



# TANZANIA

## 2026-2027 IFRC network country plan



8 April 2026

### In support of the Tanzania Red Cross Society



**31**

National Society branches



**1,489**

National Society local units



**188**

National Society staff



**300,000**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



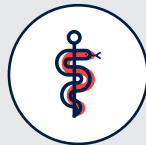
**75,000**

Climate and environment



**120,000**

Disasters and crises



**600,000**

Health and wellbeing



**50,000**

Migration and displacement



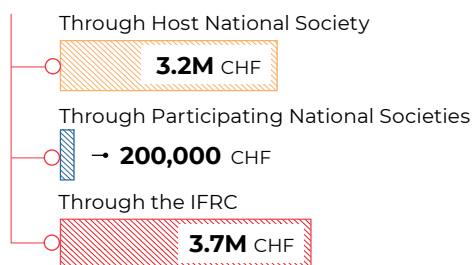
**15,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

**2026**

**Total 7.1M CHF**



**2027**

**Total 200,000 CHF**

*Projected funding requirements*

### Participating National Societies

Finnish Red Cross

French Red Cross\*

Japanese Red Cross Society\*

Norwegian Red Cross\*

### IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

**MDRS1003**

African Regional Mpox Epidemic

Longer-term needs:

**MAATZ002**

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

## Hazards



Disease Outbreaks



Drought



Floods



Storms



Food Insecurity

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Emergency Response

- Disease outbreak

### Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction
- Anticipatory action
- Epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response
- Protracted displacement-related needs
  - Livelihoods
- Climate change adaptation

### Capacity development

- Partnerships • Financial sustainability
- Branch development • Youth engagement
  - Digital transformation
- Internal systems strengthening

## Key country data links

**INFORM Severity rating**

**Medium**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index**

**Medium**

**Human Development Index rank**

**165**

**World Bank Population figure**

**68.6M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line**

**26%**



The Tanzania Red Cross Society trained volunteers to support communities during health emergencies as part of its response to the cholera outbreak. (Photo: The Tanzania Red Cross Society / The IFRC)

# Detailed funding requirements

2026

	Host National Society	IFRC
<b>Ongoing emergencies</b>		NA <i>The funding requirements for MDRS1003 is not available</i>
<b>Longer-term needs</b>		
Climate and environment	600,000	1M
Disasters & crises	1M	1M
Health & wellbeing	550,000	450,000
Migration & displacement	250,000	650,000
Values, power & inclusion	150,000	200,000
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	600,000	430,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.2M</b>	<b>3.7M</b>

## 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
Finnish Red Cross	2026	200,000		200,000					
	2027	200,000		200,000					

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

Established in 1962, the **Tanzania Red Cross Society** is a voluntary and independent humanitarian organization which acts as an auxiliary to the public authorities during periods of crises and peace. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1963. Today, it has a network of more than 700 branches and sub-branches, 445 staff, and more than 300,000 volunteers. Since its formation, the National Society has gained the trust and respect from the Government which has enabled it to become one of the preferred disaster response partners in Tanzania.

The National Society is a first responder in emergencies and its staff and volunteers are regularly engaged in search and rescue operations, the provision of first aid (including psychological first aid), pre-hospital care and medical evacuations, and the safe and dignified management of the dead. The staff of the National Society also provide psychosocial support to affected people. To date, the National Society remains a key operator in the ongoing refugee operation in Western Tanzania.

The Tanzania Red Cross Society has determined its priorities for developing and improving its general performance and relevance in Tanzania. Along with the improvement of its legal base, review of its constitution, updating its policies and manuals, the National Society has set up a 600 square metre warehouse in central Tanzania (Dodoma) and a stock of essential household items for more than 1,500 families in the region.

The National Society has also introduced modern first aid training accredited by the International First Aid Accreditation, making the Tanzania Red Cross Society the first National Society in Africa to receive this accreditation. The National Society has first aid trainers, master trainers and a full set of modern first aid training materials.

In 2024, the National Society reached more than 242,000 Tanzanian people through its long-term services and development programmes and 205,000 people by its disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The United Republic of Tanzania consists of the mainland and Zanzibar islands, covering 945,087 square kilometres. It shares borders with eight countries and stretches from Lake Tanganyika in the west to the Indian Ocean in the east. Tanzania's population exceeds 65 million, with 44.8 per cent below the age of 15. Over 70 per cent of people live in rural areas, relying primarily on agriculture. The country is ethnically diverse, with over 120 ethnic groups.

Tanzania recently transitioned to a lower-middle-income economy, with agriculture contributing 50 per cent of GDP. Other key sectors include mining, tourism, and manufacturing. The economy is facing inflation driven by global conflicts, rising food and fuel prices, and poor agricultural yields. Poverty remains pervasive, with over 60 per cent of the population living on less than USD 2 per day.

Food insecurity affects over 1.1 million people, driven by inadequate rainfall, poor harvests, and rising food prices.

