



ZAMBIA

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



20 March 2026

In support of the Zambia Red Cross Society



60

National Society branches



61

National Society local units



92

National Society staff



7,350

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



75,000

Climate and environment



150,000

Disasters and crises



150,000

Health and wellbeing



50,000

Migration and displacement



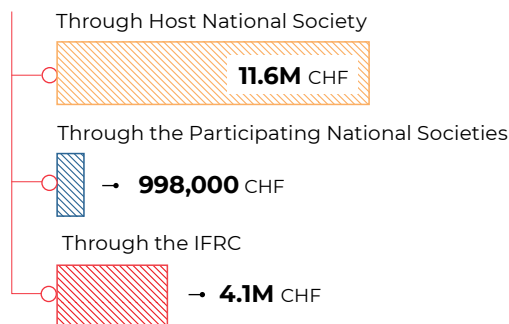
70,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 16.7M CHF



2027

Total 17.9M CHF

2028

4M CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross*

Red Cross of Monaco*

The Netherlands Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

**MDRS1003
(MDRZM023)**

African Regional
Mpox Epidemic

Longer-term needs:

MAAZM002

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

Hazards



Drought



Floods



Epidemics



Insect infestations



Cyclones

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Disease outbreak

Longer term needs

- Epidemics and pandemic preparedness and response
- Disaster risk reduction and response
 - Anticipatory action
 - Food insecurity

Capacity development

- Public advocacy
- Digital transformation
- Quality control and quality assurance

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

High

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Medium

Human Development Index rank

154

World Bank Population figure

21.3M

World Bank Population below poverty line

60%



Zambia Red Cross volunteers engage residents during a community session on cholera prevention in Mpulungu District (Photo: Zambia Red Cross Society)

Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027		2028
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC	IFRC
Ongoing emergencies		NA	<i>(Funding requirement for the Regional Mpox Emergency Appeal is not available)</i>		
Longer-term needs					
Climate and environment	647,000	1M	777,000	1M	1M
Disasters & crises	1.2M	1M	1.4M	1M	1M
Health & wellbeing	9.7M	1M	11.7M	1M	1M
Migration & displacement	22,000	100,000	27,000	100,000	100,000
Values, power & inclusion	5,000	200,000		200,000	200,000
Enabling local actors		763,000		700,000	700,000
Total	11.6M	4.1M	13.9M	4M	4M

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
Netherlands Red Cross	2026	998,000		-	568,000	-		-	429,000
	2027	47,000			47,000				

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Zambia Red Cross Society** is a humanitarian and developmental aid organization. It has been active in Zambia since the country's pre-independence days. Following independence in 1964, it was established by an act of Parliament as an independent voluntary aid organization and an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The National Society was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1967.

The National Society is present in all 10 provinces of Zambia with 60 local branches, and a vast network of volunteers enabling it to respond to emergencies wherever they arise. The National Society's role is recognized by the local population, authorities and other stakeholders. The Zambia Red Cross Society has more than 50 trained national disaster response teams spread across the country, and in the past four years has responded to disease outbreaks, population movement, floods, drought and food insecurity.

The Zambia Red Cross Society has been part of an IFRC cholera preparedness project since October 2020, with the

aim of strengthening communities' capacity and awareness in the cholera-prone areas of Mpulungu and Nsumbu in the north of the country. This has been key to helping the Zambia Red Cross Society generate awareness about cholera and safe hygiene practices, and in supporting communities within cholera hotspots to protect themselves in the event of an outbreak. The National Society also works closely with the Ministry of Health, focusing on risk communication and community engagement and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions in selected districts.

As per the National Society's recent Strategic Plan 2021-2025, activities of the National Society are identified and prioritized through proper assessment of the humanitarian needs of communities. The Zambia Red Cross Society engages communities and fosters their ownership of projects to ensure successful and sustainable implementation.

In 2024, the Zambia Red Cross Society reached approximately 590,000 people with its long term services and development programmes and 16,000 people with its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of Zambia Red Cross Society branches

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

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Zambia is a large, landlocked, resource-rich country in the centre of southern Africa. It shares borders with Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Zambia's land is sparsely populated and almost half of its population is urban. Zambia is one of the world's youngest countries by median age. Its population of about 20,8 million is growing rapidly at 2.8 per cent per year, resulting in an anticipated doubling of the population every 25 years. This is likely to put pressure on the demand for jobs, healthcare and other social services. The country experienced its first economic contraction since 1998 in 2020, with its GDP experiencing a fall of 1.7 per cent as COVID-19 pressed an economy already weakened by persistent droughts. The country is also prone to other recurring and threatening hazards, including floods and disease outbreaks.

According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023, an estimated 47.9 per cent of the population in Zambia is multidimensionally poor while an additional 23.9 percent is classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty. While poverty prevalence is generally higher in the rural and remote areas than in urban areas, the incidence of urban poverty is expected to rise in the future. This is due to the continuing growth of the urban population, outpacing the creation of employment and self-employment opportunities.

Politically, Zambia is considered a stable and peaceful country with successful democratic elections held every five years. However, there have been reports of pockets of violence during and after polls. Zambia's most recent presidential and general elections, held on 12 August 2021, saw a peaceful transition of power with the current president who is expected to govern the country for five years. The new government has introduced free education from primary to secondary levels and has employed additional teachers and health personnel across the country.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency Appeal name	Africa Regional Mpox Epidemic
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDRS1003 (MDRZM023)
People affected	9.2M
People to be assisted	1.38M
Duration	18 months (August 2024 to March 2026)
Funding requirements	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 30 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 40 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Africa – Regional Mpox Epidemic
Link to Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Link to Operational Update	Operational Update No. 4

In 2024, 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.

