



# NAMIBIA

## 2026 IFRC network country plan



30 January 2026

### In support of the Namibia Red Cross Society



9

National Society branches



9

National Society local units



14

National Society staff



1018

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



140,000

Ongoing emergency operations



500,000

Climate and environment



2.4M

Disasters and crises



2.4M

Health and wellbeing



20,000

Migration and displacement



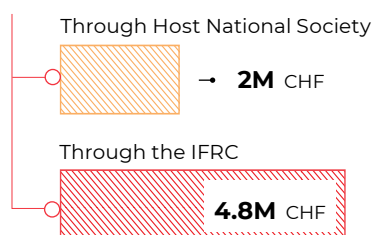
150,000

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

**Total 6.8M CHF**



### IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

**MDRNA014**

Namibia Drought

Longer-term needs:

**MAANA001**

## Hazards



Drought



Heatwaves



Wildfires



Floods

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Emergency response

- Drought

#### Longer term needs

- Food security and climate-smart livelihoods
- Disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action
  - Health and care
- Protection, gender and inclusion

#### Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
- Internal systems strengthening
  - Branch development
- Youth and volunteer engagement

### Key country data links

**INFORM Severity rating**

**Medium**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index**

**Low**

**Human Development Index rank**

**136**

**World Bank Population figure**

**3M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line**

**17%**



Teams of the Namibia Red Cross Society providing food aid to drought-affected Namibian families through the National Drought Relief Programme (Photo: IFRC)

# Detailed funding requirements

2026

	Host National Society	IFRC
<b>Ongoing emergencies</b>		<b>NA</b> <i>Funding requirement for MDRNA014 is not available</i>
<b>Longer-term needs</b>		
Climate and environment	210,000	490,000
Disasters & crises	450,000	1.1M
Health & wellbeing	945,000	2.2M
Migration & displacement	150,000	350,000
Values, power & inclusion	50,000	200,000
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	216,000	504,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2M</b>	<b>4.8M</b>

## NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Namibia Red Cross Society** was established in Namibia by Act no 16 of 1991 and admitted to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1993. The National Society takes its mandate from its own mission and the relevant pillars of the Government of the Republic of Namibia's 6th National Development Plan (NDP6) which applies to the period 2025/2026 – 2029/2030.

The Namibia Red Cross Society envisions resilient communities that can withstand and recover from both anticipated and unforeseen emergencies, as well as prolonged distress caused by disasters. Its mission is anchored on a two-pronged strategic approach that translates this vision into action focusing simultaneously on strengthening the organization itself and delivering effective humanitarian and development support to the people of Namibia.

The strategic priorities of the Namibia Red Cross Society, closely aligned with the National Development Plan (NDP6) to achieve human development, food security, health for all and environmental sustainability, are as follows:

- **Building a Strong and Sustainable National Society:** The Namibia Red Cross Society aims to reinforce its institutional strength by focusing on capable leadership, robust governance, financial sustainability and meaningful impact. This approach ensures the organization remains trustworthy, efficient and able to deliver measurable improvements for communities.
- **Delivering Humanitarian and Development Support:** The National Society supports the Government of Namibia by strengthening community resilience, responding swiftly to emergencies and promoting professional development for its health workers and volunteers.

Through these strategic intents, the Namibia Red Cross Society reaffirms its commitment to being a relevant, trusted and resilient humanitarian actor, dedicated to safeguarding human dignity and advancing sustainable development across Namibia. It also focuses on disaster relief, notably supporting the Government of the Republic of Namibia's drought relief programme for both short and long-term food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation.

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

[Namibia](#) is located on the south-western edge of the African continent and shares borders with Angola and Zambia to the north and north-east, Botswana to the east and South Africa to the south. At its far north-eastern tip in the Zambezi region, Namibia meets Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Covering approximately 824,000 square kilometres, Namibia is one of the most sparsely populated countries globally, with a population of around 3 million as per the 2023 census, resulting in a density of just 3.7 persons per square kilometre and an even urban-rural split.

Geographically, Namibia is characterized by [arid conditions](#), featuring the Namib Desert to the west, a mountainous plateau in the centre, bush-covered plains in the north and north-east and low-lying plains in the east. Only [1 per cent](#) of the land is arable, yet around 47 per cent is used for agriculture, supporting both domestic and commercial activities. The nation is divided into 14 political regions, with significant population concentrations in Khomas (home to the capital, Windhoek), Omusati, Ohangwena and other northern regions, while southern areas such as Karas and Erongo remain less populated.

