



ETHIOPIA

2025-2026 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 75M**

12 March 2025

In support of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society



12

National Society branches



190

National Society local units



2,201

National Society staff



25,863

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



755,000

Ongoing emergency operations



6.7M

Climate and environment



25.8M

Disasters and crises



15.9M

Health and wellbeing



5.4M

Migration and displacement



2.8M

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Landslides and floods
- Population movement

Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and resilience
 - Migration and displacement
- Community-based health and WASH

Capacity development

- Branch development
- Financial sustainability
- Systems development

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

Very high

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Very high

Human Development Index rank

176

World Bank Population figure

128.7M

World Bank Population below poverty line

23.5%

Funding requirements

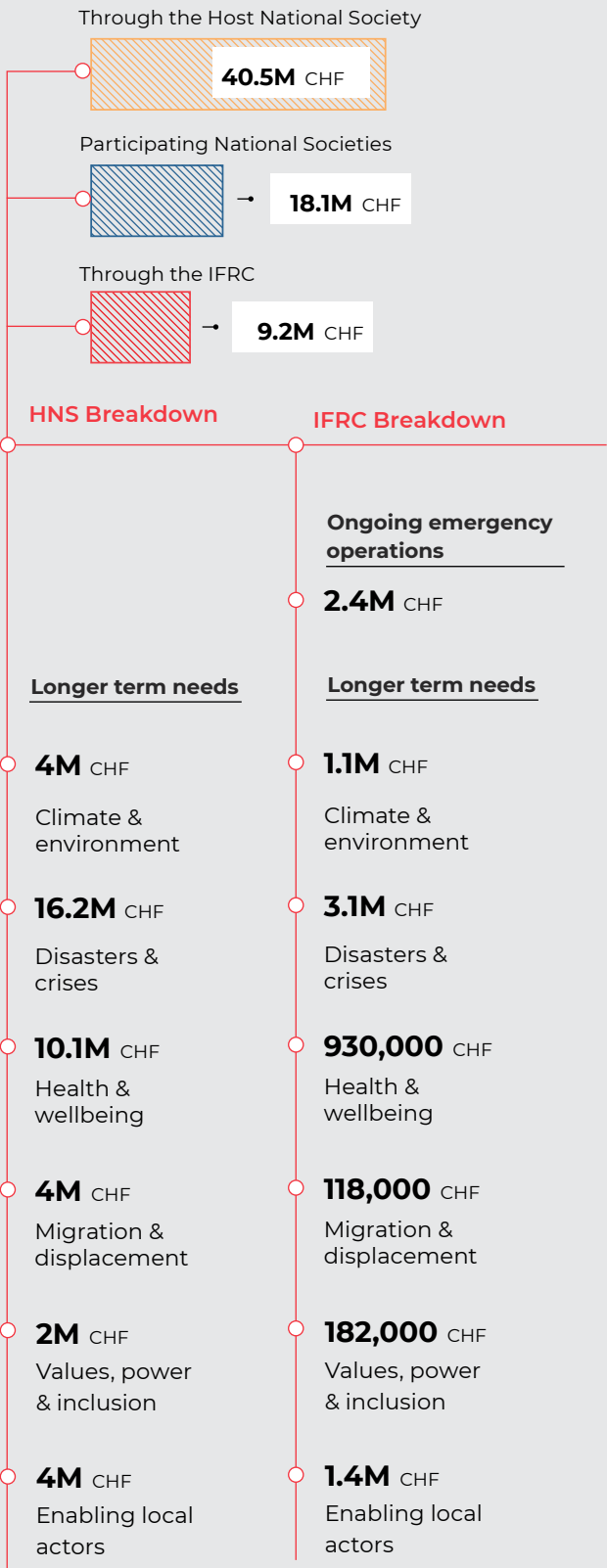
2025

2026**

**Projected funding requirements

Total 68M CHF

Total 7M CHF



Participating National Societies

7M CHF

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

Austrian Red Cross

British Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross Society

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

The Netherlands Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeals:

MDRET036 Landslides and Flood

MDRS1001* Sudan Crisis Regional Population Movement

Longer-term needs:

MAAET003

*The revised funding requirement for this emergency is not yet available

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
American Red Cross	250,000						
Austrian Red Cross	5.1M	●	●	●	●	●	●
British Red Cross	101,000						
Canadian Red Cross Society	300,000		●	●			
Danish Red Cross	3.2M	●	●	●	●	●	●
Finnish Red Cross	1M	●	●	●		●	
German Red Cross	702,000		●				
Italian Red Cross	391,000			●	●		●
Netherlands Red Cross	4.1M	●	●	●	●		●
Norwegian Red Cross	578,000			●			
Swiss Red Cross	2.3M	●	●	●	●	●	●

Total Funding requirement **CHF 18.1M**

Hazards



Food insecurity



Drought



Floods



Disease outbreaks



Civil unrest



Population movement



Ethiopian Red Cross Society volunteers conducting safe disposal of livestock in Borena zone, Ethiopia.

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Ethiopian Red Cross Society** is one of the leading humanitarian organizations in Ethiopia with a wide network of branches throughout the country. Established in 1935, the Ethiopian Red Cross has a structure consisting of 12 regional offices, 36 zonal branches, 132 districts (woreda) branches, and more than 5000 committees (Kebele Red Cross Committees) at the grass roots level. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1950.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society's extensive network enables it to reach vulnerable populations such as communities in highly remote areas who are not served by other humanitarian actors.

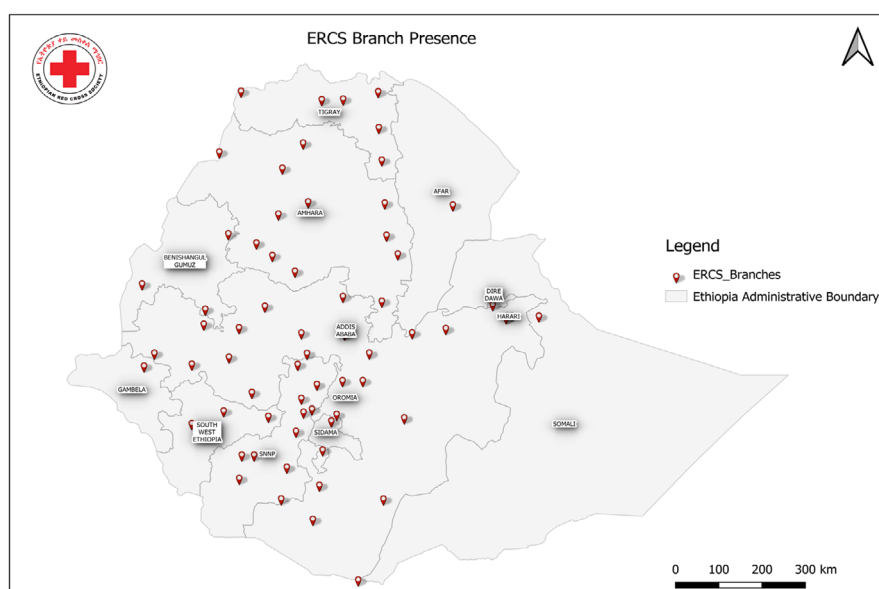
As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society has a mandate to actively engage in disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities aligned to the Government of Ethiopia's development plans and national priorities. The Ethiopian Red Cross has a productive working relationship with the Federal Government and its network across the country ensures timely and efficient delivery of humanitarian services in coordination with public authorities.