In October 2024, a confirmed Mpox case in Chitambo District highlighted the effectiveness of frontline health workers in early detection and response. In coordination with IFRC, the Zambia Red Cross Society launched targeted interventions in high-risk districts to strengthen surveillance, risk communication, and community engagement.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

During the early stages of the Mpox outbreak, the Zambia Red Cross Society concentrated its response efforts in districts located near border posts and major transit towns, given their higher risk of disease spread. Priority was given to districts that had already recorded confirmed cases, where trained volunteers conducted door-to-door sensitization campaigns to raise community awareness, promote preventive practices, and reduce misinformation.

The Zambia Red Cross Society reached over two million people through door-to-door sensitization, community meetings, radio programs, public announcements, and distribution of IEC materials. These efforts helped raise awareness on Mpox symptoms, transmission, and prevention. The National Society also trained healthcare workers and community-based volunteers to strengthen case detection, reporting, surveillance, and risk communication, while facilitating discussions to address concerns and encourage community-led action.

The following assistance was provided by the Zambia Red Cross Society:

Health & Care

Mobilized trained volunteers to strengthen epidemic preparedness, grassroots surveillance, and health promotion, reaching over a million people through public outreach. Despite progress, challenges in community-based surveillance and limited distribution of protective materials highlighted gaps. Feedback from communities guided improvements, including targeted nutrition support and water access. Moving forward, enhancing surveillance workflows, expanding household-level interventions, and improving feedback mechanisms remain key priorities.

Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)

Capacity building for volunteers was conducted in Kalumbila district, out of the six affected districts in the copper -belt and north-western provinces. A total number of 300 volunteers were trained in protection, gender and inclusion.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

Inclusive focus group discussions and community meetings were conducted in Sinazongwe District, engaging diverse groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and local leaders from community structures.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Zambia, like many other nations, is grappling with the profound and far-reaching impacts of climate change. The changing climate patterns and rising temperatures are exacting a toll on the country, affecting its diverse regions, vulnerable communities, and critical sectors. The negative consequences of climate change in Zambia are pervasive, encompassing agriculture, water resources, infrastructure, health, biodiversity, and the overall well-being of its people.

In the rural expanses of Zambia, impacts of climate change are more severe and visible. Erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells, droughts, and floods disrupt subsistence farming. Crop failures from flooding and inadequate soil moisture are leading to lower yields, increasingly causing concerns about food insecurity and poverty. Rural communities,

where most Zambians live and where rain-fed agriculture and livestock keeping dominate livelihoods, are particularly vulnerable to these climate shocks. Amid these challenges, vulnerable groups such as women, children and marginalized communities find themselves disproportionately affected by climate-induced hardships. Other categories include people with disabilities, refugees in refugee camps and those with chronic illnesses. Their limited access to resources and adaptive capacity renders them even more susceptible to the adverse impacts of changing weather patterns. Addressing climate change therefore requires adaptation and mitigation strategies that deliberately strengthen and empower these communities to prevent deepening inequalities.

The Zambian government through the Zambia Meteorological Department shared the 2023-2024 seasonal forecast. The prediction is that the country will receive normal to below normal rainfall and will be characterised by prolonged dry spells as the season will be influenced by El Niño phenomenon. The low rainfall and characterization of prolonged dry spells may also have an impact on the crops and livestock production. Thus, the chances of experiencing food insecurity in 2024 is very high. Currently the price of maize meal has risen significantly, and this may worsen. These conditions heighten the frequency and severity of droughts and floods, placing additional pressure on agriculture, the backbone of the national economy.

The Zambian government has established a Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, which promotes climate change and disaster risk reduction activities in coordination with key stakeholders, including United Nations agencies. Several tree planting and preservation projects are ongoing across the country. In line with its commitments to international treaties such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the government plans to create a tree-based economy and to mitigate climate change. The 'Plant A Million' initiative is one example that aims to significantly contribute to reducing deforestation. Complementary national frameworks—including the National Climate Change Policy, the National Adaptation Programme of Action, and disaster management plans—guide preparedness, early warning systems, and climate-resilient agriculture to strengthen community resilience.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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

The [2021-2025 Strategic Plan of the Zambia Red Cross Society \(ZRCS\)](#) represents a pivotal opportunity to bolster the organisation's response to the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. Climate change is recognized as a critical issue impacting Zambia, and the Zambia Red Cross Society has committed to taking proactive measures to enhance its disaster management and resilience-building efforts. The Zambia Red Cross Society is a signatory to the [Climate and](#)

[Environment Charter](#) for humanitarian organisations since June 2022, and seeks to:

- Undertake urgent action to reduce and adapt to the rising and evolving climate and environmental risks
- Integrate and anticipate short- and longer-term impacts of climate change and environmental degradation in its programmes and operations to help communities absorb, adapt, and transform to climate change
- Become recognized and approached as a key partner in efforts to support communities and government in scaling up climate action and working with the most at-risk communities
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation
- Identify, avoid, reduce, and mitigate adverse environmental impacts resulting from humanitarian response and long-term programmes, and integrate a [green response](#) approach into all its systems and practices