Namibia faces significant [socio-economic challenges](#). Poverty, inequality, unemployment and limited access to job opportunities remain prevalent, compounded by recurring water and food shortages. According to the [World Bank](#), the country's GDP growth is about 3 per cent, inflation stands at 3.5 per cent and 27 per cent of the population lives on less

than \$3 per day. [Public debt](#) is high, at roughly 70 per cent of GDP and the trade balance is negative, with imports outpacing exports despite a trade growth rate of 3.5 per cent (lower than the global average). Key export commodities include non-monetary gold, fish, uranium and base metal ores, while imports are led by petroleum oils and motor vehicles.

Social indicators highlight critical areas of concern, particularly for children. UNICEF's 2024 report notes that over [63 per cent](#) of children live in multidimensional poverty, with 46 per cent of households lacking adequate sanitation facilities. The ongoing [drought](#), exacerbated by climate change, has intensified malnutrition and food insecurity, leading to 30 per cent of children experiencing stunting. Neonatal mortality remains high at 20 per 1,000 live births. The UN Assistant Secretary-General's 2024 visit to the drought-affected [Omaheke](#) region emphasized the urgent need for immediate humanitarian aid and reinforced calls for climate-resilient policies, improved water and food security and targeted interventions for vulnerable children. Namibia's progress towards achieving child-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is lagging, with 16 out of 48 indicators requiring dire attention to meet 2030 targets.

In terms of governance and financial stability, the [Bank of Namibia](#) identifies macroeconomic instability as the primary risk to the country's financial system, with cyber risks also noted, while climate change is not currently considered a direct threat to financial stability. Efforts are underway to address the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey-listing through enhanced anti-money laundering supervision, increased transparency and improved cooperation among enforcement bodies.

# ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Namibia Drought
<b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>	<a href="#">MDRNA014</a>
<b>People affected</b>	1.4 million people
<b>People to be assisted</b>	140,000 people
<b>Duration</b>	21 months (06 September 2023 to 30 April 2026)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 5 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 7 million
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Namibia Drought Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Link to Operational Update</b>	<a href="#">Operational Update No.4</a>

Namibia has been experiencing a decade long drought, worsened by El Niño, which has led to minimal and below normal rainfall from October 2023 to April 2024, severely affecting food security and livelihoods. El Niño related drought, irregular rainfall and high temperatures across Southern Africa have intensified water scarcity, reduced food production and increased disease risks. Between April and June 2024, about 1.2 million people (40 per cent of the population) faced acute food insecurity (IPC 3+), more than doubling the previous year's estimates, with all 14 regions classified in crisis. Poor rainfall during the 2023/24 agricultural season caused crop wilting and poor harvest prospects, especially in the northern regions, leaving many households reliant on markets and drought relief. Food insecurity worsened to 1.4 million people (48 per cent) by July–September 2024. The President declared a state of emergency on 22 May 2024 as relief resources remained insufficient, while livestock production continued to decline due to inadequate pastures and water shortages, leaving animals in fair to poor condition.

## Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through this Emergency Appeal, the Namibia Red Cross Society has been supporting people who are currently facing severe food insecurity, acute water shortages and disrupted livelihoods as a result of the prolonged drought. This National Society has been providing unconditional cash transfers to meet essential food, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs and other basic requirements, while also delivering agricultural inputs, training programmes in climate smart agriculture, income generating activities, food conservation support and therapeutic feeding for severely malnourished children. The support is aimed at strengthening household food security and diversifying income sources and diets. In parallel, the Namibia

Red Cross Society has been distributing food aid, carrying out water supply interventions and protecting livelihoods, while coordinating closely with local authorities and humanitarian partners to ensure a harmonized and impactful response. The operation prioritized the regions of Kavango East, Zambezi, Omusati, Ohangwena and Kunene from September 2024 to August 2025, focusing particularly on individuals classified in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 emergency category who are most affected by the ongoing drought. Designed to go beyond immediate crisis response, the operational strategy has been providing continuous support to communities, helping them recover, adapt and build longer term resilience to future shocks.

For the period [06 September 2024 to 15 November 2025](#), the following assistance was provided:

### Food security and livelihoods

Farmers were trained in smart agriculture, soil conservation and moisture retention techniques and affected households were reached with food vouchers.

### Multi-purpose cash

Cash and voucher assistance was provided to about 2000 affected households.

**Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)** and **Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)** were integrated as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognized and valued all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities included the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms.



## Climate and environment

Namibia's climate is characterized by extreme aridity, highly variable rainfall and increasing temperatures, making it one of the driest countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Average annual rainfall ranges from over 600 millimetres in the northeast to less than 25 millimetres in the southwest, with evaporation rates exceeding rainfall by a factor of five. Climate observations between 1901 and 2022 indicate a steady rise in mean temperatures, coupled with erratic and declining rainfall, more frequent droughts and intensified heatwaves. Future projections show temperature increases of 2–3 degrees Celsius by mid-century and up to 4 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, with rainfall expected to become more variable, declining in the south and west but possibly increasing slightly in the northeast. Extreme events such as droughts, floods and wildfires are projected to become more frequent and severe.

These climatic changes exacerbate vulnerabilities across Namibia's key sectors. Agriculture and food security are most affected, with prolonged droughts reducing crop yields and livestock productivity, threatening the livelihoods of the 70 per cent of Namibians dependent on subsistence farming. Water resources are under severe stress due to low recharge rates, only 2 per cent of rainfall becomes surface runoff and rising demand from agriculture and urbanization. Health impacts include increased malnutrition, vector-borne diseases such as malaria and heat-related illnesses. Infrastructure and energy systems face risks from heat stress, reduced hydropower output and water scarcity. Rural northern regions particularly Kunene, Omusati and Zambezi are most exposed, with high poverty and low adaptive capacity compounding vulnerability. Urban areas face growing water insecurity, particularly Windhoek and coastal towns reliant on desalination.

Namibia's land cover is dominated by arid savannas and desert ecosystems, with communal conservancies and protected areas covering over 40 per cent of the territory. However, environmental degradation trends include deforestation, bush encroachment and soil erosion due to overgrazing, unsustainable land management and invasive species. Water pollution, waste mismanagement and mining activities also contribute to localized ecosystem stress. The Benguela Current coastal zone a global biodiversity hotspot is vulnerable to ocean warming and acidification, affecting fisheries and marine biodiversity.

The Government of Namibia has adopted robust frameworks to address these challenges, including the National Climate Change Policy (2011), National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (NCCSAP 2013–2020), the updated Nationally

Determined Contribution (2021) and ongoing formulation of a National Adaptation Plan (NAP). These are supported by sectoral frameworks such as the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP II). Collectively, these policies aim to promote climate-resilient development through renewable energy transition, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land and water management and ecosystem-based adaptation. The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and its Climate Change Unit coordinate these efforts through the National Committee on the Rio Conventions, aligning national initiatives with Namibia's Vision 2030 and the Paris Agreement.

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

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

The Namibia Red Cross Society aims to strengthen community resilience by promoting climate-smart agriculture and diversified livelihoods that enhance household and community food and nutritional security. It will focus on advancing drought-resilient agricultural systems, supporting the adoption of environmentally sustainable farming practices and reinforcing early warning–early action capacities in line with national adaptation priorities.

It seeks to reinforce community-based health and nutrition systems by expanding its volunteer-driven outreach model and integrating climate and environmental risk awareness into health services. It plans to enhance local health resilience by improving access to health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services through community hubs that remain functional during climate-related shocks.

The National Society will focus on strengthening preparedness and response capacities by aligning emergency stock

prepositioning, warehousing improvements and decentralized readiness efforts with national disaster management structures. It aims to integrate climate forecasting into contingency planning to ensure timely and anticipatory action for recurrent hazards.

Additionally, the National Society will strive to enhance organizational alignment with national and international climate frameworks by deepening its auxiliary role, strengthening partnerships with key ministries and advancing evidence-based humanitarian diplomacy. It will focus on embedding environmentally responsible practices and low-carbon approaches across all programmes in line with the [IFRC Climate and Environment Charter](#).

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Promote drought tolerant crops, climate smart farming techniques and sustainable livestock practices
  - Establish community demonstration plots and integrate indigenous knowledge into agricultural outreach
  - Expand community based health volunteer networks and enhance local health resilience hubs
  - Upgrade and decentralize warehousing and emergency stock systems aligned with national disaster structures
  - Strengthen contingency planning by incorporating climate forecasts and hazard specific readiness
  - Support community led ecosystem restoration through reforestation, soil rehabilitation and water harvesting
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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society by providing technical guidance to complete and operationalize the drought [Early Action Protocol](#), ensuring it is validated, activated and linked to anticipatory action systems that trigger early interventions before drought impacts intensify. The IFRC will also facilitate access to anticipatory funding and early action financing mechanisms to strengthen readiness.

