



MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



20 February 2026

In support of the Red Cross National Societies of Mauritius and Seychelles



4

National Society branches



6

National Society local units



16

National Society staff



250

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



72,000

Climate and environment



154,000

Disasters and crises



123,000

Health and wellbeing



91,000

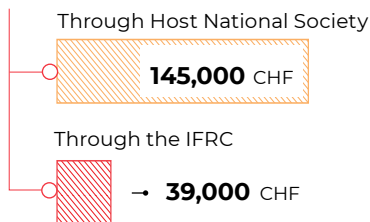
Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

Mauritius

2026

Total 184,000 CHF



2027

2028

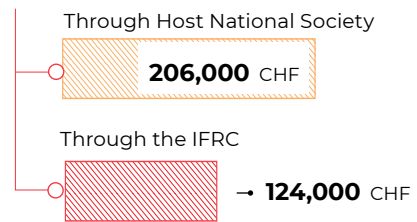
Total 168,000 CHF 156,000 CHF

Projected funding requirements

Seychelles

2026

Total 330,000 CHF



2027

2028

Total 368,000 CHF 416,000 CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

Mauritius:

French Red Cross

Seychelles:

French Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAMU001

MAASC001

Hazards



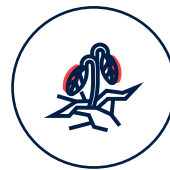
Cyclones



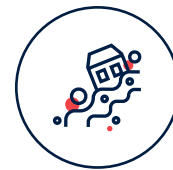
Floods



Storm surge



Droughts



Landslides

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Climate change adaptation
- Disaster risk reduction and resilience

Capacity development

- Internal systems
- Branch development
- Partnerships and resource mobilization

Key country data links

	Mauritius	Seychelles
<u>INFORM Climate Change Risk Index</u>	Low	Very low
<u>Human Development Index rank</u>	73	54
<u>World Bank Population figure</u>	1.2M	121,000
<u>World Bank Population below poverty line</u>	8%	25%

Detailed funding requirements

Mauritius

	2026		2027		2028	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
Longer-term needs						
Climate and environment	15,000	5,000	16,000	5,000	15,000	4,000
Disasters & crises	50,000	14,000	45,000	14,000	40,000	12,000
Health & wellbeing	25,000	6,000	21,000	6,000	20,000	6,000
Migration & displacement						
Values, power & inclusion	10,000	3,000	11,000	3,000	10,000	3,000
Enabling local actors	45,000	11,000	36,000	11,000	35,000	10,000
Total	145,000	39,000	129,000	39,000	120,000	36,000

Seychelles

	2026		2027		2028	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
Longer-term needs						
Climate and environment	45,000	27,000	16,000	50,000	60,000	36,000
Disasters & crises	90,000	54,000	45,000	100,000	100,000	60,000
Health & wellbeing	38,000	23,000	21,000	40,000	45,000	27,000
Migration & displacement						
Values, power & inclusion	15,000	9,000	11,000	20,000	30,000	18,000
Enabling local actors	18,000	11,000	36,000	20,000	25,000	15,000
Total	206,000	124,000	230,000	138,000	260,000	156,000

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

Participating National Societies bilateral support

Country	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
Mauritius	French Red Cross	2026					-			
Seychelles	French Red Cross	2026			-	-	-		-	-



The Mauritius Red Cross Society responding in the aftermath of Cyclone Belal which caused flooding in some parts of Mauritius. (Photo: IFRC)

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

Mauritius

The **Mauritius Red Cross Society** was founded in 1973 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1983. The National Society has years of experience in disaster preparedness and response and is a member of the Prime Minister's National Disaster and Other Calamities Committee (NDOCC). The Mauritius Red Cross Society has actively supported the awareness and implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management policy and provides technical assistance to facilitate the effective management of disasters and emergencies through volunteers and staff trained in basic safety and rescue techniques.

The National Society provides emergency ambulance services to strengthen the transport service for those with minor injuries and patients requiring regular and long-term hospital treatment. The Mauritius Red Cross Society carries out medical risk assessment on each of its services to establish the minimum medical requirement to safely cover an event with specific volunteers trained and equipped to provide medical coverage across a broad spectrum of events. The National Society's staff and volunteers are trained to respect the dignity of the beneficiaries in line with the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Its obligation is to spread knowledge of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), which is based on the idea that the knowledge of rules set forth in the law ensures the protection of people affected by armed conflicts.

In 2024, the Mauritius Red Cross Society reached more than 600 people through its health interventions and more than 500 through its disaster risk reduction efforts.

Seychelles

The **Seychelles Red Cross Society** was founded in 1989 as an independent and auxiliary to the government in humanitarian services, particularly in disaster relief. It was subsequently admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1993. Through its network of volunteers, members, and staff, the National Society helps those in need especially during crises as well as equips the community with lifesaving skills through its various programmes and activities. The mandate of the Seychelles Red Cross Society is to prevent and alleviate suffering with complete impartiality, making no discrimination as to nationality, race, sex, religious beliefs, language, class or political opinions.

The National Society's recently completed Strategic Plan 2023-2027 spearheads the involvement of the Seychelles Red Cross Society in contributing towards its humanitarian mission nationally, regionally, and internationally as a component of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The new strategic approach focuses on how the National Society can maintain and strengthen its role as one of Seychelles' most trusted and reliable humanitarian organizations. It relies on five strategic objectives consisting of (i) a well structured and consolidated National Society structure, (ii) building strength through partnerships, (iii) working with the community, (iv) increasing volunteer recruitment and re-energizing existing volunteers, and (v) creating financial sustainability for the Seychelles Red Cross Society.

In 2022, the Seychelles Red Cross Society reached more than 2,000 people in disaster risk reduction efforts under its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Mauritius

Mauritius is a small island state in the south-west Indian Ocean and the main island of the Republic of Mauritius, which also includes Rodrigues, Agalega and the Cargados Carajos (St Brandon) archipelago. The population is estimated at around 1.26 million people in 2024, with a very high population

density and an urbanization level of just over 40 per cent. The 2022 census confirms an ageing population: children under 15 now represent about 15 per cent of the population, while those aged 60 and above have increased to nearly one in five, reflecting low fertility (around 1.3 children per woman) and increasing life expectancy. Mauritius is ethnically and religiously diverse, with Indo-Mauritians, Creoles, Sino-Mauritians and Franco-Mauritians, and significant Hindu, Christian and Muslim communities, which has shaped a long tradition of multicultural coexistence but also persistent inequalities for some groups, including segments of the Creole community⁴.

Politically, the most recent general elections in late 2024 were accompanied by heightened political tensions, including a temporary [nationwide suspension of access](#) to major social media platforms on security grounds as well as subsequent public debate on transparency and civil liberties⁶. A change of government followed the elections, with a new administration initiating audits of public finances and raising concerns about previously reported debt and growth figures, underlining ongoing public debate on governance, transparency and economic management⁷.

Economically, Mauritius has evolved from a mono-crop sugar economy in the 1960s into a diversified upper-middle-income economy driven by tourism, textiles, financial and business services, ICT and an emerging blue and green economy. The World Bank “At-a-Glance” country profile notes that Mauritius remains one of Africa’s most competitive and open economies but faces the twin challenges of sustaining inclusive growth and adapting to climate change. After the sharp COVID-19 shock, real GDP rebounded strongly and is projected to moderate to around 3 per cent in 2025 as tourism and construction growth slows. Mauritius has eradicated extreme poverty on the international \$2.15 line, but in 2017 around 13.5 per cent of the population still lived below the upper middle-income poverty line of \$6.85/day, and the national poverty headcount was about 8.4 per cent in 2023, pointing to remaining pockets of deprivation and vulnerability.

Socially, Mauritius has built an extensive welfare state with free universal education up to tertiary level, free public health care and a non-contributory universal pension, which have been important pillars of social cohesion and nation building since independence. At the same time, recent UNDP analysis of the 2023/24 Human Development Report shows that Mauritius, classified as a high human development country with an HDI of 0.796 and ranked 72nd globally, experiences a 21.5 per cent drop in its [Human Development Index](#) when inequality is taken into account, highlighting persistent disparities in income, education and life expectancy. Youth unemployment, skills mismatches in an increasingly knowledge-based economy, and limited prospects for low-skilled workers contribute to social frustration, alongside debates on perceived unequal treatment of different communities and gender gaps in political representation and leadership.