Planned activities in 2026

- Develop [community-based early warning systems](#)
- Raise community awareness on climate change and environmental degradation
- Train and certify smallholder farmers at branch level on the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices
- Strengthen innovation by initiating sustainable projects aligned to environmental management, such as water point rehabilitation projects, rainwater harvesting, biodegradable menstrual hygiene project amongst adolescent girls and young women, sustainable nutritional gardens, livestock projects and [nature-based solutions](#)
- Continue to develop anticipatory action for designated hazards
- Install solar water pumping systems at schools and health facilities
- Build internal knowledge and awareness of climate change, climate action and climate-smart programming
- Strengthen volunteers' knowledge and skills to train communities in resilient techniques and anticipatory approaches

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's capacity strengthening efforts to better address climate change and environmental risks. It also supports the Zambia Red Cross

Society with the forecast-based financing plan, including the development of the drought [Early Action Protocol \(EAP\)](#). The IFRC will assist in resource mobilization for activities focused on climate-smart agricultural practices and green WASH interventions, in promoting climate action and forging

strategic partnerships that support sustainable environmental actions. The IFRC will also enable the National Society to align its efforts with the IFRC [Pan-African Tree Planting and Care](#) initiative.



Disasters and crises

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

Zambia is highly vulnerable to a range of hazards, from floods, cyclones and droughts to epidemics and crop pests (African migratory locust, fall armyworm infestations). The country is experiencing an increase in the frequency and intensity of climate related disasters and those associated such as cholera [epidemics](#) mainly due to climate variation and climate change. Extreme weather events such as torrential rainfall, strong winds and storms are frequent. In recent years, severe floods have displaced communities and damaged infrastructure. Simultaneously, droughts have caused water scarcity, crop failures and food insecurity, especially in rural areas. These phenomena result in the loss of lives and destruction to livelihood assets, leading to thousands of people needing humanitarian assistance, and have precipitated crises that include [severe food shortages and loss of income](#) for many families whose mainstay is dependent either directly or indirectly on rain fed subsistence agriculture. [Chronic food insecurity](#) is a persistent issue, with fluctuations in food availability.

Zambia's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) coordinates emergency response. Local communities have their coping mechanisms but can be overwhelmed during major disasters. The Zambian government has established policies and plans, including the National Disaster Management Policy and the National Disaster Management Plan, to guide disaster risk reduction and response efforts. The [Zambia National Disaster Risk Management Framework \(2017–2030\)](#) seeks to operationalize and build on the Sendai Framework (and other frameworks) to facilitate the identification of priority areas to be included in national development planning processes.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Through its auxiliary role, the Zambia Red Cross Society is a key responder to disasters and crises in the country. [The Zambia Red Cross 2021-2025 Strategic Plan](#) aims to ensure that people anticipate, respond to, and quickly recover from the crisis. To achieve this, the National Society conducts disaster preparedness activities such as community education and awareness raising activities and school-based activities, strengthening early warning systems and community

mobilisation through innovative technologies. The Zambia Red Cross Society also works on strengthening capacities of volunteers to respond to disasters, such as through a certified training and refresher programmes.

In view of the prevailing food insecurity in the country, the Zambia Red Cross Society seeks to strengthen the capacities of smallholder farmers (and particularly women) to increase their food production through community-led projects, providing and supplying seeds, tools, fertilizers and basic equipment for producing cereals, pulses and vegetables. This will encourage production technologies which are more resilient to climate change and will encourage smallholder farmers to prioritize production of legumes, which can reduce dietary gaps in protein and niacin. The National Society intends to integrate food security and livelihoods in emergency, recovery and resilience building activities by developing integrated interventions that support basic needs, prevent asset depletion, and protect or help to recover livelihoods.

As part of its preparedness capacity, the Zambia Red Cross Society has developed and adopted a comprehensive needs assessment tool across all departments. It has also embraced unrestricted cash transfers as a dignified means of assisting people in need. Its staff and volunteers have been trained in [cash and voucher assistance](#) (CVA) and in the [Red Rose](#) data management tool. The National Society has also developed a standard operating procedure for cash, set up a mechanism for receiving complaints and feedback, and signed a contract with the financial service provider MTN.

The Zambia Red Cross Society works in close collaboration with various organizations including government structures based on its mandate. It seeks to strengthen strategic partnerships to improve aid and disaster relief effectiveness. The National Society will continue to establish Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that will allow the organizations to work together in a transparent, equitable, respectful complementarity and with shared commitment to achieve the mutually agreed objectives.

Planned activities in 2026

- Develop and implement hydrological and meteorological early warning systems in disaster-prone areas

- Conduct readiness activities for floods and drought in high risk districts
- Establish evacuation centres in selected communities
- Sensitize people in the flood prone and low laying areas to construct barriers and dykes to control flood water
- Identify focal points and training community members in their roles and responsibilities before during and after emergencies
- Ensure that people affected by crises and disasters receive timely and appropriate cash and voucher assistance
- Sensitize small holder farmers on post-harvest handling technics and grain storage practices
- Establish and construct solar drying centres at branch level
- Provide financial support, farming tools, and inputs to smallholder farmers
- Establish cooperatives or farmer groups in each district with a signed MOU and standard operating procedures
- Establish and support community-based income generating activities
- Expand disaster management technical teams and grassroots disaster management structures
- Enhance the capacities of volunteers to respond to disasters through certified training and mentorship programmes, and organise trainings in anticipatory

action, CVA, community engagement and accountability (CEA), emergency needs assessment, and data management systems

