



# UGANDA

## 2025-2026 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 24.3M**

20 March 2025

### In support of the Uganda Red Cross Society



**51**

National Society branches



**51**

National Society local units



**244**

National Society staff



**6,275**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



**600,000**

Ongoing emergency operations



**700,000**

Climate and environment



**900,000**

Disasters and crises



**1M**

Health and wellbeing



**500,000**

Migration and displacement



**550,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Emergency response

- Disease outbreak

#### Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk management
- Protracted displacement
- Epidemic preparedness and response
- Climate change adaptation

#### Capacity development

- Branch development
- Volunteer management
- Internal system strengthening
- Digital transformation

### Key country data links

**INFORM Severity rating**

**High**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index**

**High**

**Human Development Index rank**

**159**

**World Bank Population figure**

**48.7M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line**

**20.3%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation  
for South Sudan, Uganda & Tanzania, Juba

# Funding requirements

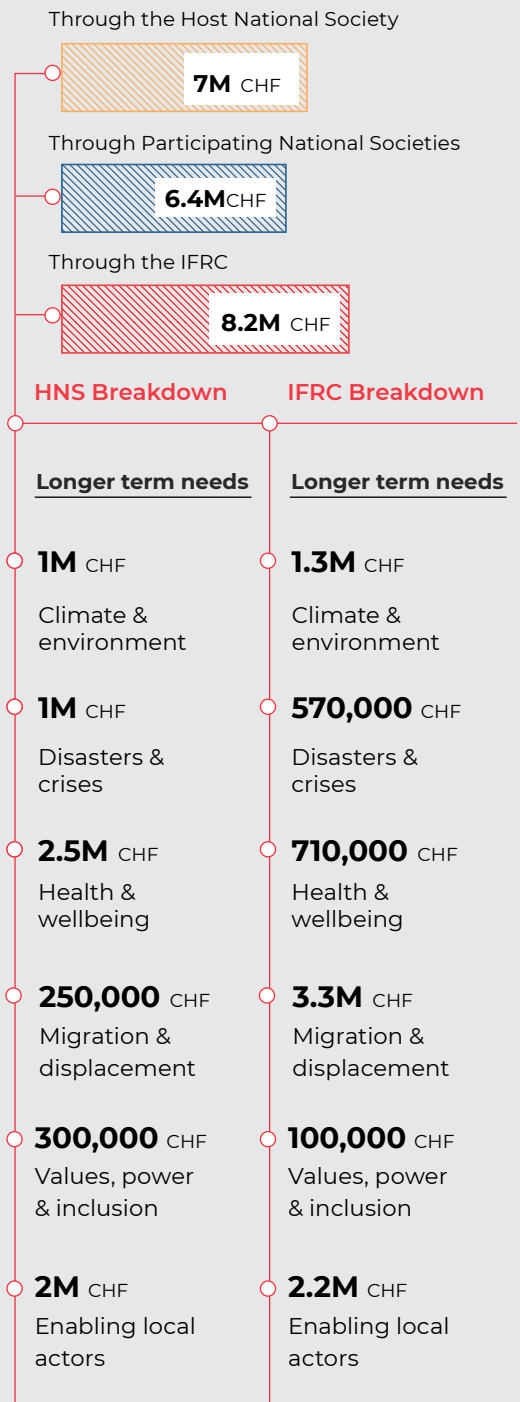
2025

2026\*\*

\*\*Projected funding requirements

Total 21.6M CHF

Total 2.7M CHF



# Participating National Societies

Austrian Red Cross

Belgian Red Cross

German Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society\*

The Netherlands Red Cross

\*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2024.

# IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:  
**MDRS1003\***African Regional Mpox Epidemic

Long-term needs:  
**MAAUG002**

\*Due to the evolving situation and the regional scope of the appeal, country-specific funding requirements are not yet reflected on the cover page.

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
Austrian Red Cross	2.7M			●	●		
Belgian Red Cross	914,000		●		●		●
German Red Cross	823,000			●	●		
Netherlands Red Cross	2.0M		●				

Total Funding requirement **CHF 6.4M**

## Hazards



Disease outbreak



Population movement



Floods



Landslides



Uganda Red Cross volunteers conducting a mobile cinema session as part of the community epidemic and pandemic preparedness (Photo: IFRC)

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Uganda Red Cross Society** was established in 1964 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1965. The National Society's auxiliary role to public authorities is enshrined in the 'National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management' of 2010. The National Society has a total of 51 branches across the country which covers at least two districts, 6,275 volunteers and 244 National Society staff.

