



# GUINEA-BISSAU

## 2026-2027 IFRC network country plan



1 April 2026

### In support of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau



11

National Society branches



52

National Society local units



17

National Society staff



5,000

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



250,000

Climate and environment



480,000

Disasters and crises



300,000

Health and wellbeing



50,000

Migration and displacement



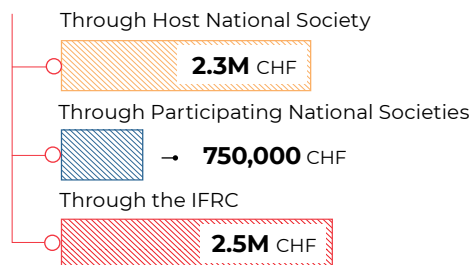
150,000

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 5.5M CHF



2027

Total 4.6M CHF

Projected funding requirements

### Participating National Societies

Qatar Red Crescent Society

### IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAGW002

## Hazards



Drought



Floods



Disease outbreaks



Wildfires



Strong Winds

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Longer term needs

- Disaster risk management
  - Health
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Climate change adaptation and environmental protection
- Protection, gender and inclusion

### Capacity development

- Communications
- Youth and volunteering
  - Partnerships
- Digital transformation

## Key country data links

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **Medium**

**Human Development Index rank** **174**

**World Bank Population figure** **2.2M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **50%**



A volunteer of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau conducting a session of good hygiene practice with community members (Photo: IFRC)

## Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
<b>Longer-term needs</b>				
Climate and environment	450,000	300,000	400,000	300,000
Disasters & crises	600,000	750,000	550,000	750,000
Health & wellbeing	600,000	750,000	600,000	750,000
Migration & displacement	200,000	150,000	200,000	150,000
Values, power & inclusion	100,000	150,000	100,000	150,000
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	300,000	400,000	200,000	400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.3M</b>	<b>2.5M</b>	<b>2.1M</b>	<b>2.5M</b>

### Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding							
				Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	
Qatar Red Crescent Society	2026	750,000			750,000					

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau** was officially established by Decree No. 35/77 in 1977 as a voluntary relief society. It was created to assist the public authorities in the humanitarian field and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1986. It has its own legal personality and administrative and financial autonomy.

The National Society was created with the aim of preventing and alleviating, with absolute impartiality, the suffering of populations, without discrimination based on nationality, race, sex, class, religion or political opinion, striving also to promote and strengthen universal humanitarian law and principles. The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has a governance and an executive structure. The structure of governance is supported by the strategic orientation, decision-making and management bodies, while the executive structure is responsible for implementing all the guidelines issued by governance.

In its 45 years of existence, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau has helped strengthen the capacity of communities to deal with crises and disasters, supporting the most vulnerable people to access shelters, livelihoods, water and sanitation.

With its 11 branches, 56 local units and 3,000 volunteers in communities, the National Society has been able to provide timely support to the most at-risk groups. This has enabled them to mitigate and respond to emergencies and disaster outbreaks, and support people with rehabilitating their lives and livelihoods afterwards. These interventions build on recognition of the National Society as an auxiliary to the Government, and as a support system for communities and vulnerable people.

As outlined in its Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau aims to focus on the following:

- Organizational development
- Communications for humanitarian diplomacy
- Youth and volunteering
- Health and water, sanitation and hygiene
- Disaster management
- Effective participation

In 2024, the National Society reached 498 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau located on the west coast of Africa borders Senegal to the north, Guinea to the east and southeast, and the Atlantic Ocean to the south and west. In addition to the mainland, it also includes an insular part with approximately 90 islands and islets that make up the Bijagós Archipelago, occupying a total area of 36,125 square kilometres. The country, endowed with numerous rivers and an island archipelago, suffers from limited maritime transport, hindering access to essential services such as healthcare and education for island communities.

Guinea-Bissau has a history of political and institutional fragility dating back to its independence from Portugal in 1974. The politico-military conflict of 1998 and the democratic fragility of the past 20 years have created an unstable political

environment, with a proliferation of political parties, lack of trust between these parties and changing motivations among them. It is one of the most coup-prone and politically unstable countries in the world.

