance community resilience and sustainable development. Additionally, it will offer technical expertise, foster partnerships, develop proposals and align efforts with [Pan-African initiatives](#).

The **British Red Cross** will support the National Society in the development of innovative approaches in response preparedness to reduce the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities and provide climate-smart agriculture training to farmers. It will also continue to support the Kenya Red Cross Society in multi-disciplinary climate change research. Additionally, along with **Danish Red Cross**, **Finnish Red Cross** and **Netherlands Red Cross** it will provide technical and operational support to the Kenya Red Cross Society for developing a climate change response strategy and support tree planting and care initiatives aimed at climate change adaptation and anticipatory action programmes to strengthen community resilience. Support will also include contribution to the creation of environmental assessment tools to guide climate change response interventions and enabling the Kenya Red Cross Society to engage with communities, local authorities and other partners effectively.



Disasters and crises

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

The main hazards that have a humanitarian impact in Kenya are prolonged cyclical droughts and floods, disease outbreaks, epidemics and landslides, all of which continually weaken the communities' coping mechanisms and capacities. Kenyan Government statistics show that floods cause 60 per cent of disaster-related fatalities in the country and that flooding has had a profound [impact](#) on infrastructure, housing and livelihoods.

Food insecurity remains a significant emergency in Kenya, with the situation further exacerbated by intercommunal violence, electoral unrest, and extremist attacks. The food security crisis intensified throughout 2025 due to the ongoing impacts of climate change, persistent conflict, and continued economic shocks. Between [October 2024 and May 2025](#), humanitarian agencies estimated that up to 3.49 million people were in need of food assistance, with needs peaking at the end of February 2025, just before the onset of the March to May long rains.

As of January 2026, the situation remains critical, with ongoing rainfall deficits and below-average crop production forecasted

to continue affecting food availability, particularly in pastoral areas. According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), millions of Kenyans still face [crisis or worse levels of food insecurity](#), and the lean season is expected to extend longer than usual due to poor pasture conditions and depleted household assets.

As of January 2026, Kenya continues to face significant challenges in recovering from past climate shocks. The impacts of the El Niño event that began in October 2023 were further intensified by heavy rains between March and May 2024, peaking in April. However, rainfall deficits persisted into 2025, with [below-average precipitation](#) projected to continue. This has resulted in continued below-average crop production and has impeded the seasonal recovery of pasture conditions, especially in pastoral regions.

The number of Kenyans living in poverty and excluded from basic social and economic gains has increased over the last decade, with prospects for sustainable livelihoods having declined.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

As part of its auxiliary role, the Kenya Red Cross Society will continue to provide first line response in all sudden onset disasters, in coordination with the government and the Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team.

The Kenya Red Cross Society seeks to address and reduce vulnerabilities caused by crises and disasters, prioritizing support for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups by enhancing their resilience and creating pathways for them to thrive. It aims to develop a long-term strategy for food and nutrition security and resilient livelihoods, incorporating the Humanitarian-Peace-Development nexus and integrated programming to achieve sustainable outcomes. The National Society seeks to strengthen grassroots resilience within food systems by establishing strategic partnerships and mobilizing resources to support initiatives aligned with the Pan Africa Initiative on Zero Hunger.

The Kenya Red Cross Society actively participates in regional technical working groups and external coordination forums focused on [food security and resilient livelihoods](#). It aims to analyze its capacity and role in reinforcing grassroots food systems to inform and improve programming. Additionally, it seeks to develop innovative solutions and models that improve food and nutrition security, build resilience and strengthen local food systems.

Planned activities in 2026

- Implement and support [early warning and early action](#) initiatives in urban and rural areas, including training community watch teams to report on disaster risks

- Share information, monitor and evaluate end-to-end early warning systems to mitigate multi-hazard risks affecting vulnerable communities
- Establish community-based resource centres with stakeholders to improve access and understanding of risks and mitigation measures
- Pursue sustainable and integrated [livelihood programmes ensuring food security](#) and household income for vulnerable communities
- Promote innovative economic empowerment by mobilizing community structures and providing seed funding
- Continue providing [shelter assistance](#) to individuals displaced by disasters, conflicts or emergencies
- Strengthen capacity and invest in systems for timely and scalable [cash and voucher assistance](#) initiatives
- Advise government authorities on analysing, drafting and implementing disaster-related laws and policies
- Improve official recognition of the auxiliary role in disaster risk management

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC mechanisms such as the [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(IFRC-DREF\)](#) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the Kenya Red Cross Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2025, the IFRC supported the National Society with two DREF allocations in relation to floods and drought.

