



# GABON

## 2026-2027 IFRC network country plan



6 February 2026

### In support of the Gabonese Red Cross Society



**9**

National Society branches



**54**

National Society local units



**35**

National Society staff



**3,835**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



**290,000**

Climate and environment



**280,000**

Disasters and crises



**350,000**

Health and wellbeing



**3,000**

Migration and displacement



**280,000**

Values, power and inclusion

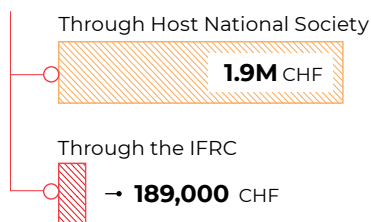
### IFRC network Funding Requirement

**2026**

**Total 20.1M CHF**

**2027**

**Total 20.1M CHF**



### IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAAGA002**

## Hazards



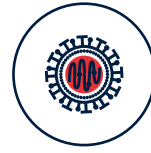
Rising temperatures



Floods



Violent winds



Diseases



Food insecurity

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Longer term needs

- Climate change adaptation
- Community-based health and immunization
- Disaster risk management

#### Capacity development

- Branch strengthening
- Information management
- Resource mobilization
- Volunteer management

### Key country data links

**INFORM Severity rating**

**Medium**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index**

**Medium**

**Human Development Index rank**

**108**

**World Bank Population figure**

**2.5M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line**

**33%**



Heavy rainfall in November 2024 caused flooding in Gabon, affecting 2,680 families, with Red Cross teams providing assistance (Photo: Gabonese Red Cross)

## Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
<b>Longer-term needs</b>				
Climate and environment	320,000	32,000	320,000	32,000
Disasters & crises	500,000	50,000	500,000	50,000
Health & wellbeing	580,000	58,000	580,000	58,000
Migration & displacement	70,000	7,000	70,000	7,000
Values, power & inclusion	320,000	32,000	320,000	32,000
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	100,000	10,000	100,000	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,890,000</b>	<b>189,000</b>	<b>1,890,000</b>	<b>189,000</b>

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

## NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Gabonese Red Cross Society** was founded in March 1996 and recognized by the Government of the Gabonese Republic as a voluntary relief society, of public utility, and as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1999. The National Society always acts in accordance with the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and is inspired in its actions by the principles of International Humanitarian Law and its status as an auxiliary to the public authorities. The Gabonese Red Cross Society is present throughout the national territory, with 9 National Society branches, 54 staff, and a network of 3,587 volunteers.

The Gabonese Red Cross Society's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 is aligned with the IFRC Strategy 2030 and incorporates national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals. Its dual strategic objectives are to build a National Society which is efficient, competitive, proactive, and innovative, and to establish a network of health, environment, crises, and disaster management preparedness and response which is creative, operational, and corresponds to the needs of the community by relying on the National Society's network of volunteers, both on intergenerational and intercultural level.

The Gabonese Red Cross Society maintains strong relationship with the representatives of the Government and other humanitarian and development organizations working in the country. The essential services that the National Society provides to vulnerable communities include the following:

- Community health training and first aid in workplaces and public events and provides life-saving support in the case of accidents accompanied by ambulance service
- Disaster risk reduction by preparing the community to effectively respond to natural hazards and health emergencies
- Humanitarian assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants, victims of conflicts, floods, and landslides. In situation of conflict, natural hazards, and migration, the National Society works on restoring family links



Map of the Gabon 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

- Ensuring access to drinking water and access to adequate means of hygiene and sanitation by promoting safe practices in water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Community health preparedness through such interventions as epidemic surveillance and response and management of sexually transmitted diseases in the country
- Promote the reinforcement of the social status of vulnerable groups and provide services for people living with disabilities
- Promote youth leadership through youth training in civics and citizenship, and promote youth volunteering in various Gabonese Red Cross activities, aimed at encouraging and maintaining healthy lifestyles among young people.

In 2024, the Gabonese Red Cross Society reached 16,000 people through water, sanitation and hygiene services.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Located in Central Africa, Gabon is a country that has significant natural resources. With a coastline on the Atlantic Ocean, it is bordered by Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and the Republic of Congo. Despite its vast area which is mainly forested, Gabon has more than [2.4 million](#) inhabitants as of 2023. Nearly 85 per cent of Gabon's territory is covered by tropical forests, giving the country one of the highest forest cover rates in the world and a relatively low population density.