It is also a major provider of pre-hospital care services within the country, with a fleet of 562 ambulances.

Ethiopia Red Cross Society's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 sets out seven strategic priorities.

- Disaster preparedness, response, risk reduction and management
- Peacebuilding and the promotion of non-violence
- Volunteer and membership management
- Resource mobilization and resource utilization
- Humanitarian diplomacy and image building
- Capacity building
- Partnership development

In 2023, the Ethiopian Red Cross reached 3.7 million people with long-term services and development programmes and 1.3 million people with disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of Ethiopian Red Cross Society branches

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

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Ethiopia's strategic location in the Horn of Africa, near the Middle East, establishes it as a critical hub for trade and migration. Although landlocked, it relies on Djibouti's port for international trade. Ethiopia serves as the second-largest migration host in Africa, functioning as a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants. Covering 1,104,300 square kilometres, Ethiopia is bordered by Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Kenya. Its varied climate ranges from humid rainforests in the south to arid zones in the north and east, featuring three primary climatic zones.

With a population of approximately 126.5 million in 2023, Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous country after Nigeria, experiencing an annual growth rate of 2.6 per cent. Projections indicate the population could reach 139.6 million by 2030 and 190.8 million by 2050. Despite economic growth—marked by a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$95.5 billion in 2019 and an annual growth rate of 8.4 per cent over the past decade—poverty remains a pressing issue. Ethiopia supplies over 80 per cent of the Nile's water, with the construction of the Renaissance Dam posing potential conflict risks with downstream nations.

Ethiopia operates under a federalist system, comprising 13 regions (Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Benshangul-Gumuz, Southwestern, Southern and Central Ethiopia, Gambela and Harari Peoples) and two city administrations, Addis Ababa (the capital) and Dire Dawa.

The country faces five major global challenges that are compounding humanitarian needs. Climate and environmental crises, including the impact of El Niño following three consecutive failed rainy seasons, have intensified droughts and other hazards. Internal and external conflicts have spurred migration and displacement, making Ethiopia one of Africa's largest refugee-hosting countries. Widespread epidemics, along with damage to health infrastructure due to conflict, have further restricted access to essential health services. Social disparities and inclusion imbalances exacerbate these challenges.

Currently, Ethiopia endures a severe humanitarian crisis marked by armed conflict, intercommunal violence, climate hazards, disease outbreaks and economic decline. Approximately 21.4 million people, including 12 million children, urgently require humanitarian assistance for services in water, sanitation and health (WASH), nutrition, education and social protection. As of June 2024, 8.32 million children remain out of school, with the highest numbers in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray. Ongoing conflicts between armed groups and the Ethiopian National Defence Force have disrupted market supplies and access to services.



Volunteers from the Ethiopian Red Cross distributing non-food items to migrants fleeing from the Sudan crisis across the border, in June 2023
(Photo: Ethiopian Red Cross Society)

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC Go Ethiopia](#)

1.

Emergency Operation	Landslides and Flood Emergency Appeal
Appeal number	MDRET036
People affected	143,000
People to be assisted	25,500
Duration	18 months (31 July 2024, with operation extended to 31 December 2025)
Funding requirement	Funding requirement through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 3.5 million Total Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 6 million
Emergency Appeal	Ethiopia: Landslides and Flood Emergency Appeal
Link to Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Link to Operational Update	Operational Update No. 1

Heavy rains on 21-22 July 2024 triggered landslides in southern Ethiopia, causing 2,364 confirmed deaths and leaving 13 survivors, marking Ethiopia's deadliest landslide. The rugged terrain has hindered rescue efforts, with community volunteers digging by hand. Subsequent landslides killed rescuers and emergency personnel, worsening the toll. Over 15,000 people are impacted, with immediate evacuation needs for more than 5,600 at high risk of further landslides. Concurrent severe weather in Gurage Zone affected 1,200 households, with farmland and infrastructure damaged, heightening the region's food insecurity and disease risks, including malaria and measles outbreaks. The IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal for CHF 6 million to support Ethiopian Red Cross Society to aid 25,500 people through emergency response.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The operation combines emergency relief, recovery and resilience-building to support affected communities. During the initial phase, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society provides shelter, food, water, sanitation, emergency health services and mental health and psychosocial support to families, emphasizing community and gender inclusion. In the recovery phase, it focuses on transitional shelters, water rehabilitation, disaster risk reduction and livelihood support. The National Society has engaged in extensive search and rescue, distributing emergency supplies and strengthening temporary shelters in high-risk zones. In collaboration with government and partners, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society plans to relocate vulnerable families, support sustainable livelihoods, provide food and enhance healthcare, while addressing climate risks and promoting resilience through training, community involvement and environmental conservation initiatives. The highlights of the assistance are as follows:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Distribution and replenishment of shelter household items such as kitchen sets, blankets, nets, solar lamps, mattresses for both windstorm and landslide affected communities to meet the. Provision of training to community members in safe shelter construction. Distribution of shelter kits to facilitate the construction/strengthening of temporary shelters.

Livelihoods

Farm inputs, including seeds and fertilizers, were provided to rain-fed seasonal farmers, while youth received skills training and starter kits tailored to assessed needs. Households received livestock, supported by animal health services, including treatment and vaccination.

Health and care, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Distribute long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets to high-risk households and supply first aid kits to ambulance and community services. Provide water treatment chemicals, along with water storage equipment, including jerrycans, buckets and wash basins. Install water storage tanks at and distribute household hygiene materials, including body soap, laundry soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes and provide dignity kits with reusable sanitary pads and personal items to women and girls.

Cross-cutting approaches: the operational strategy integrates **community engagement and accountability** (CEA) and **protection, gender and inclusion** (PGI) as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response.

For the period 31 July 2024 to 20 September 2024, the following support was provided:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Provision of emergency shelter material and essential household items to affected communities.

Livelihoods

Provision of emergency food to affected communities.

Health and care

Communities were reached with health and hygiene messages.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Provision of water storage, washing equipment, hygiene kits to affected communities.