The [IFRC-DREF](#) allocation of CHF 970,592 in April 2025 supported the Kenya Red Cross Society to assist about 60,000 people affected by drought in Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana, Samburu and Baringo. The National Society supported the targeted people over a six-month period through assistance such as livelihoods support, multi-purpose cash grants and the provision of psychosocial support and nutrition services to affected communities. Support also included the provision of safe drinking water as well as water purification materials.

The [IFRC-DREF](#) allocation of CHF 499,001 in May 2025, supported the Kenya Red Cross Society to assist about 375,109 people affected by the concurrent and interrelated crises of flooding caused by the March–April–May (MAM) long rains and a cholera outbreak in flood-affected counties. The National Society supported the targeted people over a six-month period with interventions including the provision of emergency shelter and essential items and multi-purpose cash. The affected households were also supported with the establishment of oral rehydration points, elimination of stagnant water pools and the promotion of community-based surveillance. Assistance also included the distribution of water

treating chemicals and essential hygiene items complemented by hygiene promotion activities.

The IFRC will support the Kenya Red Cross Society by addressing food security and livelihoods in emergency, recovery and resilience-building efforts, preparing for the upscaling of cash assistance, branch preparedness, contingency planning and engaging in disaster law and representation. It will provide technical assistance across the stages of the preparedness for effective response approach, including strategy, policy, analysis, planning, coordination, operational capacity and operational support. The IFRC will also strengthen context response analysis and information management systems.

The **British Red Cross** will support the Kenya Red Cross Society in enhancing its disaster response, including strengthening the capacity of its emergency response teams, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), cash and voucher assistance, livelihoods support as well as rapid response fund pre-positioning.

The **Danish Red Cross** will continue supporting the National Society in strengthening its disaster-response capacity, including support for cash and voucher assistance, livelihoods

programming and shelter support in multi-shock contexts. It will also provide assistance through disaster law training and capacity building for National Society branches.

The **Finnish Red Cross** will strengthen the capacity of Branch Emergency Operations Centres and train emergency response teams to improve response times and preparedness. It will support shelter initiatives addressing multiple shocks to improve the Kenya Red Cross Society's ability to manage evolving challenges. The Finnish Red Cross will also assist with leadership facilitation and capacity building in disaster law to enhance the Kenya Red Cross Society's response to evolving and multiple shocks.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** will promote data-driven decisions using early warning actions and initiatives and provide standing support for emergency response when required. It will contribute to prepositioning the disaster fund to assist the Kenya Red Cross Society during crises and disasters. The Norwegian Red Cross will support shelter initiatives for multiple shocks and assist with leadership facilitation and disaster law capacity building to strengthen the Kenya Red Cross Society's preparedness and response capabilities.



Volunteers of the Kenya Red Cross Society distributing hygiene kits and essential items to communities affected by the El Niño floods in Nairobi (Photo: Kenya Red Cross Society)



Kenya faces worsening health challenges due to climate change, conflict and poverty. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are now the leading cause of death and are expected to become more prevalent in the coming years. The number of deaths and hospital admissions related to NCDs is already high (half of hospital admissions) and is expected to increase by 55 per cent by 2030. More positively, it is projected that deaths from communicable diseases will decrease by 48 per cent by 2030.

Climate change is expected to have a significant impact on health in Kenya and is causing an increased risk of waterborne diseases, malnutrition and heat stress in some communities. Malaria is still a public health concern and temperature could drive an increase in vector-borne diseases, although recent medical innovations provide some hope.

The latest Global Nutrition Report (GNR) found that Kenya is making progress towards global nutrition targets. However, malnutrition remains a threat to children's health and development in Kenya. According to the report, 26.2 per cent of children under five years are stunted, 4.2 per cent wasted and 5.7 per cent overweight or obese, with malnutrition levels stabilizing in recent months due to increased milk consumption, humanitarian aid and improved incomes. Factors such as gender inequality, poverty, inclusion, culture and illiteracy create barriers to accessing and using health services and limit Kenya's ability to achieve key health outcomes in its Vision 2030.