The scope of the National Society's activities has significantly increased over time. The National Society works with the Government of Uganda, and partners with members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, private and civil society organizations, including corporate entities, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The Uganda Red Cross Society has defined governance and management structures at national and branch levels. Departments cover its main programmatic areas of disaster risk management, and health and social services, as well as organizational development. It has various support units for planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), finance and accounts, supply chain management, internal audit, human resources and administration, IT, public relations and resource mobilization.

The National Society's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 focuses on four main objectives:

- To be a well-functioning and responsive National Society
- To build sustainable volunteer, membership and branch structures
- To create sustainable partnerships and adequate resources for core services and institutional sustainability
- To improve the resilience and well-being of communities

The Strategic Plan provides a platform for implementing the international development agenda in Uganda – including sustainable development goals (SDGs)– along with other priorities of the National Society. The Strategic Plan also aligns with the national development frameworks.

The Uganda Red Cross Society continues to enhance its preparedness and response capacity to respond to ongoing and new emergencies. It seeks to develop a more strategic and planned approach to ensure effective planning and engagement with communities, followed up by a well-designed response supported by enhanced internal systems and processes.

In 2023, the National Society reached 462,000 people with disaster response and early recovery programmes.



# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Uganda is a landlocked country in east Africa that is bordered to the east by Kenya, to the north by South Sudan, to the west by the Democratic Republic of Congo, to the southwest by Rwanda and to the south by Tanzania. The southern part of the country includes a substantial portion of Lake Victoria, shared with Kenya and Tanzania. Uganda is in the African Great Lakes region and lies within the Nile basin. The country has a varied but generally modified equatorial climate. The [population](#) of Uganda as of 2024 is 48.7 million, an increase of 2.76 per cent from 2023.

The country's north and northeast lag behind developmentally than the rest of the country because of long-term conflict (the Ugandan Bush War 1981-1986 and more than 20 years of fighting between the Lord's Resistance Army and Ugandan government forces), ongoing inter-communal violence and periodic natural disasters.

According to the [World Bank](#), Uganda's growth is estimated to reach 6.0 per cent in 2024 from 5.3 per cent in 2023, despite global economic instability, geopolitical tensions and regional conflicts. The World Bank noted that declining food prices, tighter monetary policy, fiscal adjustments and exchange rate stability slowed food crop price growth to 3.3 per cent in financial year 2024 from 22.7 per cent in financial

year 2023. A March 2024 household survey showed fewer households impacted by rising food prices, dropping to 46 per cent from 73 per cent the previous year. However, food insecurity remains severe for vulnerable groups, with poverty projections indicating 4 in 10 Ugandans live below the \$2.15 per day international poverty line.

Uganda is exposed to a range of natural hazards aggravated by climate change and recurring disasters and disease outbreaks present significant threats to the population. Uganda also hosts over [1.7 million](#) refugees and asylum seekers. This is the [largest refugee population](#) in Africa and the 6th largest in the world. Refugees mainly come from South Sudan (55 per cent) and from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (31 per cent). Uganda is constantly receiving new arrivals, with over 335,000 refugees arriving since January 2022.

The political economy in recent years has not favoured social expenditures, with spending increasingly skewed towards productive sectors in Uganda. This trend threatens progress in social indicators, as increased political competition and shifting donor priorities have led to a focus on infrastructure over social sectors. Domestic revenue mobilization has also been constrained by the political environment, limiting the scope for increased social spending. These challenges persist despite the current [National Development Plan's \(NDP III, 2020/21 – 2024/25\)](#) emphasis on enhancing social well-being alongside infrastructure development, suggesting continued pressure on social sector allocations.



Uganda Red Cross Society volunteers administering rabies vaccine to dogs under the Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3), in January 2024 (Photo: IFRC)

# ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Africa Regional Mpox Epidemic
<b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>	MDRS1003
<b>People affected</b>	People affected/at risk: 300 million people
<b>People to be assisted</b>	30 million people
<b>Duration</b>	20 August 2024 to 30 June 2025
<b>Funding requirements</b>	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 30 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 40 million
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Africa – Regional Mpox Epidemic</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Link to Operational update</b>	<a href="#">Operational Update No. 2</a>

In 2024, Mpox cases and deaths surged significantly in Africa, with over 17,000 cases and 500 deaths reported across 12 countries, marking a sharp increase from 2023. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains the epicentre, contributing 92 per cent of cases, with transmission spreading across all its provinces and into neighbouring Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. Non-endemic countries like South Africa have also reported cases, while endemic regions, including Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire, continue to see expanding outbreaks. The emergence of Clades 1a, 1b and 2 in disparate areas highlights the heightened risk, prompting organizations such as the Africa CDC, WHO and the IFRC to declare the outbreak a public emergency. Red Cross Red Crescent Societies are working closely with governments to provide community-based surveillance, risk communication and community engagement and vaccination support to mitigate the spread and reduce mortality.

## Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The regional Mpox emergency appeal aims to assist National Societies in preparing for and responding to the Mpox epidemic. The strategy includes scaling up health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, community engagement and accountability (CEA) and addressing socio-economic impacts. The operation will be guided by a risk-based approach and regional coordination, prioritizing preparedness, readiness and response. The Uganda Red Cross Society will receive support to develop country-specific response plan, enhance community-based advocacy and mitigate the spread of the virus, particularly in areas with imported cases or established

transmission. The operation will also target vulnerable populations, including marginalized and immunocompromised groups, with a focus on protection, gender and inclusion. The highlights of the assistance are:

### Integrated assistance

Affected people and families are provided with a safety net scheme, including multipurpose cash to meet immediate needs and cover basic necessities while recovering from Mpox infections. Affected people who have lost their livelihoods due to Mpox are aided in reintegrating into the labour market through skills enhancement and diversification.

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

Affected people are provided with community-based surveillance to detect and actively find suspected Mpox cases, feeding into existing surveillance systems. Clinical care pathways for screening, triage, isolation, testing and assessment are identified through national plans and guidelines, ensuring awareness among clinical facilities. Communities are engaged on Mpox transmission, symptoms and preventive actions. Health services ensure individuals with Mpox symptoms seek care, with support for isolation and referral. Vaccination efforts are supported through community engagement. WASH facilities are improved in health centres, with ongoing hygiene promotion to reduce transmission.

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. Activities includes the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms. The strategy emphasizes local voice amplification, collaborative engagement and transparent communication, extending into **long-term resilience building** through initiatives such as the IFRC Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative.

For the period 20 August 2024 to 28 October 2024, the following assistance was provided by the Uganda Red Cross Society:

The Uganda Red Cross Society focused on training volunteers and Village Health Teams to strengthen community-based surveillance, support case screening at border entry points

and promote public awareness. Screening was conducted at key points of entry in collaboration with district authorities, with volunteers and health workers equipped to identify suspected cases of Mpox. The National Society also organized community sensitization through group sessions, household visits and radio programmes, distributed informational materials and conducted school outreach to educate learners. These activities aimed to raise awareness, detect and report cases early, strengthen community involvement and support coordination among district task forces. Interventions were integrated into existing community pandemic preparedness programmes.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Climate change is increasing the intensity and frequency of natural hazards that Uganda is regularly exposed to. Extreme weather events that lead to flooding, mudslides, landslides and droughts have increased over the last 30 years. In particular, the increased intensity of heavy rainfall has led to flooding, which has had a significant impact on communities.

Uganda's vulnerability to climate change is exacerbated by its high level of poverty and its high dependence on the climate-sensitive sectors of agriculture, water, fisheries, tourism and forestry. Other stressors, such as inadequate infrastructure for handling a growing population, also increase the country's vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change.

With an urbanization rate of 4.5 per cent, the increasing number of people living in urban areas puts pressure on existing infrastructure and land – a diminishing natural resource. Economic efforts and the development of industry has put additional pressure on the exploitation of forests, lake fisheries, inner-city development and agriculture lands. This has contributed to deforestation, overfishing, the degradation of agricultural areas and forest environments, as well as pollution and the unsustainable use of water resources.

Deforestation is a major environmental challenge in Uganda. There were 3,632 deforestation alerts reported in Uganda between 31 December 2024 and 7 January 2025, covering a total of 45 hectares. From 2002 to 2023, Uganda lost 77.1 kilo hectares of humid primary forest, making up 7.2 per cent of its total tree cover loss in the same period. Total area of humid primary forest in Uganda decreased by 15 per cent in this period. Likewise, it lost 1.10 mega hectares of tree cover,

equivalent to a 14 per cent decrease in tree cover since 2000 and 500 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In northern Uganda, much of the forest has been cleared for charcoal production, degrading wildlife habitats and creating hardships for local farmers. The Government's National Greening Campaign, launched in 2019, aims to plant 500 million trees over a period of five years.