Overall, Mauritius combines relatively strong institutions, high human development and an extensive social protection system with structural vulnerabilities linked to its small-island geography, economic concentration in a few sectors, high public debt, pronounced climate and environmental risks, and persistent inequalities. Key challenges for the population include managing cost-of-living pressures and labour market insecurity, addressing pockets of income and multidimensional poverty, tackling the heavy burden of NCDs and associated health costs, strengthening governance and trust in public institutions, and accelerating adaptation to climate change

and environmental degradation, particularly in coastal and low-income communities²⁰.

Seychelles

The [Republic of Seychelles](#) is a small island state in the western Indian Ocean, made up of about 115 islands spread over 1.4 million square kilometres of ocean. The country is divided between the granitic “inner islands” – including Mahé, Praslin and La Digue, which are mountainous with very narrow coastal plains and a larger number of low-lying outer coralline islands, many of which are uninhabited. Most of the population and critical infrastructure are concentrated on the three main granitic islands around the capital, Victoria, on Mahé. Seychelles has an estimated 121,000 inhabitants, with about three-quarters living on Mahé; Praslin and La Digue host most of the remaining population.

Seychelles is a relatively young multi-party democracy, having gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1976 and returned to multiparty politics in 1993. After several decades of rule by a single party, a Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity Commission (TRNUC) was established in 2018 to examine human rights violations linked to the 1977 coup and the one-party era; its final report was handed to the President and National Assembly in March 2023 and is now public, with recommendations on reparations and non-repetition still under discussion. In October 2025, opposition leader Patrick Herminie of United Seychelles won the presidential runoff election with 52.7 per cent of the vote, defeating incumbent Wavel Ramkalawan of Linyon Demokratik Seselwa. Political stability remains broadly strong, but debates over governance, the legacy of past violations, land use and large tourism developments continue to shape public life.

Seychelles is classified as a high-income country and has the highest GDP per capita in Africa. Its economy is heavily dependent on tourism and fisheries, with services, especially tourism-related activities, driving growth. Economic performance rebounded after the COVID-19 shock but remains vulnerable to external shocks such as fluctuating visitor numbers, global fuel and food prices, and climatic events. Unemployment is low- and extreme-income poverty is almost eliminated, yet socioeconomic vulnerabilities persist, including skills shortages, high living costs, and unequal access to quality jobs.

Geophysical and [climatic risks](#) are central to the country’s situation. While most islands lie outside the main cyclone belt, the granitic islands are increasingly affected by intense rainfall, flash floods, coastal flooding and landslides, especially where steep slopes meet densely settled and built-up narrow coastal plains. Although overall INFORM-based climate hazard scores for Seychelles are relatively low, the country’s small size, concentration of people and assets in exposed coastal zones, and dependence on climate-sensitive sectors create significant long-term risk and adaptation needs.

Socially, Seychelles combines relatively strong health and education outcomes with serious social challenges. Maternal mortality is extremely low and life expectancy is high, and women's outcomes in health and education are generally strong, yet gender disparities persist in political representation and leadership positions. Substance abuse, particularly heroin dependence, is widely recognised as one of the country's most acute social problems: a surge in heroin use between 2011 and 2019 led to an estimated 5,000–6,000 users, roughly 10 per cent of the working-age population, giving Seychelles one of the highest per-capita heroin addiction rates globally.

Demographically, Seychelles is a small, ageing, multi-ethnic society, with most residents identifying as Seychellois Creole of African and Malagasy origin alongside communities of European, Indian, Chinese and Arab descent. Migration plays an important role in the country's profile. Seychelles is party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol but has no

national asylum system; UNHCR is responsible for registration and refugee status determination, and there is limited official data on refugees or asylum seekers in the country.

Looking ahead, the main challenges for the population centre on managing climate and environmental risk in a highly exposed small-island setting; ensuring that economic growth and tourism-led development translate into more inclusive opportunities and stronger social protection; addressing the heroin epidemic and broader substance abuse; and confronting the social and political legacies of past authoritarian rule as the recommendations of the TRNUC are debated and, potentially, implemented. These intersecting factors shape the overall humanitarian and development context in which future crises, shocks and vulnerabilities will affect people living in Seychelles.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Mauritius

Mauritius experiences a tropical maritime climate influenced by the southeast trade winds, with a hot and humid season from November to April and a cooler dry season from May to October. Long-term climate observations from the Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS) indicate a steady rise in mean temperatures over the last five decades, with an approximate increase of 0.18–0.20°C per decade. The World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal (2022) reports significant rainfall variability, an increase in the frequency of extreme precipitation events and a reduction in the number of moderate rainfall days. According to MMS coastal tide-gauge data and IPCC AR6 regional projections, sea level around Mauritius has been rising at approximately 3.8–4.0 mm per year, consistent with global oceanic trends. Climate projections for 2030–2050 suggest continued warming, more unpredictable rainfall distribution and an acceleration of sea-level rise, positioning Mauritius among the most climate-vulnerable Small Island Developing States.

Extreme weather events remain a major concern. Data from the Emergency Events Database indicate that Mauritius experienced 22 extreme weather events between 1960 and 2022, with each event causing estimated socio-economic losses ranging from USD 160 to 245 million on average. These include severe cyclones, such as Dina (2002), Gaja (2018),

and more recent intense rainfall episodes that triggered flash floods, particularly in urban areas like Port Louis. Rapid urban growth, inadequate drainage systems and land-use pressures amplify the impacts of heavy rainfall and floods on infrastructure, housing and essential services. Health systems are also affected, as climate variability contributes to increased risks of dengue, waterborne diseases and heat-related illnesses, as documented in the Ministry of Health Public Health Surveillance Reports.

Environmental degradation compounds climate risks. Land-use assessments from the National Environment and Land Use Council, Global Forest Watch (2023) and UNEP point to persistent deforestation, soil erosion and loss of natural habitats due to agricultural expansion, infrastructure development and invasive species. Groundwater availability is under pressure, particularly in regions with high extraction rates. Coastal and marine pollution, especially from plastics, untreated effluents and marine traffic, continues to degrade lagoons and nearshore ecosystems. Waste management challenges, highlighted in the National Environmental Outlook Report, further contribute to land and marine pollution, affecting biodiversity and reducing the resilience of natural systems that protect communities from storms and erosion.

Mauritius has developed a comprehensive policy framework to confront climate change and environmental degradation. The National Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework (NCCAPF) sets the strategic direction for long-term adaptation. The Climate Change Act of 2021 strengthens national governance and ensures alignment with international commitments. In its 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution (UNFCCC NDC), Mauritius commits to ambitious mitigation and adaptation objectives, including expanding its knowledge base on climate risks, strengthening disaster preparedness, improving environmental governance and building resilience across agriculture, fisheries, biodiversity, water, health, tourism and coastal zones. These commitments are further reinforced by sectoral policies, including the Blue Economy Strategy, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the Mauritius Forestry Strategy and various coastal and marine management frameworks.

Seychelles

Seychelles is highly exposed to climate variability and long-term environmental change. Its 115 islands, of which only a small number are inhabited, cover a landmass of just 459 square kilometres dispersed across a 1.4 million square kilometre Exclusive Economic Zone. As a Small Island Developing State, the country faces the characteristic challenges of limited land availability, dependence on coastal infrastructure, and sensitivity of key sectors, tourism, fisheries, water security, to climate and environmental shocks. Recent climate observations point to increasing temperatures, more erratic rainfall patterns, episodes of very intense short-duration rainfall, and higher frequency of coastal flooding linked to sea-level rise and extreme high tides. Future projections anticipate continued warming, increased likelihood of heavy precipitation events, coastal erosion, and ecosystem degradation, particularly in low-lying coralline islands.

These changing climate patterns have wide-ranging impacts. Flooding, landslides and storm surges disproportionately affect communities living in narrow coastal belts, where most of the population and economic activity are concentrated. Coastal infrastructure, including housing, roads, schools, health facilities and tourism establishments, faces recurrent damage from high tides and wave overtopping. Water security is increasingly threatened as irregular rainfall patterns impact freshwater availability and increase reliance on desalination. Marine ecosystem degradation, coral bleaching and shifting fish stocks directly affect coastal livelihoods and food systems. Vulnerable groups, including low-income coastal households, migrant workers living in high-exposure areas, elderly people and individuals with limited mobility, are at heightened risk during extreme weather events.