Protection, gender and inclusion

Dignity kits were distributed among women and girls.

2.

Emergency Operation	Sudan Crisis: Regional Population Movement Emergency Appeal The Emergency Appeal is under revision
Appeal number	MDRS1001
Duration	19 months: 15 May 2023 to 31 December 2024
Funding requirement	Total through the IFRC Emergency Appeal: CHF 33.5 million (Federation-wide: Swiss francs 42 million) For Ethiopia: through the IFRC Appeal (CHF 3 million) and Federation-wide (CHF 5 million)
Emergency Appeal	<u>Sudan Crisis Regional Population Movement Emergency Appeal</u>
Link to Ethiopia response	<u>Ethiopia National Society Response Plan: Sudan Crisis Regional Population Movement</u>
Link to Operational Update	<u>Operational Update No. 4</u>

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has led to widespread displacement, with over 1.4 million people fleeing active conflict areas to find safety elsewhere in the country or across borders, primarily in Chad, Egypt and South Sudan, but also in Ethiopia, Central African Republic (CAR) and Libya. The situation in Sudan is still very volatile and as the fighting persists, the trend of displacement is likely to continue. Most affected by this crisis are the elderly, women (especially pregnant women) and children. Among the refugees are many separated and unaccompanied children, as well as people with disabilities and mental health problems. More than 215,000 people were estimated to flee through Ethiopian borders in Amhara or Benishangul-Gumuz regions by end 2023. These include people of other nationalities using the Ethiopia border crossing either as a secondary displacement destination or in transit to third countries.

This Emergency Appeal enables the Ethiopian Red Cross, along with five other National Societies in the region, to respond to the needs of those fleeing the conflict into the country, as well as strengthening the National Society's response capacity and readiness for further influx.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Ethiopian Red Cross is planning to support about 50,000 people, comprising returnees (25,000), asylum seekers (17,500) and the host community (7,500). The targeted population on

the move is anticipated to enter through the two border points of Metema and Kurmuk mainly. Humanitarian support will be provided through three approaches:

- 1. Humanitarian service points (HSP) with integrated support for displaced people in transit
- 2. Humanitarian assistance for displaced people hosted in camps and other settlements
- 3. Humanitarian support to returnees

The main sectors of intervention to affected communities are shelter; livelihoods and basic needs (including the use of cash and vouchers); health; and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The strategy will focus on the three core cross-cutting approaches: migration; protection, gender and inclusion (PGI); and community engagement and accountability (CEA).

The response pillars comprise:

- **Health and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):** First Aid, ambulance services for transportation of patients from primary healthcare points to secondary healthcare facilities, health awareness through house-to-house visits, tracing and early detection of communicable diseases of epidemic potential, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) at humanitarian service points

- **Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH):** improved access to safe water through water trucking, water storage, repairs to water sources, provision of hygiene kits and dignity kits and hygiene promotion sessions
- **Shelter, housing and settlements:** provision of tarpaulins (for construction of emergency shelters) and household items
- **Cash and voucher assistance:** three rounds of unconditional multipurpose cash assistance to returnees
- **Basic needs and livelihoods:** provision of general food supplies, as well as skills development aimed at reducing food insecurity and increase income.
- **Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI):** this will encompass minimum protection standards including prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and mapping of referral networks; the establishment of separate and safe spaces at humanitarian service points for vulnerable and minority groups including women, adolescents, children (including unaccompanied and separated children), people with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities; and provision of dignity kits.
- **Community engagement and accountability (CEA):** integration into different sectors including design and operations, with a focus on acceptance among host and migrant or displaced communities; establishment of community feedback mechanisms.
- **Migration and displacement:** establishment of fixed and mobile humanitarian service points, referrals for specialized services, and restoring family links to help people reunite or connect with their loved ones.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Ethiopia's diverse topography results in significant climatic differences, with rainfall ranging from 1,900 millimetres in the highlands to just 100 millimetres in the lowlands. The country experiences three primary seasons: Kiremt (June to September), the main rainy season vital for staple crops such as teff and maize; Belg (February to May), a secondary rainy season for short-cycle crops such as barley; and Bega (October to January), a dry season affecting water availability.

Climate change has amplified Ethiopia's vulnerability, with severe droughts, the worst in 40 years and flooding disrupting livelihoods. Agriculture, employing around two-thirds of the population, faces substantial threats. Rising temperatures and erratic rainfall are expected to reduce food security, increase conflict and heighten disease risks, further straining public health and productivity.

The Ethiopia Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) warns of significant GDP and consumption losses due to climate change, projected at up to 5 per cent annually by the 2040s. The largest impacts will be from reduced livestock yields, heat stress on workers and damage to infrastructure, particularly roads and bridges.

Flooding from heavy rains in the primary rainy season displaced tens of thousands across Ethiopia. In the Somali region, floods affected 247,000 people, with 51,000 displaced. In Oromia, over 285,000 were impacted, with thousands

displaced. While local relief efforts helped, the risks of further rain highlight the need for improved early warning systems and water management strategies.

Average temperatures in Ethiopia have risen by one degree Celsius since 1960, with a significant increase in hot nights and days, further stressing agriculture and public health systems.

Ethiopia's vulnerability to drought is heightened by the continuing drought since late 2020, affecting 24 million people by 2023.

Climate change is exacerbating Ethiopia's environmental crises, with growing threats to agriculture, water management and public health. Recurrent droughts and floods damage key sectors, while environmental degradation—such as soil erosion, deforestation and pollution—further threatens Ethiopia's natural resources and economic resilience.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society's adopts on a multi hazard effect approach to build community resilience to climate change impacts and environmental degradation. A central cross-cutting theme is hunger reduction and climate action to reduce the vulnerabilities of target communities to cyclic climate shocks. The National Society focuses on rehabilitating degraded land areas to develop stronger resilience against drought.

The National Society also seeks to contribute to climate change mitigation and environmental restoration through

nature-based solutions. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society, in partnership with the government, is leading annual tree planting events to increase tree cover. These events aim to adapt to and mitigate climate change through the planting and care of multi-purpose trees.

To reduce its own environmental footprint, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society seeks to adopt environmentally friendly practices in all its activities, with emphasis on conservancy and environmentally friendly resource management.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society is also engaged in the Water at the Heart of Climate Action (W@H), an ambitious partnership between the IFRC, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility, which combines local knowledge and global technology to help communities understand and reduce the water-related risks they face - before they become disasters. The five-year partnership is supported by financial contributions from the Government of the Netherlands.