- Procure and preposition non-food items

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in various areas of disaster risk management. The IFRC will help the National Society to build its capacity for cash and voucher assistance and to develop integrated interventions that support basic needs, prevent asset depletion, and protect, strengthen or help to recover livelihoods. Capacity building will include continued training for staff and volunteers in National Disaster Response Teams, community-based health interventions, Cash and Voucher Assistance, and Community Engagement and Accountability, alongside support for preparedness frameworks, standardized reporting, and emergency funding applications to strengthen operational readiness. The IFRC has provided the Zambia Red Cross Society with resources to enable it to respond to disasters such as floods and drought in the country.

In addition, sustained technical and financial support will strengthen health, food security, and livelihoods programming, including climate-smart agriculture, nutrition, anticipatory action, and early warning initiatives, as well as the development of a Drought Early Action Protocol to reduce the impacts of recurrent droughts and other hazards.



Health and wellbeing

Zambia faces a double disease burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. There is a high prevalence of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, diarrhoea and intestinal worms, alongside rising rates of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes mellitus, cancer and chronic respiratory disease. The co-existence of infectious diseases with an emerging wave of non-communicable diseases reflects a complex epidemiological transition that requires integrated health planning and system strengthening. Malaria is endemic in all of Zambia's 10 provinces, both in urban and rural areas. Endemic neglected tropical diseases include lymphatic filariasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, schistosomiasis, and trachoma.

Cholera outbreaks are again a major concern in Zambia. On 11 April 2022, a cholera outbreak was declared in Lusaka, which had the potential to mirror the 2017–2018 outbreak and spread across the country. Another outbreak was declared in January 2023 in the eastern part of the country, and again in October the same year, in Lusaka (see also under ongoing

emergency response section). Although cholera is endemic in Zambia, there had been no outbreaks since 2019, owing to various cholera prevention measures implemented under the country's Multi-Sectoral National Cholera Elimination Plan.. The Zambian Government has joined global efforts to eliminate cholera, subscribing to the Global Task Force on Cholera Control strategy which aims to eliminate cholera worldwide by 2030. Recent response efforts have included oral cholera vaccination campaigns, risk communication and community engagement, and intensified WASH interventions; however, systemic preparedness and early detection gaps continue to challenge rapid containment.

Additionally, Zambia is experiencing an outbreak of anthrax which was declared by the Minister of Health on the 1st of November 2023. The Ministry of Health has indicated that it is doing everything possible to curb the spread of disease. The anthrax outbreak of this magnitude has not been experienced in Zambia since 2011 when there was an outbreak in the district of Chama in the eastern province. Thereafter, sporadic

cases were experienced and were contained before spreading further to other areas.

Zambia has also been experiencing recurring outbreaks of other vaccine-preventable diseases, especially measles. According to a measles situational report the outbreak has not spared any of Zambia's ten provinces, affecting both urban and rural areas. As of 4th October 2023, the cumulative number of suspected measles cases reached a worrying 1,651, with 469 cases confirmed through laboratory testing. Measles and rubella remain significant contributors to childhood morbidity and mortality in most rural and urban populations in Zambia. While Zambia has made substantial progress in improving vaccination coverage, addressing the issues of zero-dose and under-immunized children remains a paramount concern. Expanded outreach strategies, including mobile clinics and integrated community health days, are being used to reach hard-to-access and underserved populations.

Rural areas are poorly served in comparison with urban areas when it comes to access to health care. There are a mere 70 clinical health workers per 100,000 people in rural areas, compared with 159 per 100,000 people in urban areas. A severe shortage of qualified clinical staff in more remote areas means that some clinics are run by unqualified personnel or by just one qualified practitioner. Weak surveillance systems, long distances to functional facilities, and limited diagnostic capacity further delay early detection and timely response to outbreaks, undermining overall health security.

Zambia has made significant progress in improving maternal and child health. Maternal mortality rates have steadily decreased from 591 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2007 to 278 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018. Similarly, infant mortality rates have declined from 45 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013/2014 to 42 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018. Stunting prevalence remains high but is decreasing. These gains have been supported by expanded immunization, antenatal care, and increased skilled birth attendance, although persistent inequities remain in rural and peri-urban communities.

Access to adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services is also unequal in Zambia. An estimated 4.8 million Zambians do not have regular access to clean water and 6.6 million do not have access to adequate sanitation facilities. Access to improved sources of water in rural areas is just 53 per cent, compared with 90 per cent in urban areas. This results in poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) conditions, emerging as a major factor in the country's high rates of childhood diarrhoea, which subsequently translates into high rates of malnutrition. Girls and women are particularly affected by poor WASH conditions. Inadequate WASH infrastructure in households, schools, and some health facilities increases the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea, while climate-related shocks such as floods and droughts further disrupt water systems, contaminate sources, and heighten epidemic risks.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Zambia Red Cross Society is actively involved in addressing the country's health priorities and is monitoring key health indicators. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Zambia Red Cross works on the frontline of epidemics. Offering [community-based health and first aid](#) will remain an integral part of the National Society's efforts to complement the Ministry of Health's work in providing equitable access to health care services for communities in need. The National Society trains more than 2,000 people in workplace [First Aid](#) every year and offers community based First Aid training and care to more than 6,000 people in communities. Over recent years, the Zambia Red Cross Society has implemented broader community-based health projects that focus on preventing and managing the effects of major causes of death in children under five years of age, including diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections. It has built a strong partnership with the Ministry of Health and specializes in interventions for maternal and child health, water, sanitation and hygiene, and behaviour change communication. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Zambia Red Cross Society worked jointly with the Ministry of Health on risk communication and community engagement, contact tracing, hygiene promotion, rehabilitation of boreholes, psychological support and strengthening the capacity of Ministry of Health and frontline workers.

