



BURUNDI

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



22 January 2026

In support of the Burundi Red Cross



42

National Society branches



3,044

National Society local units



614,583

National Society staff



614,583

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



49,000

Climate and environment



90,000

Disasters and crises



684,000

Health and wellbeing



64,000

Migration and displacement



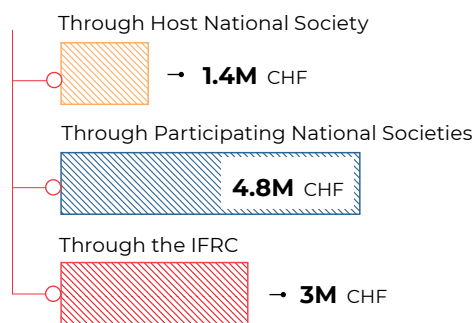
301,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 9.2M CHF



2027

Total 8M CHF

2028

6.4M CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

Belgian Red Cross

British Red Cross*

Finnish Red Cross

French Red Cross

Luxembourg Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross

IFRC Appeal code

Emergency Appeal:

**MDRS1003
(MDRBI022)**

Africa Regional Mpox Epidemic

Longer-term needs:

MAABI002

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

Hazards



Disease outbreak



Drought



Floods



Population movement

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Disease outbreak

Longer term needs

- Disaster preparedness and response
 - Community resilience
 - Population movement
 - Health care
- Water sanitation and hygiene

Capacity development

- Branch development
- Communications
- Resource mobilization
- Digital transformation

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

High

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

High

Human Development Index rank

187

World Bank Population figure

14M

World Bank Population below poverty line

51%



At Rugombo Stadium near the DRC border, the Burundi Red Cross is supporting nearly 40,000 refugees, including 18,000 children, with first aid, sanitation, clean water, food and psychosocial support (Photo: IFRC)

Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027		2028	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
Longer-term needs						
Climate and environment	250,000	160,000	250,000	160,000	250,000	160,000
Disasters & crises	250,000	1M	150,000	1.1M	150,000	1.2M
Health & wellbeing	300,000	540,000	150,000	540,000	150,000	540,000
Migration & displacement	250,000	500,000	250,000	500,000	250,000	500,000
Values, power & inclusion	125,000	400,000	125,000	400,000	125,000	400,000
Enabling local actors	350,000	400,000	350,000	400,000	350,000	400,000
Total	1.4M	3M	1.4M	3.1M	1.4M	3.2M

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
Belgian Red Cross	2026	2.1M	2.1M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2027	1.5M	1.5M						
Finnish Red Cross	2026	1.4M	850,000	-	850,000	500,000	-	-	-
	2027	760,000	260,000		260,000	500,000			
	2028	500,000				500,000			
French Red Cross	2026	696,000		85,000	118,000	470,000	19,000		4,000
	2027	696,000		85,000	118,000	470,000	19,000		4,000
	2028	697,000		85,000	118,000	470,000	19,000		5,000
Luxembourg Red Cross	2026	575,000		82,000	280,000		200,000		12,000
	2027	575,000		83,000	280,000		200,000		13,000
	2028	576,000		83,000	280,000		200,000		13,000
Spanish Red Cross	2026	28,000	28,000					28,000	-

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Burundi Red Cross** was established in 1963 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the same year. It is the largest community-based humanitarian organization in the Republic of Burundi with a strong volunteer community which enables the National Society to respond to emergencies in the country and provide targeted assistance.

In addition to facilitating organizational development, the Burundi Red Cross's main areas of intervention include environmental resilience, community health, water, hygiene and sanitation, community resilience, and protection, gender and inclusion. The National Society serves as an auxiliary to the public authorities and ensures that the principles of the Movement are adhered to in times of dire humanitarian circumstances in the country.

The National Society's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 focuses on organizational development and five priority areas a)

Disaster preparedness and response b) Community health c) Water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) d) Economic health of households and social assistance and e) Protection, social cohesion and the culture of peace.

This National Society's plan is aligned with the IFRC's Strategy 2030 as well as the Burundian government's National Development Plan 2018-2027. The capacity-building efforts priorities focus on strengthening existing sectoral structures to be able to respond effectively to disasters, such as public health emergencies due to natural hazards such as floods, and to maintain essential health promotion activities, such as social mobilization during vaccination campaigns or providing WASH infrastructure. The National Society also seeks to promote best practices in livelihoods/food security and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) among its branches.

In 2024, the National Society reached 3.5 million people through its health services.



Map of Burundi Red Cross 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

Located between Central and East Africa, the Republic of Burundi is a small landlocked country with an area of 27,834 square kilometres. With a population of 50.9 per cent women and 49.1 per cent men, Burundi is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with a density ratio of 547 people per km². The total population is estimated at 12.33 million inhabitants.

Most of the Burundian people live in rural areas, with the rate of the country's urbanization lower than other countries in Africa. The four provinces of Kayanza, Ngozi, Muramvya, and Gitega alone are home to more than two-thirds of the Burundian people. While Burundi has made significant progress in terms of quality and access to education, there are still challenges that need to be overcome. A survey carried out by the Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Burundi estimated that 37.8 per cent of the population had no level of education and that women in general were less educated than men in the country. Burundi's literacy rate is estimated to be 69.4 per cent for persons aged 15 or over. Kirundi is the national language, alongside French and Kishwahili, with English used to a limited extent.