Since independence, four successful coups have taken place, with another 16 attempted, plotted or alleged. The 2019 presidential elections were followed by a political crisis that ended in April 2020. Although 2021 was characterized by relative political stability, a renewed episode of political violence in February 2022 inaugurated a new period of political crisis.

Guinea-Bissau's population is estimated at 2.2 million in 2025, with a predominantly young demographic, more than 60 per cent of residents are under 25. Urbanization is concentrated in the capital, Bissau, while rural areas, home to most of the population, face significant challenges in accessing basic services such as healthcare, education, and safe drinking water. These disparities contribute to high levels of malnutrition, with

stunting affecting around 27 per cent of children under five, and chronic food insecurity remains a key concern, especially during lean seasons (Global Hunger Index, 2024).

Economically, Guinea-Bissau is small and predominantly agricultural, with cashew nuts serving as the main export and a critical source of rural income. Subsistence agriculture dominates livelihoods in rural regions. The country recorded modest economic growth of 4.8 per cent in 2024, supported primarily by subsistence crop production and the services sector, while inflation eased to 3.8 per cent. Nonetheless, the economy remains fragile due to its narrow export base, insufficient infrastructure, high public debt (estimated at

82.3 per cent of GDP in 2024), and vulnerability to shocks in the agricultural and political spheres (World Bank, 2025).

Social indicators reveal persistent vulnerability: Guinea-Bissau ranks low on the Human Development Index (HDI = 0.514), with multidimensional poverty affecting more than 60 per cent of the population. Access to healthcare is limited, maternal and child mortality remain high, and epidemic preparedness capacity is weak. Food insecurity and malnutrition further worsen chronic vulnerability, particularly in rural and coastal communities. Environmental risks—including recurrent flooding, droughts, and deforestation, complicate these challenges and weaken resilience to natural disasters (UNDP, 2025).

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Located between the equator and the Tropic of Cancer, Guinea-Bissau enjoys a tropical climate with an average temperature of 27 degrees Celsius, with a low amplitude during the year depending on the region. The country experiences a six-month rainfall period. Precipitation increases from northeast to south, reaching between 1200 and 2400 mm per year.

Rising sea levels caused by climate change affect Guinea-Bissau's coastal region, posing a serious threat to the 70 per cent of the country's population who live along the coast. Increased salinization from the ocean has caused coastal erosion and harmed rice production and caused water in coastal aquifers to become salinized.

Guinea-Bissau remains among the African countries most vulnerable to climate change due to its flat topography and large meandering coastal area invaded by the tides. Coastal areas in Guinea-Bissau and elsewhere in West Africa are bordered by mangrove forests. In several of these places, swaths of mangrove forest have been removed and the landscape has been technologically adapted to produce mangrove rice, a regionally important staple. However, the effects of global warming, in particular sea-level rise, pose challenges to these socioecological environments.

Many communities in Guinea Bissau have experienced the drastic effects of climate change. Increased temperatures and humidity may increase malaria transmission, while flooding may incite the spread of waterborne diseases. Drought escalates the risk of meningitis which can cause the emergence of infections and epidemics, and increased temperatures will worsen air pollution and increase the threat of acute respiratory illnesses. Heavy rainfall events occur

often in the country and causes flooding that have severe impacts on infrastructure, agriculture and public health. Rising temperatures also lead to changes in the composition of ecosystems, with the disappearance of some species and the arrival of others. Tropical forests are particularly vulnerable to rising temperatures, as they are adapted to hot, humid climatic conditions.

Effects of climate change have affected the socioeconomic status of citizens, with increased poverty, particularly in the lives of vulnerable citizens and communities whose livelihoods are mainly dependent on the natural habitat and the environment. Access to economic resources and activities have been hampered by increased environmental degradation mainly caused by human activities. Likewise, in recent years, the regularity of rainfall has been low, which has led to insufficient agricultural production at the national level in view of the growing domestic demand for food products. In search of more prosperous livelihoods, young people have moved to urban areas, further reducing the available workforce in rural areas. This cycle of low production and loss of labour makes the countryside more vulnerable to unexpected shocks.

