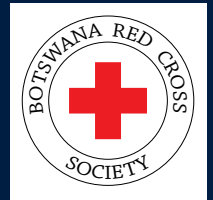




BOTSWANA

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



12 February 2026

In support of the Botswana Red Cross Society



10

National Society branches



45

National Society local units



63

National Society staff



13,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



35,000

Climate and environment



47,000

Disasters and crises



354,000

Health and wellbeing



5,000

Migration and displacement



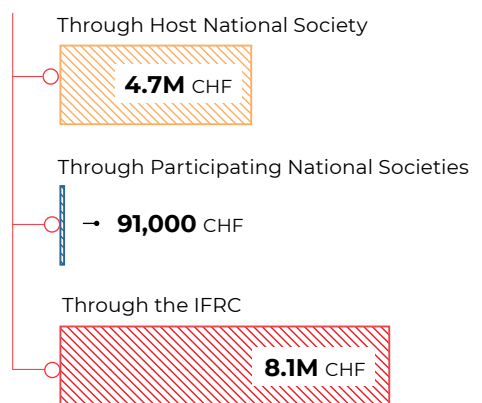
20,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 12.9M CHF



2027

2028

Total 14.2M CHF

15.8M CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

The Netherlands Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAABW003

Hazards



Droughts



Floods



Cyclones



Earthquakes



Food Insecurity

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Food security and livelihoods
 - Disaster risk reduction
- Health and water, sanitation and hygiene
- Climate change adaptation and environmental protection

Capacity development

- Branch development
- Internal systems strengthening
 - Financial sustainability

Key country data links

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **111**

World Bank Population figure **2.5M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **16%**



Community volunteers prepare vegetables at a green-house donated by Botswana Red Cross Society (Photo: Botswana Red Cross Society)

Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027		2028	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
Longer-term needs						
Climate and environment	494,000	2M	680,000	2.1M	970,000	2.2M
Disasters & crises	829,000	5M	1.2M	5.3M	1.5M	5.5M
Health & wellbeing	2.3M	64,000	2.7M	67,000	73M	75,000
Migration & displacement	195,000	1M	222,000	1.1M	253,000	1.2M
Values, power & inclusion	384,000	75,000	437,000	80,000	498,000	87,000
Enabling local actors	426,000		2.2M		553,000	
Total	4.7M	8.1M	5.6M	8.5M	6.8M	9M

Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Netherlands Red Cross	2026	91,000		91,000					

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Botswana Red Cross Society** is an impartial, neutral and independent voluntary humanitarian organization. It is auxiliary to the government of Botswana and was established on 1 March 1968, under an Act of Parliament based on its mandate as a signatory to the Geneva Conventions. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1971. Currently, the Botswana Red Cross Society is implementing the newly revised constitution. It is also reviewing the Botswana Red Cross Society Act.

The strength of Red Cross Societies such as Botswana Red Cross Society lies in its volunteers. While actual number of volunteers of the Society has fluctuated yearly, the National Society has always celebrated reaching over 10,000 volunteers in a year. The volunteer base comprises largely youth but also include other age groups representing both males and females.

In Botswana, the National Society conducts programmes in the areas of disaster risk management, health and care; special education, community rehabilitation and stimulation for people with disabilities; training services such as first aid, and volunteer management and youth programming. Community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) are mainstreamed in all programmes and interventions. The National Society has seven offices across

the country, in addition to the head office located in Gaborone and three additional educational centres.

The Botswana Red Cross Society's objectives under its Strategic Plan 2021-2025 revolve around three strategic goals:

- People anticipate, respond to, and quickly recover from crisis
- People lead safe, healthy, and dignified lives and have opportunities to thrive
- People mobilise for inclusive and peaceful communities

The Botswana Red Cross Society's priorities are strengthening disaster management – preparedness, response and recovery strategies, upscaling integrated community-based health, care and first aid services, and strengthening governance across the Botswana Red Cross - branches to the National Headquarter. It is committed to transformative action that involves fostering strategic partnerships, strengthening voluntary movement, building capacities for both staff and volunteers, and commitment to transparency and accountability.