Burundi has experienced long-standing political violence which has impacted the country's trajectory towards development. Between 1993 and 2006, more than 300,000 were killed in the country due to violence. The Arusha Peace Agreement signed in 2000 led to the establishment of a multi-party republic in which institutions and political parties were required to respect quotas between various communities. The country's national assembly is composed of Hutu who make up 60 per cent, and Tutsi who make up 40 per cent. In 2015, following police violence and the restriction of fundamental freedoms, nearly 400,000 Burundians took refuge outside the country.

Since 2019, Gitega has served as the political capital, while Bujumbura remains the economic capital.

More than 90 per cent of the country's population, predominantly rural, live on subsistence farming while pressures on agricultural land keep increasing. The country's sectors that are sources of employment and growth, mainly agriculture and the beer industry, are increasingly being affected by population movements, rising prices and taxation, and the lack of foreign investments in the country. Since 2015, Burundi has witnessed a decline in external aid to the country, leading to budgetary and balance-of-payments difficulties for the country. To compensate for the decline of foreign aid, the Government has mobilised domestic resources. However, this has not been sufficient to meet the continuously increasing social demand, driven largely by sustained population growth.

Burundi is a poor country with 87 per cent of the population living on less than USD 1.9/day according to the World Bank and a GDP per capita of USD 245.8, compared to USD 311.0. In 2024, Burundi's economic situation shows signs of slight improvement, although several challenges remain. Agriculture, particularly coffee and tea, remains a major contributor to GDP and export earnings.

Burundi is exposed to ongoing and recurrent threats. This includes flooding caused by the rising water levels at Lake Tanganyika and the Rusizi River, frequent epidemic outbreaks such as M-pox, the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and the increasing return of refugees which is placing pressure on host communities. Protracted displacement and repeated shocks have eroded the resilience of the country in managing internally displaced persons with increasing dependence on humanitarian aid. More than 80 per cent of internal displacement is currently caused by climate-related disasters, and the impact of these climate hazards also affects agricultural production, with 90 per cent of the population reliant on subsistence farming. Malaria remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality, and life expectancy has increased to about 61 years.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency Appeal name	Africa Regional Mpox Epidemic
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDRS1003 (MDRBI022)
People affected	300 million people
People to be assisted	30 million people
Duration	16 months (15 August 2024 to 31 March 2026)
Funding requirements	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Ap-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, 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 like 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 Burundi Red Cross will cover 5 months of intervention and prioritise the areas of gaps and competencies of the National Society. The recommended standards of RCRC will be applied in the tools and approach. A surge will be deployed to support the capacity strengthening plan for the team in the 23 districts and the EPIC training package will

be used to cover most of the desired trainings under health, CEA, and PGI.

The highlights of the assistance are as follows:

a) Health (Reducing the risk of transmission)

Community surveillance and contact follow-ups will be strengthened. The CBS system, led by the Ministry of Health and national authorities, will help strengthen the system at the community level. The Ministry will draw up a list of contacts and, based on these lists, volunteers monitor them. Based on the community definition of cases, volunteers will also notify alerts and participate in case follow-up in collaboration with the health authorities.

b) Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Support will be provided for the distribution of detergents/ disinfectants to households with reported suspected and confirmed cases. To improve WASH conditions, hand-washing facilities in public spaces, health centres, and entry points will be set up and monitored. Hygiene promotion campaigns focusing on hand washing in markets, schools, and other public places will also be carried out.

c) Risk communication and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Community awareness will be promoted through home visits. Volunteers will be deployed to deliver awareness messages aligned with Ministry of Health messages, based on prevention and promoting barrier measures. Volunteers will use different channels/audio-visual support and strong feedback systems to address misinformation or information gaps, rumours, and concerns raised by the communities.

d) Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI)

Inclusive, protective, and gender-sensitive programmes and activities will be ensured to guarantee more equitable and safer assistance and benefits for all groups represented in the targeted community assistance and benefits to all groups

represented in the targeted communities. The planning will aim to assess and reduce the risk of discrimination and violence and promote the meaningful participation of all people, regardless of gender, age, disability or background.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The effects of rapid climate change in Burundi are multifaceted. There are droughts, land degradation, soil erosions, and frequent flooding that threaten to damage the progress that the country has made over the years. Burundi has a tropical climate with two rainy seasons (January–May and September–December) and a dry season (June–August), with temperatures varying by altitude. According to the [World Bank](#), the country is one of the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases out of 188 countries, yet it bears the consequence of climate change for which it is not largely responsible. The [UNOCHA](#) states that climate-related disasters, led by torrential rains, floods and landslides, were responsible for all forced displacement in Burundi in 2020. Flooding around Lake Tanganyika has been particularly severe, causing large-scale displacement and destruction of homes, farmland and infrastructure.

With adverse weather patterns increasingly being witnessed around the world, this worsening climactic trend is likely to continue. The annual rainfall has decreased over the last few years, resulting in shorter or longer early rainy seasons. Rainfall has also become increasingly unpredictable, with alternating droughts and intense downpours, often exacerbated by the El Niño phenomenon. Climate model scenarios indicate that in the next few decades, there will be more frequent and intense droughts and hydrometeorological hazards in the country. In the case of the Bujumbura metropolitan area, repetitive and severe droughts, and torrential rains accompanied by floods have led to mass movement and land losses. Tropical storms or epidemics due to droughts and floods have become commonplace for some time.