The Government of Guinea-Bissau acknowledges these challenges through national policies and legal frameworks. The National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) provides the regulatory basis for environmental protection, food security, poverty reduction, and pollution control. The country has also submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, setting out mitigation targets and adaptation measures to strengthen resilience in key sectors including agriculture, fisheries, water, and coastal management (UNFCCC, 2021; UNFCCC, 2021).

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

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau aims to strengthen community and institutional resilience by empowering communities, volunteers and staff to anticipate, respond to and adapt to growing climate and environmental risks. It seeks to reduce vulnerability and enhance preparedness by fostering local capacities that support informed and timely action in the face of emerging hazards.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau plans to build community capacity for climate action by advancing understanding of climate change impacts and encouraging participatory, locally owned approaches that draw on community knowledge and priorities. It also aims to promote sustainable and climate-smart practices across its programmes and operations, contributing to greenhouse gas mitigation and the protection of natural ecosystems.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau will focus on integrating environmental risk management into humanitarian action. It seeks to identify, prevent and minimise adverse environmental impacts across emergency responses and long-term programmes, ensuring that environmental sustainability is embedded in its systems, policies and operational practices.



## Disasters and crises

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

The [INFORM Country Risk Profile](#) ranks Guinea-Bissau as experiencing medium risk, at 3.8 out of 10, with a vulnerability level of 4.8 out of 10. The lack of coping capacity is assessed at 7.9 out of 10, with weaknesses identified at both institutional and infrastructure levels.

Guinea-Bissau has a countrywide [chronic malnutrition rate](#) of over 25 per cent. Overall, 11 per cent of Guinea-Bissau households are food insecure, rising as high as 51 per cent in some areas. Locust invasions are prevalent in the country, and severely affect agriculture. In addition to natural hazards, road accidents, fires, political and socio-economic conflicts, shipwrecks, population movements, tornadoes, floods and locust invasions, food insecurity, deforestation and a marked risk of change climate remain a major concern for Guinean authorities and humanitarian organizations working in the country.

[Floods are a recurring natural hazard](#) in Guinea-Bissau, especially along its coast. Similarly, [drought](#) is a recurring disaster. Guinea-Bissau has experienced some devastating droughts in the recent past. Heavier rainfall events in the

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## Planned activities in 2026

- Collaborate with partners adopt environmentally sustainable practices that contribute to climate change mitigation
- Build strategic partnerships that enable planting and care of multipurpose trees
- Ensure that its staff and volunteers have the knowledge and skills required to serve as agents of change and implement large-scale initiatives to address climate change and the environmental crisis

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to increase its efforts to preserve biodiversity and address rising climate risks. The IFRC will also continue to collaborate with the Ministry of Forestry and provide technical support to the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau to implement climate change projects and programmes.

future along with higher tides from rising sea level, are being predicted to continue to impact the coast. [Sea level rise](#) continues to affect the country's coastal region and is a serious threat to 70 per cent of the population who reside along the coast. Increased salinization from the ocean has harmed rice production, caused coastal erosion, and inundated coastal aquifers.

The impact on the population is severe and multifaceted. Repeated floods and storms destroy homes and crops, while droughts reduce water availability and agricultural output. These cycles erode livelihoods and heighten vulnerability to hunger. Approximately 1.5 million people are already at risk of food insecurity, with children and women being the most affected by malnutrition. Because rice is both a staple food and highly vulnerable to floods and salinization, entire communities face long-term food production challenges. Cashew nut exports, which are the main source of income for many rural families, are also exposed to price volatility and climate shocks, exacerbating economic fragility. Projections for 2025 indicate worsening food insecurity during the lean season, especially in areas already hit by floods and agricultural losses.