It will enhance the visibility of the Namibia Red Cross Society by creating opportunities to present its experience in Disaster Preparedness and Anticipatory Action at regional and global platforms, including webinars, conferences and donor engagements that strengthen advocacy and strategic partnerships. It will also assist the Namibia Red Cross Society to mobilize resources for climate resilience programming by supporting the development of funding proposals and facilitating engagement with donors to secure sustainable financing for climate-smart agriculture, community health volunteering and emergency preparedness and response.

The IFRC will provide technical expertise and tools that enable the Namibia Red Cross Society to design and implement climate-smart agricultural interventions that strengthen drought resilience and align with national climate adaptation strategies. This will include guidance on programme design, technical standards and integration of climate risk considerations.

Additionally, the IFRC will support the Namibia Red Cross Society to establish strong monitoring, evaluation and learning systems that document progress, capture lessons and demonstrate the impact of climate resilience and disaster preparedness programming, ensuring continuous improvement and evidence-based adaptation.



Namibia Red Cross Society conducting Polio oral inoculation campaign (Photo: Namibia Red Cross Society)



## Disasters and crises

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

Namibia faces a high [multi-hazard risk environment](#), with the 'Risks Profile of Natural Hazards and Selected Diseases in Namibia' highlighting drought, floods, heatwaves, wildfires and emerging climate-linked hazards such as lightning and windstorms as the most significant threats. Drought remains the most pervasive hazard, affecting livelihoods, agriculture and water security across most regions, while recurrent flooding particularly impacts the northern and north-eastern regions, including Zambezi, Ohangwena and Omusati.

[Heatwaves and wildfires](#) are becoming more frequent and intense due to rising temperatures and prolonged dry spells, compounding the loss of vegetation and increasing health risks. The risk profile also identifies the interplay between natural hazards and disease outbreaks such as malaria, diarrhoea and zoonotic diseases which further weaken community resilience and strain public health systems. Socioeconomic vulnerabilities are pronounced among rural and low-income populations who depend on rain-fed agriculture and livestock, making them disproportionately affected by climate and disaster shocks.

Despite notable progress under the [Disaster Risk Management Act \(2012\)](#) and the leadership of [the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management \(OPM\)](#), institutional and data capacity gaps persist, particularly in early warning systems and local preparedness. The overall trend indicates a growing need for integrated, anticipatory disaster risk management that links climate adaptation, health resilience and community-based preparedness to reduce vulnerability and strengthen national resilience to recurrent and emerging crises.

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

The Namibia Red Cross Society aims to strengthen its [auxiliary role](#) to the public authorities by reinforcing national and community systems that underpin preparedness, response and recovery, thereby contributing to long-term resilience in line with national development priorities. It seeks to build communities that are capable of anticipating evolving risks, absorbing shocks and restoring their wellbeing and livelihoods after disruptive events.

The National Society plans to advance climate-informed and community-centred [disaster risk management](#) by embedding risk awareness, resilience thinking and proactive preparedness into its programming. It will focus on fostering environments where households and communities can better navigate recurring and emerging hazards without undermining their stability or adaptive capacity.

It aims to reinforce an integrated approach to resilience that links health, livelihoods and humanitarian response to reduce risk and prevent secondary impacts during crises. It seeks to ensure that community-based health and resilience structures contribute to more holistic and equitable disaster management outcomes. The National Society also plans to strengthen sustainable recovery and long-term resilience by fostering approaches that enable communities to rebuild in ways that enhance environmental sustainability and climate adaptability. It seeks to champion recovery pathways that support greener practices and long-term livelihood stability.