Gabon's level of urbanization is one of the highest in Africa, with more than 80 per cent of its population residing in urban areas. The two main cities, Libreville and Port-Gentil, are home to nearly 59 per cent of the inhabitants. Youth is a distinctive feature of the country's demography: half of the population is under 20 years old, while the fertility rate in urban areas is four children per woman, it rises to six in rural areas. This demographic structure represents both a development opportunity and a challenge, particularly in terms of access to education, employment, and basic social services.

A pioneer in ecology, Gabon is actively working to protect its rainforest, making it a net carbon sinker. It acts as a champion of carbon neutrality initiatives. Its diverse ecosystem offers fertile soils, abundant coastal resources and fisheries. However, despite its economic potential, the country is struggling to translate its resource wealth into sustainable and inclusive growth.

Under the leadership of Omar Bongo, who became president in 1967, Gabon was transformed into a one-party state, dominated by the Gabonese Democratic Party. The 1990s were a watershed moment for the nation, marking the transition to a multiparty system. This transition has been marked by many political reforms. President Ali Bongo Ondimba succeeded

his father Omar Bongo Ondimba in 2009 and was re-elected in August 2016 in a highly controversial election marked by a relatively low turnout (59 per cent). Legislative and municipal elections held in 2018 saw a large victory for the PDG who retained his two-thirds majority in the National Assembly.

Despite having won a third term in the 2023 general elections, Ali Bongo was [deposed](#) on August 30, 2023, following a military intervention orchestrated by the Committee for the Transition and Restoration of Institutions (CTRI). Brigadier General Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema was appointed president of the Gabonese transition. At the beginning of this period, several institutions, including the Senate, the National Assembly and the Constitutional Court, were temporarily suspended, then reorganized around a charter drawn up with the president of the transition. One of the objectives of this phase is the revision of the constitution in a national dialogue, which will be adopted through a referendum. Elections will be considered under a new constitution at the end of the transition. A presidential election is scheduled for April 12, 2025, marking the final phase of the transition process. The latter is expected to be completed in August 2025.

The growth of the Gabonese economy slowed in 2023, to 2.3 per cent from 3.0 per cent in 2022. The slowdown in growth is mainly due to lower wood and manganese production resulting from the combined effect of high fuel costs, lower demand for wood in Asian markets and the temporary halt in exports due to disruptions on the rail network at the end of 2022. Despite a decline in world oil prices, government revenues have benefited from higher oil production and the implementation of reforms to improve domestic revenue mobilization. This additional revenue was nevertheless absorbed by the strong pressure on public spending, particularly that related to the organization of the August 2023 elections and to the lifting of the freeze on recruitment in the civil service, resulting in a slight increase in the budget deficit. In 2024, economic growth rebounded to approximately 2.9 per cent, driven by accelerated infrastructure projects and increased production

of oil, manganese, and timber, though the fiscal deficit widened further due to rising public expenditure.

Gabon's economic recovery is expected to continue in the medium term despite the decline in oil production expected from 2025 onwards due to the maturation of oil fields. The mining, timber and agriculture sectors would then be the new engines of Gabonese growth. New mining developments, including the start of production at the Belinga iron ore mine in 2024, are expected to contribute to future growth.

Political risk has decreased since the coup and the sanctions imposed by ECCAS have been lifted since March 9, 2024. However, the risk of instability remains, and investor confidence remains fragile, which could have a negative impact

on the country's economic outlook, especially in the event that a late return to constitutional order triggers new sanctions. The high expectations raised by regime change are reflected in strong spending pressures that could ultimately impact the sustainability of public finances. Structural challenges persist, including high inequality and poverty, with approximately one-third of the population living below the national poverty line, particularly in rural and remote areas.

In addition, Gabon faces growing climate-related risks such as coastal flooding, erosion, and extreme weather events, and experiences regional economic migration from neighbouring countries, though it does not face significant internal displacement.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Given its geographical location, hydrographic layout, and the fact that the majority of its population and economic activities are concentrated in the country's coastal areas, Gabon is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The country has been classified as a medium risk country in the INFORM Climate Change Risk Index.