Through its contingency planning, the National Society monitors priority health indicators and maintains clearly defined disease thresholds to trigger early response to outbreaks, with particular focus on high-risk diseases such as anthrax, Mpox, cholera, dysentery, and other public health threats. It also seeks to leverage its auxiliary role to contribute to national public health strategy, advocacy, and policy platforms, while promoting equitable access to sustainable, affordable, and quality health services across the life course, including during emergencies and disease outbreaks.

The Zambia Red Cross Society seeks to remain an active stakeholder in realizing the government's Multi-Sectoral National Cholera Elimination Plan. The IFRC and the Zambia Red Cross Society host a country support platform officer who works with the Government and other stakeholders to realize the Multi-Sectoral National Cholera Elimination Plan. The National Society's main work revolves around a preparedness programme that targets branches in cholera hotspots. This involves building the capacity of branches and community volunteers to respond with:

- Community mobilization and awareness raising around hygiene promotion
- Community case management by providing oral rehydration therapies and scaling up oral rehydration point kits

- Emergency water, sanitation and hygiene interventions to break transmission at household and community levels, with prepositioned household hygiene and disinfection kits
- Support to both preventative and response-related oral cholera vaccine campaign
- Train and certify Red Cross volunteers on monthly analysis of nutrition surveillance
- Strengthen the disaster management training curriculum to include novel disease outbreaks
- Capitalize on its auxiliary role and ensure that it is on relevant country level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms

In addition, the National Society prioritizes strengthening community surveillance systems, implementing risk communication campaigns that promote safer behaviours, expanding access to affordable and environmentally sustainable WASH services, and enhancing disability inclusion by ensuring staff and volunteers understand and address the specific needs and rights of people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Planned activities in 2026

- Mobilise communities for national vaccination campaigns, and support the identification of children who are under-dose and the zero-dose children
- Promoting health, disease prevention and community-based care activities, focusing on people in vulnerable circumstances
- Expanding the reach, quality and modalities of first aid activities, including training volunteers, staff and members of the public in all contexts
- Developing commercial first aid models to promote financial sustainability and accelerate the National Society's ability to sustain its services
- Meeting the [mental health and psychosocial support](#) needs of communities, volunteers and staff
- Providing contextually appropriate sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health services
- Carrying out [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#) and response activities, including building and maintaining community-level capacity to effectively detect, prevent and respond to outbreaks of infectious disease
- Help the Zambia Red Cross Society effectively network and link with other actors such as Global Health Security Agenda, Africa CDC, World Health Organization and the African Union on health, nutrition, immunization and public health
- Support and link the National Society with other sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health platforms
- Build the capacity of the National Society to identify and support community-led solutions as being key to controlling [epidemic and pandemics](#)
- Provide guidance, trainings, and tools to strengthen [community early warning, preparedness and response plans](#)
- Support the Zambia Red Cross Society to participate in cholera response activities through operating room personnel trainings and sub-national cholera hotspot mapping exercises
- Support the National Society in promoting good hygiene practices through health education and reducing environmental health risks

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. The IFRC will also continue to:



Zambia Red Cross volunteer speaks with a community member in Nsama District about safe hygiene practices and early cholera detection as part of door-to-door awareness efforts (Photo: Zambia Red Cross Society)



Migration and displacement

Zambia hosts a significant population of people of concern, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reporting through its Operational Data Portal (2025) an estimated 111,262 individuals, including approximately 79,305 refugees, 9,436 asylum seekers, and 15,471 former refugees who have been integrated into host communities. These include labour migrants, asylum seekers, irregular migrants and victims of human trafficking within the Southern Africa region and beyond. As of 2025, the largest refugee populations are hosted in Meheba Refugee Settlement, Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement, Mantapala Refugee Settlement, as well as urban areas including Lusaka and Ndola.

Migration data and analysis in Zambia is fragmented, and administrative records are not collected for the purposes of measuring migration in its entirety. Migration has an impact on national population change, the environment and trends in urbanization. Internal displacement is increasingly linked to recurrent climate shocks, while continued insecurity in eastern DRC remains the primary driver of cross-border arrivals.

Zambia's geographic proximity to the Democratic Republic of Congo means it experiences periodic flows of asylum seekers into the country. These asylum seekers need comprehensive protection assistance and long-term durable solutions. As part of the durable solutions developed for refugees, Zambia provides local integration assistance to former refugees from Angola and Rwanda, whose refugee status in Zambia has ceased in recent years.

Extreme weather events and disasters such as floods and persistent droughts contribute to the internal displacement of people in Zambia. Other factors contributing to internal displacement include land disputes, development projects, encroachment of populations on land meant for other activities, and conflicts in areas along national borders.