This initiative promotes a combination of early warning and early action measures that support integrated water management in vulnerable communities through five technical areas:

- Water-related risk knowledge and governance
- Observations, monitoring and forecasting of weather and water-related events
- Water specific early warning systems dissemination and communication
- Anticipatory action and locally led adaptation
- Crosscutting activities

Planned activities in 2025

- Train 125 individuals in agriculture, livestock and business management, followed by cash grants to support livelihood rebuilding
- Establish and strengthen multi-hazard dashboards and Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) in Lalibela and Sekota, along with a contingency planning workshop
- Distribute solar lamps to 90 women, provide start-up capital to 40 women and supply materials and seed funding to 220 women self-help groups (WSHGs)
- Deliver community mobilization training for 18 community development groups and health extension workers
- Establish and strengthen early warning early action systems in 188 kebeles

- Form 24 village saving and loan associations (VSLAs) and rehabilitate 614 hectares of degraded land using soil and water conservation methods
- Set up four disaster risk management committees, training them in climate risk assessment and action planning
- Train 400 households in climate-smart agricultural practices and provide drought-resistant pasture support to 160 households
- Vaccinate livestock for 10,500 households and supply forage seeds to 1,500 households
- Establish and operationalize emergency operation centres (EOCs) in Somali, Tigray and Oromia
- Rehabilitate 230 hectares of land in Tigray, Somali and Oromia

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Ethiopian Red Cross in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, in ensuring integration of climate risk management across all operations and programmes and in building the capacity of staff and volunteers. The IFRC will support the National Society in designing programmes that contribute to IFRC's Pan-African Tree Planting and Care initiative, comprising the establishment of tree nurseries, combatting desertification, conservation of water catchments and contributing to water, food and livelihood security. It will also support the National Society in promotional and advocacy efforts, aimed at Government agencies, private sector and the public, about diverse nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation, in line with the Tree Planting and Care initiative.

The **Austrian Red Cross** and **Netherlands Red Cross** have supported climate change adaptation related interventions that will be extended or enhanced in 2025.

The **Canadian Red Cross Society** will continue its partnership with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society focusing on climate-related crises.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support the National Society in anticipatory action.

The **German Red Cross** will provide support the National Society in anticipatory action and forecast-based financing.

The **Netherlands Red Cross**, alongside the Netherlands government, will continue to provide financial support to the National Society for the Water at Heart initiative.

The **Swiss Red Cross** has supported anticipatory actions. It will continue to do so in 2025.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC Go Ethiopia](#)

Since 2020, Ethiopia has faced a [complex set of crises](#), with a combination of natural hazards, conflict and high vulnerability. Ranked by the [INFORM Country Risk Profile](#) as having a very high risk of humanitarian crisis, Ethiopia is increasingly impacted by droughts, floods, windstorms, fire accidents and even occasional seismic hazards such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. These challenges, worsened by climate change, have particularly impacted northern, southern and southeastern pastoral regions, where poor households now rely heavily on aid and negative coping strategies to survive.

Seasonal floods, intensified by climate change and El Niño, have severely affected southern and southeastern Ethiopia. In Somali and Afar regions, annual flooding has submerged homes, farmland and infrastructure, displacing over [200,000 people](#) in 2023 and continuing in 2024. The [World Food Programme](#) has highlighted urgent needs for food and shelter.

Drought remains Ethiopia's most critical humanitarian issue, impacting over [20 million people](#) across Somali, Oromia and Afar regions. In Somali region, over 80 per cent of livestock has been lost, causing severe food insecurity. Recovery is expected to be prolonged, with crop failures and livelihood losses further compounding the crisis. Oromia faces drought-related food shortages impacting [7.4 million people](#), while high malnutrition rates persist in Afar, especially among children and pregnant women. The International Organization for Migration reports over [1.5 million](#) people displaced due to drought.

Windstorms, particularly in Oromia, Somali and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region, have worsened humanitarian conditions, displacing thousands and damaging infrastructure since 2022. More than [300,000](#) individuals have been affected and these windstorms often impact areas already weakened by drought and conflict.

Conflict, especially in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray regions, continues to drive Ethiopia's humanitarian crisis. [Ongoing hostilities](#) between the Ethiopian National Defence Forces and local militias such as FANO have further destabilized Amhara, while inter-communal violence in several regions contributes to widespread displacement. Escalating violence has displaced over 4 million people since 2021, including [1.6 million in 2023](#) alone. The [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre](#) reports that conflict has left more than half of the affected regions partially inaccessible, hampering humanitarian aid and heightening risks of gender-based violence.

While Ethiopia has yet to experience a significant mpox outbreak, the [World Health Organization](#) warns of a high risk due to limited healthcare resources and the movement of displaced populations, especially near healthcare-strapped

conflict zones. Mpox cases in neighbouring countries raise concerns of potential spread, with displacement camps particularly vulnerable due to inadequate sanitation and healthcare. Ethiopia's unique geographic location along the [East African Rift](#) also makes it prone to seismic activity and volcanic eruptions, which, although less frequent, pose additional local risks to lives and infrastructure, particularly in high-density areas.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society is a key first responder to the multiple emergencies affecting the country and provides multi-faceted assistance to people affected. It is well equipped to respond to disaster situations. It has a roster of national disaster response team members and branch disaster response teams' presence across the country. An emergency operations centre located at the headquarters in Addis Ababa supports communication and coordination with branches. To increase its capacity to rapidly address emergencies, the National Society is strengthening its disaster response teams, search and rescue teams and emergency operations centres.

As part of its [disaster risk management](#) approach, spanning prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, the National Society focuses on shifting decision-making to the most local level, placing communities at the centre of their resilience building. This is reflected in Ethiopian Red Cross Society's strong community-led and community-based programmes.

It is involved in the Early Warnings for All initiative ([EW4All](#)), which aims to ensure everyone on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027. In this United Nations-led initiative, the IFRC is the lead of Pillar 4 on preparedness for response to warnings and is also actively engaged in Pillars 1 and 3 of Disaster Risk Knowledge and Warning Dissemination and Communication. The National Society, with IFRC support, will be working with national authorities to coordinate Pillar 4 and implement activities.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society seeks to increase efforts to combat food insecurity in Ethiopia. The Ethiopia food and nutrition resilience programme is based on a partnership framework between the IFRC and African Union (AU). It is co-created by the Government of Ethiopia along with the IFRC and Ethiopian Red Cross Society. The programme aims to reach 15 million people over five years, with a funding requirement of USD five billion. There are three key and mutually reinforcing thematic priorities that address the multiple drivers of food insecurity, livelihood support and water management, environmental sustainability and community health and nutrition.

The National Society also continues to respond to the needs of people affected by the Tigray crisis, through its [Ethiopia North recovery and resilience programme](#). This programme is informed by evidence obtained through assessments, extensive desk review and key informant interviews with humanitarian workers in Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions. The National Society aims to support 2.6 million people for five years, with an integrated multi-sector approach combining humanitarian emergency support and recovery and community resilience building.