Currently, mental health problems are a growing concern in Kenya, especially as access to care is limited. This is due to a shortage of trained professionals; the stigma associated with mental illness and a lack of funding. The government's Mental Health Policy (2015–2030) states that one in four Kenyans experiences mental health problems, meaning 12 million people will require mental health and psychosocial support, which far outweighs existing services. Gender Based Violence is also a major public health challenge, which can have a devastating impact on the physical and mental health of men, boys, women and girls.

Kenya faces a severe water, sanitation and hygiene crisis following devastating floods during the March-May 2025 rainy season. The flooding destroyed over 1,400 shallow wells and extensive water infrastructure, forcing communities across multiple counties to rely on unsafe water sources. Currently, only 29 per cent of the population has access to basic sanitation services, while 9.9 million people drink directly from contaminated water and 5 million practice open defecation.

The infrastructure collapse has triggered simultaneous health emergencies. A cholera outbreak linked to the flooding has spread across Kisumu, Migori, Nairobi, and Kwale counties, causing 256 suspected cases and 13 deaths. Meanwhile, an ongoing visceral leishmaniasis outbreak continues in arid

regions, with 2,037 cumulative cases since 2020. The situation is particularly critical in Tana River and Garissa, where Kiambere Dam overflow has left over 3,600 displaced households without clean water access.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Kenya Red Cross Society seeks to build resilient communities by addressing vulnerabilities through integrated approaches to disaster preparedness, response and recovery. It aims to improve access to quality healthcare, including mental health and psychosocial support, while addressing the impacts of gender-based violence and supporting the health and well-being of women, children and marginalized groups. The Kenya Red Cross Society seeks to promote food security, sustainable livelihoods and nutrition through innovative solutions and community-driven initiatives. It aims to strengthen water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices and mitigate the effects of climate change on vulnerable populations while ensuring its operations are guided by data-driven decisions, inclusive policies and a focus on long-term community resilience.

Kenya Red Cross Society is involved in the country support platform on cholera control, hosted by the IFRC. The country is part of the Global Taskforce on Cholera Control priorities, with a focus on multisectoral collaboration, capacity building and resource mobilization to strengthen country-led National Cholera Plans (NCPs). The country support platform aims to integrate lessons from outbreak responses into the national plans, shifting from reactive outbreak management to sustainable preparedness and prevention for rapid outbreak detection and response.

Planned activities in 2026

- Support the provision of health services to vulnerable populations through mobile outreach in hard-to-reach areas
- Improve access to quality maternal, newborn and child health services with an inclusive approach that safeguards and mainstreams disability inclusion
- Attain Universal Health Coverage by increasing access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care
- Strengthen One Health coordination at the national, county and sub-county levels for effective epidemic preparedness and response
- Ensure communities have sustainable access to clean and safe drinking water

- Provide rapid and effective response with essential WASH services during emergencies and disasters
- Promote good hygiene practices and health education to address new environmental challenges

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** helps the Kenya Red Cross Society promote gender equality and social inclusion in health interventions, ensuring equal access to quality services. It also provides assistance in delivering mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to individuals affected by conflict, disaster and trauma. The IFRC supports the Kenya Red Cross Society in strengthening community health and resilience, helping communities prevent and respond to health threats such as floods and public health emergencies. It assists in improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Additionally, the IFRC helps the Kenya Red Cross Society strengthen health systems, enhancing the quality and availability of services, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Through this ongoing support, the IFRC aids the Kenya Red Cross Society in achieving its vision of optimal health and well-being for all Kenyans.

IFRC also aligns strategies with the IFRC Health and Care Framework and collaborates on Africa-wide initiatives such as Resilient and Empowered African Community Health (REACH) and Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL).

The **British Red Cross** will support the Kenya Red Cross Society in policy review, designing and implementing inclusive maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) programmes and providing technical assistance for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) solutions in emergencies. It will also assist in engaging external partners and the government for climate-smart WASH interventions.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support policy review, scaling community health data collection via electronic community health system eCHIS and providing operational support for WASH solutions in emergencies. It will also focus on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), strengthen health systems and assist with nutrition programmes and rapid assessments during emergencies.

The **Finnish Red Cross** will support policy review, engage the national government to address health sector challenges, strengthen health workers' capacity and provide operational support for inclusive maternal, neonatal and child health programmes and community health data collection.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** will support WASH solutions in emergencies, assist with nutrition programmes and help engage external partners and the government for climate-smart WASH interventions. It will also contribute to rapid assessments and responses during emergencies.