Between October 2022 and February 2023, high levels of acute food insecurity were reported, particularly in rural areas. Projections indicate worsening conditions due to climate change and limited agricultural productivity.

Tanzania faces increasing vulnerability to both natural and human-induced hazards, driven by its diverse geographical, social, and economic conditions. Extreme weather, including severe droughts, prolonged heavy rains, extreme coastal heat, and resulting floods, continues to pose major risks. Climate change is causing more frequent extreme weather events, impacting food security and spreading diseases such as malaria into new regions. Disaster management is hindered by limited awareness, poor infrastructure and inadequate funding.

Tanzania's health sector faces persistent challenges, including limited funding, shortage of skilled health professionals, and inadequate infrastructure, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas. Essential medicines and diagnostic equipment are often in short supply, weakening the quality of care and delaying treatment. The country continues to battle recurring outbreaks of diseases such as cholera,

Ebola, Marburg, and Mpox, which strain an already overstretched system. Population growth, [high maternal and child health](#) needs, and the burden of both infectious and non-communicable diseases further increase pressure on services, while gaps in referral systems, emergency preparedness, and health information management hinder effective response and service delivery. Tanzania has made progress in healthcare, with [life expectancy](#) increasing to 65.5 years. However, [diseases](#) like malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis remain leading causes of death. Non-communicable diseases, drug addiction, and gender-based violence are growing concerns, compounded by limited healthcare access and inadequate funding.

[Tanzania hosts](#) approximately [265,000 refugees](#) from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, mainly in Kigoma's Nduta and Nyarugusu camps. Refugees rely heavily

on humanitarian aid due to restrictive policies and chronic underfunding. Gender-based violence is a significant issue in camps and some tribal settings.

Poverty, unemployment and gender imbalances persist, with [rapid urbanization](#) creating housing and infrastructure challenges. Education access has improved, but issues such as early marriage and pregnancy hinder girls' education. Urban areas face rising pressure from unplanned settlements, while rural areas lack basic services.

Tanzania's development is shaped by a mix of progress and persistent challenges. Addressing food security, health disparities, disaster preparedness and social inequalities will require coordinated efforts from the government, donors and stakeholders.

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Africa Regional Mpox Epidemic
<b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>	<a href="#">MDRS1003</a>
<b>People affected</b>	People affected/at risk: 300 million people
<b>People to be assisted</b>	30 million people
<b>Duration</b>	16 months (22 August 2024 to 31 March 2026)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 30 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 40 million
<b>Link to revised Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Africa – Regional Mpox Epidemic</a>
<b>Link to revised Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Link to latest Operations Update</b>	<a href="#">Operational Update No. 4</a>

In 2024, Mpox cases and deaths surged significantly in Africa, with over 17,000 cases and 500 deaths reported across 12 countries, marking a sharp increase from 2023. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains the epicentre, contributing 92 per cent of cases, with transmission spreading across all its provinces and into neighbouring Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. Non-endemic countries such as South Africa have also reported cases, while endemic regions, including Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire, continue to see expanding outbreaks. The emergence of Clades 1a, 1b and 2 in disparate areas highlights the heightened risk, prompting organizations such as the Africa CDC, WHO and the IFRC to declare the outbreak a public emergency. Red Cross Red Crescent Societies are working closely with governments to provide community-based surveillance, risk communication and community engagement and vaccination support to mitigate the spread and reduce mortality.

### 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 will be guided by a risk-based approach and regional coordination, prioritizing preparedness, readiness and response. The Tanzania Red Cross Society will receive 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 will also target vulnerable populations, including marginalized and immunocompromised

groups, with a focus on protection, gender and inclusion. 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 labour 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. The strategy emphasizes local voice amplification, collaborative engagement and transparent communication, extending into **long-term resilience building** through initiatives such as the IFRC Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative.

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

The Tanzania Red Cross Society reached people, including persons living with disabilities across all 10 targeted regions through Mpox-related awareness interventions. The National Society conducted awareness campaigns which included door-to-door sensitization, radio talk shows, community dialogues, and the distribution of IEC materials. Special emphasis was placed on hygiene promotion and prevention measures, particularly handwashing practices, safe care-seeking behaviours, and early recognition of symptoms, to curb misinformation and stigma around Mpox. Engagement of youth and women's groups, alongside religious leaders, strengthened community trust and uptake of key health messages.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Tanzania's topographical diversity gives rise to four distinct climatic zones: the coastal area and immediate hinterland, the central plateau, the semi-temperate highland areas and the high moist lake regions. The country ranks 33rd among the countries most vulnerable to climate risks because of four factors: rising temperatures, longer dry spells, intense rainfall and rise in sea level. In the last 30 years, monthly minimum and maximum temperatures have steadily increased, while at the same time, annual rainfall has slightly declined in most parts of the country. Shifts in rainfall patterns, especially intra-seasonal and inter-annual late onset and early cessation of rain, have also led to an increase in dry spells. These changes in temperature and precipitation have impacted the hydro-ecological systems in Tanzania. Records of water levels of Lake Tanganyika and water flow of the rivers of Pangani, Malagarasi and Wami-Ruvu indicate a decline, putting further pressure on limited freshwater resources.