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

The Uganda Red Cross Society is a signatory to the Climate Charter. It is also part of the IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Programme, 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. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction and 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 National Society is 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

The Uganda Red Cross Society 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 Uganda Red Cross Society aims to strengthen community capacity to address the evolving impacts of climate change by fostering ownership of programmes that tackle climate risks. This will be achieved by creating increased avenues for communities to contribute their insights, knowledge and ideas. In collaboration with Ministry of Environment, the National Society will conduct structured community sensitization initiatives to promote environmentally sustainable practices. The National Society also seeks to identify, avoid, reduce and mitigate adverse environmental impacts arising from humanitarian responses and long-term programmes. It will mainstream green response into all systems and practices by integrating climate and environmental risk mitigation measures into all operations. Environmental impact assessments will be conducted for all long-term programmes affecting the environment.

The Uganda Red Cross Society seeks to further promote environmentally sustainable practices by adopting and monitoring the use of environmental safeguarding principles. It aims to establish and implement a comprehensive waste management plan for emergency operations.

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Establish volunteer and community climate groups for championing climate action at the local level
- Promote [environmentally sustainable practices](#) in communities by adopting and monitoring the use of environmental safeguarding principles

- Set up and manage a community feedback mechanism to address concerns about climate change
- Conduct community perception surveys to understand the impact of climate change and adapt programmes
- Support communities in developing action plans for localized climate change mitigation
- Conduct thematic training in climate change, its impacts and safe shelter awareness using the participatory approach on safe shelter awareness ([PASSA](#))
- Participate in the development and review of national policies on environmental conservation and climate change

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC is facilitating thematic training sessions for the National Society staff on the causes and challenges of climate change in the context of health and humanitarian work. Additionally, it will support the Uganda Red Cross Society in anticipatory action system building including forecast analysis, readiness (contingency planning) and early warning and early actions. Other support provided comprises Uganda Red Cross Society training of staff and volunteers in risk mapping and risk profiling, vulnerability, impact and capacity assessments, based on available climate information and analysis, to support disaster risk-informed planning and implementation.

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and with implementing support from the **Netherlands Red Cross**, the **Austrian Red Cross** and the **Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)**, the National Society is developing a Green Response Policy and a Climate and Environment Strategy.

The **Austrian Red Cross** is an implementing partner under the DG ECHO-IFRC [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) and will continue to support the National Society in promoting innovative ways to increase environmentally sustainable solutions

The **Netherlands Red Cross** serves as the lead EU National Society in the DG ECHO-IFRC [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) in support of the Uganda Red Cross Society. Its support to the National Society focuses on early warning, early action mechanisms including trigger development and the integration of forecast-based action into multi-hazard district contingency plans.





## Disasters and crises

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

Uganda has experienced numerous [natural hazards](#) and [human-induced disasters](#), resulting in loss of life, property and displacement. These include displacement caused by civil strife and natural disasters, famine due to drought, transport accidents, earthquakes, epidemics, flooding, landslides, environmental degradation, technological accidents and outbreaks of crop pests, livestock and wildlife diseases, as well as transport and technological accidents.

Displacement of communities has occurred due to both civil strife and disasters, leading to migration within the country in search of better and safer areas. In extreme cases, particularly in the [Karamoja region](#), the frequent failure of the rainy seasons leads to starvation. Severe drought results in human and livestock deaths and is also exemplified by the reduced water table, diminishing water levels in the major lakes and crop failure.

Uganda also experiences [flooding](#). The areas prone to floods in Uganda are Kampala, northern and eastern parts of Uganda which are mostly urban areas, low-lying areas and areas along riverbanks and close to swamps. Besides causing death due to drowning, floods destroy public health facilities such as water sources and sanitation facilities. Floods also trigger outbreaks of water-borne diseases and malaria, hence compounding community vulnerability to health hazards. They also cause physical damage by washing away structures, crops and animals and submerging human settlements. In 2024, Uganda experienced severe [floods and landslides](#). Over a span of 11 days, 39,185 people were affected by floods in 14 districts in Uganda and 3,080 households were displaced.

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

The Uganda Red Cross Society seeks to ensure that at-risk communities are equipped to share and receive actionable risk information and are supported to take proactive steps to reduce their vulnerability and exposure to hazards. The National Society seeks to continue investing in and developing systems and tools that enable the swift and scaled delivery of [cash and voucher assistance](#), ensuring people affected by crises and disasters receive timely and appropriate support. Where markets and services are disrupted, the Uganda Red Cross Society will ensure that affected people receive in-kind assistance through prepositioned stocks.