Land degradation is a critical problem compounded by inadequate agricultural practices and deforestation. The country loses millions of tons of soil annually, which has a significant economic impact. Land degradation, mainly due to erosion and deforestation, is estimated to cost Burundi around 4 per cent of its GDP each year. Burundi is also experiencing

high deforestation, with a recorded annual loss of 64.54 square kilometres of forest cover. Between 2001 and 2024, the country lost about 37.5 thousand hectares of forest cover (a decline of around 7 per cent), with Bururi region experiencing the largest losses. Burundi is also experiencing [high deforestation](#), with a recorded annual loss of 64.54 square kilometres of forest cover. The increase in the population in rural areas put enormous pressure on arable land, resulting in an exponential decrease in the average size of farms. This population boom is often accompanied by the clearing of vegetation cover, leading to environmental problems in the long run. According to [the UNDP](#), if no protection measures for the forest are undertaken, there is a danger of losing forest cover completely by 2040.

To respond effectively to climate challenges, Burundi requires a significant increase in climate adaptation funding. Additional investments are crucial to support national resilience plans, improve infrastructure and promote sustainable agricultural practices. International collaboration and donor commitment are also essential to mobilize the necessary resources in the long term. Current efforts also include improving watershed management, restoring degraded land, and promoting climate-smart agriculture to strengthen community resilience, particularly for women, children and displaced populations.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Burundi Red Cross 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. In this context, the Burundi National Red Cross Society remains at the forefront of preparedness and response to disasters linked to environmental degradation, with volunteers mobilized in real time at community level in support of affected populations and public authorities.

The National Society is also involved in the [Early Warnings for All initiative](#) (EW4All), which aims to ensure everyone on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027. In this United Nations-led initiative, the IFRC is the lead of Pillar 4 on preparedness for response to warnings and is also actively engaged in Pillars 1 and 3 of Disaster Risk Knowledge and Warning Dissemination and Communication. The National Society, with IFRC support, will be working with national authorities to coordinate Pillar 4 and implement activities. At different levels, contingency plans for multiple hazards are in place, and simulation exercises are regularly conducted to ensure operational readiness in the event of disasters.

Some of the other National Society's core objectives include:

- Support communities, staff, and volunteers to take urgent action to adapt to the growing and evolving risks related to the climate and environmental crises
- Adopt environmentally sound practices and contribute to climate change mitigation
- Strengthen environmental protection and climate adaptation actions through initiatives such as the Pan-African Tree Planting Initiative, including the planting and monitoring of fruit and agroforestry trees
- Support the operationalization of Community Harm Reduction Committees at hill (community) level to strengthen local preparedness and disaster response capacity

Planned activities in 2026

- Operationalize [community disaster risk reduction](#) committees in all hill units.
- Advocate and participate in the establishment of a national [early warning system](#) and make it operational at all levels once validated

- Train community in enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment ([EVCA](#)) and participatory safe shelter awareness ([PASSA](#))
- Develop and implement action plans to mitigate major risks related to climate change at community level
- Promote [forecast-based financing](#) at the community level in Kirundo, Rutana, Rumonge, and Bujumbura Mairie provinces
- Carry out large-scale dissemination of weather forecasts in partnership with institutes, adapted to the local context
- Develop watersheds by digging contour canals stabilized by fixing plants on watersheds in order to combat erosion
- Organize tracing and protection of contour lines on all watersheds under the threat of erosion

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the National Society in the development and implementation of climate change response project proposals/action plans. This will involve the implementation of [anticipatory action](#) projects and major cross-border projects for climate-related disaster risk reduction. Additionally, it will also support the National Society in mobilizing resources to implement the Tree Planting initiative.

The **Belgian Red Cross (Flemish community)** will provide support to the National Society through the HP1 project and in Bweru and Butezi in Ruyigi province.

The **Belgian Red Cross (French community)** will support the National Society's objectives on environmental conservation in the municipalities of Mishiha, Cankuzo, and in the branches of Kayanza, Kirundo, and Karuzi.

The **Finnish Red Cross** will provide support to the National Society in the province of Muramvya, in Bujumbura, with the support of ECHO through the World Food Programme (WFP).

The **Luxembourg Red Cross** will support the National Society's objectives through the Isare Climate Project, the AMoPaH Giteranyi Project, and the Kanyosha Climate Project.



Disasters and crises

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

In 2024, Burundi suffered severe flooding, largely due to the [El Niño phenomenon](#), which caused torrential rains. These floods displaced more than [239,000 people](#) and caused significant losses of infrastructure, particularly around Lake Tanganyika. In 2025, Burundi continued to face multiple natural hazards, including floods, strong winds and hail, affecting nearly 70,000 people and displacing more than 2,000. Landslides, often triggered by heavy rains, have also devastated communities, destroyed vital infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, and ravaged acres of farmland. Floods and landslides in recent years have also resulted in widespread crop losses, affecting tens of thousands of households.

One of the worst-affected areas in Burundi is Gatumba, located at the mouth of the Rusizi River at the northern tip of Lake Tanganyika. This particularly vulnerable city has been under threat for five years. When the lake's water level rose dramatically, but the situation has worsened due to unusually high rainfall in recent months. Thousands of people have fled their homes. A site has been set up in the Gisagara commune of Bujumbura province to rehouse the inhabitants of Gatumba. Environmental degradation, including anarchic sand extraction in Bujumbura and continued plastic pollution despite existing bans, further exacerbates risks to local communities.

Other provinces that have been the most affected include Bujumbura-Mairie, Cibitoke and Bubanza where efforts have been concentrated to help the households most affected by these disasters. While the affected people have been supported in the emergency, support will be needed for recovery. Burundi has also experienced significant population movements linked to the influx of refugees fleeing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, placing additional pressure on humanitarian and protection systems, particularly amid reduced food assistance to refugees.