Along with slow onset of hydro-ecological changes, climate change-related extreme weather events such as droughts and floods are a key concern for the country. The many low-

lying areas and the river valleys in Tanzania are particularly vulnerable to flooding. Tanzania has experienced several episodes of flooding in recent years with adverse impacts such as destruction of infrastructure, for example, the railway line in Kilosa and Dar es Salaam, and increased outbreaks of water- and vector-borne diseases, such as malaria and diarrheal diseases.

As the country's National Bureau of Statistics estimated, Tanzania's population has now exceeded 65 million. With more than 75 per cent of the population in urban areas living in informal settlements, the Tanzanian people are increasingly at a risk of facing water scarcity, frequent floods and extreme heatwaves. In rural areas, the population is largely dependent on rain-fed agriculture. Yields for critical crops, including maize, beans, sorghum and rice are projected to decrease in the coming decades, endangering livelihoods and food security. Rural population also has limited access to healthcare.

In the context of growing concerns about the negative impacts of climate change and climate variability on the

country's social, economic and physical environment, the Tanzanian Government designed the [National Climate Change Response Strategy 2021–2026](#). The strategy seeks to promote nationwide tree planting programmes and initiatives to plant at least two million trees per year under the programme.

Since 2025, Tanzania government supports humanitarian services through increased government emphasis on collaboration and coordinated response to disasters. The government collaborates intensively with humanitarian organizations like the Tanzania Red Cross Society, UN agencies, and international partners to operationalize disaster risk reduction and response programmes. In collaboration with partners, Tanzania government recently has included initiatives enhancing institutional and financial capacities to manage flood [early warning systems](#) in vulnerable basins, contingency funds for rapid response and mainstreaming disaster risk management into key sectors and infrastructure.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Tanzania 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; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

A key objective of the National Society is to strengthen community-based resilience programmes and climate change adaptation. The National Society is also committed to the [IFRC Pan-African Tree Planting and Care initiative](#) and will contribute to tree planting programmes and carbon financing.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Develop Early Action Protocols (EAPs) with the government, Tanzania Meteorological Agency and Prime Minister's Office-Disaster Management Department under the Anticipatory Action project
- Scale up community-managed tree planting in project areas, schools and public spaces with an aim to plant 3,000,000 trees across its 31 branches, with at least 32,250 trees planted per branch in partnership with government ministries and stakeholders
- Promote the cultivation of climate-resilient crops, such as cassava and advocate for sustainable agricultural

practices such as intercropping and organic fertilization methods

- Support the formation of community groups along the coast to focus on mangrove conservation and planting, enhancing coastal resilience and biodiversity
- Educate communities about maintaining drought-resistant animal species to ensure sustainable livestock management in Northern Tanzania, particularly in Arusha and Manyara
- Conduct public awareness campaigns on various environmental conservation practices, including contour farming, tree planting and the cultivation of drought-resistant crops
- Advocate for the adoption of clean energy solutions such as using gas instead of firewood to reduce deforestation and environmental degradation
- Contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy development at national, regional and district levels

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support the Tanzania Red Cross Society in the development of an EAP and in mobilizing resources to strengthen the National Society's green campaign initiatives, particularly tree planting and care activities, while providing general technical support and coordination for climate change adaptation programming. The IFRC will build capacity of the Tanzania Red Cross Society to implement impactful climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, ensuring resilience for vulnerable communities. The IFRC will also facilitate new strategic partnerships to scale up environmental actions, including planting and maintaining multipurpose trees. The IFRC will provide technical guidance for integrating climate change mitigation into the Tanzania Red Cross Society programming and help establish public-private partnerships to advance tree planting and other [nature-based solutions](#) to address climate challenges.

The **American Red Cross** provided support for the implementation of a climate change project known as the Coastal City Heat Action Project (CoCHAP) in two cities. This five-year project funded by the USAID aims at creating preparedness action for urban residents to fight extreme heat weather events.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supported the collaboration between the Tanzania Red Cross Society and Tanzania Meteorological Agency to develop [early warning early action](#) mechanisms with communities potentially at risk and those who experience cyclic hazards, particularly in Morogoro.

The **Italian Red Cross** will support the National Society's Anticipatory Action project in specific regions.



## Disasters and crises

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

Tanzania is exposed to multiple hazards including floods, drought, cyclones, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and earthquakes, all of which have the potential to cause severe impacts on social and economic services, ecology, environment and health. The country has been experiencing an increase in incidences and scale of natural hazards. Considering the diverse geographical coverage and differences in physical, social, weather and economic characteristics, different parts of the country are vulnerable to different types of disasters. Furthermore, the country's vulnerability is compounded by population growth, with assets increasingly exposed to climatic hazards, a trend which is likely to worsen with rapid urbanization and environmental degradation.