Human pressures compound these vulnerabilities. Rapid coastal development, land-use change, waste challenges and pollution place additional stress on ecosystems already affected by rising temperatures and more frequent heat

stress. Balancing environmental conservation with economic development remains a central national policy challenge.

Seychelles has in place several national climate and environmental frameworks, including its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the Climate Change Strategy, coastal management and adaptation plans, and ecosystem restoration programmes led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment. Partnerships between government, the scientific community and civil society are increasingly focused on building resilience, improving early warning systems, protecting coastal zones, and strengthening preparedness for extreme events.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

For 2026–2028, the Mauritius Red Cross Society will align its climate and environmental priorities with national policy frameworks, particularly the Climate Change Act, the NDC and the NCCAPF, as well as IFRC global strategies. It will focus on enhancing the resilience of communities most exposed to climate-related hazards and environmental degradation. This includes strengthening community-level climate-risk assessments and data collection, in collaboration with the Mauritius Meteorological Services and other technical institutions. Staff and volunteers will be trained on the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) and on nature-based solutions, supporting the integration of climate-smart approaches into community preparedness and local development plans. Priority will be given to highly exposed coastal zones where sea-level rise, coastal erosion and storm surges threaten livelihoods, infrastructure and essential services.

The Mauritius Red Cross Society intends to actively contribute to regional and international initiatives. Participation in the GEF Small Grants Programme will support locally driven adaptation and mitigation actions. Collaboration with PIROI, UN agencies and the Indian Ocean Commission will facilitate the implementation of resilience programmes and environmental restoration activities. The National Society will continue its engagement in the [IFRC Pan-African Tree Planting and Care Initiative](#) to restore degraded landscapes, enhance carbon sinks and strengthen the protective function of natural ecosystems. Internally, it will work to institutionalize climate and environmental sustainability, integrating [Green Response](#) practices, improving waste management, reducing environmental footprint and strengthening its capacity to mainstream climate considerations in planning, monitoring and reporting.

Seychelles

The Red Cross Society of Seychelles aims to strengthen community resilience to climate and environmental shocks by

integrating climate risk management across all programmes. The National Society seeks to enhance preparedness and anticipatory action at community level, improve understanding and use of climate information, and strengthen local capacities to reduce risks associated with flooding, landslides, coastal erosion, extreme high tides and heat-related hazards. It intends to build strong partnerships with national authorities and scientific institutions to support evidence-based climate action, while developing simple, scalable and island-appropriate approaches that address the specific vulnerabilities of small coastal and mountain communities. The Red Cross Society of Seychelles also aims to contribute to wider environmental protection efforts and advocate for climate-smart policies that safeguard lives, ecosystems and livelihoods across the archipelago.

Planned activities in 2026

Mauritius

- Organize training sessions for volunteer and staff in terms of knowledge on adaptation to the effects of climate change and adaptation strategies in Mauritius
- Organize training session for the youth section on climate change and adaptation strategies
- Collaborate with youth clubs and existing youth clubs in the field of environmental protection and adaptation
- Sensitize young people in non-formal environment on the fight against deforestation

Seychelles

- Plan and conduct simulation exercises in high-risk areas
- Conduct data collection survey in communities
- Assist mapping of national stakeholders involved in early warning
- Update the National Society contingency plan
- Induction on early action protocol session for volunteers, parliamentarians, and team leaders

- Conduct outreach needs assessment and mapping exercise
- Conduct sensitization activities on early warning with partners/stakeholders/communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Mauritius Red Cross Society through technical expertise, resource mobilization and strategic guidance. This includes assistance in climate-risk assessments, anticipatory action, early warning systems, ecosystem-based adaptation and environmental sustainability. Regional platforms such as PIROI and global IFRC reference centres will provide specialized guidance on climate-smart programming and nature-based solutions. The IFRC will also assist the National Society in accessing climate finance opportunities aligned with national priorities, such as the GEF, Green Climate Fund and other international mechanisms. Through coordinated advocacy, engagement with government institutions and capacity-building efforts, the IFRC will contribute to ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable communities are reflected in national climate and disaster risk reduction strategies, and that it maintains a strong role in climate resilience across Mauritius.

The IFRC will continue to accompany Red Cross Society of Seychelles through sustained technical, institutional and coordination support to strengthen climate-smart programming. Over the multi-year period, the IFRC and interested Participating National Societies will support the National Society in developing robust climate risk assessments, strengthening early warning and early action mechanisms, and integrating climate and environmental considerations into all major programmatic areas. IFRC reference centres, hubs and specialised networks will provide access to global and regional expertise, particularly on island climate adaptation, coastal resilience, community-based DRR, and the use of climate information for decision-making. Longer-term support will focus on enhancing the National Society's institutional readiness, strengthening partnerships with government agencies, and supporting the development of climate-smart policies, tools and capacities.



Disasters and crises

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

Mauritius

Mauritius is a Small Island Developing State highly exposed to natural hazards, particularly tropical cyclones, heavy rainfall, floods, landslides, storm surges and, to a lesser extent, tsunamis. The INFORM Risk Country Profile for Mauritius shows an overall INFORM risk score of around 2.0, with hazard and exposure, vulnerability and lack of coping capacity all contributing to the country's risk profile. Although Mauritius benefits from relatively strong governance and basic services compared to many countries at similar income levels, its small land area, high population density in coastal and urban zones and concentration of critical infrastructure in exposed locations mean that even single events can have large humanitarian and economic consequences. The INFORM profile highlights particularly high physical exposure to tropical cyclones and tsunamis, combined with structural vulnerabilities linked to rapid urbanisation, limited land for safe expansion and reliance on climate-sensitive sectors.

According to the [World Risk Report 2021](#), Mauritius ranks around 51st out of 181 countries in terms of overall disaster risk from extreme natural events, reflecting high exposure but comparatively lower vulnerability and better coping capacities than many other SIDS. The country regularly experiences the impacts of tropical cyclones and associated secondary hazards such as storm surges and inland flooding. Historical disaster data from EM-DAT and national reports confirm a pattern of recurrent cyclones and heavy rainfall events that have caused loss of life, damage to housing and public infrastructure, and disruption of essential services. Urban flash floods, especially in and around Port Louis and other densely populated areas, are now recognised as a chronic risk due to intense localised rainfall combined with drainage bottlenecks, land-use changes and encroachment into flood-prone zones.

The impacts of disasters on populations in Mauritius include loss of lives and injuries, destruction and damage to homes, schools, health centres, roads and drainage infrastructure, and disruption to livelihoods, particularly in agriculture, fisheries and tourism. While large-scale catastrophes are relatively infrequent, medium-size and localised events occur regularly and carry heavy cumulative costs. The UN report "Small Island Developing States in Numbers 2017" [projected](#) that Mauritius would become a water-stressed country by 2025 and that agricultural production could decline by up to 30 percent due to climate-related pressures, underscoring how disasters and slow-onset changes combine to increase humanitarian needs over time. Small-scale disasters, including those that have triggered operations (e.g. severe floods or cyclones affecting specific districts), illustrate the type of recurrent emergencies

that can overwhelm local coping mechanisms, especially among poor households and informal settlements; these events provide useful lessons on typical humanitarian needs, from emergency shelter and WASH to livelihood support and psychosocial assistance.

Regarding food security, Mauritius imports a substantial share of its food and is therefore exposed both to international price volatility and to domestic disruptions caused by cyclones, floods and droughts. While the country is not a primary focus of FEWS NET's regular acute food insecurity monitoring, global and regional analyses, as well as World Bank and FAO assessments, point to growing concerns about food price inflation, supply chain disruptions and climate-related impacts on local agriculture. For poor and vulnerable households, particularly those reliant on daily wages, subsistence farming or nearshore fishing, even moderate shocks can rapidly translate into acute food and livelihood insecurity. Projections suggest that without strengthened resilience measures, the interplay of climate hazards, economic shocks and global food market instability could deepen existing vulnerabilities and widen humanitarian needs in the coming years.