The Ministry of Home Affairs coordinates assistance to externally displaced people, in collaboration with the UNHCR and other actors such as the Zambia Red Cross Society, Oxfam, World Vision and the International Organization for Migration. Assistance to internally displaced people is coordinated by the government's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit under the office of the vice-president, working with the Zambia Red Cross Society as well as other actors such as Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, Habitat for Humanity and Caritas.

Priority humanitarian needs identified by the National Society include Restoring Family Links services, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene support, and protection assistance, particularly for women, children, unaccompanied minors, and vulnerable households such as single-parent or child-headed families. Persistent funding gaps continue to limit the expansion of sanitation infrastructure, livelihoods opportunities, and environmental protection measures within camps and host communities.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Zambia Red Cross Society responds to the pressing needs of migrants and displaced people through its disaster and health interventions. The Zambia Red Cross Society will continue to effectively and efficiently support the government and other stakeholders involved in managing the immediate needs of the refugees and people of concern. The Zambia Red Cross Society offers restoring family links (RFL) services, identified as one of the key needs in the refugee camps and transit centre. It will continue building capacity through strengthening Lusaka (Makeni Transit Centre) and Maheba and Mantapala field offices to be able to continuously provide quality RFL services. This includes enhancing organizational systems and tools to independently manage family tracing and reunification services following the transfer of responsibilities from the International Committee of the Red Cross, and strengthening its national family links network to better respond to the needs of separated and displaced families.

The National Society's will continue supporting migration activities in line with its 2021-25 Strategic Plan. A key area of focus will be resource mobilization initiatives for ensuring that people lead safe, healthy, and dignified lives and have opportunities to thrive. It will also ensure provision of food, water and sanitation, protection as well as institutional latrines, livelihood support and environmental protection. Migration programming will further integrate safer access principles and organizational development measures to strengthen operational effectiveness, while ensuring that refugees, asylum seekers, and host communities are able to live in safety, health, and dignity with improved access to essential services and sustainable livelihood opportunities.



Values, power and inclusion

Levels of inequality between rural and urban areas of Zambia continue to rise, disproportionately affecting girls and women. According to the World Bank's 2021 report *Empowering Rural Women in Zambia to Move out of Poverty*, women and adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable as they tend to have less knowledge and fewer skills to help them realize their potential. Various research documents acknowledge that discrimination against women in Zambia is embodied in traditional rules and practices resulting in lasting constraints on women's socio-economic and political empowerment and progress. At community and household levels, women are in most cases restricted from participating in important decisions such as resource planning and use, family planning and access to services such as health and education.

Child marriage remains high, at 29 per cent for girls, according to the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (2018). Nearly one in five (18 per cent) of learners who drop out of school

Planned activities in 2026

- Distribute food and non-food items such as hygiene kits or and health delivery service equipment delivered to confined spaces
- Assist migrants in need with preventive and rehabilitative nutritional support
- Reach family contacts through means of telecommunication
- Support existing humanitarian service points (HSPs) established for migrants and displaced persons in Zambia to provide and link to child protection
- Develop information, education and communication materials specifically for confined spaces and translate into relevant foreign languages
- Develop and activate contingency and response plan for population movement
- Train volunteers in First Aid, sensitisation to health-seeking behaviours and provision of mental health psychological social support to migrants and refugees

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Zambia Red Cross Society to implement services for vulnerable migrants and refugees, prepare for population movement, mobilize resources for increased engagement, and support and link the National Society with other migration-related actors and platforms.

do so because of teen pregnancy or child marriage, with 96.4 per cent of those affected being girls. 14.8 per cent of head teachers surveyed had received reports of child sexual abuse. The placing of children in institutional care has increased by 20.8 per cent. COVID-19 has triggered mental health issues, including anxiety and depression linked to food insecurity, household violence and alcohol consumption at home. According to UNICEF, child migration continues to be a concern and new migrations routes have emerged.

According to statistics from the Zambia Police Victim Support Unit, there has been a steady increase in reported cases of gender-based violence. In 2012, 13,000 cases were reported. In 2020, this number had risen to 26,000 cases. These numbers have since reduced in 2021, dropping to 21,000. This represents a 23 per cent reduction.

Disasters also increase the vulnerability of the population, and heightens their risk of adopting negative coping strategies. Among these are rising incidences of children dropping out of school, child marriages, the coercion of women and children into forced labour as well as human and child trafficking and engaging in transactional sex for survival. In Zambia, disaster risk communication takes place via different networks, and communication channels in communities during disease outbreak, disasters and crisis include face-to face chats, community meetings, telephone calls, group meetings, mass media such as television, tailored mass media such as reverse 911 services and interactive social media. Telecommunication plays a crucial role in delivering timely and precise information to the affected communities and coordinating rescue and relief efforts. However, during some disaster and health emergencies, communities may express limited trust in public authorities, humanitarian actors, or the media, often due to past experiences of unclear information or delayed assistance. Such perceptions can reduce the uptake of lifesaving information, hinder collaboration, and contribute to rumours and misinformation. Addressing these challenges requires transparent and timely communication, consistent sharing of accurate information, and two-way feedback mechanisms that allow communities to ask questions and observe tangible action in response to their concerns.

Communities generally prefer trusted and accessible channels, including face-to-face engagement through community meetings, outreach by trained volunteers, and messages delivered by local leaders such as chiefs, headmen, and religious figures. Radio remains widely trusted, particularly in rural areas, while mobile phones, toll-free lines, text messaging, and messaging applications provide faster information exchange. Printed materials in public spaces and guidance from health workers and community volunteers are also viewed as reliable sources, especially during disease outbreaks.