In 2023, Tanzania saw localized flooding across various regions due to heavy rainfall. By November, the flooding led to an increased number of deaths and major damages to infrastructure in locations such as Dar es Salaam, Kigoma, Kagera, Geita and Unguja. According to the update received from the Government, more than 10,000 people (2,018 households) were affected by the flood, with 1,245 houses completely decimated by the flood and causing the death of 12 people.

The 2023 floods and landslides were preceded by one of the most devastating tropical storms and cyclones in the form of Tropical Storm Jobo in 2021 in Tanzania. Heavy rains and strong winds led to flash floods, affecting more than 6,000 households (30,000 people) and causing the death of 22. A total of 4,951 households were displaced while 1,050 other displaced households were moved into temporary camps. With climate change impacts worsening each year, the humanitarian needs in the country are bound to increase, stressing the need for greater interventions.

There is a low level of public investment in disaster risk reduction activities in Tanzania, compared with its spending on responses to disasters. Response and relief activities are financed mainly through domestic resources, while mitigation and prevention and preparedness activities are financed mostly by donors. There are also challenges involved in implementing officially agreed disaster risk management policies.

Tanzania has a comprehensive [National Disaster Management Strategy 2022-2027](#), which emphasizes effective and efficient disaster risk-sensitive disaster response and aims to build a resilient society for sustainable development. The strategy aligns with national development goals and international frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement. The Prime Minister's Office Disaster Management Department oversees disaster

management operations, supported by Disaster Management Steering Committees at national, regional, and district levels. These committees coordinate decision-making and technical execution of disaster preparedness and response actions.

### Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Tanzania Red Cross Society has invested in [disaster preparedness for effective response](#) to different hazards. The National Society has integrated disaster risk reduction measures to ensure that communities are well prepared and that disaster risks are minimized and their [resilience to disasters](#) are increased. The National Society is committed to ensuring that disaster risks are reduced through engaging the community to identify risks and propose community-based solutions by using different approaches such as enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments ([eVCA](#)) and risk mapping contingency plan, among others.

The wide spectrum of the National Society interventions requires constant improvements in both its disaster risk management cycle and internal capacities. This is in line with the [IFRC Pan-African Red Ready initiative](#), which aims to strengthen disaster operations management, coordination and accountability. It also works to promote the localization of humanitarian response by strengthening the capacity of local branches and volunteers. The Tanzania Red Cross Society will also strengthen and facilitate peer-to-peer support and collaboration with other National Societies in the region, by actively participating in the existing Disaster Management platform.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Mainstream protection gender inclusion ([PGI](#)) in emergencies and community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) in disaster and risk management undertakings
- Provide [shelter](#) assistance to the community affected with floods especially from El-nino anticipating its long-term effect
- Continue deep assessments on the prolonged ongoing drought affecting the northern and central parts of Tanzania
- Provide the vulnerable communities with improved drought resistant seeds of crops and livestock as well as provide the most vulnerable beneficiaries with [cash assistance](#)
- Mainstream cash transfer modality in programmes and emergency operations

- Preposition personal protective equipment, shelter kits and marine safety gears at strategic locations for disaster response
- Scale up food security and livelihood programmes in five semi-arid regions to address food shortages
- Activate and establish action teams at the branch level for effective disaster response in 31 regions
- Strengthen institutional disaster preparedness and risk management capacity through training

as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises.

The IFRC approved a [DREF](#) allocation for flood in April 2025, in support of the Tanzania Red Cross Society. This enabled the National Society to utilize an immediate allocation of CHF 379,955 for providing relief to 4,435 people in two regions of Morogoro and Mara with the provision of Health services, WASH, Shelter, and basic household needs and livelihoods for a period of three months.

Additionally, the IFRC activated an [Early Action Protocol](#) (EAP) in May 2025 for Tanzania's recurring floods. The [DREF](#) allocation of CHF 550,000 for the early actions to proactively address riverine flooding across nine identified river basins. It supported people by focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), health, shelter, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), with the goal of reducing flood-related impacts.

The **Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)** supported the National Society in disaster response projects through crisis modifiers and cash preparedness activities and the implementation of cash projects.

The **Kenya Red Cross Society**, as a neighbouring National Society, provided support in risk communication and community engagement projects.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will continue to provide financial and technical support to the National Society to enhance its preparedness and readiness to anticipate and respond to crisis in a timely, appropriate and accountable manner. It will provide technical support across the pillars of the preparedness for effective response. It will also provide expertise and support to develop and resource anticipatory action system building including [forecast analysis](#), readiness (contingency planning), [early warning and early actions](#).