Rapid and often unplanned urban expansion, especially in flood-prone zones, continues to increase exposure of households and critical infrastructure. Land scarcity and competing economic interests make it difficult to relocate people and assets away from high-risk areas. Some remote or economically marginal communities, including outlying islets and in peri-urban settlements, may have limited access to services and information, reducing their capacity to prepare for and recover from disasters. Heavy rainfall events can lead to sudden-onset flooding that overwhelms drainage systems, complicating access for emergency services, and climate change is expected to intensify these patterns.

Seychelles

Seychelles faces a set of well-identified natural and human-induced hazards that place significant strain on its small landmass, concentrated population and coastal infrastructure. The INFORM Risk Index consistently categorises Seychelles as a country with medium hazard exposure but relatively strong coping capacity, yet with high sensitivity due to geography, limited land availability and infrastructure concentrated in narrow coastal plains. The main hazards include intense rainfall leading to flash floods, landslides, storm surges, coastal flooding, and the long-term impacts of sea-level rise. Although most islands lie outside the main cyclone belt, severe hydrometeorological events occasionally affect the country; past examples include Tropical Cyclones Felleng (2013) and Fantala (2016). Geological and ocean-related hazards are also relevant, as demonstrated by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

In recent years, several events have highlighted the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and settlements. Heavy downpours have triggered destructive mudslides, damaged homes and transportation routes, and caused river systems to overflow. Unusually high tides have increasingly affected coastal establishments, particularly where hotels, roads and utilities occupy narrow coastal strips. Large fires at the Providence landfill on Mahé have added a technological dimension to the risk landscape, disrupting services and prompting temporary closures of schools and businesses.

State services provide relatively strong disaster risk management capacities, led by the Disaster Risk Management Department (DRMD) and supported by sector ministries, meteorological services and specialised agencies. National policies and legal frameworks, including the Disaster Risk Management Act and national contingency plans, ensure structured coordination. However, challenges persist: difficult topography complicates access during emergencies, particularly in steep or remote areas; coastal concentration of people and assets amplifies exposure; and resources allocated to proactive disaster risk reduction remain limited compared to those for emergency response.

Seychelles' multi-island geography, reliance on coastal infrastructure, and growing climate threats contribute to a risk environment that demands both strengthened readiness and more anticipatory, community-based approaches. While coping capacity is generally high, the country remains highly sensitive to overlapping hazards, rainfall, tides, landslides, fires and environmental degradation, that can quickly overwhelm localized systems. Projection trends indicate increasing frequency of intense rainfall events and continued sea-level rise, requiring sustained investment in prevention, preparedness and risk-informed development.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

The Mauritius Red Cross Society will align its disaster risk management work with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategic Framework 2020–2030 and the commitments undertaken by Mauritius under the Sendai Framework. It will aim to strengthen community-based disaster risk reduction and preparedness in the most exposed localities, with a focus on tropical cyclones, floods and other hydrometeorological hazards that regularly affect the country. Building on its auxiliary role to the public authorities, the National Society will contribute to improving risk knowledge at local level by supporting hazard, exposure and vulnerability assessments, including through Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCA) in at-risk communities and schools. It will also invest in training volunteers, staff and local stakeholders so they better understand disaster risks in Mauritius, national early warning procedures and the roles

and responsibilities of different actors before, during and after an emergency.

The Mauritius Red Cross Society will continue to support and complement state-led disaster governance by strengthening partnerships with local authorities, the NDRRMC, the Land Drainage Authority and other key ministries. The National Society intends to reinforce its leadership and expertise on disaster law and auxiliary role, working closely with IFRC's Disaster Law Programme to ensure that national legislation, policies and contingency plans make full use of its capacities and facilitate principled humanitarian access during crises. In cooperation with PIROI and other partners in the South-West Indian Ocean, the National Society will invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience, including through community-based early warning and early action, local contingency planning and pre-positioning of essential relief items. It will also contribute to improving school safety by supporting the Ministry of Education to integrate DRR into school curricula and to implement disaster preparedness plans, including first aid and life-saving skills training, in a growing number of schools identified through vulnerability and capacity studies.

In practical terms, the Mauritius Red Cross Society will work with stakeholders and relevant ministries to strengthen the capacities of at least ten high-risk communities through repeated awareness sessions on natural hazards, climate-related risks and appropriate preparedness and response behaviours. In parallel, the National Society will support capacity and vulnerability assessments in a minimum of ten schools and will collaborate with school authorities to put in place or update school emergency and evacuation plans, test them through drills and provide training in first aid and basic life-saving actions. At least twenty facilitators drawn from the National Society, government and community structures will be trained in participatory risk awareness tools, so that risk education and preparedness messages can be scaled up sustainably beyond the direct interventions of the National Society. These objectives are designed to contribute directly to the national DRR strategic framework and to the achievement of the Sendai Framework priorities for understanding risk, strengthening governance, investing in resilience and enhancing preparedness for effective response and 'build back better'.

Seychelles

Over the coming years, the Red Cross Society of Seychelles aims to strengthen its role within the national disaster management system while scaling up community-centred disaster risk reduction. It seeks to enhance early warning and early action capacities across islands, improve the preparedness of communities in high-risk coastal and mountain areas, and develop simple, scalable approaches adapted to Seychelles' unique geography. A key objective is to support evidence-based national planning, including contributing to risk profiling exercises and long-term DRR strategies, in close alignment with national authorities. The National Society also aims to

reinforce the readiness of its volunteer network, improve its internal systems for preparedness and response, and help shift the national approach from largely reactive emergency operations to proactive, anticipatory risk reduction. Ensuring that disaster risk considerations are integrated into local development processes and that vulnerable groups have access to timely support remains central to the National Society's multi-year vision.

Planned activities in 2026

Mauritius

- Strengthen capacities of communities by organizing awareness sessions on the risks of natural hazards
- Implement school-based actions based on capacity and vulnerability studies in at least 8 schools in Mauritius and 5 schools in Rodrigues
- Train prevention actors in awareness-raising tools
- Reconstruct and expand the Mauritius Red Cross Society contingency warehouse
- Replenish warehouse and set up an emergency operations centre at the National Society headquarters
- Train branch disaster response teams on KOBO tool and participate in coordination meetings

Seychelles

- Review/set up National Society operational centre and conduct training on preparedness for effective response ([PER](#))
- Monitor/evaluate pre-positioning stocks in warehouses
- Train staff, volunteers and local government on national disaster response
- Conduct training on radio communication
- Advocate for the review and update of relevant local policies and framework

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Mauritius Red Cross Society in strengthening its disaster risk reduction and disaster management capacities, ensuring alignment with national frameworks and global IFRC strategies. This support will include technical assistance for the development and updating of community and school-based DRR tools, risk awareness materials and participatory training approaches tailored to the Mauritian context. The IFRC and its partners will provide guidance on establishing and refining community-centred early warning systems, closely linked to national forecasting services and the NDRRCM, and on integrating anticipatory

action into its operations so that at-risk communities can act before hazards fully materialise.

It will also accompany the Mauritius Red Cross Society in its work on disaster law, governance and coordination with public authorities, helping to clarify roles, responsibilities and standard operating procedures under the National DRR and Management Act and related policies. Where relevant, the IFRC will support the National Society to access regional capacity-building opportunities and funding mechanisms, including through PIROI and other Indian Ocean initiatives, and to document and share learning from DREF operations and other emergency responses. Through this combined technical, financial and advocacy support, the IFRC will help the National Society to consolidate its role as a key national partner in disaster risk management, better prepared to protect lives, livelihoods and dignity before, during and after disasters in Mauritius.

The IFRC network will continue to support Red Cross Society of Seychelles in strengthening its disaster management and resilience capacities through sustained technical assistance, capacity development and knowledge exchange. Over the multi-year period, the IFRC and interested Participating National Societies will accompany the National Society in advancing comprehensive disaster risk management, including risk assessments, contingency planning, early warning systems, community preparedness and anticipatory action. IFRC reference centres and hubs may provide specialised support on disaster risk reduction, climate-related hazards, volunteer management for emergency response, and urban and coastal resilience, ensuring that the National Society has access to global expertise and practical tools. Longer-term Federation engagement will focus on institutional preparedness, strengthening coordination with DRMD and other national actors, and supporting the National Society in contributing to national disaster risk reduction commitments and policy processes. This sustained partnership aims to position the National Society as a key factor in promoting risk-informed, resilient and community-driven approaches to disasters and crises in Seychelles.