In 2024, the Botswana Red Cross Society reached approximately 6196 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes and 6325 people through long term services and development programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Botswana is located at the centre of southern Africa, positioned between South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. One of the world's poorest countries at independence in 1966, it rapidly became one of the world's development success stories. Significant mineral (diamond) wealth, good governance, prudent economic management, and a relatively small population of slightly more than two million, have made it an upper middle-income country with a transformation agenda of becoming a high-income country by 2036.

Botswana's stable political environment includes a multi-party democratic tradition, with general elections held every five years. The ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) has been in power since 1966. In October 2019,

Botswana held its 11th general elections, with His Excellency President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Masisi assuming the presidency.

Botswana's macroeconomic policy framework is anchored in prudent macroeconomic policies and good governance. Despite having maintained a level of political and economic transformation over the years, challenges remain. Economic transformation has been slow, partly because of sluggish economic diversification and declining revenue from minerals, particularly diamonds. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 further exposed existing structural rigidities. The economy's dependence on a single commodity, diamonds, makes it vulnerable to external shocks and pre-existing challenges associated with mineral-led growth.

Living conditions have improved for the people of Botswana, and poverty has fallen significantly. The share of the population living on less than \$1.90 a day at the 2011 Purchasing Power Parity declined steadily from 29.8 per cent to 18.2 per cent

between 2002–03 and 2009–10, and to 16.1 per cent in 2015–16. This rapid poverty reduction can be attributed mainly to a combination of increasing agricultural incomes, including subsidies, and demographic changes. Progress in reducing poverty has been accompanied by improvements in shared prosperity. However, Botswana’s performance was only in the middle of the worldwide shared-prosperity distribution.

Inequality has fallen as well, albeit still high. Among factors associated with Botswana’s declining income inequality, the key one is regional convergence due to fast growth in rural areas and demographic changes. However, Botswana remains one of the world’s most unequal countries.

The recent [Botswana Multi-Topic Survey: Labour Force Module Report](#) indicates that the unemployment rate has gone up by 3.1 percentage points from 17.6 per cent to 20.7 per cent with youth unemployment posing a critical challenge. Education expenditure is among the highest in the world and includes the provision of nearly universal free primary education but has not created a skilled workforce. Addressing these challenges will require improving the quality of infrastructure (water and electricity), essential basic services (education, health, and social safety nets), as well as accelerating reforms to the business environment and effective support for entrepreneurship.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The main [environmental issues](#) currently faced by Botswana in its entirety include water scarcity, environmental pollution and waste management, land degradation, deforestation and climate change. These are outcomes of both the changing forces of nature as well as human influences. Botswana’s semi-arid to arid climate, characterized by low and highly variable rainfall, further intensifies these challenges. According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network ([FEWSNET](#)), primary rainfall seasons with dry conditions are expected in southern Africa (October– April). This will have direct impact on food security. These long dry spells often occur when rainfall is most required by crops (particularly cereals). This has effect on various sectors such as food, water, infrastructure and health. At the same time, increasingly erratic rainfall patterns have also resulted in episodic flooding, as seen in early 2025, compounding risks to infrastructure and livelihoods.

[Botswana Vision 2036 Transformational Agenda](#) emphasizes that having a sustainable environment is one of the key pillars of achieving prosperity for all. This involves observing the ecosystem, putting acceptable limits on change, and promoting the maximum sustainable yield of renewable resources. Botswana is committed to including climate change vulnerability assessments, adaptation, and mitigation in its development planning. This includes addressing water insecurity in a country that relies heavily on groundwater resources, protecting ecologically critical systems such as the Okavango Delta, and advancing national climate commitments, including emissions reduction targets and land degradation neutrality goals by 2030.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Botswana Red Cross Society aims to enhance the capacity of communities to be resilient to changing climatic and environmental conditions, strengthen the capacity of the Botswana Red Cross Society to respond to emergencies in an effective and efficient manner, and promote environmentally sustainable practices within communities.