The Uganda Red Cross Society will also maintain preparedness for responding to all types of crises and disasters—whether sudden-onset, slow-onset, time-bound or protracted—with strengthened capacity to analyze and address the needs of those affected. The National Society will continue updating its preparedness for effective response ([PER](#)) plan of action and support its ongoing implementation.

### Planned activities in 2025

- Facilitate simulation activities undertaken by community-based disaster management committees
- Strengthen and promote access and understanding of risk mitigation and climate information by establishing community-based resource centres with support from relevant stakeholders
- Share life-saving information with communities through trusted and accessible channels of communication
- Establish approaches to collect and act on community feedback concerning risks and hazards
- Plan [cash and voucher assistance](#) according to the seasonal calendar, in complement with skills training and linkages to social protection systems

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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 in Uganda:

- [IFRC-DREF Uganda Floods](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 479,715 in May 2024 supported the Uganda Red Cross Society to assist 19,098 people impacted by flooding in the central, eastern and western regions of Uganda. The National Society supported the targeted people over a six-month through interventions such as distribution of essential items and shelter kits and cash support. Support also included distribution of hygiene kits as, complemented with awareness sessions focused on hygiene.

The IFRC will support the Uganda Red Cross Society to enhance its preparedness and readiness to respond to crises in a timely and accountable manner. It will provide access to tools, resources and expertise across various pillars, including strategy, planning, coordination and operational capacity. The IFRC will also assist the National Society in developing [anticipatory action](#) systems and strengthening [early warning and early action](#). Additionally, IFRC will offer technical backstopping to identify risks and gaps, support [disaster law](#) frameworks and ensure the National Society fulfills its auxiliary role through operational and international support.

Through the [DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#), the Uganda Red Cross Society will increase its disaster response capacity. The National Society will support the District Disaster Management Committees in developing multi-hazard contingency plans. The National Society will continue

to pre-position non-food items for emergencies in regional warehouses, which will be accessible also to the Government of Uganda and humanitarian partners under a coordination mechanism. The National Society is incorporating the use of technology in disaster response using mobile phones with the support of the **Netherlands Red Cross**.

The **Austrian Red Cross** supports the National Society in non-food items, shelter and cash interventions, as well as

energy-efficient livelihood initiatives such as the provision of energy-saving stoves.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** will support the Uganda Red Cross Society in prepositioning contingency response stocks, including non-food items (NFIs), at strategic locations across the country near disaster-prone areas. The Netherlands Red Cross will also assist the Uganda Red Cross Society in supporting districts with the development and revision of their District Contingency Plans.



## Health and wellbeing

All districts in Uganda have a hospital or a level four primary care facility and about 86 per cent of the population lives within five kilometres of a health facility providing basic health services. As of 2024, the life expectancy for Uganda was 64.67 years.

Disease outbreaks in Uganda over the last five years include Ebola virus disease, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, Marburg virus disease, Rift Valley fever, measles, cholera, meningitis and rubella. The effect of environmental changes, deforestation, the draining of swamps, climate change, poverty and humans being in contact with animals contribute to the frequent occurrence of disease outbreaks in Uganda. The ratio of physicians to 100,000 people in Uganda is 0.1. The country faces a significant disease burden, with an HIV prevalence of 6.2 per cent and malaria affecting 19 per cent of the population, among other diseases.

The leading causes of death in Uganda are sexually transmitted infections at 13.2 per cent, respiratory infections and tuberculosis at 12.6 per cent, maternal and neonatal disorders at 12.1 per cent and malaria and cardiovascular diseases at 9.8 per cent each. Preventable health issues also continue to increase and comprise more than 75 per cent of the disease burden in Uganda. In addition, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes make up 40 per cent of the disease burden.

The Ministry of Health in Uganda has established a roadmap towards universal health coverage in the country from 2020-21 to 2029-30. There is also a shift towards incorporating the private sector into healthcare, alongside the public sector. This shift fosters a spirit of entrepreneurship, competition and market values. However, it might undermine efforts to ensure fairness and equity in the delivery of health services.