In all these cases, women, who are often responsible for collecting water and food resources, are particularly affected by droughts and floods. Children are vulnerable to waterborne diseases and malnutrition exacerbated by climate disasters. Internally displaced people, due to floods and landslides, live in camps in precarious sanitary conditions, exposed to the risk of disease and malnutrition.

[Food security](#) continues to account for the majority of the humanitarian needs in Burundi. An [analysis of acute food insecurity](#) shows that 1.18 million people were classified as In Crisis (IPC Phase 3 and above) and 3.1 million as Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Climatic hazards, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the conflict in Ukraine are some major factors responsible for food insecurity in the country. The combined effect of structural factors such as poor access to land and other

factors of production and cyclical factors, including natural shocks, are also the reasons behind the current levels of food insecurity in the country. The Burundi Red Cross has recently conducted a self-assessment of its Preparedness for Effective Response (PiE/PER), identifying key gaps and priority actions to strengthen disaster preparedness.

Additionally, Burundi officially declared the Mpox an epidemic on July 25, 2024. The Mpox outbreak declared in 2024 is not yet fully under control, although trends are improving, while cholera has become endemic since January 2023.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Burundi Red Cross is a member of the National Platform for Risk Reduction and Prevention, which puts it in a unique position to influence disaster risk reduction and climate risk policies and practices. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the National Society works to mitigate the impacts of recurrent natural disasters and chronic crises while promoting human dignity, particularly for the most vulnerable. The National Society will continue to focus on [preparedness and response to various emergency situations](#). Given that it is often on the front line when disasters occur in Burundi, maintaining a high level of readiness for rapid and appropriate response remains essential.

The National Society is one of the targets of the Africa Red Ready programme which aims to develop and strengthen the capacity of the National Society through existing assessment methodologies and approaches. These methodologies will be implemented in complementarity so that the National Society is consistent in its preparedness to respond to shocks, thereby improving risk reduction and community resilience. This includes strengthening preparedness for the most commonly encountered disaster risks in Burundi.

The National Society aims to scale up humanitarian action and risk reduction, integrating cash transfers into intervention operations, enhance the capacity of the National Society in preparedness and capacity-building processes, and ultimately strengthen the leadership of the National Society in the field of humanitarian law. Efforts also include the establishment and operationalization of response teams at all levels, as well as the pre-positioning of strategic stocks of equipment and non-food item (NFI) kits for emergency response.

Other objectives of the National Society include:

- Support communities to take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards
- Meet the [needs of people](#) affected by crises and disasters through access to timely, adequate, and flexible in-kind assistance and support that strengthens their capacity to act

- Provide food security and livelihood support to people affected by crises and disasters
- Provide multi-purpose cash grant support to people affected by crises and disasters
- Respond effectively to the wide range of evolving crises and disasters, and leverage its role as auxiliaries in emergency response
- Develop its leadership in the field of disaster law and improve the official/legal recognition of its auxiliary role
- Establish and operate a system of financial inclusion in the community through savings and loan groups and promote cash transfers as a means of assistance to the vulnerable

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the National Society consists of technical and financial support for the implementation of a community readiness programme, resource mobilization to implement the preparedness and readiness and zero-hunger initiatives, implementation of cash assistance and development of the use of mobile money, mobilize resources for response through Movement funding mechanisms, among other areas of relevant intervention.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2024, IFRC provided a DREF allocation for floods and landslides, as well as emergency appeal support for the Mpox epidemic.

The **Belgian Red Cross (Flemish community)**, the **Belgian Red Cross (French community)**, the **Finnish Red Cross**, the **French Red Cross** and the **Luxembourg Red Cross**, will provide the National Society with technical and financial support in the implementation of disaster risk reduction and emergency management interventions.

Planned activities in 2026

- Maintain response teams at the national level (NDRT), at the provincial level (BDRT), at the municipal level (CDRT) and at the hill level (LDRT) in addition to scaling up and operationalizing response teams across all domains and levels
- Develop and translate into local languages appropriate tools (IEC/training/manual/guide) on disaster risk reduction for use by the National Society staff as well as communities
- Support smallholder farmers, through climate-smart anticipatory action, including technical support and complementary resources (e.g. seeds, tools, stocks) and support communities to improve the storage and management of seeds, seedlings and harvests
- Safeguard livelihoods to help vulnerable communities protect and adapt their livelihoods, diversify food production and nutritional intake



Volunteers of the Burundi Red Cross conduct door-to-door awareness-raising in Ruyigi district, Burundi, to inform communities about the Mpox epidemic, its risks, and prevention measures (Photo: IFRC)



The major health-related challenge faced by [Burundians](#) is the persistence of endemic diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. Despite remarkable efforts made by health stakeholders, the health situation in the country continues to remain precarious. The health profile is also increasingly marked by the emergence of non-communicable diseases, including hypertension, diabetes, cancers, trauma and mental health conditions. At a national level, maternal mortality ranges from 500 to 740 deaths per 100,000 live births. Burundi remains far from the 2030 SDG targets for maternal and neonatal mortality.

The leading cause of morbidity and mortality remains [malaria](#), with an incidence of 537 per cent. In addition, Burundi faces a high rate of malnutrition with an estimated prevalence of chronic malnutrition of 55.8 per cent and overall acute malnutrition estimated at 4.8 per cent. Several provinces are currently classified as facing “serious” malnutrition (IPC Phase 3), and disease outbreaks such as measles and Mpox risk further aggravating the nutritional situation. Public health emergencies such as cholera, measles, polio and the Mpox epidemic pose significant threats to the country. From January 2022 to July 2024, more than 2067 cases of cholera have been reported. Cholera has since become endemic, with cases continuously reported since January 2023.