Planned activities in 2026

- Mainstream climate smart approaches in all its programming
- Conduct community training on climate change risks
- Conduct environmentally responsible practices in target communities
- Promote environmentally friendly energy resources
- Promote good waste management practices
- Support communities to scale up integrated livelihoods programming in line with [Pan-African Zero Hunger initiative](#) especially in the areas of recycling and utilizing grey water, water harvesting, horticulture and backyard gardening
- Organize at least 2 induction sessions for volunteers and staff to familiarize them with the [forecast-based financing](#) concept and [cash and voucher assistance \(CVA\)](#) in [early action](#)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Botswana Red Cross Society in designing programmes and projects to adopt environmentally friendly sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation as well as capacity building for sustainable livelihoods through green economy measures. It supports the National Society in the implementation of climate-friendly policies and practices thus strengthening the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change. The IFRC also supports disaster

risk reduction initiatives, provides climate change adaptation training, and promotes sustainable development. This includes supporting the development of anticipatory action systems that strengthen early warning, readiness, and preparedness, integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation into existing policies and programmes, and enhancing community engagement through behavior change approaches led by National Society staff and volunteers.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information of emergencies, go to IFRC GO page [Botswana](#).

The most common natural hazards in Botswana are floods, droughts and strong winds affecting more than 50,000 people annually on average. Droughts are the most pervasive hazard, affecting a significant proportion of the population each year and posing severe risks to water availability, agriculture, and food security. Additionally, in recent years the country has been affected by new threats, such as the tropical cyclone Dineo in 2017 and other extreme weather events such as heatwaves and earthquakes. Flooding, while less widespread, is increasingly disruptive, particularly in districts such as Central and Ngamiland, where intense rainfall events have displaced households, damaged infrastructure, and destroyed crops.

In Botswana, the [INFORM Risk Index](#) highlights several climate-related challenges. The country is particularly vulnerable to droughts, which can have severe impacts on water availability, agriculture, and food security. Botswana's semi-arid climate makes it susceptible to periods of low rainfall, which strain water resources and impact the livelihoods of many communities dependent on subsistence farming and livestock. Climate projections indicate that drought impacts are likely to intensify under climate change, increasing long-term risk and vulnerability.

Communities are challenged with various crises and hazards such as the delta/river flooding incidences and structural fire incidences. Some other challenges include outbreaks such as the African Migratory Locust and the Gumare ticks which affect livestock and farming. These biological hazards interact with climate extremes, compounding impacts on rural livelihoods and food security. Other challenges are the diarrhoea outbreak in the northwest and central districts as well as cross border livestock theft in the Bobirwa areas. Communities are also largely affected by drought across the country disrupting livelihoods and food security.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Botswana Red Cross Society's objectives under disasters and crises include strengthening the capacities of its volunteers to respond to disasters through a certified training and refresher programmes, which will include continued mentorship and coaching with special focus on disaster prone areas. It will work to strengthen its position as the first responder to local emergencies across all geographical areas, in particular the hard-to-reach areas, and facilitate access to financing, inputs and technical assistance for the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices by promoting growing of drought-tolerant, high-value and diversified nutritious crops focusing on smallholder farmers.

The National Society will act in alignment with the government in priority contexts such as commitments to [Zero Hunger](#) (SDGs) and national plans such as the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Disaster Risk Management (DRM), among others. It will strengthen its [early warning systems](#) and community mobilisation through innovative technologies and scale up lifesaving and life-sustaining interventions through timely safety nets and social assistance.