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on



*The Tanzania Red Cross Society volunteers supporting drought-affected families in Kilimanjaro and Arusha with cash, food, and water-storage jerrycans. (Photo: Tanzania Red Cross Society)*



Tanzania has experienced significant progress in the health sector, with life expectancy increasing from 59 years in 2010 to 66 in 2021. This progress is attributed to decline in adult and child mortality due to improvements in the distribution of basic healthcare services. However, the burden of disease due to preventable causes remains high. Challenges remain in reducing maternal mortality (which stands at 556 per 100,000 live births) and tackling the stagnation of neonatal mortality (which accounts for more than 52 per cent of deaths under the age of five). While the improvement in maternal and child mortality has been significant, it remains below expectation. More than 50 per cent of women aged 19 in Tanzania are either mothers or are expecting, thus increasing their vulnerability to sexual and reproductive health complications. Non-communicable diseases, including mental health problems, are straining Tanzania's limited human, financial and medicinal resources, and are becoming a major cause of morbidity and mortality.

Among the adult population in Tanzania, malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis are the major causes of death. Malaria, pneumonia and anaemia are the leading causes of mortality among children under five years of age. About 100,000 people die of malaria each year, of whom more than 65-80 per cent are under the age of five. Outbreaks of zoonotic diseases, mainly anthrax, have been reported in areas such as Ngorongoro and Longido in the Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions. These regions have also reported cases of rabies, which is believed to be responsible for an estimated 1,500 deaths per year across Tanzania.

Tanzania is among the countries affected by the viral haemorrhagic diseases outbreak. Recently, the country conducted Ebola virus disease preparedness and responded to the Marburg virus disease which affected the Kagera region. The outbreak response and recovery took about four months to be completed. Necessary intervention took place including training of volunteers and preposition of materials.

Access to clean water and adequate sanitation facilities is crucial for public health, environmental sustainability, and overall well-being. In Tanzania, progress has been made in improving water and sanitation infrastructure, but challenges persist, particularly in rural areas and underserved communities.

Between September 2023 and February 2024, a cholera outbreak affected 13 regions in Tanzania Mainland, resulting in 1,521 cases and 34 deaths (CFR 2.3 per cent). The outbreak was initially reported in regions including Mara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Kigoma, Kagera, Singida, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Tabora, Ruvuma, Dodoma, Mwanza and Geita. By early

2024, the outbreak had been declared over in five regions (Mara, Kigoma, Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Dodoma), but cases continued to surge in Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Kagera, which became the most affected areas. In February 2024, additional cases were reported, highlighting the persistent nature of the epidemic.

This outbreak was unprecedented in scale, as Tanzania had not experienced such a widespread cholera outbreak in over four decades. Typically, outbreaks were limited to one or two regions and were quickly contained. However, the ongoing El Niño rains, which intensified in early 2024, overwhelmed drainage systems across many regions, particularly in Mwanza, Shinyanga and Kagera. These regions, characterized by dense populations, unplanned settlements, open defecation practices and inadequate sanitation infrastructure, experienced a rapid spread of the disease. The heavy rainfall led to latrine overflows and worsened poor hygiene conditions, far outpacing the country's ability to contain the epidemic.

### Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

A key focus for the National Society will be to provide both preventative and comprehensive community-based health services to vulnerable communities and implement blood donor recruitment activities and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives. It will also facilitate community-based health sensitization referrals, links and support to target populations orphans and vulnerable children.

The National Society will increase its engagement and advocacy with national and local authorities for the better allocation of resources according to need. It will also coordinate with the government and stakeholders to map community capacities and identify gaps in services. It will focus on enhancing the capacity of communities to prepare for and identify the early warning signs of disease and implement a strong response. Partner mapping will also be conducted to improve the coordination and collaboration of response interventions.

In terms of equitable provisioning of healthcare services, the National Society will support vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, adolescents, women and girls, older persons and persons of concern who are deprived of their liberties. It will promote inclusion of health within overall planning and policy making and ensure effective collaboration in health and nutrition.

Working towards increased community resilience, the Tanzania Red Cross Society will encourage community participation in assessments, project design, implementation and monitoring for community-centred health programming.

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## Planned activities in 2026

- Develop specific procedures for holistic care for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, including clinical care, protective services and referral systems
- Provide reproductive and child health services, including antenatal care, family planning, vaccinations and support for orphans and vulnerable children
- Pre-position health commodities such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and vaccines to enhance readiness
- Strengthen coordination mechanisms for data review, risk mapping and [community-centered programming](#)
- Support the implementation and management of sustainable [WASH](#) infrastructure, including water supply systems, wastewater reuse facilities and handwashing stations
- Promote environmental protection to reduce vector breeding and incidences of waterborne diseases
- Provide access to safe drinking water, menstrual hygiene management materials and improve sanitation through low-cost technologies

- Enhance the capacities of front-line health workers on infection prevention and control, community-based surveillance and water quality testing
- Conduct training on blood donation, including donor recruitment, counseling and linking blood collection teams to stakeholders

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will continue to provide technical and financial support to the Tanzania Red Cross Society in implementing its programmes under healthcare initiatives. The National Society will be supported with materials, engagement of contractors to construct WASH facilities, technical guidelines and training/coaching of staff and volunteers.