Precipitation is abundant, ranging from 1,500 millimetres (mm) to 3,500 mm per year and spread almost throughout the year. Gabon's climate is influenced by the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and the northeast trade winds from the high Sahara Desert as well as the humidity stemming from the ocean on its western coast.

Gabon is expected to experience adverse impacts of climate change throughout the country and across key sectors. Rising temperatures, rising sea levels, and changing rainfall patterns are putting considerable pressure on vulnerable groups and the urban infrastructure in Gabon. Visible signs of climate change include annual variation in crop yield, increased numbers of deaths of chronic patients, a longer touristic season and the potential development of new touristic destination due to change in local climate. Rising sea level is particularly a concern for cities such as Gentil which is situated only 4 metres above sea level.

Gabon has 22 million hectares of forest and just one million hectares of arable agricultural land. Northern Gabon is a prime location for rubber plantations, and the sector has increased markedly in recent years. Gabon's agricultural sector is particularly vulnerable to climate change and remains relatively underdeveloped and with farms predominately at

subsistence level. The sector's vulnerability to climate change is of distinct concern to the country, especially as an estimated 5 per cent of the heavily forested country is arable and currently used for plantation and subsistence farming. Moreover, being also highly dependent on rain-fed agriculture consequences rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns are an increasing threat.

Climate change will pose numerous direct impacts and increasing risks to the country's population health. More frequent occurrences of heat waves will pose a serious threat to human health, particularly for highly vulnerable groups: elderly and chronically ill. Major identified health risks for Gabon from climate variability are the projected increase in water-borne diseases. Projected increasing annual mean temperatures and the projected change annual mean temperature through the 2050s will impact human and animal health, as well as present more conducive environments for bacteria, pathogens and vector borne diseases. Warmer and drier conditions as projected by climate scenarios may favour the spread of diseases borne by food or water, such as diarrhoea and dysentery.

The Gabonese forest is the second largest forest ecosystem in the Congo Basin, with a total of 88 per cent of the country covered in rainforest, a factor largely attributed to the country's push towards ensuring low deforestation. With looming threats of climate change, the country's adaptation priorities include the protection of its coastal zone, agriculture, fisheries, and the forestry sector.

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

In the coming years, the Gabonese Red Cross Society will continue to align itself with Government efforts to address the climate and environmental crises in the country. The capacity building exercise of its staff and volunteers will also be accompanied by a systematic review of the National Society's efforts. It will carry out information, communication, and emergency actions with the populations of the communities to ensure that they are able to cope with the changing impacts of climate change and that they take ownership of the programmes to effectively combat climate risks.

The National Society aims to focus on key areas such as developing contingency plans that take into account climate change and its impact on target areas, work on climate change adaptation plans for areas most exposed to climate risks and increase its participation in national level coordination meetings on climate change adaptation and in the process of renewal and revision of the national climate change adaptation plan.

### Planned activities in 2026

- Conduct awareness campaigns in communities for behaviour change in the face of global warming
- Raise awareness among young people about biodiversity and climate change by training focal points in 50 Red Cross clubs and 50 schools

- Reach at least 10 per cent of the country's population with communication activities promoting behaviour change for the community
- Raise awareness through programmes such as One Student, One Tree to plant more than 50,000 trees in line with the [IFRC Pan-African Tree Planting and Care initiative](#)
- Create Coastal Community Resilience Clubs (Create alert and preparedness groups in coastal cities at risk with tools to monitor erosion, flooding and train in climate evacuations).

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC long-term support to the Gabonese Red Cross Society consists of disseminating branch-level climate forecasts and information on [climate-smart programming](#). It also supports the implementation of environmental and climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, reduction in plastic usage, as well as the establishment of climate-smart offices. The IFRC works to ensure that the Gabonese Red Cross Society is well represented and involved in climate change platforms at the national and regional levels and will ensure the participation of the National Society in various webinars and training on climate change. This targeted assistance helps in reducing the current and future humanitarian impacts of climate and environmental crises and helps people thrive in the face of these crises. The IFRC supports the National Society in integrating climate risk management into all the programmes, operations, and advocacy and enable the National Society to adopt better environmental management in its approaches.