The most prevalent diseases in the country’s epidemiological profile are communicable diseases, which particularly affect the health of pregnant women and children, the most vulnerable population groups. Malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, diarrhoeal diseases, vaccine-preventable diseases, and acute respiratory infections are the most common communicable diseases in the country. Burundi has made progress in the HIV response, having reached the 95–95–95 targets, although the sustainability of these gains remains highly dependent on external financing. While the Burundi government has made commitments towards accelerating the achievement of all the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs), one of the main challenges in this strategic agenda is ensuring universal access to quality healthcare. Health insurance schemes have been introduced, including mandatory medical assistance cards for uninsured adults, but coverage and financing challenges persist.

Diseases with epidemic potential under surveillance include measles, cholera, meningococcal meningitis, malaria, acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), viral haemorrhagic fevers (Ebola, Lassa, and Marburg), and neonatal tetanus. The Mpox outbreak declared in 2024 remains under monitoring in 2025, with declining weekly case trends. The potential spread of these epidemics is tied closely to access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities, and population density.

[Results](#) from the Joint Monitoring Program for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) show that 80 per cent of

households nationwide have access to an improved water source for drinking, but only 61 per cent have access to such a source within 30 minutes of their homes. Access remains highly unequal between urban and rural areas, with rural communities facing greater distance and infrastructure constraints. The survey also shows gaps between rich and poorer households in getting adequate access to safe water, indicating existing inequalities between provinces. A report prepared by the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research showed that only 3,205 schools of 5,629 in the country had [water facilities](#). Many schools also lack basic sanitation facilities, disproportionately affecting girls’ attendance and retention. The unavailability of water in sanitation facilities presents risks of communicable diseases.

Burundi also faces a chronic shortage of safe blood for transfusions, driven by limited collection infrastructure, low numbers of regular voluntary donors, logistical constraints, and persistent myths around blood donation. Strengthening blood donation systems, medical staff capacity, and community awareness remains a critical public health need.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Burundi Red Cross is part of the [Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme](#) (CP3), a multi-country programme, with funding from USAID and technical support from IFRC, that supports communities, National Societies and other key partners to prevent, detect, and respond to disease threats. CP3 equips communities with the skills, knowledge, behaviours and tools to be the first line of defence against disease outbreaks. This approach aligns with the Burundi Red Cross vision that community health is the foundation for reducing vulnerability and enabling communities to become drivers of their own development. It strengthens National Societies’ ability to prepare for epidemics and pandemics through technical assistance, advocacy support and coordination. CP3 also foresees engagement of a wide range of stakeholders across society--including governments, media, religious groups and the private sector-- to collaborate on epidemic preparedness. The programme is adapted to each country’s health priorities, needs, risks and capacities, and complements existing national emergency response plans.

Further, the National 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. This work is complemented

by community-based prevention and management of endemo-epidemic and vaccine-preventable diseases, including cholera, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malnutrition and diarrhoeal diseases.

The Burundi Red Cross is also engaged in the Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP) through the IFRC. This global partnership including government, private sector, faith-based and humanitarian organizations, focuses on three main activities: coordination of partners involved in insecticide-treated net (ITN) campaign and continuous distribution activities; development of operational guidance for planning and implementing of ITN distribution based on an iterative process; and providing technical assistance to national malaria programmes and partners based on requests. Capacity building of health actors and volunteers through professional training remains a cross-cutting priority across these initiatives.

The main objectives of the National Society include:

- Leverage its auxiliary role to position itself in relevant national platforms and mechanisms for public health strategy, advocacy, and policy
- Protect and improve the health and well-being of communities through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate and quality health services across their life course
- Maintain the health and dignity of communities in emergencies and epidemics through access to appropriate health services
- Improve communities' access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally friendly water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, especially during emergencies
- Strengthen community-based health approaches, including the scaling up of the "Model Household (MM)" approach, participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation, promotion of voluntary blood donation, and the establishment of community hygiene and sanitation committees
- Operationalize prevention and disease management teams and implement actions arising from the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) evaluation to ensure readiness for health emergencies

Planned activities in 2026

- Revitalize specialised teams on community disease prevention and management
- Establish and operationalize at the community level teams of volunteers specialized in prevention, community management, and community-based surveillance of diseases and other targeted health challenges
- Organize first aid activities at national events and other large-scale activities and continue training for institutional drivers on basic first aid
- Strengthen and promote community-based solutions in health emergency preparedness and response
- Sensitization of target households for the correct use of locally produced food for the prevention and community management of malnutrition
- Strengthen communities' behaviour through the full implementation of a participatory approach to hygiene and sanitation transformation
- Improve access to drinking water through the construction and management of water infrastructure
- Implement WASH intervention with the country support platform (CSP) of the Global Task Force on Cholera Control

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in scaling up and improving the quality of health and water facilities and hygiene and sanitation services at the community level, during both emergency and non-emergency situations. The IFRC continues to provide financial and technical support to the National Society to scale up its interventions in the health sector and effectively serve humanitarian needs in Burundi while keeping global best practices as a guide. It will also assist the National Society with the implementation of WASH interventions in line with the Global Task Force on Cholera Control's Country Support Platform (CSP).

Implementation of community health projects will be carried out with the technical and financial support of the **Belgian Red Cross (Flemish community)**, the **Belgian Red Cross (French community)**, the **Finnish Red Cross**, the **French Red Cross**, and the **Luxembourg Red Cross**.