The French Red Cross contributes to the development of DRR awareness tools and supports training for National Disaster Response Teams and volunteers. It also ensures preparedness through training programs such as Preparedness for Effective Response ([PER](#)) and monitoring the status of pre-positioned stocks. By offering tailored technical expertise and funding, the PIROI project enhances the capacity of the National Society to address complex emergencies and strengthen its auxiliary role in national disaster management systems. This collaboration ensures the alignment of local and regional efforts with broader disaster risk reduction frameworks.

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 Mauritius Red Cross Society volunteers support the Ministry of Health with ambulance service and psychosocial aid to communities during disasters. (Photo: IFRC)



Health and wellbeing

Mauritius

Mauritius has sustained a tax-funded welfare state for over four decades, with free health services available in all public facilities as a cornerstone of its universal health coverage system. Over this period, health outcomes have improved significantly: life expectancy at birth increased from about 71 years in 2000 to more than 74 years in 2019, before falling slightly to around 73.4 years in 2021, according to the WHO “Health at a Glance – Mauritius” [profile](#) and World Health Statistics 2023. Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) now dominate the epidemiological profile. The National Integrated NCD Action Plan 2023–2028 reports that NCDs account for around 80–81 per cent of all deaths in the country, with a particularly high burden of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. At the same time, communicable disease rates remain relatively low, although vector-borne diseases such as dengue continue to pose recurrent risks. The Universal Health Coverage (UHC) service coverage index for Mauritius was estimated at 63–64 in 2017 and increased to around 66 in 2021, according to World Bank and UN SDG country profile data, confirming that while access is broad, there are still important gaps in effective coverage and financial protection.

The Government’s overarching health policy objective is to achieve the highest attainable standard of health for all, irrespective of gender, age, disability, geographical location, social status or ability to pay. The National Health Sector Strategy and the National Integrated NCD Action Plan 2023–2028 set clear priorities for strengthening primary health care, tackling NCD risk factors such as unhealthy diet, physical

inactivity and tobacco use, and improving quality of care across the life course. WHO’s Country Cooperation Strategy for Mauritius 2023–2026 underlines additional priorities including health security, preparedness for health emergencies, and adapting the health system to an ageing population and growing demand for chronic care.

Epidemics remain a concern despite generally strong routine surveillance. Recent years have seen periodic dengue outbreaks and the global [COVID-19 pandemic](#), which placed pressure on the health system and highlighted the importance of resilient public health functions, infection prevention and control, and surge capacity. The Global Health Security Index and WHO’s health security assessments underline the need to further strengthen core capacities for detection, preparedness and response to health emergencies, including at community level and in coordination with other sectors.

Noncommunicable diseases represent the main cause of morbidity and mortality. The National Integrated NCD Action Plan 2023–2028 reports that more than three-quarters of deaths are attributable to NCDs, with diabetes prevalence among the highest in the African region and a major contributor to disability and health expenditure. The combination of an ageing population, lifestyle risk factors and high NCD prevalence threatens the long-term sustainability of the health system and the achievement of universal health coverage, as highlighted by recent analyses of the impact of an ageing population on Mauritius’ health system and UHC trajectory.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) indicators are relatively strong in Mauritius compared with many countries in the region, but important inequalities remain. According to WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) data and World Bank indicators, a high proportion of the population uses safely managed drinking water services and safely managed sanitation, with coverage rates above 90 per cent for basic services and progressively increasing for safely managed services. However, some poorer urban settlements and certain rural areas still experience intermittent water supply, inadequate sanitation or insufficient wastewater treatment, which can increase the risk of waterborne diseases, especially after heavy rain or flooding. Climate-related hazards, such as cyclones and flash floods, can disrupt water and sanitation infrastructure and contaminate water sources, with direct implications for health, particularly in crowded or low-income communities.

Policy and institutional frameworks for health and WASH are relatively robust. Mauritius has a comprehensive set of national health policies, including the National Health Sector Strategy, the National Integrated NCD Action Plan 2023–2028, immunisation policies aligned with WHO recommendations and national plans for health security and emergency preparedness developed in line with the International Health Regulations (2005). For WASH, the country relies on sectoral strategies involving the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Central Water Authority, the Wastewater Management Authority and local authorities, with data reported through the WHO/UNICEF JMP. Coordination mechanisms for health emergencies, including a national health emergency committee and multi-sectoral platforms, were activated during the COVID-19 pandemic and are being strengthened to address future threats. Aligning National Society plans with these frameworks will be essential to ensure complementarity and maximise impact.

Seychelles

Seychelles has achieved strong health outcomes over the past decades, supported by a publicly funded health system that guarantees access to healthcare as a constitutional right. The National Health Strategic Plan 2022–2026 reaffirms the principles of 'Right to Health Care: Health for All and Health by All', guiding a primary health care-oriented system with universal access. Health services are provided mainly through the Ministry of Health, supported by a network of health centres across the main islands, each staffed by multidisciplinary district health teams. Secondary and tertiary services are offered through Victoria Hospital, psychiatric and rehabilitation facilities, and specialised referral services.

Despite these strengths, the health landscape is characterised by a dual burden of disease. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers and hypertension, remain the leading causes of morbidity and mortality, driven by lifestyle risk factors, high obesity

rates and dietary patterns. Simultaneously, Seychelles remains vulnerable to communicable diseases, with periodic outbreaks of dengue, chikungunya and leptospirosis, as well as persistent risks of HIV and viral hepatitis. Recent national surveillance continues to monitor emerging diseases and syndromic threats, given the country's high mobility and tourism-based economy.

Access to healthcare is generally high, yet inequalities persist for certain groups, particularly migrant workers, elderly populations living in remote areas, and socially vulnerable households. Health access can also be temporarily disrupted during extreme weather events, such as landslides, major floods or coastal surges, which affect roads, clinics and essential services. Mental health needs have also increased nationally, partly linked to substance abuse trends, social isolation and financial pressure.

Seychelles has very high vaccination coverage overall, but pockets of under-immunized individuals remain, especially among mobile populations and migrant workers. Continued focus is required to maintain high immunisation rates and address any zero-dose risks among children.

Malnutrition is not a widespread humanitarian concern at national level, but increasing obesity and overweight, combined with rising food prices and dependence on imports, raise long-term health vulnerabilities. Access to safe water and sanitation is stable in most areas, although some communities experience intermittent water shortages linked to climate variability. Long-term climate change impacts, including increased heat, rainfall variability, vector habitat changes and impacts on food and water supply, pose significant emerging health risks requiring integrated preparedness and adaptation.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

For 2026–2028, the Mauritius Red Cross Society will build on its auxiliary role and existing health services to support national priorities in public health, NCDs, health security and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), in line with the Ministry of Health and Wellness strategies, the National Integrated NCD Action Plan 2023–2028 and WHO–Government cooperation frameworks. The National Society aims to position itself more strongly within national public health strategy, advocacy and policy mechanisms by actively participating in health coordination platforms and contributing to the development, dissemination and community-level implementation of key strategic and contingency documents, including epidemic preparedness and response plans. It will promote risk communication and community engagement as integral components of health emergency preparedness and response, ensuring that communities understand public health measures and are involved in shaping them.

The National Society will continue to improve the health and wellbeing of communities by supporting access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate and quality health services throughout the life course. Building on its long-standing work in ambulance and first aid services, the National Society will maintain and expand its emergency medical response capacity, update its [first aid](#) training curricula in line with international best practice and national guidelines, and sustain its commercially based first aid training as an important means of both service delivery and financial sustainability. At the same time, the Mauritius Red Cross Society will seek to strengthen its contribution to prevention and management of NCDs and to healthy lifestyles, for example through community-based health promotion, screening activities implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, and links to programmes that encourage physical activity, healthy nutrition and tobacco control.