Heavy rainfall in November 2024 caused flooding in Gabon, affecting 2,680 families, with Red Cross teams providing assistance (Photo: Gabonese Red Cross Society)



## Disasters and crises

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

Gabon is increasingly exposed to a range of natural hazards which includes extreme winds, seasonal flooding, and landslides. These natural hazards are particularly harmful to the country's agriculture, water, energy, oil, and mining sectors, leading to national emergencies such as food insecurity, unemployment, and rise in vector-borne diseases. In Gabon, approximately 21,000 people are affected each year by drought, with the numbers expected to increase due to extreme weather events in the short and medium term. Vulnerable groups, which include rural communities, poor and the elderly, are particularly susceptible to the impacts of natural hazards. Other risk areas in the country include industrial accidents, road accidents, and marine accidents.

[Floods](#) in Gabon typically affect around 0.33 per cent of the country's total population, posing significant challenges to the local economy. On an annual basis, flood-impacted areas contribute approximately 0.34 per cent to the national GDP, amounting to roughly 50 million USD. Furthermore, according to a [2019 report](#), an average of 25,000 people are impacted by droughts each year. However, with future climate projections, this number is expected to escalate to 3.4 per cent.

In May 2023, Gabon was [impacted](#) by torrential rain accompanied by violent winds in Francisville, the chief town of the Haut Ogooue province. The extreme weather affected families as well as public and private infrastructure, destroying schools, shops, and electricity poles. Nearly 3,000 people, or 500 households (with almost 200 homes destroyed or swept away) were affected by the violent winds and the rain.

Despite Gabon's susceptibility to natural hazards, many sectors within the country lack comprehensive risk assessments or strategic plans for climate risk adaptation. Gabon lacks a centralized national database for systematically collecting and analyzing data on disaster losses and impact. Recognizing the importance of increasing resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts, Gabon is actively working on developing scientific and technical expertise within disaster management agencies. At the operational level, the country's disaster department aims to strengthen its operational capacity and collaboration with various sectors to develop contingency plans and procedures for crisis management. The development of early warning systems is deemed crucial for enhancing Gabon's preparedness and resilience against potential disasters.

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

The Gabonese Red Cross Society continues to focus on strengthening operational capacities to respond to disasters

of all kinds and to train new first responders and provide them with adequate equipment for a better response capacity. The National Society will work towards consolidating a permanent disaster management team and will focus on establishing early warning systems and proactive actions to mitigate multi-hazard risks that affect the lives, livelihoods, homes, and living conditions of vulnerable communities. The National Society also aims to strengthen its collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior (in charge of civil protection) as an auxiliary to the public authorities.

The National Society also aims to create a nationwide network of first responders from a permanent central team and set up rescue teams in each branch. In order to enhance its response to crises, the National Society will strengthen collaboration with the disaster risk reduction agency and other organizations working in disaster management to conduct evacuation simulation and assistance exercises.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Support four target communities for the implementation of the community emergency plan developed in collaboration with local government, authorities and communities
  - Support small-scale water pipeline works and install flood drainage mechanisms in high-risk areas to be identified
  - Develop multi-hazard contingency plan followed by tabletop exercises in three targeted pilot communities
  - Provide direct support to 400 vulnerable households whose whole livelihoods have been affected by disaster
  - Create intervention brigades in each community, train the brigades in emergency relief and equip them with first aid kits
  - Establish an [early warning system](#)
  - Establishment a co-developed community emergency plan (Develop plans localized emergency plans with the communities and integrate them into the communal plans).
  - Install a "climate alert points" in markets and schools (Install solar light panels displaying the risk levels in real time, with pictograms accessible to all).
  - Create a "Safe Refuge Zones" in the areas (Creation of elevated spaces in villages (school grounds, central squares) equipped with temporary shelters, water, and emergency stocks to accommodate displaced people during floods).
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the Gabonese Red Cross Society consists of targeted assistance in areas such as crisis and disaster preparedness and in the development of funding proposals on disaster risk reduction. Among other things, it supports the management of the National Society's disaster management platform and facilitate peer-to-peer collaboration with disaster management units of other National Societies. The IFRC support ensures that the National Society is well represented and actively involved in disaster risk coordination platforms

and vulnerable and capacity assessment working groups at the regional, national, and local levels. In close collaboration with the National Society, the IFRC will continue to develop the right skills by building the capacity needed to respond to increasingly complex digital and urban humanitarian environments.