The reasons for population movement in Burundi are manifold. In 2025, population movements are driven by a combination of migration flows, internal displacement, refugee inflows, population growth and natural disasters. The three highest categories of need for emergency assistance in the country according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) include returnees in need of immediate or transitional assistance packages. The second includes internally displaced persons, more than 80 per cent of whom have been affected by the disaster. In 2025, floods, strong winds and other climate-related shocks continued to drive new internal displacement.

At the beginning of 2024, there were tens of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Burundi mainly as a result of floods and landslides caused by the El Niño phenomenon. According to the [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#), the main causes of displacement include natural disasters such as floods and landslides, and ongoing conflicts in the country. The most affected areas are those prone to natural disasters, particularly in the provinces of Cibitoke, Bujumbura Rural, and Rumonge. These areas have seen an increase in displacement due to heavy rains and subsequent flooding.

In addition, 258,837 Burundians have [sought refuge in neighbouring countries](#), including Tanzania, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo as a result of the conflicts that Burundi has experienced in its recent history. Despite efforts to facilitate voluntary repatriation, the number of returnees remains modest due to ongoing concerns about security and economic opportunities in their countries of origin. In Tanzanian refugee camps, particularly Nduta and Nyarugusu, an estimated 800 births per month contrast sharply with only around 800 returnees over four months in early 2025, reflecting low reintegration prospects. Those who have returned face significant challenges in reintegrating into their communities, with many still lacking adequate housing, access to clean water and other basic services.

Burundi has also received a large influx of refugees from the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, with more than 71,000 Congolese refugees hosted mainly in Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces and granted *prima facie* refugee status by the government. Environmental degradation and climate change have exacerbated the displacement crisis. Unpredictable weather patterns, including severe droughts and floods, have not only displaced people but have also impacted agricultural productivity, putting additional pressure on the country's resources. Transit centres have been established to receive refugees, but the scale of arrivals has strained reception capacity and resources, despite humanitarian assistance including food and health support.

Efforts are also being made to facilitate the voluntary return of IDPs to their communities of origin, with reintegration and economic support programmes.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The National Society's objectives for the coming years are to:

- Ensure that migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points in migration routes, as well as to durable solutions where appropriate, including support for integration and reintegration of returnees while ensuring assistance also reaches host communities
- Engage with migrants, displaced people, and host communities to better assess, understand and respond to their priority needs
- Promote protection actions for people affected by emergencies and the impacts of climate change
- Develop initiatives that strengthen adaptation to climate-related crises and shocks

Planned activities in 2026

- Support people affected by migration movements for effective and resilient socio-economic reintegration
- Scale up [Restoring Family Links \(RFL\)](#) actions at all levels
- Create [humanitarian service points](#) that provide useful and current information, such as referrals, assistance services, and toll-free numbers to people on the move
- Rely on the free call service of the National Society to inform migrants and displaced persons about the support structures put in place
- Promote social cohesion by engaging with host communities and participating in coordination mechanisms with other stakeholders
- Support the establishment and operationalization of feedback mechanisms for migrants and displaced persons

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to provide guidelines for (emergency) operations in population movement contexts. It will further support the National Society to conduct and integrate a migration and displacement needs assessment into its new strategic planning. This assistance will be in addition to

the development of joint plans with partner National Societies and funding proposals to support refugees and returnees in the sub-region.

The Burundi Red Cross works in close collaboration with several Partner National Societies. The **Belgian Red Cross–Flanders** provides monetary assistance and supports the Population and Livelihoods Framework (PLF), while the **Belgian**

Red Cross (French-speaking/Francophone) supports the construction of shelters for returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The **Finnish Red Cross** contributes to emergency preparedness and response capacities. The **French Red Cross** supports pre-positioning of relief items to enable rapid response to emergencies. The **Luxembourg Red Cross** also supports the construction of shelters for returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).



Values, power and inclusion

Efforts are being made to promote gender equality, with policies to increase women's representation in the public and private sectors. However, persistent inequalities and patriarchal norms continue to limit women's access to economic and political opportunities. Burundian society remains strongly rooted in cultural, family and religious values, with Christianity playing a central role in shaping social norms and behaviours. The significant number of internally displaced persons and returnees in the country presents the risks of exploitation and gender-based violence. Gender-based violence (GBV) and human trafficking remain major challenges in the country. While sexual-based gender violence and gender-based violence continue to affect women and girls, adult boys and young men in the country's eastern provinces are exposed to work disproportionate to their age on plantations and small landholdings. In 2024, the protection situation in Burundi is marked by several challenges and initiatives aimed at improving the security and rights of citizens. Protection issues mainly concern human rights, child protection, gender-based violence, and the protection of displaced persons. Burundi has also faced criticism for human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and restrictions on freedom of expression, although efforts are underway to strengthen judicial reforms and cooperation with international human rights bodies.

The reproductive health of women and girls, their empowerment and their participation in the labour market remain problematic. Despite the critical role they play in ensuring food security, women still face inequitable access to productive assets, such as land ownership. This is reinforced in situations where displacement is a factor. These situations can provoke negative coping strategies and increase the risk of gender-based violence and human trafficking. According to IOM data, more than half of identified trafficking cases are also gender-based violence survivors. Approximately one in three women in Burundi is estimated to experience physical or sexual violence in her lifetime, with underreporting linked to stigma and fear of reprisals.