The National Society will contribute to health security and epidemic preparedness by supporting the implementation of the national epidemiological contingency plan at community level. This will include training volunteers in community-based surveillance, infection prevention and control, and social mobilisation; delivering timely and context-sensitive risk communication; and supporting vaccination campaigns and other emergency public health interventions in accordance with national policies. Building on its experience under the Saving Lives and Livelihoods ([SLL](#)) programme, the Mauritius Red Cross Society will continue to deliver critical risk communication and community engagement, provide procurement and logistics support in cooperation with partners such as UNICEF and WFP, and manage or assist vaccination centres and safety surveillance activities alongside partners including AMREF and other health actors, in line with government guidance.

In terms of WASH, the Mauritius Red Cross Society will integrate water, sanitation and hygiene promotion more systematically within its health and disaster risk management activities. It will focus on hygiene promotion, safe water practices and sanitation behaviour change in high-risk communities, especially in areas prone to flooding and where access to safely managed services is weaker. By doing so, the National Society will contribute to national commitments on WASH, to the prevention of waterborne diseases and to the health dimensions of climate adaptation.

Seychelles

Over the coming years, the Red Cross Society of Seychelles aims to strengthen its contributions to national health priorities by focusing on community-based health promotion, epidemic preparedness, and [psychosocial support](#). The National Society seeks to reinforce its formal collaboration with the Ministry of Health, as reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding, to help extend health services to vulnerable and underserved groups. It intends to expand its workforce of trained volunteers to support first aid, community outreach, and risk communication, particularly for at-risk populations

such as migrant workers, elderly persons and isolated households. Strengthening community-based health and first aid ([CBHFA](#)), supporting blood donation mobilisation, and enhancing the psychological well-being of communities remain key priorities.

The National Society will also focus on improving health emergency readiness, supporting surveillance-related activities at community level, and contributing to pandemic preparedness in alignment with national commitments. The Red Cross Society of Seychelles aims to leverage partnerships, including with Africa CDC, UNICEF, WFP, AMREF, and other health actors, to support the continuity of essential services, mobilise communities during outbreaks, and improve health literacy across the islands. These multi-year objectives directly contribute to the National Health Strategic Plan and complement broader government efforts to ensure equitable access to quality health services.

Planned activities in 2026

Mauritius

- Participate in health platform to contribute to the development of the state's health policy and strategic documents
- Update and disseminate the epidemiological contingency plan
- Increase National Society capacity to provide ambulance and health service, including [first aid](#)
- Review first aid training curriculum and maintain commercial first aid training
- Support Ministry of Health and Welfare through ambulance service in emergency situations and during hurricanes
- Strengthen the capacity of volunteers on identification of endemic, pandemic, and epidemic diseases

Seychelles

- Conduct meetings with the blood transfusion unit
 - Participate in the national level health platforms and contribute to elaboration of strategies and policies
 - Participate in meetings and coordinate with health stakeholders in the country
 - Establish blood donation groups
 - Provide [psychosocial support](#) training to communities and set up health and care clubs
 - Conduct training for first aid instructors (including training equipment and materials)
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide sustained technical and financial support to the Mauritius Red Cross Society to help it achieve its health and WASH objectives. This will include technical guidance on community health, first aid, NCD prevention and control, epidemic preparedness and response, risk communication and community engagement, and WASH in emergencies, drawing on IFRC global standards and tools and on the experience of other National Societies. The IFRC will support the National Society in strengthening its role in national health coordination platforms, in aligning its programmes with governmental health and WASH policies and in demonstrating the added value of its auxiliary role.

The IFRC and Partner National Societies will also help the Mauritius Red Cross Society mobilise resources for community health, NCD prevention, WASH and health emergency preparedness activities, including through integration in multi-country or regional health and resilience programmes. Emphasis will be placed on building the National Society's institutional capacities for planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning in health and WASH, and on ensuring accountability to affected populations. By strengthening partnerships with local actors, authorities and stakeholders, the IFRC will help ensure that the National Society can contribute effectively to national commitments on universal health coverage,

health security and climate-resilient health systems, while maintaining principled, people-centred humanitarian action throughout the 2026–2028 period.

The IFRC will continue to support Red Cross Society of Seychelles in strengthening its health and well-being services through sustained technical assistance, capacity development and resource mobilisation. Over the multi-year period, the IFRC will accompany the National Society in expanding community-based health and disease prevention, enhancing first aid systems, strengthening psychosocial support capacities, and integrating Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) across health programming. Regional and global expertise from IFRC reference centres and health networks will help the National Society address epidemic preparedness, community surveillance, and the health impacts of climate change.

The French Red Cross, through PIROI, will continue to provide targeted support for first aid training, health emergency preparedness, and volunteer capacity strengthening. The IFRC will also help the National Society engage in national and regional health platforms, contribute to health policy dialogue, and secure funding opportunities aligned with national health strategies. This long-term partnership aims to ensure that the National Society remains a reliable actor supporting community health, reducing disease risks, and enhancing the resilience of populations across Seychelles.



Values, power and inclusion

Mauritius

Mauritius is a multicultural, multilingual and multi-religious society whose demographic structure is documented by the latest Statistics Mauritius Population and Housing Census, which reports that Hindus make up 48.5 per cent of the population, Christians 32.7 per cent, Muslims 17.3 per cent and Buddhists around 0.2 per cent. This diversity is expressed across social norms, community life and cultural expectations, influencing gender roles, education pathways and social opportunities. Mauritius' long history of pluralism has helped build a strong civic identity, yet persistent socio-economic inequalities continue to shape how different groups access services, participate in decision-making and experience inclusion or exclusion.

In the education sector, Mauritius demonstrates high levels of participation and completion across most stages of schooling. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and the UNESCO SDG4 Data Dashboard, primary education enrolment is near universal and completion rates for primary and lower secondary exceed 95 per cent. Early childhood education enrolment has steadily increased, supported by the Ministry of Education's policy on pre- primary access.

However, learning outcomes remain unequal. UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report shows disparities in literacy and numeracy levels, particularly among children in low-income households and those with disabilities. The Education Statistics Digest (Ministry of Education) notes that teacher–student ratios vary significantly across regions, and that children with disabilities continue to face barriers in accessing inclusive classes, specialised pedagogical support and accessible infrastructure. A small but notable number of children remain out of school due to disability, social vulnerability or family circumstances, as reflected in UNICEF Education Country Profiles.

In the field of protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), Mauritius has ratified major international instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), its Optional Protocol, and the African Union Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. The National Gender Policy Framework and the Local Government Act (2012) promote gender equality and representation, while the Code of Corporate Governance (2017) encourages gender-balanced boards. Despite these frameworks, gender equality gaps remain substantial. The World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report and the UNDP Gender Inequality Index

show that Mauritius performs moderately overall but fares poorly in economic participation and political empowerment. The ILO Country Profile and national labour force surveys indicate that female unemployment has been consistently higher than male unemployment, at times more than double, and that women are underrepresented in high-level decision-making roles across public and private sectors.

Gender-based violence remains a pressing issue. The UN Women Global Database on Violence Against Women and national police statistics document persistent cases of domestic violence, intimate partner violence and other forms of GBV. Children face risks of neglect and abuse, with data from UNICEF Country Profiles and the Ministry of Gender Equality showing regular referrals to child protection services. LGBTIQ+ individuals continue to experience discrimination and stigma; Freedom House reports, OHCHR documentation and findings from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) note instances of harassment and barriers to equal treatment, although recent Pride events have been conducted peacefully with state protection. Migrant workers, particularly from Africa and Asia, also experience vulnerabilities related to labour exploitation, excessive working hours, wage retention and limited access to formal protection systems, as highlighted in ILO migrant worker assessments and UN Special Rapporteur reports.

Disability inclusion remains a major challenge despite progressive legal frameworks. Data from the UN Disability Data Portal and national census indicate that persons with disabilities have significantly lower employment rates, reduced access to higher education and limited access to services adapted to their needs. In disaster contexts, accessibility barriers in shelters, communication systems and early warning mechanisms increase their vulnerability and heighten protection risks.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) considerations are increasingly important in Mauritius. While overall trust in institutions remains high, findings from the RCCE Collective Service Data Portal and CDAC Network communication landscape analyses indicate that during public health emergencies, such as COVID-19, or during severe weather events, communities may express scepticism regarding official information, delays in response or inconsistent communication. People's preferred communication channels include SMS alerts, social media (particularly Facebook), radio broadcasts and messages relayed through local leaders. Vulnerable groups, such as elderly people living alone, migrants, residents of informal settlements and people with low digital literacy, face additional communication barriers that can limit access to timely, actionable information during crises.