Planned activities in 2026

- Attend and participate at the National Disaster Risk Management Council and Technical Committee operations to promote the development of the disaster risk management (DRM) Act
- Invest in [cash preparedness](#) including development of systems and tools that will ensure the delivery of cash at speed and scale
- Support at least 3,000 people with basic needs and enable adequate living conditions and access to safe [shelter](#) from emergency to recovery

- Attend and participate at the National Climate Change Committee operations
- Foster representation at the National Disaster Emergency Operation centre
- Engage National Disaster Management Office on development of the DRM Bill
- Support and facilitate consultative meetings with public authorities on Botswana Red Cross Act revision

food security and community resilience. Other areas of IFRC support to the National Society include:

- Reducing the risk of disasters in Botswana by supporting the National Society to implement Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) approach, conduct training and workshops on disaster preparedness including contingency planning as well as improving early warning systems to save lives and property. It also includes strengthening preparedness across strategy and policy, analysis and planning, coordination, operational capacity, and operational support, including locally led anticipatory action and early warning–early action approaches
- Facilitating the development of strategic partnerships of Botswana Red Cross Society with other humanitarian actors in the country, for the advancement of the IFRC Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative and expanding the partnership base in strategic areas to enhance community resilience
- Support the National Society to increase the capacities of its staff, volunteers and communities in hard-to-reach places in alignment with the Red Ready initiative including strengthening accountability, timeliness, and appropriateness of response through the application of IFRC emergency tools and standardized monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning approaches

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Botswana Red Cross Society by providing technical support in disaster law and legislative advocacy as well as provide technical support and advice to the Botswana Red Cross Society to strengthen its auxiliary role through legislative advocacy efforts including the development and implementation of disaster risk management (DRM) and related laws and policies. It also supports designing programmes such as livelihood support for distribution of food and non-food items to people affected by droughts, floods, conflicts and other disasters in Botswana. This will help to meet the basic needs of people who have been displaced or whose livelihoods have been disrupted. The IFRC further supports the transition from emergency response to longer-term resilience strengthening to ensure sustained



Botswana Red Cross Society volunteers set up new shelter in Inalegolo (Photo: IFRC)



The burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is rising rapidly in Botswana, where it is estimated that they cause 46 per cent of all deaths. A survey on population-based non-communicable diseases and their risk factors conducted in the country in 2014 revealed concerning figures: 29 per cent prevalence of hypertension, 5 per cent for diabetes, 30 per cent for obesity, 18 per cent for tobacco use, and a staggering 95 per cent prevalence of unhealthy diet among adults. These alarming statistics underscore the urgent need for a comprehensive and multi-sectoral national response. The drivers of NCDs are broad, encompassing lifestyle choices, environmental factors, and genetic predispositions, necessitating coordinated efforts across various sectors to effectively address and mitigate their impact. The burden of NCDs has increased markedly over the past decade, with significant rises in ischemic heart disease, stroke, and diabetes, placing additional pressure on the health system despite wide geographic access to health facilities.

In addition to the rising burden of NCDs, Botswana continues to grapple with the heavy effects of other health challenges, including HIV and AIDS, cancer, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and the COVID-19 pandemic. These overlapping health crises place an enormous strain on the country's healthcare system and resources, highlighting the need for an integrated approach to health management. Although Botswana has made notable progress in HIV response, including achieving global treatment targets, new infections and the strong link between HIV and tuberculosis remain key challenges. Addressing NCDs alongside these other pressing health issues requires strategic planning, increased funding, and enhanced public health initiatives to improve the overall health and well-being of the population.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Botswana Red Cross Society will continue to strengthen community awareness activities through supporting health promotion and health education activities in the communities on issues regarding primary healthcare. It will work to increase capacity building and sensitization workshops targeting volunteers in promoting their role towards ensuring effective

primary healthcare in areas such as first aid. The National Society will also strengthen multi-sector coordination mechanisms to strengthen the primary healthcare services by engaging and incorporating other stakeholders such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector and or waste management (provision of incineration, waste collection, hazards, among others).

Planned activities in 2026

- Participate in all national and district meetings such as Ministry of Health and Wellness public health emergency preparedness and response coordination platforms
- Participate in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) forums and research collaborations
- Enter into memoranda of understanding with agencies and key partners that provide mental health and psychosocial support
- Forge relationships with United Nations agencies
- Participate in regional and national policy development and guidelines reviews
- Deliver evidence-based, impact-driven, effective and appropriate health promotion, disease prevention and community-based care activities, focusing on the people in situations of vulnerability in all contexts

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Botswana Red Cross Society in coordinating with internal and external partners in resource mobilization and potential funding opportunities for health and WASH projects, strengthening the capacity of the National Society to implement community health interventions leveraging IFRC tools and approaches, and establishing relevant networks and partnerships that can position the National Society as a strategic partner of choice in implementing health and WASH activities in the country.