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.



## Health and wellbeing

According to the latest Global Health Security Index, Gabon is ranked 182nd out of 195 countries. Health problems in Gabon are mainly related to malaria, premature birth, acute respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS and diarrhoeal diseases, which are the main causes of death among children under five. The reports reveal that Gabon is also witnessing an increase in the prevalence of non-communicable diseases in the form of cardiovascular diseases, a high rate of diabetes, kidney failure and cancer. The country has faced outbreaks of viral diseases such as Ebola, chikungunya and dengue fever in the past, and has recently been affected by monkeypox.

Growing threats from climate change are accompanied by an increase in cases of waterborne diseases, including those related to flood waters during floods, eye and ear complications during droughts, and increased haze caused by dust storms in desert areas. These health problems are compounded by the fact that the country's health care infrastructure does not have sufficient operational capacity, the quality of health care is poor, essential medicines are scarce, and communities are not involved in managing health problems. Reducing maternal and child mortality and controlling communicable and noncommunicable diseases remain important areas of intervention for Gabon. Although childhood immunization coverage rates have improved over the years, there are significant gaps in the health care sector that require targeted interventions.

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

The Gabonese Red Cross Society will aim for gradual and sustainable improvement of the health conditions of vulnerable communities in the country in the years ahead. The focus areas in order to achieve this objective are strengthening the capacities of the National Society in the area of water, sanitation, and health ([WASH](#)), raising awareness and promoting positive behavioural changes in hygiene and prevention of communicable diseases, and establishing a system of functional mobile clinics ready to be deployed in the

event of an emergency or disaster (each clinic will be equipped with an ambulance, medicines, and first aid equipment). In order to improve services in water, health and sanitation, the National Society will work towards developing a defined and active strategy for WASH. The National Society will also strive to provide communities with access to safe and clean sanitation facilities.

The planned actions will support Gabon's national health priorities under the [PNDS 2024–2028](#) by operationalizing the Health and Community Participation Department, with the objective of empowering individuals and communities to actively protect, promote, and improve their health and well-being through strengthened community participation and capacity building by December 2028. In parallel, the establishment of an integrated surveillance system, including community-based surveillance, will contribute to improved universal health coverage by recognizing communities as key actors in the health system. These interventions will also support medium-term outcomes linked to itinerant medicine activities, enhancing outreach and access to health services in underserved areas.

### Planned activities in 2026

- Establish a [community-based surveillance system](#)
- Establish a community outbreak and pandemic alert system based on district focal points
- Support construction of 100 improved toilets and latrines for the most vulnerable communities
- Organize training of 10 trainers on mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) in selected districts
- Train 200 volunteers in psychosocial first aid in emergency situations
- Organize two blood donation campaigns in nine provinces

- Provide food, healthcare and shelter to elderly people abandoned by their families
- Carry out water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities and pre-position sanitation kits in different branches

These efforts will strengthen national systems in their efforts to protect the health workforce and comprehensively prevent and respond to vaccine-preventable diseases.

Other areas of IFRC support to the National Society include the implementation of health programmes, including epidemic and pandemic preparedness which contributes to the resilience of community health. It will help the National Society to strengthen its role as an auxiliary to the Ministry of Health and support capacity building initiatives in community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) as well as epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response.

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Gabonese Red Cross Society in the planning and implementation of the "Saving Lives and Livelihoods" initiative, phase II. As the National Society leads risk communication and community engagement to generate integrated demand for vaccines, the IFRC will continue to facilitate technical and operational guidance.



## Migration and displacement

For decades, Gabon has witnessed a vast migratory movement, driven by disasters and insecurity in neighbouring countries. In 2022, the country recorded a migration flow of nearly 300 migrants per month, which was preceded by the registration of a total number of 752,000 migrants in 2021. Due to the heavy influx of migrants in the country, Gabon is seeking financial assistance from its partners to adequately ensure the protection of vulnerable people within its territory. Newly displaced people have varying needs in host communities, often related to suitable employment, economic opportunities, and access to government infrastructures such as healthcare and education.