Migration and displacement

Kenya is the strongest economy in the region and viewed to be relatively stable politically and economically. Such factors position Kenya as a safe destination and transit hub for asylum seekers and migrants in the region. As of [January 2026](#), Kenya hosts approximately 800,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, according to the latest data from the UNHCR. The [Dadaab refugee camp](#) accommodates over 400,000 individuals, while [Kakuma camp](#) houses over 300,000. The country is also a transit point for many who are trying to reach other countries in Africa or Europe. The Kenyan government has a long history of providing refugees and asylum seekers with protection and assistance. However, the country is facing increasing challenges in providing for the needs of the growing refugee population, facing limited resources, security concerns and climate change.

Kenya is a large [multi-ethnic](#) country, with over 40 different ethnic groups and many overlapping conflicts. It experiences elevated levels of intercommunal violence and incidents sexual and gender-based violence, coupled with sporadic instances of persistent violence, recurring cycles of election-related

violence and a rising number of terrorist attacks. Conflict is a major driver of migration and displacement within Kenya, alongside climate change and disasters. These events internally displaced around 700,000 individuals from their homes and livelihoods, forcing them to move to other areas in search of safety and security in 2025. Research suggests that 80,000 Kenyans are internally displaced each year on average, mainly due to disasters.

According to the [World Bank](#), an estimated 86 million people will be displaced due to climate shocks in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2050, with around half of them residing in urban areas. This will also increase rural to urban migration in regions such as Turkana. Pastoralists are particularly vulnerable to these impacts of climate change, in particular drought. It is predicted that 77 per cent of pastoralists and 55 per cent of agro-pastoralists will have insufficient livestock to live above the poverty line by [2030](#). They may also be forced to move, possibly to more insecure or hostile regions.

Currently, economic hardship is also a driver of migration and displacement. The country has high rates of unemployment and poverty, which force people to migrate in search of opportunities. In addition, Kenya has experienced several political crises in recent years, which have led to violence and displacement.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Kenya Red Cross Society aims to support people on the move to remain safe, be treated humanely and live with dignity, while ensuring protection for those affected by conflict. It seeks to help communities identify risks, including those related to protection and conflict and to design community-led solutions. The Kenya Red Cross Society will continue providing Restoring Family Links (RFL) services by maintaining their visibility and accessibility, adapting to changing needs and aligning with data protection standards. Through these actions, it seeks to contribute to international efforts to assist displaced individuals and address the root causes of migration and displacement in Kenya.

Planned activities in 2026

- Help communities identify protection and conflict-related risks and facilitate community-led solutions
- Integrate migration and displacement considerations across sectors, including disaster risk reduction, health, shelter, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA)
- Advocate for reception officer status under the Refugee Act to enable refugee registration and recognise and gazette Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs)
- Develop tools and systems to monitor population movements and improve decision-making
- Utilize the East Africa Migration Network for guidelines and information exchange to improve preparedness
- Develop a migration strategy
- Share lifesaving information on services, legal rights and other essential topics through trusted channels in local languages

- Increase focus on climate change and climate displacement and design programmes for urban refugees

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides support to the Kenya Red Cross Society to address the challenges faced by migrants and displaced people and to help them build better futures. The IFRC promotes understanding and tolerance between migrants and host communities by raising awareness of their challenges and encouraging supportive environments. It also reduces risks and vulnerabilities by supporting access to essential services such as healthcare, education and water and sanitation. Additionally, the IFRC strengthens the capacity of the Kenya Red Cross Society through training, technical assistance and funding to meet the needs of migrants and displaced people effectively.

In August 2025, the IFRC provided the Kenya Red Cross Society with a [Disaster Relief Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) allocation of CHF 375,000. The allocation is supporting the National Society to assist about 2,500 people affected by population movement resulting from a conflict in Somalia between the Federal Government of Somalia and Juba Land State forces, meters away from the Kenya-Somali border in the highly contested Bula Hawa town. The National Society supported the targeted people over a three-month period in Lamu through interventions such as the provision of emergency shelter kits, emergency medical supplies and health outreach services, distribution of water treatment tablets and storage facilities among the displaced communities, as well as food assistance.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the Kenya Red Cross Society by connecting it with strategic partners to build long-term resilience in marginalized areas. This includes advocating for the rights of displaced individuals affected by disasters and crises by offering durable solutions. The Danish Red Cross also supports efforts to raise awareness among migrant and displaced communities about their rights to access services and livelihoods and advocates for policy changes.