An estimated 7.2 per cent of Zambia's population live with a disability. Among other socio-economic challenges, people living with disabilities face limitations in accessing equitable, quality health care. The situation is worse for women and girls living with disabilities, as they are more likely to be exposed to sexual abuse and other forms of physical and mental abuse. According to the United Nations Population Fund, women living with disabilities are up to 10 times more likely to experience sexual violence, and young people living with disabilities are up to four times more likely to experience violence. During and after disasters, these risks intensify as barriers to services, protection, and participation increase. Women, girls, and persons with disabilities often shoulder additional caregiving and resource responsibilities while facing heightened exposure to gender-based violence, exploitation, and trafficking. Ensuring meaningful participation and inclusion of these groups in planning and decision-making is therefore critical to safeguarding dignity and equitable access to assistance.

The Zambian Government is committed to reducing poverty and vulnerability among the general population, with a specific focus on the poor and vulnerable segments of society. The implementation of social protection programmes faces challenges of fragmentation and resourcing, and are not sufficiently evaluated.

Specific social protection programmes are being implemented for:

- Rehabilitation of street children
- Provision of places of safety and children's homes
- Addressing transsexual and gender-based violence
- Combating human trafficking and child labour
- Correctional services
- Legal aid services

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Zambia Red Cross Society seeks to mainstream protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) throughout its activities to ensure communities' dignity, access, participation and safety. Recognizing that peoples' needs, risks and coping strategies vary significantly by age, gender, disability and background, the National Society pays particular attention to gender and diversity analysis and to the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups. Community vulnerability assessments and analysis consider gender and diversity and, during anticipatory actions and disaster response, all sectors seek to meet the IFRC minimum standards on protection, gender and inclusion.

The Zambia Red Cross Society aims to adopt programming modalities that enable effective community engagement and respect for local knowledge, expertise and perspectives. It does this by setting up systems that enable communities to access trusted, actionable information, to participate in programme design, and to provide feedback. The National Society intends to develop a community engagement and accountability (CEA) performance measurement framework with clear benchmarks to ensure consistency and alignment with international commitments, such as the Core Humanitarian Standards for Quality and Accountability, and CEA commitments of the Movement. It also seeks to establish effective community feedback mechanisms in all areas of operation to disseminate, collect, analyse, respond, and act on information shared by citizens to ensure greater community participation.

Planned activities in 2026

- Set up and run dignity access participation and safety centres in displacement camps
- Work with specialists and trained volunteers to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence or trafficking in persons by providing comprehensive support

through case management, coordinated referrals, on-site counselling and legal assistance when needed

- Run a shelter for children who are unhoused
- Establish safe spaces to support survivors of gender-based violence and engage with stakeholders for advocacy around this programme
- Map, test and monitor referral pathways and develop standard operating procedures for responding to survivors of violence, exploitation or abuse
- Design and implement a disaster preparedness programme that specifically addresses the needs of persons with disabilities
- Design and implement a livelihood and life skills programme targeting women and girls specifically addressing their practical and strategic needs for economic opportunities as in incoming generating programmes
- Design and implement a community-based project to address violence in the community

- Run a comprehensive social inclusion service for marginalized groups, including access to education, training, employment and legal and [mental health and psychosocial support \(MHPSS\)](#) based on local needs
- Run advocacy campaigns on safeguarding during disasters
- Advocate for awareness on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) among partners and stakeholders
- Carry out awareness campaigns and information dissemination of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement to help build a culture of respect for the volunteers and members

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC and partners (Government of Zambia) will continue to support the National Society through capacity building on CEA component.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Zambia Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process in 2013. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Zambia Red Cross Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (IFRC-PER) process and is at the action and accountability phase. The [IFRC-PER](#) approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take the actions necessary to improve it.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

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



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Partnership engagement and development with all existing and potential partners as articulated in the partnership mapping survey and the Zambia Red Cross Society partnership development strategy
- Explore innovative fundraising mechanisms which include various campaigns, events, and linkages with corporate partners
- Exchange vital information regarding humanitarian needs and updates
- Establish formal agreements (MOUs) with strategic partners such as the Ministry of Health, UN Agencies (UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF) and other non-governmental organizations to improve coordination, collaborative efforts and knowledge exchange

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Zambia Red Cross Society in external engagement and resource mobilization. It will support the National Society in tapping into the domestic funding pool on corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes of organizations by conducting a market survey.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** supports the Zambia Red Cross Society by strengthening humanitarian diplomacy, resource mobilization, and strategic partnerships, while helping to diversify and secure sustainable, multi-year funding from public and private sector donors. It also facilitates capacity building, peer learning, and investment in long-term institutional sustainability and capital assets to enhance the National Society's operational readiness.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Review the Zambia Red Cross Society Act
- Review the National Society's constitution
- Develop an electoral code of conduct for the National Society
- Improve leadership capacity through system improvements, policy development, and leadership induction at all levels
- Invest in branch development including through deploying the new branch model, recruiting full time branch administrators and field officers, strengthening communication at all levels, conducting branch income assessments and supporting branches in project proposal writing
- Strengthen the working conditions, safety and security of volunteers and members, through provision of all required tools, uniforms and equipment
- Strengthen volunteer accountability through the review of the volunteer code of conduct

- Strengthen capacities at all levels through the recruitment of quality members and volunteers
- Create youth by-laws and strengthen youth structures through a robust framework for [youth engagement](#)
- Strengthen school clubs and youth links by involving young individuals in humanitarian activities
- Secure sustainability through investment funding and strengthen the National Society's financial sustainability through grants
- Advance the digital transformation of the National Society through adoption of digital tools and systems
- Integrate branch financial accounts with Headquarters and conduct regular financial performance reviews to enhance accountability

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Zambia Red Cross Society for all its National Society development priorities, and will assist with the development of the National Society development plan, and applications to IFRC National Society development [funding mechanisms](#).