From among its migrant population, a large number consists of young people, trafficked for domestic and/or sexual exploitation, including young girls who are often exploited as domestic servants or are sold into prostitution networks. The Gabonese government has stated that it is making considerable efforts to curb exploitation in line with international minimum standards on human mobility and the fight against human trafficking.

Although Gabon is better known as a destination country for migrants, there is also emigration of Gabonese, especially students or qualified professionals who go abroad for educational or economic reasons. While the country does attract many foreign workers, there are also tensions related to the presence of immigrants. Foreigners are accused of taking local jobs, leading to sporadic episodes of xenophobia. On top of that, the impact of climate change could lead to population displacement in Gabon. Deforestation, mining, and changes in rainfall patterns can affect livelihoods, especially in rural areas, pushing people to migrate to cities.

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

The Gabonese Red Cross Society focuses on the specific needs of migrants and displaced people in Gabon and plays a key role in the protection and assistance of these populations. The National Society's objectives under migration include strengthening humanitarian assistance to migrant and displaced populations, promoting socio-economic integration of migrants and internally displaced people (IDPs), protection of vulnerable groups, improving living conditions in refugee camps and transit zones, advocating for the rights of migrants and refugees, and a range of other activities that cater towards the needs of migrants. While the National Society does not yet have a migration policy, its initiatives to support vulnerable migrants are integrated into other interventions as outlined.

The Gabon Red Cross is also a member of the Central African Regional Group on Migration which serves a framework for reflection and research, sharing of expertise and skills, exchange of information and experiences, capitalization and popularization of achievements, among others.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Improve access to quality healthcare and build resilience for displaced populations, refugees, and vulnerable host communities
- Develop National Society's migration policy
- Coordinate with other humanitarian actors working on refugees, displaced persons and migrants such as UNHCR, IOM, as well as national actors

- Establish a monitoring and early warning system to detect sudden migration flows or population displacements related to internal or external crises
- Develop evacuation and temporary resettlements plans for populations displaced due to natural disasters or conflicts
- Offer psychosocial services for refugees and displaced people to support their mental and emotional wellbeing during their stay in camps or transit zones
- Develop cross-border projects with Gabon's neighbouring countries to harmonize migration policies and strengthen migrant protection mechanisms
- Work towards the creation of a national and regional legal framework to protect the rights of migrants and internally displaced persons, in accordance with international conventions
- Launch public awareness campaigns to promote respect for migrants' rights, combat discrimination and strengthen national solidarity

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts in the development of its migration policy. The IFRC's support consists of financial and technical support to the National Society in its efforts to improve and increase its actions in the field of migration. This includes supporting the National Society's shelter efforts, ensuring PGI minimum standards in emergencies in emergencies, and establishing effective deployment of resources and information at humanitarian service points.

The IFRC will coordinate between the National Society and other humanitarian actors working on population movements, namely UNHCR and IOM, in order to better coordinate actions for displaced people, refugees and migrants. The National Society will also be supported for collaboration with the national services in charge of migration.



## Values, power and inclusion

Gender-based violence is widespread in Gabon and is mainly perpetrated by the relatives or families of survivors. According to UN Women, in 2018, 22% of women aged 15 to 49 reported experiencing physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, and 21.9% of women aged 20 to 24 were married or in a union before the age of 18. Although Gabon has ratified most international human rights treaties, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, inequalities between men and women persist in Gabon's economic, social, cultural and political spheres.

In Gabon, the enrolment rate of young children aged 6 to 15 is estimated at 94 per cent, according to the demographic and health survey. 65 per cent of young people aged 16 to 20 attend secondary school and 35 per cent of young people aged 21 to 24 attend various levels of general and higher education. An important priority for the country is to minimize the risks of illiteracy in the country. The survey also indicates that from secondary school onwards, the drop-out rate remains high among young people. The absence of vocational reintegration policies leads young people without education to negative coping mechanisms.

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

Since 2019, the Gabonese Red Cross Society has made gender and inclusion one of its main priorities, which led to the creation of a Gender and Diversity Department. In 2024 and ahead, the National Society will continue to promote gender and diversity, with a particular focus on institutionalization of protection, gender and inclusion in all operations, projects, and activities of the Gabonese Red Cross Society. In line with the National Society's Strategic Plan 2022-2026, the Gabonese Red Cross Society will focus on community care in order to prevent and protect vulnerable populations in the poorest neighbourhoods of the capital and the provinces.