The IFRC launched a [DREF operation](#) for cholera outbreak for a period of three months that ended in May 2024, assisting around 178,607 affected people with a budget of CHF 186,866.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supported the National Society in implementing water supply system service in the community. The Spanish Red Cross also supported the National Society in implementing the Uzazi Salama Project, which is a health project in Kakonko District, Kigoma, emphasizing sexual and reproductive health and safe delivery services.



## Migration and displacement

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Over the past few decades, Tanzania has served as a host country for refugees from its neighbouring countries such as Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. The influx of refugee population has been driven largely by factors such as armed conflict, civil wars and ethnic violence. Some refugees are forced to leave their countries due to political persecution. This includes individuals and groups targeted for their political beliefs, activism, or affiliation with opposition movements. The refugees are accommodated in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps in the Kigoma region, northwest of Tanzania. A small population is also hosted in urban centres, mainly in Dar es Salaam. Due to the protracted refugee situation, restrictive policies and chronic underfunding, the refugee population in Tanzania remains highly dependent on humanitarian assistance.

As of May 2023, the total population in Nyarugusu and Nduta refugee camps are estimated to be 214,553, which consists of both Congolese and Burundian refugees. Most Burundian refugees in Tanzania fled Burundi in 2015, following [deadly clashes](#) surrounding the presidential election. In 2019, the

Governments of Tanzania and Burundi and the UNHCR signed a tripartite agreement to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees back to their country. According to UNHCR, over 140,000 Burundian refugees have voluntarily returned since September 2017.

Migrants in Tanzania have reported exploitation, physical and emotional abuse and many are poorly paid. Some become victims of human trafficking. They are also at risk of being prosecuted by the authorities, which can lead to imprisonment. The practice of encampment has resulted in prolonged dependency on humanitarian assistance. Through the leadership of the Refugees Service Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs supported by the UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies, the refugees and asylum seekers in the country are provided access to primary healthcare, referrals for secondary and tertiary healthcare, HIV prevention care and treatment, reproductive health services, food security and nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)), sanitation and hygiene services.

## Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

In the coming years, the National Society will work to ensure that emergency health and nutrition preparedness and response is realized for refugee emergencies and disease outbreaks. It will work to ensure that comprehensive health services are assured through a functional referral mechanism. Through the National Society's interventions, refugee participation, consultation and empowerment will be strengthened and that refugee communities are engaged in and benefit from a strong community health approach adapted to camp settings. The National Society will conduct activities to restore family links for people of concern and their family support networks.

### Planned activities in 2026

- Deliver essential health services, including primary healthcare, emergency medical treatment, and preventive care, to refugees and displaced populations within camps
- Provide critical supplies such as food, clean water, clothing, and household essentials to meet the basic needs of displaced individuals
- Offer MHPSS services to help migrants and refugees cope with trauma and stress through counseling and support groups
- Reunite families separated by displacement through family tracing programmes, restoring emotional stability for displaced individuals
- Conduct pre- and post-repatriation health screenings to ensure returning individuals are in good health and receive necessary medical care

- Establish referral mechanisms to connect refugees with specialized services unavailable within camps
- Provide displaced populations with vital information about services, rights and resources to help them make informed decisions
- Actively involve communities in activities that promote physical and mental health while fostering resilience and self-reliance
- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to guide the National Society's efforts in addressing migration and displacement issues effectively

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide comprehensive support to the Tanzania Red Cross Society in its efforts to address the needs of refugees and displaced populations. This includes technical, coordination and resource support for the National Society's refugee health operations, ensuring the delivery of primary healthcare services in refugee camps. Additionally, the IFRC will assist the Tanzania Red Cross Society in mobilizing funds to facilitate the implementation of Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities within refugee camps and host communities. The IFRC will also support the development of a dedicated migration and displacement strategy to enhance the Tanzania Red Cross Society's capacity to effectively respond to the challenges of migration and displacement.

The ICRC collaborates with the Tanzania Red Cross Society on Restoring Family Links (RFL) programmes, ensuring effective family reunification efforts in refugee camps and the National Society offices.



## Values, power and inclusion

In Tanzania, male dominance restricts women's participation in leadership and decision-making, especially in rural areas. Men control most key decisions in families and communities, limiting women's voices and influence. Leadership roles are predominantly held by men, excluding women from discussions on issues affecting their welfare.

Property ownership is heavily skewed toward men due to cultural norms and financial inequality. Women often lack independent income and are excluded from inheriting property under customary laws, particularly in polygamous marriages or as widows. Despite constitutional guarantees of equality, traditional practices and low awareness of property rights perpetuate these disparities.

Nearly 44 per cent of women aged 15–49 have experienced physical or sexual violence, with higher rates in rural areas. Violence is rooted in gender inequality and cultural acceptance of male dominance. Marginalized groups also face heightened risks and barriers to support during emergencies.