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

The Uganda Red Cross Society seeks to strengthen Uganda's health system through targeted capacity-building initiatives, particularly at the community level. It aims to collaborate with

the national government to enhance national, subnational and local-level responses, including initiatives such as raising community awareness on pandemics and epidemics through Village Health Teams. These teams, central to the National Society's strategy, will play a pivotal role in fostering community engagement and enabling locally led solutions to unmet health needs.

The National Society is part of the Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3), a multi-country programme, with funding from USAID and technical support from IFRC, that supports communities, National Societies and other key partners to prevent, detect, and respond to disease threats. CP3 equips communities with the skills, knowledge, behaviours and tools to be the first line of defence against disease outbreaks. It strengthens National Societies' ability to prepare for epidemics and pandemics through technical assistance, advocacy support and coordination. CP3 also foresees engagement of a wide range of stakeholders across society--including governments, media, religious groups and the private sector--to collaborate on epidemic preparedness. The programme is adapted to each country's health priorities, needs, risks and capacities, and complements existing national emergency response plans.

The National Society will develop a comprehensive health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) strategy to guide its operations. It seeks to deliver evidence-based, impactful and effective health promotion, disease prevention and community-based care activities. It aims to decentralize healthcare to the community level by leveraging village health teams to increase awareness of pandemics and epidemics.

The Uganda Red Cross Society will empower communities to identify and mitigate health risks through community engagement and accountability (CEA) and behaviour change approaches. It seeks to promote locally driven solutions to address health challenges and aims to reduce health risks sustainably by applying lessons learned from recent outbreaks such as Ebola.

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## Planned activities in 2025

- Contribute to efforts to achieve and sustain national immunization targets and promote fair and equitable access to new vaccines
- Conduct and facilitate health education and communication about prolonged treatment regimes, infection prevention and control and referrals for access to diagnostics and medicines
- Develop specific procedures and referrals for comprehensive and holistic care for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence including clinical management of rape, clinical response and protective care, referrals and procedures
- Actively engage the health coordinator and managers with the Ministry of Health (MoH) health coordinating platforms in Uganda
- Carry out monitoring support visits to [One WASH](#) implementing countries such as Rwanda and Malawi
- Monitor activities on menstrual hygiene management training

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC is supporting the National Society in the development of a robust health and [water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\)](#) strategy, benchmarking it against other international guidelines. It offers technical guidance to the National Society on [preparedness and response to epidemics and pandemics](#), immunization operations, development of risk communication messages about pandemics and epidemics.

Through [DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#), the National Society will be supported to strengthen early warning and early action systems for epidemics in high-risk districts by engaging communities and aligning with existing institutional frameworks. Support will include the involvement of diverse stakeholders, including health professionals, veterinarians, environmental managers, community leaders, schools and religious institutions, in a participatory approach to plan, implement and evaluate [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#). The National Society will also receive support to adapt the tools for early warning and early action into multiple languages and accessible formats to include people with disabilities and those who are illiterate. The Uganda Red Cross Society will be supported to train and equip Village Health Teams in high-risk districts for epidemic preparedness, [community-based surveillance](#) and response, including procuring Personal Protective Equipment for volunteers. Activities will align with the National Community Engagement Strategy and the [One Health](#) approach, fostering collaboration among health, veterinary and environmental sectors to address outbreaks and promote awareness in affected communities.

The **Austrian Red Cross** will continue providing the Uganda Red Cross Society with implementing support under the [DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) to ensure safe access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in an environmentally sustainable manner and to improve menstrual hygiene management.

The **German Red Cross** will support the Uganda Red Cross Society in developing its strategy and advocacy efforts concerning pandemic and epidemic diseases as well as sexual and reproductive health. Additionally, the German Red Cross will assist the Uganda Red Cross Society in enhancing community access to improved health services.



## Migration and displacement

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As a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, Uganda has been hailed for accepting and treating refugees humanely. Uganda has the highest number of refugees in Africa, which is also among the highest in the world.

Uganda remains one of the world's largest refugee-hosting nations, with settlements primarily concentrated in the northern and western regions, including Adjumani, Bidibidi and Kyaka II. In its September 2024 report, the [UNHCR](#) documented that Uganda is hosting approximately 1,756,793 refugees. The largest group, representing 54 per cent or 963,090 individuals, originates from South Sudan, followed by 32 per cent or 539,990 individuals from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Smaller numbers of refugees come from countries such as Sudan, Burundi, Somalia and Eritrea.

While [many refugees](#) find a sense of home in Uganda as they await the opportunity to return to their countries, for others, Uganda serves as a [transit country](#) as they seek relocation, often towards the West. The majority of migrants, however, tend to stay within the region.