National response capacity remains extremely limited. Public institutions lack the resources and structures to manage large-scale disasters, while health services are underfunded and coverage is minimal, with one of the lowest ratios of doctors and nurses per capita in the region. Roads and bridges are in poor condition, isolating rural and island communities during the rainy season and delaying emergency assistance. In practice, local communities and the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross are the first responders, often supported by international organizations such as IFRC, WFP, UNICEF, WHO and OCHA. These partners focus on disaster risk reduction, food and nutritional assistance, health and WASH programs, and coastal adaptation measures such as mangrove restoration.

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

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau seeks to systematically integrate measures to support the hardest-to-reach people and improve the approach taken to address protracted crises by increasing preparedness to ensure early action, response and recovery and thereby strengthen resilience and social cohesion. The National Society will also work collaboratively with local governments on disaster risk management and increase understanding of urban risks in order to build systems that strengthen local resilience. It will promote localization of humanitarian response by strengthening the capacity of local branches and volunteers in line with the IFRC Pan-African Red Ready initiative.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau also aims to establish mechanisms for anticipatory action and the management of disaster and emergency responses – functioning at all levels and reducing people’s exposure and to hazard. Additionally,

it aims to reduce incidents of internal and external migration caused by civil, political and environmental disasters.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Leverage its auxiliary role to influence regional, national and sub-national processes
- Focus on the Pan Africa Zero Hunger Initiative including the goal, intermediate objectives and outcomes for advancement of its mandate as auxiliary to public authorities
- Collaborate with community networks such as the civil society, schools and healthcare providers to increase resilience
- Use cash and voucher assistance as a flexible and adaptable modality to promote human dignity and choice
- Develop integrated interventions that support basic needs, prevent asset depletion and protect livelihoods

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue supporting the National Society to work towards achieving the goals set out in IFRC’s Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative, which aims to reach zero hunger for up to 25 per cent of vulnerable people in Africa by 2030. This will be achieved through investment in small holder farmers and scaling up cash assistance and support to youth entrepreneurs. It will also provide technical assistance to the National Society to advocate with the authorities in Guinea-Bissau to develop and build capacity around disaster law.



Volunteers of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau provide assistance to families affected by a severe storm (Photo: IFRC)



Health services in Guinea-Bissau continue to be seriously challenged across the 11 health regions, including the Autonomous Sector of Bissau. The country faces high rates of child mortality. Moreover, diseases such as diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and malaria continue to seriously affect Guinean children, while children living in rural areas are at higher risk of infant mortality than those living in urban areas. Guinea-Bissau has one of the highest maternal and child mortality rates globally. According to the latest medical statistics from 2022, conducted with the support of the World Bank, there are an estimated 549 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. This figure is notably higher in rural areas. Nevertheless, progress has been observed since 2018, when the maternal mortality rate was recorded at 746 per 100,000 live births.

Guinea-Bissau also faces a high burden of life-threatening infectious diseases including malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, ischemic heart disease, measles and diarrhoeal diseases, as well as lower respiratory infections and strokes. The burden of HIV/AIDS in Guinea-Bissau is the highest in West Africa and disproportionately affects more women than men. Although there is no catastrophic food insecurity, it is concerning that acute malnutrition persists in Guinea-Bissau. Almost one in six children under the age of five is moderately or severely underweight (16.3 per cent), and 3.8 per cent are classified as severely underweight. More than a quarter of children – 27.7 per cent – have moderate and severely stunted growth, and 8.7 per cent have severely stunted growth.

Around 60 per cent of households do not have access to drinking water in the home. This means that for most of these households (88 per cent), an adult woman is usually forced to fetch drinking water, sometimes taking more than 30 minutes in total. In terms of sanitation, only 25 per cent of this population live in households with improved sanitation facilities for the disposal of human excrement.

Guinea-Bissau's borders with Senegal and the Republic of Guinea are busy with cross-border trade activities, huge concentrations of people and massive public transport traffic. It is a hazardous situation that encourages disease outbreaks, and requires special attention from national health authorities, particularly after the emergence of the Ebola virus in neighbouring Guinea.