Children in Burundi are exposed to a variety of risks, including child labour, malnutrition, and sexual exploitation. According

to the coordinator of the "Nkingira Nkure Neza" project of SOS Children's Village in Burundi, only 62.3 per cent of children have a birth certificate, and child labour concerns 30.6 per cent of them. The child protection system suffers from limited resources and insufficient capacity to respond effectively to the needs of vulnerable children. Government and partner-led initiatives aim to expand access to basic education, health care for children under five, maternity services, and community-based child protection mechanisms, though service quality remains uneven.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Burundi Red Cross aims to bring about positive change in communities through a broader understanding, ownership, and practical application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles. This will be done with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of young people. In order to ensure dignity, access, participation, and safety to people of all identities, the National Society will implement its gender and diversity policy and demonstrate tangible progress. The National Society aims to empower vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals and communities by influencing decisions that directly affect them. In parallel, the National Society will revitalize teams specialized in the peaceful management of conflicts, particularly during electoral periods, and document and promote good practices in conflict prevention and resolution in line with recognized reference frameworks.

- Contribute to positive change in communities through a better understanding, ownership, dissemination, and application of fundamental principles and humanitarian values, with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of young people
- Promote and support safe, equitable, and continuous access to quality education for all, especially for boys and girls affected by disaster, crisis, or displacement
- Continue to act as a safe and inclusive network, ensuring the dignity, access, participation and safety of people of all identities

- Empower vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals and communities to influence decisions that affect them and trust the IFRC network to serve their best interests
- Strengthen protection actions by mainstreaming all protection dimensions across programmes, including the generalization, training and revitalization of specialized teams for the prevention and management of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)
- Update the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) manual with mandatory protection and accountability indicators to be integrated into all projects and programmes
- Implement actions to manage migratory movements through Restoring Family Links (RFL) and Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) mechanisms
- Integrate prevention and care activities for survivors of SGBV into all projects and programmes
- Organise annual youth forums and competitions for the promotion of humanitarian values and principles on youth-focused platforms
- Rely on trusted community communication channels, including the National Society's Humanitarian Appeal Hotline, to maintain transparent communication with communities and other stakeholders in the programmes and projects

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the National Society to actively implement the IFRC's Gender and Diversity Policy, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy, and an action plan to apply prevention and support to survivors. In addition, it will also support the National Society to integrate and institutionalize community engagement and accountability into their policies, operations, and procedures.

The **Belgian Red Cross (Flemish community)**, the **Belgian Red Cross (French community)**, and the **Finnish Red Cross** will further contribute to the Burundi Red Cross Society's priorities.

Planned activities in 2026

- Organise integrated training sessions for staff and volunteers on Safer Access, community engagement and accountability (CEA), prevention and response to sexual exploitation (PSEA), and emergency response framework (ERP)
- Strengthen CEA through the implementation of feedback mechanisms and mechanisms for inclusive community listening and actions supported by local expertise
- Generalize the establishment, training, and revitalization of specialized teams for the prevention and management of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Burundi Red Cross is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process twice, once in 2012 and again 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 Burundi Red Cross is also committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) process and is in the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen its cooperation and coordination with external partners to address key challenges faced by communities
- Improve the coordination of members to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action, and shift the mindset towards a Federation-wide approach that builds trust within the network



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
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- PSEA Action Plan

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will coordinate with the National Society to popularize its existing policies in all branches. It will also support the National Society in the Agenda for Renewal and coordinate the Unified Plan process.

The Partner National Societies contributing to the implementation of interventions under this priority are the **Belgian Red Cross–Flanders**, the **Belgian Red Cross (French-speaking)**, the **Finnish Red Cross**, the **French Red Cross**, the **Luxembourg Red Cross**, and the **Spanish Red Cross**.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue to work as a network of relevant local organizations that are trusted partners of choice for local humanitarian action and have the capacity to act within the global network
- Prioritize the development of volunteerism and youth action as key enablers of behaviour change and local action, ensuring access, and nurturing trust in all contexts

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide the National Society technical support for the conducting of a study on the perception of the National Society, and it will also support the strengthening of integrity and reputational risk mechanisms. Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society in organizing BOCA in several branches.

The Partner National Societies supporting these actions include the **Belgian Red Cross–Flanders**, which provides basic cost support, capacity building, and domestic resource mobilization through commercial first aid services; the **Belgian Red Cross (French-speaking)**, which supports basic costs, capacity building, and domestic resource mobilization through income-generating activities; the **Finnish Red Cross**, which contributes to basic cost support, capacity building, domestic resource mobilization through income-generating activities, and structural strengthening through the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment approach; the **French Red Cross**, which supports basic costs, capacity building, and domestic resource mobilization through commercial first aid services; the **Luxembourg Red Cross**, which provides support for basic costs and capacity building through infrastructure construction; and the **Spanish Red Cross**, which focuses on the development of volunteering.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Promote its image and advocate for change, influence public behaviour, policies, and decisions at the national, regional, and global levels
- Adopt a strategic and evidence-based approach to humanitarian diplomacy (HD)
- Strengthen community participation and engagement through communication strategies, community feedback mechanisms, and PMER tools integrating accountability to affected people (ACE) indicators across projects

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide financial and technical support to the National Society to ensure that the National Society is respected and recognized as a neutral and impartial humanitarian actor and is effectively positioned to promote values, policies, and legislation in support of humanitarian action. The IFRC will further assist with the development of advocacy reports/policy briefs on humanitarian diplomacy, gather data to develop analyses that support the case for HD, and create key messages for humanitarian diplomacy issues.