Seychelles

Seychelles has made notable progress in developing gender and inclusion policies, supported by a comprehensive institutional framework. The Gender Secretariat is responsible

for mainstreaming gender equality through the national Gender Management System and implementing the National Gender Policy (2016) and the National Gender Plan of Action (2019). These frameworks align with regional and international commitments, including the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Despite these commitments, deeply rooted cultural norms and gender stereotypes continue to shape social expectations, contributing to persistent inequalities and gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence remains a serious concern. A 2018 national survey found that 58 per cent of women had experienced physical violence, mostly from intimate partners, and 1 in 10 had experienced rape. Reported cases of GBV have increased in recent years, though improved reporting mechanisms may partly explain this trend. Although sex-disaggregated data remain limited, available information highlights structural disparities: the private sector remains predominantly male, while women represent a majority in the public sector, often concentrated in lower-paid roles such as caregiving and service work. Wage gaps persist, with women earning on average 19 per cent less than men. Conversely, women have gained strong representation in areas traditionally dominated by men, such as environmental management, climate action and project leadership, particularly within the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment and in UNDP-GEF coordination structures.

Civil society plays an important role in addressing protection, gender and inclusion needs. Organizations including CEPS, WASO, ASFF, GEMPUS, EFOI and Mpower provide support for survivors, training on financial independence, access to sexual and reproductive health services, and empowerment programmes for vulnerable and disadvantaged women. LGBTIQ Seychelles is increasingly active, raising awareness on violence against sexually diverse people and providing training to service providers. Shelters and helplines exist but have limited capacity and rely heavily on NGO initiatives and project-based funding.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) is increasingly relevant in Seychelles, where communities expect transparent, responsive and participatory approaches from public authorities and humanitarian actors. While trust in institutions remains generally stable, high-profile issues, such as land allocation, resource management, and social protection—have generated public debate and highlighted the need for more inclusive communication. In times of crisis, radio, television and social media remain the primary channels for information, but communication gaps persist for migrants, elderly persons living alone, and residents of small or remote islands.

Overall, patterns of vulnerability intersect across gender, age, disability, poverty, and identity. Groups at higher risk of discrimination or exclusion include survivors of GBV,

LGBTIQ individuals, persons with disabilities, economically marginalised households, migrants, and youth exposed to substance dependence or violence. Strengthening inclusive, protective and community-driven systems remains a national priority, supported by existing legal frameworks and ongoing civil society engagement.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

Over the 2026–2028 period, the Mauritius Red Cross Society will further integrate education, protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement into its programmes, drawing on national policy frameworks and IFRC global standards. In education, the National Society will reinforce school safety and resilience by promoting first aid education, disaster preparedness training, humanitarian values, and climate awareness for children and teachers. This will complement Ministry of Education efforts and align with the GADRRRES Comprehensive School Safety Framework and SDG4 national benchmarks.

In the area of protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), the Mauritius Red Cross Society will strengthen volunteer and staff capacities on gender equality, prevention of violence, disability inclusion and children's rights, ensuring adherence to IFRC's [PGI Minimum Standards](#). Training will emphasise survivor-centred approaches, safe referrals, and protection-sensitive community engagement. The National Society will promote dignity, respect and inclusion for people of all identities, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation, and will enhance psychological support and PSEA measures to safeguard volunteers and affected communities.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) will be mainstreamed across the Mauritius Red Cross Society's programmes to ensure meaningful participation and accountability to affected people. It will strengthen feedback and complaints mechanisms, adapt communication approaches to community preferences, and invest in transparent, two-way communication during emergencies.

Seychelles

The Red Cross Society of Seychelles aims to strengthen inclusion, protection and humanitarian values at community and institutional levels in alignment with its Strategic Plan 2023–2027. Over the coming years, the National Society will focus on empowering young people through enhanced leadership, life skills and humanitarian education, expanding safe and inclusive volunteering opportunities, and fostering an organisational culture grounded in dignity, equity and non-discrimination. It will reinforce its protection and inclusion approaches, particularly related to gender-based violence, support to vulnerable and marginalised groups, and the inclusion of people with disabilities, ensuring that community

feedback and accountability mechanisms shape programmes and services. In collaboration with government ministries, civil society organisations and community groups, the National Society aims to contribute to national commitments in gender equality, social protection and youth development by providing complementary community-based initiatives, strengthening safe referral pathways, and promoting humanitarian values through non-formal education.

Planned activities in 2026

Mauritius

- Train young leaders of the youth section on humanitarian values and fundamental principles
- Develop recommended action plans based on the results of the organizational assessment
- Establish and provide mandatory information session for all staff and volunteers on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)

Seychelles

- Review implementation of the National Society strategic plan 2023-2027
- Conduct PGI and community engagement and accountability (CEA) training for National Society staff and volunteers

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide coordinated technical and financial support to the Mauritius Red Cross Society to reinforce humanitarian values, PGI, CEA and education initiatives. This includes technical coaching on the [IFRC PGI Minimum Standards in emergencies](#), CEA tools, safeguarding and PSEA frameworks, disability inclusion standards, and inclusive education practices. The IFRC will help the National Society align its work with national commitments on gender equality, child protection and inclusive education, and will support resource mobilisation to scale up PGI and CEA interventions. Through joint learning, peer exchanges and global expertise, the IFRC will support the National Society embed rights-based, inclusive, community-led approaches across all programmes throughout the 2026–2028 period.

The IFRC will provide sustained technical, institutional and financial support to help Red Cross Society of Seychelles strengthen its protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement capacities. Over the multi-year period, the IFRC will continue supporting the National Society to develop and implement inclusive policies, safeguard frameworks, and survivor-centred approaches to protection, while strengthening its capacity to deliver youth engagement and humanitarian education initiatives. Long-term support will include technical assistance for embedding Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), including tools for

feedback mechanisms, inclusive communication, and participatory approaches in programmes across all islands.

The **French Red Cross**, through PIROI, will support peer-learning, training, and resource mobilisation to advance gender equality, social inclusion, and the empowerment of vulnerable

groups. By fostering peer-to-peer learning opportunities, they enable the National Society to collaborate and exchange best practices with other National Societies, enriching its approach to promoting equitable access to education and supporting vulnerable communities.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Mauritius Red Cross Society and the Seychelles Red Cross Society are committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and are both currently at the orientation phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, and ultimately take necessary actions to improve them.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

- Reinforce its role as auxiliary to the public authorities by strengthening strategic and operational coordination across all sectors of its mandate
- Focus on enhanced volunteer mobilisation in emergency response and disaster risk management, ensuring that its volunteer network is well trained, rapidly deployable and effectively integrated into national preparedness and response mechanisms
- Contribute to health system strengthening by improving coordination with government partners, promoting innovation in service delivery and maintaining close collaboration with health authorities to support public health objectives
- Consolidate engagement with government institutions, UN agencies, humanitarian partners and civil society organisations by facilitating regular coordination meetings in key thematic areas such as health, food security and disaster risk reduction
- Strengthen partnerships with line ministries, particularly the Ministries of Health, Education and Interior, alongside



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

expanding participation in UN-led thematic clusters and national coordination forums

- Strengthen resource mobilization to support capacity strengthening of the volunteers and staff

Seychelles

- Emphasize engagement to partners and government by supporting a regular meeting with the main actor in health, food security and Disaster Risk and Reduction area
- Advocate for behavioural engagement at the domestic, regional, and global levels by presenting the strategy plan to relevant ministries, humanitarian and development agencies and underpinning a strong relationship with them through commitment to volunteers' mobilization for each programme
- Implement several strategies to enhance resource mobilization
- Foster engagement with community by strengthening its digital transformation through training volunteers and staff on digital transformation tool
- Organize annual partners' meetings with support from Movement members

- Organize and participate in international days such as Red Cross Day, World Volunteer Day, World Blood Donor Day, and more
- Disseminate the auxiliary role of the National Society among representatives and relevant ministries, humanitarian, and development agencies
- Review and develop a resource mobilization framework and policy for the National Society

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to strengthen its cooperation with external partners and provide the Mauritius Red Cross Society with sustained technical and financial support for strategic and operational coordination. The network will work alongside the

National Society to ensure the National Society has the tools, guidance and resources needed to fulfil its auxiliary role and effectively coordinate with government authorities, partners, donors and affected communities.