As one of the long-term solutions to address the substantial caseload of South Sudanese and Congolese refugees in Uganda since 2012, most refugees are accommodated in various [government established resettlements](#). The main refugee settlements include Nakivale in Isingiro district, Kyangwali in Hoima and Kyaka II in Kyegegwa – all in the western part of the country.

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

The Uganda Red Cross Society will ensure that returnees and immigrants are provided with skills and capacity development for economic engagement. The National Society will also provide protection services for refugees, internally displaced persons and mixed migrants. This will be undertaken through engagement with communities and other relevant partners organizations. It will mobilize host communities for peaceful coexistence and ensure that reintegration of immigrants and internally displaced persons is undertaken.

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Engage local authorities and other stakeholders in a concerted effort to ensure the protection of immigrants and internally displaced persons
- Develop a strategy on migration and displacement programming
- Develop tools and methodologies in preparedness, response and recovery of immigrants
- Run perception surveys and strengthen community feedback mechanisms
- Share life-saving information with refugees and displaced persons through trusted channels of communication

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides support to the Uganda Red Cross Society in implementing its protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) policy across all its operations. It helps the National Society Uganda Red Cross Society develop tools and methodologies relating to population movement and mixed flows, in the preparedness, response and recovery phases.

Through DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership, the Uganda Red Cross Society will be supported to train staff and volunteers on sexual and gender-based violence and

child protection across all branches. This training will include handling reports, providing information to survivors, applying survivor- and human rights-based approaches and addressing specific risks to people on the move, including human trafficking. It will also collaborate with the Uganda Human Rights Commission to enhance survivor- and human rights-based support. Additionally, it will implement a solar-powered water pumping system for a borehole drilled by Life Water International and provide protection and restoring family links (RFL) services within Kiryandongo refugee settlement, guided by emergency needs assessment recommendations. The Uganda Red Cross Society will also receive support in the development of protocols for the Faecal Sludge Management Emergency Response Unit plant, ensuring future deployments and operational efficiency. Support will address shelter, sanitation and hygiene needs. The National Society will also be assisted in strengthening internal coordination, updating contingency plans and investing in cross-border collaboration, focusing on emergency information sharing and engagement with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

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 allocation for a population movement emergency in Uganda:

- IFRC-DREF Uganda Population Movement: the DREF allocation of CHF 500,000 in July 2024 supported the Uganda Red Cross Society to assist 106,996 people affected by the armed conflict in Sudan which has forced millions to flee. The National Society supported the targeted people over a five-month through interventions such as deployment of temporary sleeping tents, distribution of multipurpose cash and hygiene kits, construction of latrines as well as awareness sessions focused on health literacy.

The **German Red Cross** will support the Uganda Red Cross Society in engaging with displaced people and host communities to gain a comprehensive understanding of their needs.



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## Values, power and inclusion

Uganda is characterized by its variety of cultures, languages, social traditions and religious affiliations. After extended periods of violent conflict, the country has not experienced any internal armed conflicts for more than a decade. However, the region as a whole remains volatile and Uganda sometimes feels the effects of conflicts in neighbouring countries such as South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

More than half (56 per cent) of the women in Uganda aged 15–49 have experienced physical violence, sexual violence or both. In 2018, a four-year UN programme known as ‘2gether 4 SRHR’ (sexual and reproductive health and rights) began with the aim of improving sexual and reproductive health in the country. The World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners also support the Government in its initiatives to tackle gender-based violence and give survivors of abuse or violence greater access to health services and assistance.



The [2019 national policy on the elimination of gender-based violence in Uganda](#) is a legal and policy framework on violence against women.

In Uganda, approximately [12 per cent](#) of the population live with a disability, yet they make up 22 per cent of the unemployed workforce. Approximately [2.5 million children](#) (13 per cent) in Uganda are living with some form of disability and only 15 per cent of these have access to education. The laws governing disability in Uganda include the Persons with Disability Act 2020, which recognizes disability as a cross-cutting issue that transcends all sectors. It requires all stakeholders to use the legislation as a framework to guide planning, resource allocation and the implementation of interventions in an inclusive manner.