Additionally, the Namibia Red Cross Society aims to institutionalize evidence-driven, well-coordinated disaster risk management by improving its analytical, data and anticipatory capacities. It will focus on deepening collaboration with government, academic partners and technical institutions to support informed decision-making and integrated national resilience frameworks.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Promote [community-based disaster preparedness](#) linked to local early warning and early action processes
- Improve alignment of pre-positioned stocks and logistics systems with national and regional disaster management structures
- Strengthen regional contingency planning and develop surge readiness with local authorities
- Integrate health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition outreach into preparedness and response systems
- Support recovery efforts through environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient livelihood rehabilitation
- Enhance internal systems for disaster risk analysis, data management and anticipatory action
- Collaborate with government, academia and partners to improve policy engagement and [early warning](#) dissemination

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC mechanisms such as [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(IFRC-DREF\)](#) and Emergency Appeal will be drawn on as needed by the Namibia Red Cross Society to respond to disasters and crises. The IFRC will continue to assist the National Society in operationalization of the drought Emergency Appeal while ensuring alignment with national drought response systems and community priorities. It will reinforce the National Society's

emergency response capacity by providing training and tools for rapid needs assessments, logistics and emergency operations, enabling stronger responses to household-level crises such as fires, floods and food insecurity.

The IFRC will assist the National Society with resource mobilization by supporting the development of strong proposals and facilitating donor engagement for preparedness and response. It will advocate for multi-year financing to strengthen resilience and sustain readiness for recurrent hazards. To enhance visibility, the IFRC will create opportunities for the National Society to showcase its work through regional

forums, webinars and case studies, while also supporting the development of contingency plans, simulation exercises and the documentation and sharing of best practices from Namibia for regional learning. Additionally, it will provide guidance on warehousing, stock prepositioning and supply chain management to improve operational effectiveness.

The IFRC will further support the integration of climate risk and resilience considerations across strategic and operational frameworks to reinforce long-term adaptability and coherence in disaster risk management.



## Health and wellbeing

Namibia's health profile reveals a system increasingly affected by the intersection of climate variability, environmental hazards and public health challenges. The most prevalent diseases include malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, respiratory infections and HIV/AIDS, all of which remain major causes of morbidity and mortality, particularly in rural and low-income populations.

Recurrent droughts, floods and heatwaves have intensified health vulnerabilities by reducing access to safe water, nutrition and sanitation, while promoting the spread of vector- and water-borne diseases. Additionally, there are significant regional disparities, with malaria and diarrhoeal diseases concentrated in northern regions such as Zambezi, Ohangwena and Omusati.

Health infrastructure, though expanding, remains unevenly distributed, with limited capacity to respond to concurrent health emergencies and natural hazards. The growing influence of climate change calls for integrated health risk management linking disease surveillance, early warning systems and community-based health promotion to strengthen resilience and reduce disaster-related health impacts across Namibia.

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

The Namibia Red Cross Society aims to strengthen its auxiliary role to the Ministry of Health and Social Services by expanding equitable access to community-based primary health care and promoting preventive health practices that contribute to healthier, more resilient communities. It seeks to reinforce its contribution to national objectives on population health, nutrition and human development.

The National Society seeks to enhance its internal systems and technical capacities so that community-level health interventions are delivered consistently, effectively and in ways that strengthen accountability and service quality. It will

focus on creating the organizational conditions necessary for high-performing community health structures.

The Namibia Red Cross Society aims to deepen strategic collaboration with government institutions by advancing long-term partnerships that reinforce coordinated national health delivery and affirm its auxiliary mandate. It seeks to contribute to harmonized national approaches that strengthen coherence, trust and clarity in roles across all regions.

Additionally, it plans to ensure sustainability across its health and wellbeing portfolio by cultivating diverse partnerships and mobilising predictable technical and financial support. It seeks to secure the stability needed to reach underserved populations with continuous, inclusive and community-centred health services.

### Planned activities in 2026

- Create a national framework for community-based health care volunteering
- Develop a national group of trained community-based health care workers providing health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene support
- Register the community-based health care curriculum within the national qualifications system
- Establish accredited training pathways, including routes for youth and recognition of prior learning
- Build internal technical capacity through Training-of-Trainers and strengthened supervision and monitoring systems
- Pursue a formalized social contracting agreement with the Ministry of Health and Social Services for coordinated volunteer deployment

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in expanding community-based health care by providing technical assistance for the establishment and operationalization of health posts and mobile outreach services. It will facilitate partnerships with the Ministry of Health and other key actors to ensure that community-based services are integrated within national health systems. The IFRC will promote [youth engagement](#) through mentorship, internships and career development initiatives and will enable learning exchanges with other National Societies to support continuous improvement and the sharing of best practices.

The IFRC will strengthen the integration of nutrition and health education into community programming by providing tools and materials that reinforce nutrition messaging, particularly for drought-affected and [food-insecure](#) households. This support

will ensure that nutrition education is embedded across community-based health care and orphans and vulnerable children outreach.