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

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau seeks to capitalize on its auxiliary role to ensure relevant advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms at country level. It also seeks to protect and strengthen community health and wellbeing through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate and quality health services. Additionally, the National Society aims

to focus on strengthening systems and mechanisms that support survivors and victims of sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau will focus on the provision of access to improved and environmentally friendly water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and the development of a WASH strategy. Under the IFRC One WASH initiative, the National Society seeks raise awareness among communities about epidemics such as cholera and build their capacity in epidemic and pandemic preparedness. It will also contribute to efforts to achieve and maintain national immunization goals and promote equitable access to new vaccines.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau seeks to provide mental health and psychosocial support services in emergencies and coordinate and collaborate with community networks, schools, health care providers and civil society organizations (at both regional and national levels) on evolving public health challenges.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Distribute insecticide-treated bed nets to ensure effective prevention of malaria
- Provide First Aid services to diverse groups ranging from vulnerable communities
- Develop commercial first aid models to ensure its financial sustainability
- Increase the number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donations
- Provide context-appropriate sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services
- Respond to the mental health and psychosocial support needs of communities, volunteers and staff
- Address the needs of people living with communicable diseases, such as HIV and tuberculosis, through appropriate harm reduction approaches
- Develop a water, sanitation and hygiene strategy

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau in resource mobilization and advocacy efforts that increase opportunities and partnerships. It will also provide support to the National Society in furthering the IFRC One WASH initiative to eliminate cholera. Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society to improve community awareness of epidemics and pandemics and to promote good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices.



The migrant situation is a concern for national authorities in Guinea-Bissau. According to some [estimations](#), in 2019 more than 100,000 people, or 5.39 per cent of the population, emigrated from Guinea-Bissau. Political instability, structural poverty, high unemployment, and difficulty in accessing education and health care are the main drivers of emigration. There is a lack of new job opportunities in Guinea-Bissau due to the country's high dependency on the cultivation and exploitation of cashew nuts, which has led to insufficient diversification of the economy.

Emigrants from Guinea-Bissau are mostly young people, and the main destination countries are Senegal (29.5 per cent), Portugal (27.9 per cent), and Gambia (13.3 per cent). However, the figures do not account for non-registered movements through the porous borders. Young people face especially brutal situations when in transit, they are vulnerable to smuggling, and many die due to the extreme conditions while crossing the desert on the central Mediterranean route. In recent years, Guinea-Bissau has received many evacuees who have been assisted by rescue missions conducted by the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) in Libya. Sustainable reintegration of returned migrants is also a factor that needs to be addressed.

Guinea-Bissau features as a major centre of recruitment for [child trafficking in the West African region](#), as well as a transit point for smuggled migrants heading to Europe and other destinations, due to the weak control of the authorities and the geographical location of the country. The most recent (2017) official data on migration puts the number of migrants, including refugees, in Guinea-Bissau at 22,700. This data found the principal countries of origin were Senegal, Guinea, Gambia, Liberia and Portugal. In [2022](#), Guinea-Bissau recognized 2,114 refugees, with the majority (2,075) from Senegal, and 37 asylum seekers. Senegalese refugees mainly come from the Casamance region of Senegal, between the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau. Other protection seekers came from countries such as Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Burundi, and Guinea.

Internal migration is mainly related to economic and climate factors, in particular storms and droughts. There were [3,700 internal displacements registered due to storms in 2018](#).

Areas with high population mobility have also become vulnerable to the high risk of transmission of infectious diseases, such as sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, malaria and cholera.

The government has recognized the need for comprehensive migration policies and strategies, but efforts remain limited due to resource constraints and ongoing instability. Collaborative

efforts among local organizations, international agencies, and regional bodies are crucial for improving the situation, enhancing the protection of migrants, and addressing the root causes of migration in Guinea-Bissau.

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

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau seeks to integrate migration and displacement dimensions and approaches into all humanitarian work, including updating and contextualizing tools and methodologies for emergency preparedness, response and recovery. It will focus on strengthening its capacity to engage in migration issues by increasing knowledge on migration and its effects among local populations through engaged and effective advocacy with stakeholders.