Values, power and inclusion

Despite rapid economic growth in Kenya, the [youth unemployment rate](#) stands at 12.4 per cent. With 80 per cent of the population under 35 and a median age of 19, addressing education, skills development and employment is crucial for engaging the youth, fostering resilience and encouraging positive change. Widespread inequality, unemployment, poverty and political marginalization contribute to the radicalization of some youth, creating a potential environment for terrorist recruitment.

Issues related to violence, discrimination and exclusion towards certain individuals in Kenya is complex and multifaceted. Women and girls are still disproportionately affected by violence, including sexual assault, domestic violence and female genital mutilation. According to the [2023 World Bank report on Women, Business and the Law](#), Kenya has made progress in addressing GBV, but there is still a long way to go. According to the [2023 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey](#), 43 per cent of women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner and 21 per cent of girls aged between 15 - 19 have experienced forced sex. Women are likely to be poorer than men, with poverty a major factor in GBV and dependence on partners a reason not to report violence. There is also persistent negative discrimination towards individuals with disabilities that contribute towards inequality and limit access to basic services and emergency assistance.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

As communities consist of individuals with different priorities, vulnerabilities and capacities, the Kenya Red Cross Society will ensure it adapts its interventions to address the specific needs, protection risks and priorities of those with different genders, ages, disability status and backgrounds to facilitate equitable access to humanitarian services for all.

The National Society will seek to include marginalized groups and those in underserved, excluded or poor areas of the country when targeting 'last mile' communities for humanitarian assistance or development programming. The National Society will prioritize its services and programmes, to target vulnerable, excluded communities and link through referrals and coordination, with other relevant actors and service providers relevant to address their needs and improve their inclusion and safety.

The National Society will focus on [Community Engagement and Accountability \(CEA\)](#) in order to change cultural views on violence, gender-based violence (GBV) and discrimination and to ensure that humanitarian interventions are effective, inclusive and sustainable. It will also support communities to hold organizations accountable for their commitments, through feedback mechanisms and complaint systems.

The Kenya Red Cross Society will also focus on [Protection, Gender and Inclusion \(PGI\)](#) throughout its programming. It will continue to focus on youth empowerment, within its own organizational structure, in its humanitarian actions and to influence behaviour change. The National Society's youth engagement strategy focuses on the four pillars of dissemination, protection of life, health and community service.

Planned activities in 2026

- Support protection and the promotion of positive change for humanity, based on humanitarian values and principles and develop community-based initiatives to ensure that all operations and programmes consider and promote dignity, access, participation and safety for all affected
- Consult individuals of all genders, identities, ages, disabilities and backgrounds to identify risky practices and conditions, as well as their needs, concerns and priorities
- Improve access to health services and livelihoods support for vulnerable groups, such as individuals living with disabilities, who have been affected by disasters or displacement
- Work with communities and other organizations to design and support actions that serve vulnerable individuals (the elderly, individuals living with disabilities) and challenge discrimination
- Identify and share safe sexual and gender-based violence referral pathways at local levels with volunteers, staff and communities and actively involve men and boys as agents of change in addressing sexual and gender-based violence
- Enhance school and youth programmes with increased investment in underserved areas and develop initiatives to enhance youth contribution to decision-making, innovation and networking

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC is dedicated to assisting the Kenya Red Cross Society in its continued longer-term support for survivors of gender-based violence and its communities. Aligned with the national gender-based violence framework, the support includes comprehensive measures such as implementing safeguarding practices and developing a community-based information, education and communications strategy. Support will be provided in line with [IFRC's PGI policy](#) to ensure that all operations offer dignity, access, participation and safety for all affected individuals. The IFRC has also developed a [Community](#)

Engagement and Accountability (CEA) strategy for Africa, which includes a number of commitments to strengthen CEA in Kenya. It will support the National Society to strengthen its CEA policy and commitments to engaging communities in a meaningful way that informs operations and programmes. Additionally, the IFRC will contribute to youth empowerment, vocational training, job placement, peacebuilding initiatives and improving access to education.

The **British Red Cross** will support the Kenya Red Cross Society in institutionalizing Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and safeguarding across its programmes.

The **Danish Red Cross** will assist the Kenya Red Cross Society in implementing inclusion-oriented programmes, including refugee support and rights-based approaches, ensuring vulnerable or marginalized groups are reached.