The IFRC will help enhance the National Society's emergency health response capacity by supporting training in rapid health assessments and emergency health interventions. This will ensure that emergency health responses remain aligned with national disaster and health protocols and that the National Society can act swiftly and effectively during crises. It will reinforce institutional capacity for health programming by assisting the National Society to strengthen planning, monitoring and reporting systems for health interventions. Additionally, it will support alignment with government health priorities under NDP 6 and with global health frameworks, while facilitating technical support for programme design, data management and impact measurement to improve quality and accountability across health programmes.



## Migration and displacement

[Namibia](#) is primarily a country of transit and limited destination for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, while also experiencing internal displacement linked to recurrent droughts, floods and localized disasters. The majority of international migrants in Namibia originate from neighbouring countries such as Angola, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), often seeking economic opportunities or protection.

Refugees and asylum seekers are hosted mainly at the Osire Refugee Settlement, which accommodates approximately 6,000–7,000 people, predominantly from the DRC, Burundi and Rwanda, according to [UNHCR data](#). Internal displacement remains relatively low in scale but occurs periodically following flooding in northern regions and prolonged droughts affecting rural livelihoods, leading to temporary or seasonal movement toward urban centres.

Humanitarian needs among refugees and displaced populations include access to health care, livelihood opportunities, documentation and psychosocial support, with women, children and persons with disabilities being particularly vulnerable.

The Government of Namibia [manages migration and refugee affairs](#) through the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security (MHAISS) and the Namibia Refugee Committee, under the Refugees (Recognition and Control) Act of 1999, in collaboration with UNHCR.

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

Migration is not a specific strategic priority for the Namibia Red Cross Society. However, the National Society contributes through its role in the Namibia Refugee Committee and by providing [Restoring Family Links \(RFL\)](#) services, supporting humanitarian assistance, protection and the dignity of migrants and displaced persons.

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in its migration interventions as needed.



## Values, power and inclusion

Namibia continues to advance in promoting education, social inclusion and gender equality; however, disparities persist due to socio-economic inequalities, geographic isolation and gender-based vulnerabilities. The Namibia [Basic Education Act \(2020\)](#) guarantees access to free and compulsory primary education, yet challenges remain in school infrastructure, teacher-to-learner ratios and learning outcomes, particularly in rural and marginalized areas ([UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, 2023](#)).

According to UNICEF (2022), approximately 9 per cent of primary-age children and 17 per cent of lower-secondary-age children remain out of school, with higher rates among girls and children with disabilities in remote regions. Recurrent droughts, floods and health emergencies have also disrupted schooling continuity and affected child wellbeing.

Namibia ranks 6th in Africa and 75th globally on the UNDP Gender Inequality Index (2023), reflecting moderate progress in female empowerment but ongoing challenges related to [gender-based violence \(GBV\)](#), economic inequality and limited access to justice and protection for survivors (UN Women Global Database on Violence Against Women, 2024). Vulnerable groups including women, children, persons with disabilities, refugees, LGBTQI+ individuals and those living in poverty face intersecting risks of exclusion and exploitation.

The Government's [National Gender Policy \(2021–2030\)](#) and [Child Care and Protection Act \(2015\)](#) provide frameworks for equity, safety and inclusion, coordinated through the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPEWSW) and the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS).

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

The Namibia Red Cross Society aims to reinforce its commitment to the [Fundamental Principles](#) of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It seeks to ensure that [Protection, Gender and Inclusion \(PGI\)](#) considerations are consistently embedded within its broader resilience and community support initiatives even in the absence of dedicated standalone programmes.

The Namibia Red Cross Society plans to contribute to national efforts designed to prevent and address gender-based violence and violence against children by aligning its approaches with government policies and collaborating with relevant ministries when appropriate. It seeks to ensure its work complements national protection systems and supports comprehensive responses for vulnerable individuals.

The National Society also aims to strengthen community trust and participation by promoting transparent, accountable and

inclusive engagement throughout programme cycles. It will focus on approaches that reinforce shared decision-making and uphold community voice as a central element of effective humanitarian action. It plans to ensure its role complements national protection mechanisms and strengthens linkages between communities and formal services.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Ensure that diversity, inclusion and non-discrimination principles are integrated across all programmes
- Align with national policies on preventing gender-based violence and violence against children
- Collaborate with relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Gender Equality and the Ministry of Health and Social Services where appropriate
- Promote transparent, inclusive community engagement through community participation in assessments, verification and monitoring
- Strengthen referral pathways linking individuals at risk to national protection services
- Apply [Community Engagement and Accountability \(CEA\)](#) approaches to reinforce trust and shared decision-making

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will strengthen the Namibia Red Cross Society's capacity in Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) by providing training and technical support to staff and volunteers in key principles, including the prevention of gender based violence and violence against children. It will assist the National Society in formalizing referral pathways with the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Health and Social Services and will facilitate coordination platforms that reinforce the National Society's role as a trusted community level actor in protection work.