Over the last five years, the refugee population in Botswana has dwindled dramatically, a trend largely attributable to the growing political stability in the region. As neighbouring countries such as Zimbabwe, Angola, and Namibia achieve greater stability, fewer individuals are compelled to seek refuge in Botswana. The government of Botswana, in collaboration with international organizations, has facilitated the voluntary repatriation of many refugees, further contributing to the decline in their numbers. This approach aligns with Botswana's broader commitment to safe, orderly, and dignified migration through regional cooperation frameworks.

Conversely, the population of irregular migrants, particularly those driven by economic motivations, has fluctuated based on the economic opportunities available in Botswana and the neighbouring country of South Africa. Botswana's relatively stable economy and higher employment prospects have made it an attractive destination for economic migrants from less prosperous regions. However, changes in economic conditions, employment opportunities, and immigration policies in both Botswana and South Africa influence the flow and presence of these migrants. Between 2010 and 2020, immigration into Botswana increased significantly, reflecting its role as a destination for economic migrants within the region.

Internally, Botswana experiences minimal displacement and has a relatively low number of undocumented persons. The country's effective governance and social stability contribute to this situation. Moreover, Botswana's efforts in maintaining robust border security and implementing comprehensive immigration policies have been successful in managing the influx of migrants and minimizing internal displacement. Internal migration is largely rural-to-urban, particularly among people aged 15 to 39 seeking education, employment, and family reunification. The overall stability and effective administrative measures ensure that internal displacements are rare and undocumented populations remain low, allowing the country to focus on sustainable development and social cohesion.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Botswana Red Cross Society will establish humanitarian service points (HSPs), providing access to assistance,

protection and integration support to migrants. It will also help people to contact their immediate family members after they have been separated by armed conflicts, natural disasters, migration and other humanitarian crises through the restoring family links (RFL) programme.

Planned activities in 2026

- Provide humanitarian assistance for migrants, (including as relevant health, psychosocial support, safe referrals, non-food and food items, shelter, cash and voucher assistance, information including risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), livelihoods and education)
- Provide protection services for migrants, in line with protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) guidelines and minimum protection approach, including relevant legal assistance, safe referrals, border and detention monitoring, RFL, child protection, anti-trafficking initiatives
- Conduct activities to support principled partnerships with other organizations in the field of migration and displacement
- Conduct activities to support cross-border and route-based cooperation between National Societies

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Botswana Red Cross Society to strengthen the implementation of the integrated approach in response to the needs of the migrants and displaced populations and advocating for the rights of migrants and displaced people through strengthening collaborations and working with governments and other stakeholders to ensure that their rights are respected and protected. It also supports the capacity strengthening of the National Society to respond to the needs of migrants and displaced people. This includes providing training, technical assistance, and establishing partnerships with relevant donors.



Values, power and inclusion

Despite economic growth, Botswana is one of the most economically unequal countries in the world. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) [reports](#) significant poverty among children, people living with disabilities, migrants and minority communities. Botswana has about 30 overlapping social protection programmes, implemented by 10 different government departments. However, there are challenges in the management and coordination of these programmes. Poverty remains particularly acute among rural children, with multidimensional deprivation affecting a large proportion, especially in sanitation and access to basic services.