Planned activities in 2025

- Distribute food to 39,767 households, with 29,250 supported by regional branches using domestically mobilized resources
 - Provide non-food items to 13,959 households, including 8,746 aided by regional branches
 - Implement cash transfers for 38,091 households, distribute multi-purpose cash to 32,693 households and transitional house construction cash to 1,723 households
 - Establish 356 Community-Based Disaster Response Teams
 - Form or strengthen Branch Disaster Response Teams in 37 zonal branches for rapid assessments
 - Support 160 households with drought-adapted pasture management
 - Extend the Emergency Operations Centre to two regional branches in Tigray and Somali
 - Expand collaboration with community-based organizations for risk identification and mapping, [vulnerability, impact and capacity assessments](#) and mitigation
 - Implement and support [early warning and early action](#) initiatives with at-risk communities in both urban and rural contexts
 - Train community watch teams to report on early warning related to disaster and climate risks
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society to achieve sustainable, integrated [livelihood programmes that guarantee food security](#) and household income among vulnerable individuals and communities. It will also support the National Society in its implementation of early warning and early action initiatives, strengthening its cash preparedness and specific components its response system, such as contingency, response and business continuity planning and development of response teams. The IFRC will also support the National Society in implementing effective [disaster-related laws](#).

The IFRC will continue supporting the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in strengthening its capacity to mitigate disaster impacts and deliver timely aid. This support includes establishing a rapid response mechanism, which involves the pre-positioning of cash and non-food items with a replenishment mechanism, acquisition of a new fleet of trucks and improvement of supply chain systems through the enhancement of central and strategic warehouses.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will continue to be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2024, IFRC provided DREF allocations for a flood emergency and in 2025 for an earthquake emergency.

- [IFRC-DREF Ethiopia Floods](#): the [DREF](#) allocation of CHF 499,838 in May 2024 supported the Ethiopian Red Cross Society to assist 62,775 people impacted by flooding in Oromia and southwest Ethiopia. The National Society supported the targeted people over a four-month period, through interventions such as the distribution of essential items and emergency shelter kits and cash support. Support also included distribution of mosquito nets and awareness-raising sessions focused on water-borne and vector-borne diseases. Additionally, the assistance included distribution of hygiene kits, water purification chemicals and storage containers, complemented with hygiene messaging.
- [IFRC-DREF Ethiopia Earthquake](#): the [DREF](#) allocation of CHF 491,271 in January 2025 will support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society to assist 10,000 people impacted by over 20 earthquakes, with the strongest having a magnitude 5.8 in Afar, Amhara and Oromia. The National Society will support the targeted people over a four-month period through interventions such as the distribution of essential household items, shelter material and multi-purpose cash. Support also includes first aid provision, distribution of mosquito nets and first aid kits along with installation of water tanks and construction of public latrines. Affected communities are also being assisted with the provision of water purification chemicals and storage equipment, complemented with hygiene and health promotion activities.

Additionally, the IFRC is facilitating the strengthening of the National Society's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme implementation capacities. This initiative began in 2024 and is expected to continue into 2025, with long-term impacts. The **British Red Cross** and **Netherlands Red Cross** are also providing technical support to the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in this initiative, contributing their expertise to ensure successful implementation and long-lasting effectiveness.

The **Austrian Red Cross** aims to continue supporting the National Society's responses to the food crisis and humanitarian emergencies throughout the country on a bilateral and multilateral basis.

The **Canadian Red Cross Society** will aim to continue partnering with the National Society bilaterally and multilaterally to support in areas of humanitarian response.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support the National Society in disaster management including emergency operation centres, early action planning and preparedness.

The **Finnish Red Cross** aims to support the strengthening of the National Society's disaster risk management capacity.

The **German Red Cross** supports the National Society in readiness and capacity building in logistics through renovations and construction of the warehouse and prepositioning of non-food items.

The **Italian Red Cross** aims to provide particular support to the National Society in its response during and after the conflict in the north of the country.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** aims to support the National Society in strengthening community resilience with a multi-sectoral approach. Urgent needs are also addressed through emergency response interventions wherein resilience is built in a nexus approach.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** focuses its support to the National Society on addressing the needs of people affected by multiple crises.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will support the National Society in enhancing the living conditions of vulnerable population groups with a humanitarian aid, development and peace nexus lens. The Swiss Red Cross has continued to be strongly engaged with the Ethiopian Red Cross in responding to recurring disasters, especially in flood and drought responses and displacement.



Health and wellbeing

Ethiopia is facing numerous health and humanitarian challenges, driven by both natural disasters and ongoing conflict. The country is grappling with significant health emergencies, including cholera, measles, malaria and waterborne diseases. The cholera outbreak, which began in August 2022, has become the longest on record, with a surge of cases in Afar and Oromia regions marking the third wave of the outbreak. As of October 2024, over 25,000 cholera cases have been reported, alongside 240 deaths. Meanwhile, the measles outbreak is worsening due to low immunization coverage, lack of awareness among caregivers and displacement. Additionally, malaria cases have reached their highest levels in seven years, with over 2.1 million reported cases and 371 deaths in the first half of 2024. The situation is further aggravated by droughts and floods, which are creating conditions that increase mosquito breeding and heighten the risk of disease transmission.

The ongoing conflict, especially in northern Ethiopia, has compounded the situation, severely damaging the country's health infrastructure. Looting and destruction of health facilities have left many hospitals and health centres without essential supplies, including medical equipment, medicines and ambulances. A total of 76 hospitals, 709 health centres and over 3,200 health posts have been affected by the violence. This has left millions of people without access to primary healthcare, particularly in the Amhara region, where conflict has destroyed critical health infrastructure.

The Ethiopian health system is also struggling to address primary health concerns, including maternal mortality, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, which are exacerbated by malnutrition and lack of clean water. Health institutions remain

insufficient, with the few available facilities underfunded and overwhelmed, particularly in rural areas. Disparities between urban and rural areas further limit access to essential health services.