The **Finnish Red Cross** will support the National Society in enhancing Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in emergencies.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Kenya Red Cross Society committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and carried out a Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) exercise to identify areas for improvement, guiding the organization's mission. The Kenya Red Cross Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at 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 its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take the necessary action to improve it.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategies
- Health, accident and death compensation for volunteers
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- PSEA Action Plan
- Digital transformation roadmap
- Data management system



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Facilitate engagements with stakeholders and partners by actively participating in coordinated forums, aiming to enhance efficiency in planning processes
- Maintain active participation in Shelter Cluster Coordination in Kenya as part of the Shelter Cluster Coordination Team
- Establish and foster partnerships focused on resource mobilization, leveraging complementary capabilities and exchanging knowledge and ideas

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Kenya Red Cross Society by strengthening its strategic and operational coordination across multiple areas. The IFRC will allocate funds to enable

the Kenya Red Cross Society to sustain and expand its coordination efforts. It will advocate for the Kenya Red Cross Society at national and international levels to promote its work and ensure visibility for its operational and institutional needs. The IFRC will also facilitate partnerships between the Kenya Red Cross Society and a wide range of organizations, including government agencies, non-governmental organisations and private sector actors, to enhance collective action and broaden collaboration opportunities. In addition, the IFRC will continue to provide technical assistance to Kenya Red Cross Society on themes central to strategic and operational coordination, including disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and resource mobilization.

The **American Red Cross** supports the Kenya Red Cross Society through a long term in country collaboration, primarily contributing to immunization campaigns and coordination of health related operations.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Redirect focus towards actively engaging community-based volunteers as catalysts for local humanitarian initiatives through branch networks
- Develop governance structures through training and induction
- Include youth from diverse backgrounds, such as persons with disabilities, different communities, genders and regional groups
- Implement youth-designed and youth-led programmes while integrating youth into regular activities
- Support branch development by improving infrastructure, such as the completion of Samburu and Marsabit branch offices
- Enhance branch capacity by facilitating coordination meetings, regional annual general meetings and supporting national events such as first aid competitions and volunteer awards
- Provide conducive working environments and essential resources for staff, volunteers and members

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Kenya Red Cross Society by advancing its National Society development priorities in line with the IFRC's [Strategy 2030](#). Through this commitment, the IFRC will assist the Kenya Red Cross Society to strengthen its institutional foundations so it can operate as a strong, independent, self-sustaining and well-functioning organization. The IFRC will provide targeted support to reinforce the Kenya Red Cross Society's ability to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance, strengthen community resilience and contribute to long-term local development. This support will include sustained guidance, coordinated technical assistance and structured development planning to ensure that the Kenya Red Cross Society continues to build its organisational capacities, governance systems and operational readiness.

The IFRC also supported National Society development by approving the [IFRC Capacity Building Fund](#) for a duration of 12 months in 2025, to assist it in the implementation of a project aimed at building a more accountable and agile Kenya Red Cross Society.

The **British Red Cross** offers peer-to-peer technical support focused on internal governance, organizational development such as branch strengthening through the [Branch Organizational Capacity \(BOCA\)](#) process.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the Kenya Red Cross Society on National Society development initiatives, including strengthening institutional capacity, improving internal

systems, and reinforcing operational coordination for humanitarian and development programmes.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Use humanitarian diplomacy to advance advocacy, negotiation and communication that influence decision makers and secure support for people in need
- Enhance its advocacy efforts and extend its influence both within Kenya and on a global scale
- Share lifesaving information on available services and legal rights through accessible communication channels and in local languages
- Advocate for the rights of vulnerable individuals through strategic partnerships, policy influence and public engagement initiative
- Build strong partnerships to influence policy, engage the public and strengthen collective humanitarian action
- Strengthen practice, standards, impacts and overall humanitarian system performance through continuous knowledge enhancement

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide sustained support to strengthen the Kenya Red Cross Society's humanitarian diplomacy work by offering training and resources that reinforce its advocacy skills and deepen its understanding of the political and humanitarian landscape. The IFRC will connect the Kenya Red Cross Society with humanitarian actors nationally and internationally to build strategic relationships and expand its ability to influence decision makers. It will also provide dedicated funding to reinforce the Kenya Red Cross Society's ongoing humanitarian diplomacy initiatives. Through this support, the IFRC will enable the National Society to raise awareness of the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people across Kenya through coordinated engagement with media, social media, and other communication channels. The IFRC will further assist the National Society in establishing partnerships with other humanitarian actors to strengthen crisis response and create opportunities to influence decision making on key humanitarian issues. In addition, the IFRC will expand the Kenya Red Cross Society's access to decision makers in government, the private sector, and civil society while supporting efforts to promote the fundamental principles of humanitarian action, including neutrality and impartiality.