A lack of education and awareness about property rights and gender equity exacerbates discrimination. Limited knowledge prevents women from exercising their legal rights, emphasizing the need for community-focused campaigns and reforms.

Addressing gender inequality in Tanzania requires systemic changes, including legal reforms, education campaigns and increased representation of women in leadership. These

measures are essential for creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Tanzania Red Cross Society recognizes community engagement and accountability (CEA) as a way of working that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners. The National Society will integrate meaningful community participation, facilitate open and honest communication, establish mechanisms to listen and act on feedback, so that the National Society's actions are guided by the diverse needs, priorities and preferences of the community. The National Society has established and rolled out CEA to collect public feedback and respond to issues arising from the operations conducted by the Tanzania Red Cross Society. It will use community ideas and feedback to improve its services in the long run. The Tanzania Red Cross Society also plans to enhance its capacity to mainstream protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) approaches in disaster risk management projects.

### Planned activities in 2026

- Promote inclusion of disabled individuals and other vulnerable groups by creating accessible environments and integrating their needs into all activities
- Educate community members about the importance of protecting vulnerable groups, promoting gender equality and ensuring inclusive practices in all activities

- Develop tools, systems and approaches to support effective governance structure activities
- Enhance domestic fundraising capacity through the development and implementation of a business plan that will guide the establishment of investments
- Revise and mainstream CEA strategy into new and existing programmes, operations and policies
- Pilot and roll out the minimum actions and sector-specific tools for CEA in emergency response operations

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Tanzania Red Cross Society by ensuring PGI integration across all sectors and aligning operations with principles of dignity, access, participation and safety. It will aid in developing community-based information and communication initiatives, support the Tanzania Red Cross Society in utilizing PGI minimum standards, and assist in implementing protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) action plan. The IFRC will also link the Tanzania Red Cross Society to national and regional gender working groups, enhance governance structures through tools and systems and provide CEA technical support. This includes aligning efforts with the CEA Africa Strategy 2020–2025, institutionalizing CEA and promoting peer-to-peer learning through the CEA community of practice. Additionally, the IFRC will collaborate with the government on disaster contingency planning and response.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Tanzania Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2017. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Tanzania 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 analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it. Other complementary self-assessment exercises carried out by the National Society were the Safer Access Framework.



### 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
- Health, accident and death compensation for volunteers
- Functioning data management system
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- PSEA Action Plan
- Strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanism
- Digital transformation roadmap



## Strategic and operational coordination

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop monitoring tools, conduct regular monitoring and evaluation visits, improve risk management systems, and ensure proper documentation to demonstrate visible programme impact
- Improve data backup systems for staff through advanced digital transformation to strengthen data security
- Promote technology innovation across programmes and support practical, productive ideas that simplify project implementation
- Maintain and expand partnerships with international organizations to address climate change, health challenges, and broader humanitarian needs
- Continue collaboration with the ICRC on Restoring Family Links (RFL) to enhance family tracing and reunification services in refugee camps and National Society offices
- Hold quarterly or semi-annual meetings with Movement partners and stakeholders to enhance collaboration and information sharing
- Work with government entities to align policies and strategies with national frameworks, optimize resource

mobilization opportunities, and disseminate plans and principles

- Engage in peer learning with other National Societies, Partner National Societies, and NGOs to share best practices and improve operational effectiveness
- Collaborate with participating National Societies on targeted projects, including WASH initiatives such as school latrine construction
- Develop and implement youth-focused programmes to expand partnerships, nurture engagement, and build future leadership

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will coordinate and facilitate new partnerships that enable scaling up environmental actions, including the planting and care of multi-purpose trees. To champion the [IFRC Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative](#), the IFRC will ensure representation at strategic events and forums. It will also support the National Society to strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration, to enable a more effective response to disease outbreaks and address their underlying causes and secondary impacts.



## National Society development

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Align organizational development priorities and plans with Movement standards and in line with the principles of the [National Society development compact](#)
- Develop the new National Society strategic plan for 2025-2030 reflecting its top priorities
- Ensure that governance and leadership have control over policy issues, and that there is a strong and well-motivated management structure
- Launch and scale up community-driven programmes designed to generate revenue and support core services.
- Conduct assessments at branches and prepare branch development plans to better address service delivery

and identify gaps in the sustainability of systems and services

- Develop and implement core cost recovery policy, ensuring transparent and sustainable financial management
- Develop and implement a volunteer management policy, including strategies for retaining volunteers and ensuring their active engagement in activities
- Introduce improved communication and coordination mechanisms, enabling better mobilization and support for volunteers across all branches
- Strengthen approach to volunteer management by establishing a volunteer database and providing insurance for volunteers

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical and financial support to the National Society in aligning its objectives with global best

practices. The National Society's development of a new strategic development plan will be supported by the IFRC as well as its initiatives towards building the overall capacity of its staff and volunteers.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Spread awareness of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement fundamental principles among youth and volunteers
- The National Society's communications unit will raise awareness about the National Society both globally and locally
- Promote humanitarian values, encourage the culture of volunteerism and disseminate information on the fundamental principles
- Engage media houses and journalists for the publication of articles, news stories and documentaries about the National Society's interventions