The impact of conflict also extends to the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector, where Ethiopia faces severe regional disparities in access to clean water and sanitation. Approximately 60 million Ethiopians still lack access to safe drinking water and over 112 million are without basic sanitation facilities, with 22 million continuing open defecation. Conflicts in regions such as Amhara and Tigray have further disrupted water supply systems. The situation is worsened by a lack of sanitation facilities, particularly in rural areas. This has contributed to the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera, especially among populations weakened by malnutrition and poor access to clean water.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society plays a significant role in the health sector, with activities spanning community-based health and first aid, pre-hospital care, primary healthcare and water, sanitation and hygiene services. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society has a fleet of 566 ambulances that are strategically located in different areas to respond to emergencies. Additionally, the National Society has a functional network of 83 pharmacies and drug outlets across 11 regions, offering thousands of people medicines at affordable prices.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society will deliver evidence-based health promotion, disease prevention and community-based care services, focusing on vulnerable populations in all

contexts. It will empower communities to identify and address health risks through local engagement, behaviour change approaches and accountability. The National Society aims to adapt and expand health programmes to meet the growing challenges posed by climate change. It aims to improve disease prevention by targeting the top ten diseases affecting the population, including diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, pneumonia, measles, cholera, meningitis and the Mpox outbreak. It will focus on maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health and non-communicable diseases among the elderly. To enhance primary healthcare, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society will train volunteers to raise health awareness and collaborate with the Ministry of Health to strengthen health system capacities.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society also aims to strengthen first aid programmes, increasing their reach and quality through volunteer training and develop commercial first aid models to ensure financial sustainability. It will also support mental health and psychosocial care for both communities and its staff, especially during emergencies.

Additionally, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society will improve access to safe water and sanitation facilities. It will promote positive behavioural changes in personal and community hygiene, with an emphasis on menstrual hygiene management. In emergencies, the National Society will enhance access to water, sanitation and hygiene services and raise awareness of pandemics, including cholera, to mitigate their impact under the One WASH initiative.

Planned activities in 2025

- Procure 20 ambulance vehicles, bringing the total to 466 operational ambulances.
- Operationalize an additional number of ambulances in 2025 and conduct first aid training for local leaders
- Provide capacity-building training in public health emergency management to 229 local leaders
- Provide drugs and medical equipment to 37 health facilities and equip 16 health facilities with advanced medical machinery such as laboratory machines and ultrasound units

- Rehabilitate 146 community water points, repair 54 damaged water points in health and school facilities and install 22 water pipelines
- Install hand washing facilities in four health facilities and renovate eight health facilities
- Build 29 new communal latrines and renovate 17 existing latrines
- Provide sanitary materials to 3,950 individuals and deliver emergency water supply to 3,140 households
- Run hygiene awareness campaigns and leverage the celebration of major events such as World Handwashing Day

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will network with other actors such as Global Health Security Agenda, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, WHO and the African Union and support the National Society in further defining its health and WASH strategy. The IFRC will support the National Society in building the capacity of communities to prevent and respond to health threats and in improving the quality and availability of health services, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Support will also be provided to the Ethiopian Red Cross in providing mental health and psychosocial support to people affected by conflict, disaster and other traumatic events.

The IFRC will support the National Society in its resource mobilization efforts towards promoting low-cost sanitation approaches and technologies. It will support the National Society in improving community access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene and in participating in cholera response activities including participation in sub-national cholera hotspot mapping exercises.

The **Austrian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross** will also be supporting the National Society in health and WASH-related interventions. The **Austrian Red Cross**, in particular, is providing long-term strategic support to the Ethiopian Red Cross in development projects, such as the ADA Strategic Partnership Skybird, in order to build local communities' WASH capacities through a gender-transformative approach.



Ethiopia faces fluid migration flows and is a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants. More than 800,000 Ethiopians are estimated to have left the country in the past five years, often moving irregularly, in search of economic opportunities, fleeing conflict and violence and linked to extreme drought conditions. Gulf States have become a major destination for a growing number of Ethiopian migrant workers, and large diaspora communities from the subregion have resulted in significant international remittance inflows in recent years. The government is committed to support the return of migrant workers in difficult situations and working on agreements with host countries. Ethiopians trapped into conflicts in neighbouring countries such as Somalia and Sudan and returning to their country also face an array of challenges.

Most international migrants in Ethiopia are citizens of Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Eritrea. They leave their country for a majority due to armed conflicts and their consequences on living conditions of living and economic situation. A number of migrants from Eritrea and Somalia use Ethiopia as a transit to reach the Middle East and Europe, while Ethiopia hosts more than 820,000 asylum seekers, making Ethiopia the second-largest host country in Africa. Almost half of the asylum seekers are women and girls and 59 per cent are children. The outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan in April 2023 has led to a new influx of people into Ethiopia, mostly crossing the border in Metema (Amhara Region) and Kumruk and Guba (Benishangul Gumuz region). The refugees are hosted in a newly established camp (Kumar), a transit camp in Metema (Amhara) and the existing refugee camps in Benishangul Gumuz, however, the camps face overcrowding (see also under ongoing emergency response section).

There are three main migration routes in Ethiopia:

- **Eastern route:** this route is the primary channel for irregular migrants heading to Middle East countries and saw over 400,000 Ethiopians reach the Arabian Peninsula between 2017 and early 2020 (Africa Renewal 22/05/2020). Women dominate this migration, with half a million annually heading to the region via Djibouti and Yemen. The route poses life-threatening challenges and the risk of forced deportation; over half a million Ethiopians have been deported from Saudi Arabia since 2017, imposing severe psychological and economic burdens.
- **Northern route:** the Northern Route encompasses the 'Central Mediterranean Route,' used by migrants to reach Europe, via the Mediterranean Sea through Libya and the Sinai route, utilized by those aiming for Israel through Egypt. Migrants from Ethiopia and other Horn of Africa countries transit through Sudan, Egypt and Libya.

Hazards on this route include the perilous Mediterranean Sea crossing and protection threats in Libya.

- **Southern route:** Widely used by migrants heading to South Africa through Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique, this route entails challenges such as detention, exposure to wildlife and fatalities due to inadequate transportation. Migrants, whether in transit or upon return, need support such as protection, healthcare, sanitation, shelter, non-food items, information aid, restoring family links (RFL) services and social and economic re-integration.

In Ethiopia, an estimated 4.5 million people are internally displaced mostly by conflict and intercommunal violence and also by disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. While some areas, such as the pastoral south and southeast, see displaced individuals returning home following the 2020-2023 drought, new displacements persist. In April 2024, violence in the Amhara-Tigray border area displaced over 50,000 people from Tigray's Southern Zone to neighbouring Amhara zones. Many displaced individuals are staying with host communities or in informal settlements. Ongoing food shortages are also driving migration to urban areas such as Addis Ababa, Mekele and even Saudi Arabia.

The government has developed the Ethiopia Durable Solutions Initiative, which provides a principled operational framework and platform to design and implement durable solutions in support of internally displaced persons and host communities at locations of return, relocation or local integration. In addition, Ethiopia has ratified the Kampala Convention, which recognizes the UN Guiding Principles on internal displacement.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross is part of the IFRC's three-year Global Route Based Migration Programme, which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually, through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points (2) strengthening National Society capacities and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society seeks to establish stationary and mobile humanitarian service points (HSP) along migratory routes. It aims to engage local authorities and stakeholders to protect and integrate immigrants and internally displaced

persons, promote peaceful coexistence and establish community feedback mechanisms. The National Society seeks to offer protection services, including prevention of gender-based violence and psychological support, while creating economic opportunities for victims of violence through start-ups. It aims to work with communities and partners to provide protection services and advocate for access to services. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society also seeks to integrate migration issues into humanitarian activities, support durable solutions, develop emergency response tools and implement its migration strategy with a focus on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI).