The Partner National Societies supporting these activities are the **Belgian Red Cross–Flanders**, which supports the *Café d'amitié* initiative; the **Belgian Red Cross (French-speaking)**, which implements the *Friendship Café*; and the **Finnish Red Cross**, which also supports the *Friendship Café* initiative.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Function as an accountable global network
- Strengthen financial and asset accountability through risk management measures, insurance coverage of infrastructure and assets, and updated basic cost coverage procedures
- Undergoes a digital transformation
- Strengthen and operationalize digital systems, including staff movement control and a roadmap for digital transformation based on a self-assessment
- Use innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate, adapt to, and modify complex challenges and opportunities
- Improve operational sustainability through rehabilitation of key infrastructure and enhanced profitability of income-generating activities (IGRs)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will contribute to providing technical and financial support to the National Society for the Volunteer Management System. It will also support the National Society to have functional data management systems that inform decision-making and support monitoring and reporting of impact and evidence of IFRC network contributions.

The Partner National Societies supporting **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)** and **Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)** are the **Belgian Red Cross-Flanders**, the **Belgian Red Cross (French-speaking)**, the **Finnish Red Cross**, the **French Red Cross**, and the **Luxembourg Red Cross**, while the **Spanish Red Cross** supports **digital transformation**.



Ruyigi Red Cross volunteers display Mpx awareness posters at the Rusengo zone office near Ruyigi, Burundi, to inform communities about the risks of the epidemic (Photo: IFRC)

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Burundi Red Cross from its Country Cluster Delegation based in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. It primarily provides support to the Burundi Red Cross in strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. This includes reinforcing its auxiliary role to the public authorities. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Burundi Red Cross through numerous Emergency Appeals and [Disaster Response Emergency Fund](#) (DREF) operations in relation to [floods](#) and [landslides](#), as well as emergency appeal support for the [Mpox epidemic](#). The IFRC also provides technical support to the Burundi Red Cross for a broad range of other services.

The IFRC is a long-standing and privileged partner of the Burundi Red Cross and has recently strengthened its presence

through the deployment of three staff members, including one in charge of programmes and humanitarian diplomacy, one responsible for anticipatory action, and a driver. IFRC support has increasingly focused on disaster response, anticipatory action, risk communication, community engagement, and capacity building for Community Engagement and Accountability. Ongoing support from the IFRC Secretariat includes initiatives to strengthen Community Engagement and Accountability with financial support from the Japanese Red Cross, National Society Development through the IFRC Capacity Building Fund and National Society Investment Alliance mechanisms, support to the IFRC Alert Centre initiative including disaster risk reduction and use of the Common Alerting Protocol, as well as organizational development support funded through the Capacity Building Fund.

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 **Belgian Red Cross (Flemish community)** has supported the National Society in disaster preparedness and response, first aid, blood donations; water, sanitation and hygiene; community resilience building, humanitarian protection, and National Society development in the areas of communication and resource mobilization.

The **Belgian Red Cross (French community)** has supported the National Society in community health; water, sanitation

and hygiene; disaster risk reduction, nutrition, community resilience, social peace and cohesion, humanitarian protection, the socio-economic reintegration of returnees and other vulnerable people, National Society development in terms of strengthening operational structures and mobilization of resources.

The **Finnish Red Cross** has provided support in community health; water, sanitation and hygiene; nutrition and food security, social cohesion and disaster response. It is also collaborating with the Burundi Red Cross on programmes currently under development on sexual and reproductive health.

The **French Red Cross** is currently exploring potential support for the Burundi Red Cross in the areas of health, nutrition, disaster risk reduction and migration.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has worked with the Burundi Red Cross on nutrition, food security, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and social cohesion.

Movement coordination

The Burundi Red Cross 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](#).

In Burundi, **the ICRC** repairs water and sanitation systems, restores family links, and reunites families. It works with prison

authorities to ensure that detainees are treated according to internationally recognized standards and supports training in international humanitarian law for the armed forces. In addition, the ICRC supports the Burundi Red Cross in the areas of community health, mental health, first aid, protection, restoring family links and migration. It also supports National Society development in the areas of safer access, humanitarian diplomacy and resource mobilization.

Coordination with other actors

As an auxiliary of the Government, the Burundi Red Cross continues to maintain cooperative relations and carry out various activities with its various partners within the framework of these special agreements. Among them are the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Education. In addition, the Burundi Red Cross continues to be a member of several national and regional centres, such as the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, the Protection Sector Platform and the Health Group.

The Burundi Red Cross continues to work closely with the Civil Protection within the framework of the existing Memorandum of Understanding with the National Society. It also has strong partnerships with United Nations organizations and Technical and Financial Partnerships (TFPs):

- World Food Programme (WFP): WFP supported the Burundi Red Cross through the Early Warning and Foresight (EBF) Financing Pilot Project. The main objective of this project is to strengthen the Burundi Red Cross as an important member of early warning and emergency

response to disasters, especially floods. This project has thus contributed to the strengthening of disaster management at the national level. The capacity-building initiative was part of an international pilot project of the IFRC/WFP partnership aimed at strengthening the capacities of local communities.

- UNICEF: is a strong partner of the Burundi Red Cross, as it is one of UNICEF's key partners in the implementation of sanitation, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE). UNICEF continues to work closely with the Burundi Red Cross in emergency interventions in the distribution of drinking water.
- The International Office for Migration (IOM): is supporting the Burundi Red Cross in a disaster risk reduction (DRR) project, which aims to strengthen community resilience by strengthening disaster risk management systems. This has increased branch capacity, strengthened the regional network structure, and developed emergency response plans in each region of the country.



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

About the plan

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

Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

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

Additional information

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

Contact information

Burundi Red Cross [burundi-red-cross](#)

Ariel Kestens

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation
for DRC, Congo, Rwanda & Burundi,
Kinshasa
T +41-79-955 4312
ariel.kestens@ifrc.org

Louise Daintrey

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

Sumitha Martin

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