The IFRC will enhance Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) by providing the National Society with tools and guidance that strengthen inclusive participation throughout assessments, verification and monitoring. It will promote safe and accessible feedback mechanisms that are responsive to protection concerns, ensuring that communities can engage meaningfully and safely with programmes.

Additionally, the IFRC will support inclusive programming and volunteer engagement by helping the National Society apply recruitment and volunteer management practices that reflect gender, age and diversity. It will encourage stronger

participation of youth and women in leadership and decision making structures to reinforce representation and equity. It will also help guide staff and volunteers on safe data protection when working with individuals at risk and by ensuring referrals are made appropriately without the collection of unnecessary

sensitive information. It will further support engagement with donors and partners to highlight the National Society's community presence and its contribution to protection related programming.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Namibia Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment



### Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Align programming with national authorities and technical institutions to support coordinated resilience, disaster management and climate adaptation
- Participate in national and international coordination platforms to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication across sectors
- Collaborate with Movement partners for joint planning, technical support and standardized approaches across disaster response, health and climate resilience
- Expand domestic and international resource mobilization through partnerships with government, private sector, philanthropies and UN agencies

part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2014 and 2020. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

- Develop sustainable financing models, including asset optimization and long term programmatic funding cycles

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

The IFRC will support the National Society by contributing to coordinated planning, technical capacity building and resource mobilization efforts in areas including disaster response, health and climate resilience. It will strengthen collaboration frameworks under the Movement Cooperation Agreement and provide technical assistance to strengthen the National Society's resource mobilization strategy and help secure multi year funding cycles that sustain long term interventions across priority thematic areas. This support will complement efforts to develop business models for self funding so the National Society can advance financial independence through responsible management and optimization of assets.



Volunteers of the Namibia Red Cross Society supporting flood-affected families in relocation camps with water purification, hygiene kits and food aid (Photo: IFRC)



## National Society development

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

- Strengthen strategic leadership and governance by enhancing constitutional, policy and oversight mechanisms
- Expand branch development and decentralized leadership through digitalization, standardized governance tools and regional capacity enhancement
- Diversify and grow financial resources through rental income, local fundraising, strategic partnerships and emergency reserve mechanisms
- Invest in talent development through professional training, leadership succession planning and improved human resources policies
- Strengthen volunteering and youth engagement through operationalization of volunteer and youth policies and development of digital volunteer management systems

- Advance peer learning and engagement with National Society development mechanisms such as [IFRC Capacity Building Fund \(CBF\)](#) and [IFRC/ICRC National Society Investment Alliance \(NSIA\)](#) to secure structured technical and financial support for institutional strengthening

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the National Society to reinforce governance, financial integrity and institutional legitimacy by strengthening compliance with systems, policies and funding requirements. It will help secure financial sustainability and operational resilience by contributing to the development of a robust resource mobilization strategy that supports self funding of core costs, the maintenance of emergency reserves and the financing of long term programmes. It will strengthen financial systems, expand strategic partnerships and enhance supply chain and logistics capacities to support efficient delivery of services, while reinforcing risk and security management to protect staff and ensure continuity.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Develop and institutionalize a national communication and [humanitarian diplomacy](#) strategy
- Strengthen advocacy on climate resilience, health equity and social inclusion through engagement with public authorities and opinion leaders
- Enhance visibility and public trust through proactive storytelling, digital outreach and transparent communication of community impact
- Strengthen its capacity in public communication, media relations and humanitarian diplomacy grounded in Movement principles
- Deepen collaboration with IFRC and participating National Societies to participate in regional and global advocacy platforms
- Integrate youth and volunteer voices into humanitarian diplomacy and communication efforts through targeted capacity development
- Promote consistent, principled engagement with stakeholders to elevate understanding of the

humanitarian mandate and strengthen influence on decision-makers

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the National Society by strengthening its humanitarian diplomacy and communication capacities so it can better position itself as a credible voice in national policy discussions on disaster risk reduction, health, climate resilience and community development. This includes helping the National Society elevate its visibility and influence with government ministries, development partners and the public. The IFRC will reinforce communication systems by supporting the development of strategies that highlight achievements, promote transparency and attract donor interest, while enabling the National Society to share its experience in areas such as anticipatory action, community-based health care and climate-smart programming in regional and global forums.