Kenya Red Cross Society supporting communities in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands affected facing severe drought and rising food insecurity after consecutive failed rainy seasons (Photo: Kenya Red Cross Society)



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Instil accountability as integral to the humanitarian mandate, emphasizing responsibility among staff and volunteers
- Align actions with the code of conduct, principles and core humanitarian standards to reinforce a principled humanitarian mandate
- Prioritize operational efficiency, governance support and training by improving data tools, fostering innovation and strengthening community engagement
- Ensure agile systems that can be adapted to changing needs and contexts
- Encourage needs-driven and inclusive innovation is encouraged to make systems more effective and efficient
- Focus on digital transformation

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Kenya Red Cross Society by helping it to mainstream accountability across all aspects of its work, including programming and resource mobilization, to ensure that it remains consistently accountable to the communities it serves and is able to adapt to evolving needs. The IFRC will work with the National Society to strengthen its complaint handling system and increase opportunities for affected people to participate in decision making. This will include developing a more comprehensive, easily accessible system that allows community members to report and track complaints and reinforces trust in humanitarian processes.

The IFRC will further contribute to digital transformation and structural capacity strengthening by supporting efforts to upgrade data systems, reinforce institutional development and enhance branch capacity and operational agility.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Kenya Red Cross Society to execute its auxiliary role in emergency and disaster response through networking and resource mobilization and strategic and operational coordination. In recent years, the IFRC has

also supported the National Society through a number of Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#) in relation to [population movement](#), [drought](#), [flood](#) and [disease outbreaks](#).

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 National Society is part of four [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red

Ready and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan. The following participating National Societies have an in-country presence in Kenya and are long-term collaborators with the Kenya Red Cross:

The **American Red Cross** focuses its support on immunization campaigns.

The **British Red Cross** supports emergency preparedness and response, integrated [food security and livelihoods](#), forecast-based financing, early action and drought and flood protocols (Innovative Approaches to Response Preparedness). It also supports data preparedness, cash and voucher

assistance (with the **Netherlands Red Cross**); climate-smart agricultural training for farmers; and PGI and safeguarding.

The **Danish Red Cross** works on emergency response, drought interventions, resilience, health including non-communicable diseases and refugee support and rights.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supports emergency response, health and sexual and gender-based violence.

The **Italian Red Cross** works mainly in the area of health.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** supports in reduction of the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable people as well as climate-smart agriculture training for farmers.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** supports health, water, sanitation and hygiene.

Movement coordination

The Kenya Red Cross Society ensures regular coordination meetings with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies to share information on humanitarian, longer-term and National Society development programmes. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation](#) principles and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC's Nairobi delegation promotes international humanitarian law and carries out humanitarian activities. It is also an important logistics centre for ICRC operations in Somalia, South Sudan and the Great Lakes region. The National Society works closely with the ICRC delegation in Kenya through their multi-year cooperation agreement and collaborates on various projects in the areas of economic security, restoring family links and protection.

Coordination with other actors

The Government and the Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team consider the Kenya Red Cross Society to be the first responder in all sudden onset disasters. The Kenya Red Cross Society works with the National Disaster Operations Centre to coordinate humanitarian emergencies and the National Drought Management Authority; it also co-chairs the Kenya Cash Working Group. There are eight emergency coordination hubs across the country. They were established as part of contingency measures prior to a general election and continue to serve as centres for coordination meetings, logistics, storage and distribution. Other state actors include the Hunger Safety Net Programme – which coordinates cash transfers for the most vulnerable households in four counties – and the Ministry of Health at a national and county level. The ministry is responsible for the implementation of nutrition interventions

that target malnourished children, pregnant and breastfeeding women and the elderly.

The United Nations has a strong presence in Nairobi, from where it runs international, country and regional programmes such as UN-Habitat and the UN Environment Programme. UN agencies working in partnership with the Kenya Red Cross Society include UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UN OCHA, UN Women, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Organization for Migration.

Additionally, the National Society works with donors in Kenya including the European Union and the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO). The UK Space Agency also offers support with developing space satellite technology for response preparedness and planning.



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](#)

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