- Facilitate family reunification through 1,600 Red Cross messages
- Maintain 60,000 family contacts and provide free phone calls to 20,000 affected people in refugee camps and 60,000 returnees in Addis Ababa

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society's efforts to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced people. This includes providing access to essential services such as healthcare, education and water and sanitation; protecting them from violence and exploitation; and helping them to rebuild their lives. Support to promoting understanding and tolerance between migrants and host communities includes raising awareness of the challenges faced by migrants and displaced people and encouraging communities to welcome and support them.

The IFRC will support the National Society's initiatives focusing on protection and assistance along African migration routes, using humanitarian service points and explore opportunities for relevant integration or capacity development. This includes support for advocacy on the rights of migrants and displaced people, working with governments and other stakeholders.

The **Austrian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross** and **Swiss Red Cross** will help link the National Society with strategic partners to support its main priorities on migration and displacement.

Planned activities in 2025

- Establish 14 inclusive and safe community centres in Amhara, Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz and Tigray to facilitate community dialogue
- Train 60 community leaders in negotiation, conflict management and dialogue facilitation
- Provide dry rations and bottled water to 27,000 Sudanese refugees
- Equip and renovate safe spaces for returnees in Amhara, Tigray and Oromia with necessary materials and furniture
- Distribute bottled water and biscuits to 18,000 returnees upon arrival at Bole International Airport and provide dignity kits to 400 females.



Values, power and inclusion

In Ethiopia, continued displacement, particularly in northern regions, has led to the breakdown of essential systems, including limited access to quality sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and specialised services such as clinical management of rape, psychosocial support, gender-based violence case management, legal aid and referrals for mental health services. The resulting inadequacies in these services have contributed to a rising number of preventable sexual and reproductive health -related deaths and injuries.

The Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan 2024 recognises the multifaceted challenges facing the country, including the impact of climate change, ongoing conflicts and security issues. In 2024, the country's humanitarian situation is expected to affect 21.4 million people, with 7.2 million in need of response services to tackle gender-based violence, an increase from 6.7 million in 2023

The compound crises have left 30 million people severely affected, with more than 12.4 million children among them.

Women and children, especially in conflict zones, remain highly vulnerable due to inadequate access to essential services, including healthcare and sanitation and the absence of social welfare and justice. Despite the peace agreement and cessation of hostilities in Tigray, civilians still face significant human rights violations, with migrants, displaced persons, asylum seekers and refugees encountering heightened protection risks.

The country is also facing a growing human trafficking issue, involving forced labour, sexual exploitation, organ harvesting and domestic servitude. Gender inequalities within families and society contribute to the vulnerability of women and girls to such abuses.

Older populations with specific needs are disproportionately affected by the humanitarian crises. Limited savings, restricted access to credit and the absence of social protection further worsen the situation for these vulnerable groups.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society promotes of positive change for humanity, based on humanitarian values and principles. The National Society works to develop a youth structure and enhance school youth programming with increased investment and targeting the more underserved areas of the country.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society also promotes the protection of people, their dignity and contributions for resilience and peaceful environments. It is working to ensure protection, gender-sensitive programming and inclusion (PGI) and strong safeguarding practices. The National Society applies community engagement and accountability (CEA) in its overall action, including by deploying feedback mechanisms.

Planned activities in 2025

- Establish 14 inclusive and safe community centres in Amhara, Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz and Tigray to facilitate community dialogue
- Train 60 community leaders in negotiation, conflict management and dialogue facilitation
- Conduct 300 outreach programmes to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV),
- Set up 915 community-based psychological support committees
- Provide vocational training and job placement services for young people

- Provide essential basic and menstrual hygiene items to displaced women and girls
- Provide menstrual hygiene facilities and establish girl-friendly spaces in secondary schools
- Engage school clubs in the promotion of hygiene, peace and disability inclusion
- Strengthen partnerships to support awareness campaigns that prevent female genital mutilation, child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence
- Partner with the regional disability association to provide basic mobility aids such as wheelchairs, point sticks and hand crutches, along with disability access facilities, including ramps, accessible material and interpretation services

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to apply the IFRC PGI policy and PGI minimum standards on protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies. It will support the National Society on safeguarding, referral pathways and in its development of community-based information, education and communication initiatives. The IFRC will support vocational training and job placement for youth to tackle unemployment in Ethiopia and develop community-based education initiatives while ensuring dignity, access, participation and safety. Additionally, the IFRC will assist in implementing and reinforcing prevention and response strategies for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and provide technical support to institutionalize strong safeguarding practices, including safe reporting channels and child protection.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Ethiopian Red Cross is committed towards institutional strengthening and has twice carried out the self-assessment section of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process, first in 2011 and later in 2014. That part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The

National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms and ultimately take necessary action to improve them.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Participate in national-level coordination platforms for disaster risk management
- Participate in IFRC network/Movement-coordinated fora to improve efficiency in its planning
- Strengthen IFRC membership coordination mechanisms, including shared leadership initiatives and country support mechanisms for peer support
- Boost resource mobilization efforts, with a focus on bolstering domestic fundraising capacity by revising the existing strategy, developing a business plan, analyzing the local humanitarian landscape, exploring investment opportunities and attracting partnerships

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide funding to the Ethiopian Red Cross Society to support its strategic and operational coordination activities and facilitate opportunities for it to participate in knowledge sharing and peer learning. The IFRC will also provide technical support to the National Society for the development of multi-year and sustainable partnerships with different stakeholders and partners. This will target funding only available to international organizations, piloting innovative and social financing partnerships and digital global fundraising campaigns to mobilize resources.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** aids the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in building partnerships for financial development.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Assess four branches, deriving branch development plans to better address service delivery and branch sustainability gaps in their systems and of their services to ensure a robust branch network and effective branch response
- Improve financial sustainability through investment in the three pillars of accountability and systems development; resources mobilization; vision and mandate
- Strengthen youth, volunteers and young community-based drivers of change to contribute to decision-making, innovation and strengthening the domestic network
- Strengthen mechanisms to protect volunteers, promote psychosocial wellbeing and provide greater support to those killed or injured in the line of duty and their families
- Actively engage in and seek support from Red Cross Red Crescent Movement-coordinated funds to align with National Society development (NSD) priorities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society by aiding in the development of governance structures through training, induction and access to essential tools. It will also facilitate resource provision for the National Society through grants such as the IFRC/ICRC National Society Investment Alliance, IFRC Capacity Building Fund and Empress Shôken Fund.