The Gabonese Red Cross Society is also committed to community engagement and accountability (CEA) which is integrated into all its programs and operations. The National Society seeks to contribute to positive change in communities through a better understanding, ownership, and practical application of humanitarian values and the fundamental principles, with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of young people.

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## Planned activities in 2026

- Launch 10 awareness campaigns on sexual and gender-based violence in 50 schools across the country
- Promote the integration of protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in National Society activities
- Integrate communication, participation, and feedback/complaint mechanisms into the National Society's programmes and operations
- Conduct at least one survey on the perception of National Society volunteers and/or the community
- Implement an ERP policy to strengthen PGI across all areas of the National Society's interventions
- Establish a protection and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy to strengthen the prevention of gender-based violence and support survivors of abuse
- Set up a toll-free number for complaints, domestic emergencies, or abuses of any kind

- Establish and revitalize Red Cross clubs and monitor the activities of Red Cross clubs in schools
- Provide seed capital for income-generating activities for survivors of gender-based violence

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Gabonese Red Cross Society in its efforts to institutionalize community engagement and accountability, revise and improve its CEA strategy, and integrate CEA into all the National Society's programmes and operations. Community engagement and accountability will be integrated into responses to the National Society's initiatives under climate and environment, disaster management, health and wellbeing, migration and displacement. The IFRC also encourages the National Society to promote women in leadership positions and work with the National Society to allocate resources to youth-led programmes and put in place statutory policies and rules that are conducive to the active participation of young people in decision-making processes.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

As per its [Strategic Development Plan 2022-2026](#), the Gabonese Red Cross Society's first objective is to build a National Society which is efficient, competitive, proactive, and innovative. The National Society faces challenges pertaining to positioning, resource mobilization, capacity building for volunteers, institutional capacity building for managers, and financial management. The IFRC and network partners are committed to supporting the Gabonese Red Cross Society to become a stronger institution, in line with the priorities defined by the National Society.

The Gabonese Red Cross Society is also committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) 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. The main priority areas identified under the PER exercise were scenario planning, emergency response and planning (including hazard risk analysis), standard operating procedures, information management, IT, logistics and supply chain, monitoring and reporting, as well as staff and volunteer management.



### 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



## Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Organize workshops to develop a strategy and action plan for resource mobilization
- Enrol focal points and senior managers in high-level humanitarian coordination meetings and follow up with embassies, United Nations agencies, and donors
- Engage in sub-regional and regional exchanges and cooperation between National Red Cross Societies
- Increase its engagement and partnership with the Government, in line with its auxiliary role to public authorities
- Second government staff to the National Society to advance the priorities of the National Society
- Promote the National Society's resource mobilization plan

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** supports the National Society's efforts in increasing engagement in sub-regional and regional exchanges, and cooperation with other National Societies. It will support the efforts of the Gabonese Red Cross Society towards increasing engagement with internal and external stakeholders through either financial or technical guidance. The IFRC support also consists of expanding the National Society's engagements with regional and global communities of practice, technical working groups, coordination bodies, among others.

The IFRC also supports the National Society in developing and disseminating its indirect cost recovery policy and developing a coherent domestic resource mobilization strategy for financial sustainability.



## National Society development

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

- Develop a local mechanism to insure Gabonese Red Cross Society volunteers
- Develop/revise the Gabonese Red Cross Society youth policy by aligning it with the IFRC youth policy
- Strengthen the participation of young people in decision-making processes
- Open 30 clubs in the provinces of L'Estuaire, Moyen Ogooue, Haut Ogooue, and Woleu-Ntem
- Expand its network of volunteers and ensure their safety and security
- Put in place systems and procedures that ensure diversity and inclusion in the recruitment of volunteers to reflect their communities

- Organize a Volunteer Day Every 6 months in the Branches in order to promote the spirit of Volunteering in the Branches.
- Installation of 7 committees in the 10 departments in (Ogooué-Ivindo, Moyen Ogooué, Haut Ogooué, NGOUNIÉ).