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Scale up community events and sensitization programmes through sports and cultural events including edutainment activities that will attract young people
- Carry out advocacy and awareness of military personnel in International Humanitarian Law and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement activities
- Position itself with national authorities and international partners operational in Zambia as a leading local humanitarian responder

- Increase visibility, acceptance and support necessary for operationalization of activities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Zambia Red Cross Society with provision of communications and public advocacy resources. It will empower the National Society to enhance its impact, boost public trust and improve understanding of its role and activities. The IFRC will also provide the Zambia Red Cross Society support to strengthen its auxiliary role, positioning and voice in humanitarian and development fora.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen integrity and reputational risk management through policies on non-discrimination, child safeguarding, data protection, and more
- Strengthen donor accountability and monitoring systems on community-led projects through structured reporting frameworks
- Ensure that cases of fraud, corruption, conflicts of interest, or unethical conduct are investigated and addressed promptly
- Emphasize adoption of new technologies and practices and drive data and digital literacy among staff

- Prioritize staff and volunteer wellbeing, safety, gender diversity and inclusion

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Zambia Red Cross Society for all its accountability efforts, as part of National Society development. The IFRC will also provide support to the National Society [digital transformation](#), fostering data and digital literacy among staff, promoting data-driven decision-making and enabling services through digital tools, and building a reliable digital infrastructure to support initiatives.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Zambia Red Cross Society from its country cluster delegation in Harare, Zimbabwe, as well as from its regional office in Nairobi. It has a status agreement with the Government of Zambia, signed in 2001. The IFRC's strategic role is to support the Zambia Red Cross Society to address key humanitarian challenges and trends, and to ensure that it stays up to date, relevant and influential within Zambia. The IFRC supports National Society development

to ensure that the Zambia Red Cross Society is prepared to respond to emergencies, while achieving and maintaining a sustainable organization aligned to the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The IFRC supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Zambia Red Cross Society through a number of DREF and Emergency Appeal [operations](#) in relation to cholera and other disease outbreaks,

floods, population movement, drought and food insecurity. The IFRC is also working with national stakeholders on cholera elimination through cholera platform support.

Through the Harare Cluster's National Society Development (NSD) initiatives, the National Society has received targeted

support in leadership and governance, financial sustainability and resource mobilization, as well as technical support for branch strengthening, youth development, and other institutional capacity-building priorities.



A woman smiles after receiving soap, chlorine and a water container—essential non-food items that help drought-affected families maintain health, hygiene, and dignity (Photo: IFRC)

IFRC membership coordination

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

assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Zambia Red Cross Society is supported by the **Netherlands Red Cross** as its sole in-country Partner National Society (PNS), while also receiving contributions from other PNSs, including the American Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Turkish Red Cross, and, more recently, the Czech Red Cross through the Drought Emergency Appeal.

Movement coordination

The Zambia Red Cross Society collaborates closely with the IFRC, ICRC and The Netherlands Red Cross, ensuring an aligned approach across the Movement in support of its priorities. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

As **the ICRC** does not have a presence in Zambia, the country is supported by its regional delegation in Zimbabwe. Using

innovative tools, ICRC aims to address the humanitarian consequences of armed violence and migration; to support authorities to trace missing persons, to reconnect separated families; to strengthen respect for and compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and international standards of policing; and to support the National Society in improving its capacity to be the first responder to disasters.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Zambia Red Cross Society maintains close coordination with a range of ministries, departments and government bodies, demonstrated by its engagement in disaster risk management, health, water, sanitation and hygiene.

The National Society has an agreement with the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit to work with disaster management committees at province, district and satellite levels, as well as on relief distribution and camp management. It has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Zambia National Public Health Institute, which is the part of the Ministry of Health which is responsible for public health security and surveillance.

The Zambia Red Cross Society also has agreements with the Water Resource Management Authority, the Zambia Police and the Zambia Army, as well as a signed contract with financial service provider MTN for cash and voucher assistance activities. Further working relationships, understanding

and collaboration are in place between the National Society and the Zambia Meteorological Department, Ministry of Education's school clubs, Mulungushi University, Zambia News and Information Services, Zambia Air Force, and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare.

The Zambia Red Cross Society is one of the few member organizations of the National Disaster Management Consultative Forum, National Cash Working Group and Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, which is hosted by the Zambian Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). This platform gathers all agencies and organizations working on disaster risk reduction in Zambia to ensure coordination and sharing of experience. Within the framework of the Disaster Management Act, a sub-group has been formed at national level to focus on anticipatory action and the management of the forecast-based action mechanisms for riverine floods. This sub-group is made up of the Zambia Red Cross Society and several state technical services.



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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