- Work on the dissemination of the National Society's emblems
- Advocate with key decision-makers in the government to ensure support for vulnerable people in Tanzania
- Participate in various exhibitions and events to increase the National Society's visibility

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC and the National Society will jointly explore the possible development of a stand-alone funded budget for the National Society's communication unit to conduct its activities without impediments.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Emphasize online refresher courses on PGI and sexual and gender based violence for National Society staff and volunteers
- Implement the Nav 365 Business Central, a modern financial system that will replace outdated modules and bring greater efficiency
- Intensify the use of the NAVISION system to monitor all transactions
- Conduct internal and external audits using the National Society internal auditor and external audit firms
- Enhance the National Society's digital transformation by strengthening its information and communications technology facilities
- Mainstream CEA ways of working alongside PGI in all activities

- Strengthen support functions, including planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning, public relations and communications, information and communications technology, logistics and legal services
- Strengthen the internal audit and risk management unit to ensure compliance with internal and external (particularly partner) policies and procedures, while managing associated risks

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide financial and technical support to the National Society, consisting of organizing workshops for developing staff and volunteer skills, conducting feedback sessions and performance reviews, regular review and update of organizational policies and procedures, and foster a culture of accountability and ethical behaviour through clear communication strategies. The IFRC will also continue to support the National Society in developing effective planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Tanzania Red Cross Society through its country cluster delegation for South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania, which is based in Juba, South Sudan. The IFRC staff frequently visit Tanzania to ensure optimal support. In times of emergencies, surge staff are deployed to support operational management or to provide specific expertise. The IFRC support to the Tanzania Red Cross Society centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including strengthening of its [auxiliary role](#). It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the the Tanzania Red Cross Society through numerous Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([DREE](#)) operations in relation to tropical storms and cyclones, floods, food insecurity, earthquakes, election preparedness, accidents and disease outbreaks, including cholera and preparedness for the Ebola virus disease affecting neighbouring Uganda.

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## IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging, and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development assistance, and contribute to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Tanzania 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 under the relevant sections of this plan.

The Tanzania Red Cross Society has established collaborations with various participating National Societies on projects

across different regions, with a strong emphasis on climate change and environmental issues.

Currently, there are no participating National Societies operating in the country. The **American Red Cross**, through USAID and in partnership with the Tanzania Red Cross Society and the Tanzania Meteorological Authority, was implementing the Coastal City Heat Action Project in Tanga City and the Urban District of the West Urban Region in Unguja. This five-year USAID-funded project aimed to strengthen preparedness and response to extreme heat, which affects these areas annually from October to February. However, the project has been halted at present.

Additionally, both the **Spanish Red Cross** and the **Finnish Red Cross** have concluded projects and handed it over to the National Society. The Finnish Red Cross had been implementing an Early Warning Early Action project in Kilosa District in the Morogoro Region. The Spanish Red Cross had been supporting health-related projects in the Kigoma Region.

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## Movement coordination

The Tanzania 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**, through its regional delegation in Kenya, promotes international humanitarian law and carries out humanitarian activities in Tanzania. The Tanzania Red Cross Society works closely with the ICRC especially in the area of [Restoring Family Links \(RFL\)](#). This has been effective in the refugee camps and everywhere where there is a National Society office.

## Coordination with other actors

The Tanzania Red Cross Society works closely with the government, mostly the Ministry of Health and the Prime Minister's office, in the area of disaster management. The Prime Minister's disaster management department coordinates the work of key humanitarian actors in the country, and it is where local and UN partners meet to coordinate their humanitarian activities.

The Tanzania Red Cross Society acts in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, which stipulates the coordination levels of various actors. The coordination at the regional level is carried out by the regional administrative secretary's office, as chairman of the regional disaster committee.

At the district level, the district executive director is responsible for coordination. The National Society has a strong partnership with the Tanzania Meteorological Agency through the Global Framework for Climate Services project. This provides early warning information and rainfall forecasts to inform community disaster risk reduction planning. The

National Society also works with other departments on climate change adaptation strategies and policies. When major accidents occur, the National Society contributes to search and rescue operations alongside the Tanzania People's Defence Force, the police force and the fire brigade.

The Tanzania Red Cross Society holds regular stakeholder meetings which bring together Movement and external partners. This includes UN agencies including UNHCR, WFP and UNFPA, and government ministries including the Ministry of Home Affairs, and authorities such as the Tanzania Meteorological Agency. The National Society also has a broad partnership base with traditional and non-traditional partners. These include the UN agencies such as UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, the European Union, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Africa CDC and Pathfinder International. The National Society has also worked closely with UNHCR on the refugee programme, to improve general camp management and lead on health activities.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 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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