Sexual and gender-based violence ([SGBV](#)) is another problem in Botswana with a third of all women having experienced violence in their lifetime. Gender inequality and harmful social and cultural norms continue to perpetuate SGBV, normalizing violence and discouraging reporting. Interventions addressing sexual and gender-based violence are often reactive, responding to incidence, and less inclined towards preventing occurrences. There is a need to reduce incidence of SGBV through primary prevention interventions. Botswana continues to experience very high levels of violence against women and children, including sexual and domestic violence, with limited protection services and insufficient shelters and psychosocial support for survivors. Moreover, in Botswana, there is still a gap in provision of services for people with disabilities, especially education and health. People with disabilities also encounter stigma and discrimination and are highly vulnerable to violence and exclusion. Children and adults living with disabilities face persistent social and economic exclusion, including lower access to education, health services, and food security compared to the general population.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Botswana Red Cross Society will implement comprehensive, multisectoral educational opportunities that will encourage safe, inclusive, health, and resilient communities. It will integrate Movement commitments on community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) into the National Society operations

and incorporate community feedback into its daily operations. The National Society will continue providing support to Botswana's three schools for people living with disabilities in Tlokweng, Francistown, and Sefhare, and focus on engaging and collaborating with the education authorities and other relevant stakeholders and sign a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Education.

Planned activities in 2026

- Help develop and strengthen partnerships with academic institutions for official certification and accreditation of humanitarian education programmes
- Incorporate protection, gender, and inclusion ([PGI](#)) elements into all the National Society's programmes and initiatives and conduct PGI organizational assessments
- Develop and adapt trainings that support core competencies for safe and inclusive leadership with operational managers and team leads
- Initiate leadership forums / strategies / workshops focused on increasing diversity of management and governance leadership

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Botswana Red Cross Society to continue to adopt and implement [PGI](#) and CEA minimum standards for emergencies, using participatory approaches to ensure that long-term projects and humanitarian assistance provided is what communities prefer, that it is provided to the people most in need based on vulnerability analysed, and that safety is prioritized. The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts to test or scale-up projects to protect women, girls and boys especially from SGBV, and educate the public and communities about the immediate and long-term effects on children's development and wellbeing. It further supports the National Society to develop referral systems to ensure SGBV-safe referrals and considerations for all gender identities and which cater to the needs of people living with disabilities.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Botswana Red Cross Society is committed to pursue its institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process in 2021. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of a National Society as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The IFRC will support the National Society in its development, in accordance with its strategic priorities.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Conduct a comprehensive stakeholder mapping towards strategic partnerships
- Establish bilateral partnerships through exclusive agreements between two parties
- Establish cross-sectoral partnerships involving actors from civil society organizations, government ministries, the public sector and the private sector
- Scale up income-generating activities such as the individual giving programme and commercial first aid training centres



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Prioritize strong governance systems and structures and regularly revise management framework such as the constitution, legislation, staff policies, and terms and conditions of employment
- Strengthen fundraising to ensure its financial sustainability
- Strengthen the capacity of its volunteers to submit reports and data to the national headquarters in an effective and timely manner



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

- Strengthen the global distributed networks of its branches and its ability to co-design activities in collaboration with community members to strengthen local action

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Botswana Red Cross Society in establishing a progressive and mutual relationship with the Government and sectoral ministries. Furthermore, the IFRC supports the National Society in resource mobilization by assisting its engagement with traditional and non-traditional donor community and partners in the corporate world. It also supports the National Society to take informed, data-driven decisions with regards to investment options.

- Ensure that branches have the capacity to implement activities, including through participation in IFRC Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment ([BOCA](#)) exercises

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the financial sustainability efforts of the National Society through asset mapping, documentation, and valuation towards profiting from the assets and properties it owns. It supports the Botswana Red Cross Society to undertake its duty of care towards the volunteers more effectively and professionally. The National Society is supported in having a strong and transformative leadership by working on acquiring a pool of quality membership.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Endeavour to position itself with national authorities and international partners operational in Botswana as a leading local humanitarian responder
- Strengthen its auxiliary role and mandate
- Increase its visibility to attract support and raise awareness on its role and activities
- Build its capacity on humanitarian diplomacy and negotiations, and strengthen its communications
- Build an online presence to enable interactive engagements with various stakeholders across all sectors
- Increase public awareness about its disaster preparedness and response through targeted campaigns and workshops
- Strengthen the image and visibility of the Botswana Red Cross Society as a leading humanitarian responder and