The National Society aims to continue coordinating and collaborating with state institutions, the IOM and other international organizations and civil society organizations on the issue of migration and displacement. It will also focus on ensuring that assistance and protection services are promoted and provided in collaboration with local and national authorities, host communities and affected people. Additionally, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau seeks to establish [humanitarian services points](#) at key stages along migration routes and expand the range of services provided at these points in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

### Planned activities in 2026

- Provide global, regional and local analyses of current and emerging trends anticipating population movements
- Develop evidence-based programmes supported by organizations such as the Migration Hub and the Movement Reference Group on internal displacement
- Increase joint advocacy on migration and displacement issues within the network by coordinating collective advocacy, policy and communications at the global and regional levels
- Establish and strengthen systems and mechanisms that reduce rural-urban migration

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society to further integrate migration and displacement approaches in all its humanitarian activities. It will support the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau in resource mobilization and furthering its advocacy efforts to increase opportunities and partnerships to address migration.



Universal education and gender equality are progressing very slowly towards the [Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in Guinea-Bissau](#). In terms of access to education, the net primary school enrolment rate among seven to 12-year-olds is 68.7 per cent. This is even lower in rural areas, at 54 per cent, compared with 74 per cent in urban areas.

Young people under the age of 25 are a more vulnerable and marginalized group that faces social exclusion in Guinea-Bissau, despite making up 64 per cent of the population.

Guinea-Bissau has a [25.7 per cent rate of child marriage prevalence](#), and a [52.1 per cent rate of female genital mutilation or cutting \(FGM\)](#). In 2021, UNICEF found that more than 400,000 girls and women in Guinea-Bissau alive today have experienced FGM, with ethnicity and location the main factors that influence the likelihood of it. The practice is more common in regions that are home primarily to ethnic groups who practice FGM almost universally, including the Fula, Mandinga and Beafada. UNICEF's research concluded that, regrettably, the SDG target of eliminating FGM by 2030 does not appear within reach for Guinea-Bissau. If current trends continue, half of the country's girls will still be experiencing this practice in 2030

According to the latest [\(2021\) UNDP data](#), there are 11,584 people living with disabilities in all regions of Guinea-Bissau. The highest number live in the Oio region (19 per cent), while Bolama-Bijagós is the region that represents the smallest number, with a total of 490 (four per cent). There are more men (54 per cent) living with disabilities than there are women (46 per cent).

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

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau aims to strengthen systems, processes and policies that enhance the participation, protection and inclusion of vulnerable persons and communities across all activities. It seeks to ensure that programmes and operations guarantee dignity, access, participation and safety for all affected people by embedding the Protection, Gender and Inclusion approach throughout institutional practice.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau will focus on fostering strong commitments from its governing board, management, staff and volunteers to the Protection, Gender and Inclusion agenda. It plans to promote the systematic integration of

agreed minimum standards for protection and gender equality in emergencies, while reinforcing collaboration with state institutions, civil society organisations and other partners to advance inclusive and accountable service delivery.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau seeks to expand efforts that reduce all forms of abuse and discrimination through culturally appropriate methods and strengthened advocacy. It aims to support the development of policies, laws and regulations that protect vulnerable and marginalised groups in disaster risk management, and plans to promote equitable representation and leadership opportunities for women and men at all levels.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Build understanding and community ownership of humanitarian values and fundamental principles
- Institutionalise processes that enhance participation and protection of vulnerable persons across services
- Strengthen governing board staff and volunteer capacity on Protection Gender and Inclusion
- Systematically integrate Protection Gender and Inclusion values into policies practices programmes and project implementation
- Establish and reinforce coordination mechanisms with state institutions NGOs and civil society groups on Protection Gender and Inclusion
- Promote agreed minimum standards for protection gender equality and inclusion in emergencies
- Intensify measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence including monitoring and community involvement in related decision making

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society to assist the National Society in improving its engagements and establish it as a support organization for vulnerable people. It will provide support to the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau to run [youth programmes](#) and to expand the reach of awareness-raising activities on humanitarian education and [protection, gender and inclusion](#).

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau is committed to institutional strengthening. It conducted the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2011, intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.



### Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Strengthen resource mobilization
- Strengthen its cooperation with regional and global reference centres
- Collaborate with new and non-traditional partners and with communities for joint problem solving and innovation
- Increase investments, partnerships and collaboration focused on research and development and on learning,



### National Society development

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

- Strengthen the capacity of the National Society governing board, staff and volunteers
- Develop the role of volunteering for young people to become agents of behaviour change and instigate local action
- Prioritize innovation and change in organizational strategies, plans and policies, holding leaders accountable for driving systemic and cultural change



### Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategy
- Health, accident and death compensation for volunteers
- Functioning data management system

within the network of the Federation and between the network and outside

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC**, will support the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau to renew its partnerships and develop a new funding architecture to increase financial resources. It will also support the National Society to raise investment in forecasting and anticipating new challenges and opportunities.

- Develop a spirit of volunteerism and gender equity, especially among CRGB children and youth
- Equip technical teams and volunteers with resources to allow them to try new approaches in their work

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the National Society to strengthen its institutional and operational capacities at all levels as well as in implementing youth designed programmes and initiatives. The IFRC will also assist the National Society in equipping its volunteers with resources to allow them to improve their way of working.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Develop humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy for the mobilization of resources and the promotion of cooperation in favour of humanitarian actions
- Advocate for both public behaviour and policy change at national, regional and global levels
- Develop its auxiliary role
- Collaborate with new and non-traditional partners to build trust

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau in developing its communications strategy and public advocacy resources. It will help the National Society build relationships to work together in effective networks and promote its image and visibility as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field with partners and beneficiaries. Additionally, it will support the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Invest in more forecasting analysis and activities to anticipate new challenges and opportunities
- Develop concrete measures to ensure that men and women are equally represented at all levels, and that women are supported to access governance and leadership positions

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the National Society in compiling an evidence-base on the impact of the National Society's humanitarian work, including behaviour change in communities served. It will support the digitalization efforts of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau. Additionally, it will support the National Society in development of key strategies and policies.

## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

**The IFRC** Freetown cluster delegation is in the capital city of Sierra Leone and supports four National Societies including the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, the Red Cross Society of Guinea, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau and the Liberian Red Cross Society. The IFRC supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau to strengthen its institutional and operational capacities. It also provides the technical assistance necessary to help the National Society fulfill its mandate as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The IFRC provides capacity building support to the National

Society, through the deployment of technicians and experts with sectorial experience mainly in health, water, sanitation and hygiene, and disaster risk reduction and management.

The IFRC will work alongside the National Society to further its organizational development priorities, including digitalization, capacity building for governance, development of key strategies and policies, humanitarian diplomacy, and to establish volunteering management systems.

## 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 Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau is part of the four [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

The National Society cooperates with the IFRC network through different working and sub-working groups, such as the

Sahel+ group, the Abidjan commitments for the Association des Sociétés Croix-Rouge Croissant Rouge Francophones, Hispanophones, Lusophones d'Afrique (ACROFA), the National Societies of the African region and as a member of the Community of the Portuguese Speaking Countries.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau receives support from, the following participating National Societies:

The **British Red Cross** supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau in its Monetary Transfer Programme as well as the planning of cash transfer initiatives.

The **Belgian Red Cross** aids the National Society in building the capacity of volunteers in flood and wind preparedness.

The **Italian Red Cross** has been supporting a climate mitigation tree planting project. Other support to the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau includes setting up a volunteer database, management system and related training.

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## Movement coordination

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement

Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

**The ICRC** supports the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau by promoting international humanitarian law and encouraging its implementation.

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## Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau belongs to and participates in different national and regional emergency coordination structures, including the National Civil Protection Service and the Operational Health Emergency Centre. The National Society has been an advisory member of the National Civil Protection since 2011 and actively participates in disaster preparedness and response mechanisms at national level.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau works with various UN agencies (UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNFRA, UN-HABITAT), as well as national and international NGOs operating in the country, as part of its humanitarian mission. A partnership with UNICEF to run an awareness programme on disease prevention and vaccines is currently underway, and Plan-GB is supporting student and teacher training as part of the good school governance programme on risks and disasters.



**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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