The **Austrian Red Cross** will align its efforts with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's National Society development plan, prioritizing branch development, volunteer management and financial sustainability.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supports safer access initiatives and continues to support the National Society in developing funding proposals for further projects.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will continue supporting the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in branch development and governance.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen outreach to donors and diplomatic missions to establish a prominent engagement with the UN and other relevant stakeholders
- Collaborate with government-led initiatives addressing climate resilience, drought response, social safety nets and food security
- Engage with media through monitoring, content creation and broadcasting, focusing on peace and emblem use
- Build partnerships with media, produces documentaries on its programmes and install digital displays to showcase daily activities and achievements in key locations

- Advocate for vulnerable communities in line with IFRC's [Fundamental Principles](#), leveraging global resources and enhancing operational efficiency.
- Promote International Humanitarian Law (IHL), emphasizing its auxiliary and mandate

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in the development of communication guidelines and strategies for the management of its external partnerships.

The ICRC will provide support to the National Society in the promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Improve the financial management system, focusing on improving reporting, templates and review procedures to guarantee real-time data availability and periodic reviews
- Develop and implement a comprehensive risk management framework, including the creation of a current risk register, to effectively manage operational risks
- Strengthen staff [safety and security](#) by aligning with performance management systems
- Prioritize gender diversity and inclusion within the HR strategy, strengthened by protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) initiatives

- Implement automated accountability mechanisms with transparent feedback channels
- Implement digital data collection applications and analysis platforms to effectively manage operational information, including planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)
- Shift from traditional project design and support to fostering a community-driven innovation framework
- Implement automated accountability mechanisms with transparent feedback channels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC helps the National Society to ensure organizational risk management, addressing risk management culture at all levels. It will also support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in its [digital transformation](#).

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC re-established its presence in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2021 with a country cluster delegation which also covers Djibouti. The IFRC provides support to the National Society in its delivery of services and advocacy on behalf of vulnerable people and the strengthening of its capacity. The IFRC facilitates international support to the National Society's emergency response activities, coordinates the membership and supports the network's global and regional initiatives. It provides wider humanitarian diplomacy in international

circles on the situation in Ethiopia and the action of the National Society. IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, IFRC has supported the Ethiopian Red Cross through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations in relation to population movement, civil unrest and elections preparedness, drought, floods, disease outbreaks and food insecurity.

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 Ethiopian Red Cross is part of four IFRC Pan-African Initiatives focusing on tree planting and care; Zero Hunger; Red Ready; and National Society development. The IFRC Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal promotes a Federation-wide approach towards the emergency response, inclusive of all participating National Societies present in southern Ethiopia.



Ethiopian Red Cross Society providing humanitarian aid to people affected by landslides in Gofa, in August 2024 (Photo: Ethiopian Red Cross Society)

It builds on their expertise, capacities and resources as active members in the targeted areas.

In addition to IFRC members channelling overall support to sister National Societies through the IFRC, participating National Societies providing long-term support to the Ethiopian Red Cross and with a presence in Ethiopia are the following:

The **Austrian Red Cross** will support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in strengthening emergency medical services, cash assistance, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), basic health, protection, gender equality, inclusion, food security, livelihoods and disaster preparedness. It aligns its efforts with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's National Society development plan, prioritizing branch development, volunteer management, financial sustainability and digitalization, including contributions to long-term projects such as the "ADA Strategic Partnership Skybird" for gender equality in WASH and emergency medical services through gender-transformative approaches.

The **British Red Cross** supports the Ethiopian Red Cross Society by coordinating comprehensive assistance across diverse sectors and regions.

The **Canadian Red Cross Society** will continue its partnership with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, alongside the Government of Canada, focusing on humanitarian responses to conflict, climate-related crises and health emergencies, while assisting with resource mobilization and future funding.

The **Danish Red Cross** will assist the Ethiopian Red Cross Society with expertise in migration, social cohesion, mental health, non-communicable diseases and disaster preparedness, emphasizing technical support and capacity building in humanitarian supply chains, disaster management and early action planning.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supports the Ethiopian Red Cross Society with projects in Afar and Oromia, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and gender equality, while providing regional staff salaries and drought response efforts. It also supports safer access initiatives and continues developing funding proposals for further projects.

The **German Red Cross** backs the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's work in Benishangul-Gumuz, emphasizing WASH, shelter, basic needs and National Society development. It prioritizes cash-based assistance and supports emergency preparedness with logistics, pre-positioning of non-food items and capacity building.

The **Italian Red Cross** aids the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in Tigray and Amhara, focusing on health, migration and WASH. It provides medicines, equipment and training for psychological support and migrant care, in addition to WASH project funding.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** is assisting the Ethiopian Red Cross Society by focusing on emergency health, WASH, water management and disaster preparedness, with future plans emphasizing climate change, water management and environmental sustainability.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** aids the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's health and protection efforts for vulnerable populations affected by conflict and climate change and is committed to improving health services and financial development through partnerships.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will continue supporting the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in emergency drought responses, community preparedness, hunger crisis response, WASH in schools and community health initiatives while assisting in branch development, financial management and governance.

Movement coordination

The Ethiopian 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.

In Ethiopia, **the ICRC** supports conflict and violence-affected people with food and essential items, helps to establish livelihoods and incomes, builds and maintains water-supply systems, provides health structures with medical supplies, visits detainees, reunites separated families due to conflict, provides physical rehabilitation and promotes international humanitarian law (IHL).

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society coordinates with the National Disaster Risk Management Commission in the planning and implementation of emergency response actions and together, they lead the national early warning task force and cash working group. The National Society is a member of the National Operations Centre. It is also part of the humanitarian country team and participates in inter-agency working group meetings which focus on cash, food security, nutrition, emergency shelter and non-food items, protection and education.

There are many international organizations responding to the drought and food insecurity in Ethiopia. They operate under robust strategy and planning coordination measures, as set out by the Federal Government and regional governments. The authorities have also developed a drought response plan, which serves as the basis for partner engagement in emergency, recovery and resilience-building activities. The

Ethiopian Red Cross Society is part of the government lead food security and nutrition resilience programme framework and based on the government's priorities has developed initiatives such as the Ethiopia North rebuilding plan, scaling up of the drought crisis response and a food security and resilience plan.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society continues to strengthen partnerships with various external entities, with much of the funding directed toward community services rather than National Society development. These partnerships have notably enhanced the National Society's financial capacity for delivering humanitarian services and expanded its network of collaborators nationwide. Current partners include UNICEF, OFDA/USAID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office, the Global Alliance and local banks.



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 2025 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 Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- 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 2025 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 Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- 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 databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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