advocate for change, influencing public behavior, policies, and decisions while increasing awareness of its role and activities to attract broader support.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society to position it as a partner of choice within its jurisdiction through good leadership and engagement with the concerned public authorities. It also encourages the Botswana Red Cross Society to use available platforms to publicize its work and conducts regular capacity-building webinars and training sessions for staff, volunteers, and partners to enhance their communication skills and knowledge. Furthermore, the IFRC supports the National Society in leveraging its auxiliary role to influence key-decision makers to advocate for the rights and service needs of vulnerable people in Botswana. This support also focuses on strengthening media relations and brand positioning, improving advocacy with policymakers and regional bodies, promoting youth engagement as advocates, and increasing the National Society's visibility in regional and international humanitarian forums.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen innovative digital technologies through commissioning a professionally built website and other digital platforms
- Strengthen the National Society's financial systems
- Improve planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER) systems
- Produce a tailor-made financial risk management system, based on data evidence, using financial sustainability indicators and a dashboard
- Strengthen data analytics to provide valuable insights into people's most critical needs
- Develop innovative approaches using technology for meaningful community engagement as most of

community members now possess smart phones that can access Wi-Fi and mobile applications

- Establish knowledge sharing platforms and learning initiatives for volunteer

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Botswana Red Cross Society in feeding its reports to the IFRC Federation-wide Data and Reporting System ([FDRS](#)) to facilitate consolidated audited accounts, conducting training sessions on IFRC procurement requirements and finance procedures, supporting the implementation of a better payroll system, ensuring innovation in monitoring and evaluation of projects being implemented, and increasing awareness around fraud and corruption prevention in the National Society.



Botswana Red Cross Society volunteers provide emergency shelter, food, and blankets to families affected by heavy rains that damaged homes in Kang, Kgalagadi District (Botswana Red Cross Society)

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Botswana Red Cross Society from its southern Africa Cluster Delegation in Pretoria on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. In-country, there is also presence and technical support through the placement of the community engagement and accountability delegate supporting the National Society and strengthening the relationship between the National Society and the IFRC. Through the support of the

IFRC, Botswana was recently awarded the [capacity building fund](#) for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) research and implementation and gender mainstreaming in branch development activities.

Over the last decade, the IFRC has supported the National Society with occasional Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREE) operations in relation to floods.

IFRC membership coordination

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

and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Botswana Red Cross Society has received innovative support from the **Netherlands Red Cross**, particularly in areas such as digital preparedness.

Movement coordination

The **Botswana Red Cross Society** works closely alongside the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies. It organizes quarterly International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement coordination meetings and an annual partners' meeting. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC through its regional delegation in Pretoria aims to to strengthen respect for and compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and international standards of policing; and to improve the capacity of National Red Cross Societies in the region to be first responders to natural and man-made disasters.

Coordination with other actors

The Botswana Red Cross Society has over the years developed strong partnerships with different stakeholders at the national, regional, and international levels. It has a multisectoral partnership with government ministries and departments such as the Ministry of Health, Office of the President, and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). As an auxiliary to the government of Botswana, the National Society works closely with the NDMO and is a member of both the National Council on Disaster Management (NCDM) and the National Disaster Risk Management Technical Committee (NDRMTC). This collaboration has been central to advancing disaster risk reduction, resilience building, and policy development, including joint engagement in national disaster risk management forums.

Other strong partnerships include with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Affairs, Ministry of Defence and Justice, Botswana Chamber of Mine, Botswana Defence Force, Independent Electorate Commission, Council for the Disabled, UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, IOM, UNHCR), Mastercard Foundation, Africa CDC and the private sector (the Coca Cola Foundation, Palms for Life, among others). These partnerships support joint programming across disaster response, health, climate action, education, social protection, and livelihoods, including initiatives to increase vaccine uptake among vulnerable populations and strengthen interagency coordination.



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 Botswana Red Cross, 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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