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** supports the National Society in strengthening its planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER) capacities, and integrating these into services, programmes and operations. It works with the National Society in establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Promote the National Society's unified plan and resource mobilization plan
- Ensure effective visibility, communications, and representation to all key embassies
- Amplify its humanitarian work and engage with key actors to improve its visibility, through social media and traditional forms of media
- Develop a humanitarian diplomacy plan which prioritizes the National Society's objectives
- Undertake advocacy with traditional partners to support the search for new partners
- Create a website for the Gabonese Red Cross Society to enhance the National Society's reach and increase its visibility

- Acquire material means of communication and dissemination (laptop, camera, internet modem and software and software package licenses), necessary for a better execution of its activities;

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts in humanitarian diplomacy which includes providing the resources for the operationalization of the Gabonese Red Cross Society website to enhance the National Society's reach among the youth population and increase its visibility. The main objective is increasing the influence and widening the profile of the Gabonese Red Cross Society, and to obtain financial support for a better humanitarian response.



Heavy rainfall in November 2024 caused flooding in Gabon, affecting 2,680 families, with Red Cross teams providing assistance (Photo: Gabonese Red Cross Society)



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Develop an anti-fraud and corruption policy while training its administrative and financial managers in administrative and financial management and in the use of accounting and payroll tools
- Implement a human resource management policy to strengthen the National Society's accountability and agility
- Ensure that monitoring and evaluation results and outputs are achieved as planned and that data is disaggregated by sex and age group
- Undertake digital transformation
- Provide staff and volunteers with training on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)
- Ensure that a system of community engagement and accountability (CEA) is established to gather feedback and respond to questions raised about Red Cross operations in the country
- Train on personnel safety protocols, ensure access to the IFRC Integrity Line, and regularly assess and mitigate security risks.
- Develop or update an HR strategy aligned with the NS strategy and implement digital HR management systems to improve transparency and efficiency.
- Implement skills development plans, including technical training, leadership development, e-learning, and mentoring.

- Conduct an Organizational Inclusion Assessment, strengthen capacities through gender and inclusion training, and ensure equitable representation in leadership and decision-making.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** supports the National Society's efforts to build staff capacity in risk management. It will support the National Society in creating a risk management framework and improving planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) capacity. It will also assist the Gabonese Red Cross Society in publishing its annual reports and audited financial statements in the Federation's database and reporting system (FDRS). The IFRC is supporting the National Society in the joint implementation of a risk management plan.

The IFRC will continue to support the Gabonese Red Cross Society in putting in place human resources management procedures by applying a zero-tolerance policy towards behaviour that is incompatible with the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and other forms of harassment, abuse of authority, discrimination and lack of integrity (including the fight against fraud and corruption).

The IFRC also supports National Societies in the development of their staff by organising regular workshops and seminars and ensures that their skills and knowledge are updated through regular development initiatives, through the IFRC's free training platform and the curricula provided to National Societies in partnership with external organisations.

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## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

**The IFRC** supports the Gabonese Red Cross Society through its national delegation based in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Its support to the Gabonese Red Cross Society focuses on strategic and operational coordination, the development of

the National Society, and humanitarian diplomacy, including the strengthening of its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

## IFRC membership coordination

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

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Support to the Gabonese Red Cross Society by other National Societies is channelled through the IFRC, and there are no participating National Societies present in Gabon.

The Gabonese Red Cross Society also participates in the IFRC's [pan-African initiatives](#) focused on tree planting and maintenance, the Readiness and Preparedness programme and the development of National Societies. These initiatives are reflected in the relevant sections of this plan.

## Movement coordination

The Gabonese 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](#).

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**The ICRC** collaborates regularly with the National Society from its delegation in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The ICRC provides legal support to the National Society, as well as technical and financial support, and undertakes other cooperation and capacity-building activities.

## Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Gabonese Red Cross Society maintains close coordination with a range of ministries, departments and government bodies. It collaborates notably with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of National Education and Ministry of the Environment, in the areas of disaster preparedness and response, health, climate, community engagement and accountability, and institutional development.

The National Society also partners with UN agencies, such as WHO on health and community engagement and

accountability; and with UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP on health, climate, community engagement and accountability, and institutional development.

Other partnerships include: UNAIDS on health, community engagement and accountability, and institutional development; OCEAC on disaster preparedness and response, health, climate, community engagement and accountability, and institutional development; and with the Global Fund on health, and community engagement and accountability.



**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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