The IFRC will further support the National Society's ability to communicate effectively by enhancing digital communication, storytelling and media engagement capacities so programme results and community impact can be clearly and consistently demonstrated. It will also help strengthen [advocacy](#) capacity through training in humanitarian diplomacy, stakeholder mapping and evidence-based influencing.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Strengthen organizational accountability and transparency through full compliance with statutory and Movement standards
- Modernize internal systems across finance, human resources, procurement and monitoring and evaluation to support efficient and accountable operations
- Reinforce integrity and safeguarding systems to ensure responsible conduct, staff safety and strong internal controls
- Complete and operationalize updated policies for finance, human resources, procurement and risk management
- Advance digital transformation by optimizing integrated systems and expanding digital volunteer and membership platforms
- Enhance data-driven decision-making by strengthening digital monitoring and evaluation tools

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Namibia Red Cross Society by strengthening leadership, systems and human resource capacity through modernized policies. This includes

embedding safeguarding, advancing gender diversity and inclusion and reinforcing safety and security measures, while also helping the National Society develop its role as a training provider for community-based health care workers through curriculum registration, structured training pathways and the development of trainers.

The IFRC will reinforce financial integrity and ethical governance by helping strengthen financial systems for transparent resource management, timely financial reporting and compliance with funding agreements. It will support efforts to achieve unqualified audits and to operationalize integrity measures that prevent and address fraud, corruption and misconduct, thereby strengthening trust with authorities, communities and partners. It will enhance operational resilience by supporting the development of strong risk and security management processes, including staff protection protocols, incident reporting and operational risk monitoring. It will also assist in strengthening supply chain and logistics capacities to ensure timely, efficient delivery of humanitarian services and improved alignment with national disaster management structures.

The IFRC will promote sustainability and impact by supporting the development of results-based management systems, including data collection, monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks.

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## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

The IFRC Pretoria country cluster delegation supports the Namibia Red Cross Society through its country cluster delegation for South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia. The delegation has status agreement in South Africa, Botswana and Lesotho but the offices are based in Pretoria, South Africa. The support offered by the delegation includes strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including

strengthening of the National Society's auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the National Society received support through a number of IFRC Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations. Since 2024, the IFRC has been supporting Namibia with a Drought Emergency Appeal.

## IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate

clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development assistance and contribute to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The National Society actively participates in the Southern Africa Partnership of Red Cross Societies and the Pan-African Conference. Currently, there are no participating National Societies present in the country.

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## Movement coordination

The Namibia 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](#).

**The ICRC**, through its Pretoria regional delegation, monitors the humanitarian situation in the region, promotes [International Humanitarian Law \(IHL\)](#), restores contact between family members separated by conflict and helps the National Society in the promotion of IHL in Namibia.

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## Coordination with other actors

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Namibia Red Cross Society is a substantive member of the National Disaster Risk Management Committee chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet and comprising all ministry executive directors. The National Society has strengthened cooperation with multiple ministries, notably re-establishing confidence with the Office of the Prime Minister, which leads disaster risk management. It works with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform on rural water supply and household nutrition through training and provision of seeds and seedlings; with the Ministry of Environment and the Meteorological Service on drought and flood early action protocols; and with the Ministry of Health and Social Services on risk communication and community engagement as well as referrals to social services units. It also partners with the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare for referrals of children and marginalized groups; serves on the National Committee for Refugees under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration

and Security; and collaborates with the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Ministry of International Relations on International Humanitarian Law training with the ICRC, including support to the Department of Correctional Service.

It also engages with United Nations agencies including the WHO, WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund.

While the National Society does not have formal partnerships with private sector or non-governmental organizations, it maintains a long standing collaboration with the University of Namibia on research related to climate change impacts and the national disaster risk profile. Its core work spans disaster relief, especially support to the national drought relief programme, climate change adaptation and mitigation through early action protocols for droughts and floods and health and care interventions that improve access for marginalized communities and children.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 and subsequent years. It is aligned with [IFRC Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

### Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

### Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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