The IFRC will support the National Society as long as possible through its networks: partners, donors, and Government. By offering guidance and resources, the IFRC ensures that National Societies can harness digital tools to improve operational efficiency, enhance communication, and increase community engagement. This transformation is essential for modernizing how the Red Cross Movement delivers humanitarian services, ensuring it remains responsive and adaptive to the evolving needs of communities worldwide.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

- Continue strengthening its institutional development to reinforce its public profile and operational capacities
- Reconstruction of the historic War Memorial Building, restoring its heritage character while transforming it into a multifunctional hub housing the contingency warehouse, the Emergency Operations Centre and a dedicated Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum
- Strengthen the capacities of its headquarters and branches in good governance, programme management, monitoring and evaluation, and safeguarding frameworks such as Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and the Movement's Code of Conduct
- Establish a comprehensive digital database for members and volunteers, staff training in digital systems and the regular updating of volunteer records

Seychelles

- Provide training to staff and volunteers on CEA, PSEA, PGI, psychosocial support, the distribution of relief supplies and the provision of medical care and first aid
- Train staff and volunteers in Code of Conduct and security prevention measures

- Strengthen software skill in programme, financing, and monitoring
- Produce regular and timely financial and narrative qualitative reports

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will remain a trusted partner supporting the Mauritius Red Cross Society in its National Society development journey. This includes strengthening institutional capacities, mobilising resources for development initiatives and facilitating partnerships within and beyond the Movement to ensure that the National Society can deliver effective, sustainable and high-quality humanitarian services on a scale.

The IFRC supports the Red Cross Society of Seychelles in building diverse and adaptive leadership. To this end, it prioritizes reviewing and enhancing the National Society's Volunteer Management and Retention Strategy and Policy, ensuring a focus on gender parity, youth involvement, and equitable geographic representation. By leveraging innovative and transformative approaches, the IFRC empowers the National Society to anticipate and adapt to complex challenges, ensuring that it remains a resilient and forward-looking organization.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

- Consolidate its role in humanitarian diplomacy, leveraging its membership in the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Committee and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre to advocate for principled humanitarian action
- Strengthen communication and advocacy efforts through a structured communication plan designed to highlight its role, mandate and activities to public authorities, partners and the wider population
- Maintain regular engagement with ministries, local authorities and national coordination bodies to promote awareness of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, its Fundamental Principles and its contribution to national priorities
- Continue to develop and maintain its website and communication tools to improve public access to information and increase institutional visibility

Seychelles

- Strengthen humanitarian diplomacy by promoting clear, accessible and engaging communication that enhances its visibility and credibility with national stakeholders
- focus on developing simple, positive messaging to attract local donors and identify potential champions who can

support the National Society and contribute to strong, representative governance

- Invest in documenting and sharing lessons learned through short stories, online articles, and case studies that highlight community impact
- Continue using its advocacy efforts to formalize strategic partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding with key national actors
- Explore opportunities within the tourism sector as part of the 2026 unified planning perspective

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Mauritius Red Cross Society in strengthening humanitarian diplomacy through advocacy, negotiation and strategic engagement with government authorities, donors and partners. It will encourage the adoption of tools aligned with the Movement's humanitarian principles, including Community Engagement and Accountability approaches, and support the National Society cultivate strategic partnerships that respect the auxiliary role and principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence.

The IFRC will support the Red Cross Society of Seychelles to disseminate a distinctive message on the climate crisis and disaster risk reduction as mentioned during the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (May 2022), the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR (September), and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP (November).



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

- Prioritise accountability, transparency and organisational agility as cross-cutting commitments across all programmes
- Continue to strengthen governance systems and promote transparent decision-making to foster greater public trust and expand partnership opportunities
- Invest in capacity building and regular training for staff and volunteers on effective management, monitoring

and assessment to ensure that services are timely, equitable and of high quality

- Strengthen resource mobilisation strategies to support volunteer and staff development, ensuring adequate human and financial capacities to meet growing humanitarian needs
- Conduct regular technical and financial controls and share systematic reports with partners and oversight bodies
- Conduct continuous training on the Code of Conduct and the Fundamental Principles will help volunteers and staff maintain high professional standards and ensure the

delivery of dignified, principled and accountable support to communities

Seychelles

- Mobilize resources to ensure the accessibility of effective management of staff and volunteers
- Ensure the necessary monitoring and assessment of its activities to ensure the accountability and effectiveness in communities, partners, government, and donors
- Strengthen coordination by continuing their engagement with guidelines, tools, and mechanisms on issues such as fraud, corruption and child safeguarding
- Conduct regular internal financial controls and share reports
- Train staff and volunteers in Code of Conduct and security prevention measures
- Review and set up policies, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and guidelines for programme areas

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will accompany the Mauritius Red Cross Society in improving organisational agility through enhanced financial support, technical guidance and targeted capacity-building

initiatives. This support will enable the National Society to adapt to evolving risks, strengthen internal systems and maintain high standards of accountability to donors, partners and the communities it serves.

The IFRC will support the Red Cross Society of Seychelles to strengthen their agility in its organizational mindset and processes. The IFRC is working as one organization globally, delivering what it promises to National Societies, volunteers and leveraging the strength of the communities with which they work as effectively and efficiently as possible. The IFRC will renew the partnership of the development of a new financing architecture to increase financial resources for the benefit of the National Society. To enhance financial oversight, the IFRC offers training on financial procedures to finance officers and program managers, facilitates the development of project budgets according to IFRC standards, and organizes Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC).

The French Red Cross/PIROI provide vital technical and financial assistance to the Red Cross Society of Seychelles, capacity building for the National Society staff in specialized areas, and provides support in ensuring effective implementation of financial and administrative controls.



Mangroves planting organized by the Red Cross Society of Seychelles in Mahe. (Photo: IFRC)

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has a permanent delegation in the Indian Ocean islands, based in Antananarivo, Madagascar. Its support to the National Societies of Mauritius and the Seychelles centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported both National Societies through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations, in relation to epidemic preparedness and response, and tropical storms. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global appeal, has supported the National Societies in their COVID-19 response.

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.

Red Ready and National Society development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

The **French Red Cross** is a key strategic partner for the two National Societies, through the Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI), which is based in La Réunion. PIROI provides a range of training courses, resources and tools for the National Societies in the Indian Ocean, and maintains emergency response capacities, in close coordination with the IFRC. PIROI also directly supports activities for disaster risk reduction in Mauritius and the Seychelles, and health in emergencies in Mauritius.

Both National Societies are part of the four [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger,

Movement coordination

The **Mauritius Red Cross Society** and the **Seychelles Red Cross Society** ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action

between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

Coordination with other actors

Mauritius

The Mauritius Red Cross Society aims to strengthen its partnerships and coordination with stakeholders in emergency response, disaster risk reduction, health, protection, and education. To achieve this, the National Society will continue to work closely with key partners, including the Ministries of Health and Education, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC), and PIROI.

The National Society is committed to active participation in all coordination meetings, including online meetings, and collaborative activities with our partners. By sharing valuable information on activities and initiatives, the Mauritius Red Cross Society seeks to foster better coordination and collaboration, ultimately enhancing its role as an auxiliary to the government in the humanitarian sector.

Through consistent engagement, cooperation, and communication, the Mauritius Red Cross Society will maintain and develop strong relationships with partners, ensuring a unified and effective approach to addressing the needs of the served communities. By working together, it continues to make strides in emergency response, disaster risk reduction, health, protection, and education initiatives.

Seychelles

The Seychelles Red Cross Society has pointed an improvement on coordination amongst stakeholders in commitment and

routine stakeholder engagement meetings and trainings. The National Society involved with the Disaster risk management project funded by the PIROI, Indian Ocean Commission and European Union. The project involves work with the Disaster Risk Management Department, the Seychelles Fire and Rescue Services, the Seychelles Police, Agency for Social Protection, and the Ministry of Education.

The National Society will pursue this commitment with the other ministries such as the Health Department and United Nation agencies.



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

This 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 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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