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

The Uganda Red Cross Society aims to develop mechanisms for preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence during emergencies. It seeks to provide referral pathways for holistic care to survivors, including clinical management of rape, clinical response, protective care and necessary referrals. The National Society will also ensure the provision of psychosocial support for survivors to address their mental health and emotional needs. The Uganda Red Cross Society aims to promote humanitarian values and [fundamental principles](#) by engaging [youth as agents of change](#) in programme implementation. It seeks to create community-level awareness of human rights, focusing on empowerment, access to services and participation of young people and key populations. Additionally, it will advocate for humanitarian issues through international events and campaigns, such as the 16 Days of Activism and the Day of the African Child.

### Planned activities in 2025

- Mainstream [community engagement and accountability](#) in new and existing policies, guidelines and toolkits such as the PSEA policy

- Include feedback mechanisms in programmes and operations
- Advocate for [protection, gender and inclusion](#) issues with key stakeholders to ensure the needs of vulnerable populations are addressed
- Link boys and girls affected by disaster to services such as education and child safeguarding services
- Create awareness on children rights and disseminate child safeguarding policy and referral mechanisms

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society by providing technical support to the National Society on child safeguarding and the dissemination of policies on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse. It supports the National Society in ensuring the standard disaggregation of the people targeted, using the sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD), implementation of its protection, gender and inclusion action plan, establishing links with regional protection working groups. IFRC also provides technical support on the development and implementation of the National Society's [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) strategy.

Through DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership, the Uganda Red Cross Society will be supported in integrating community engagement and accountability (CEA) across all programmes, empowering local communities to make decisions that impact their lives. The Uganda Red Cross Society will receive support for establishing a digital feedback mechanism to use community feedback for decision-making, resource mobilization and collaboration, with user-friendly standard operating procedures.

The Uganda Red Cross Society will be supported in mapping safe referral routes for gender-based violence survivors, ensuring proper care and awareness of the process and relevant actors at the branch level.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Uganda Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process in 2016. 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. The Uganda Red Cross

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 its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take the necessary action to improve it.



## Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Engage with both existing and new partners to create partnerships of lasting value
- Strengthen mechanisms for the mobilization of resources from external partnerships

- Implement the existing resource mobilization strategy

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** supports Uganda Red Cross Society in conducting stakeholder fora with both national and international stakeholders.



## National Society development

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

- Develop and align its organizational development priorities and plans to movement standards and in line with the principles of the National Society development
- Establish a Branch Development framework and position branches as centres of resilience

- Define its auxiliary status with local authorities in positioning its branches in the local humanitarian space
- Actively undertake the role of the first responder in emergencies

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** supports the Uganda Red Cross Society in its engagement with the authorities.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Closely interact with the authorities to strengthen its auxiliary role
- Work to ensure its roles and activities are effectively communicated to key representatives of humanitarian and development agencies, as well as relevant ministries
- Carry out advocacy campaigns by engaging in international events and celebrations

- Utilize its data to support humanitarian diplomacy, public influencing and behaviour change

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** ensures that the Uganda Red Cross Society accesses opportunities for training and peer support in skills and strategy development related to influencing. It also facilitates the leadership of the National Society in key areas of humanitarian and development policy and supports it in influencing decisions and outcomes in inter-governmental forums.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Enhance the awareness of staff, volunteers and governance on cybersecurity risks, information security and their impacts
- Enhance data protection initiatives by implementing solutions that ensure information and data are safe, secure and responsive
- Automate critical financial and management operations

- Develop, equip, install and connect offices with information and other digital facilities
- Leverage technology for accurate and timely reporting

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will conduct systems assessment for the Uganda Red Cross Society and develop a clear roadmap for the realization of the digital transformation journey. It will continue to provide the National Society with technical and financial support to facilitate its initiatives to increase the National Society's accountability.

## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

The IFRC The IFRC provides technical and financial support to the Uganda Red Cross Society through the IFRC Juba Country Cluster Delegation, which plays an essential role in providing coordination within and outside the Movement. IFRC operations in Uganda are focused on supporting the National Society financially and technically in emergency operations. The IFRC has also been supporting the Uganda Red Cross Society with enhancing its preparedness and response capacities, using the [Preparedness for Effective Response](#)

(PER) approach, since 2019. During emergencies, the IFRC plays a significant role in ensuring effective coordination within and outside the IFRC membership and provides logistical, technical and financial support. In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Society through several Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations in relation to disease outbreaks, population movement, floods, flash floods, landslides and hailstorms. [Two DREF operations](#) were launched in 2024.



Uganda Red Cross Society holding a mobile cinema sessions to raise awareness of and inform people about various disease outbreaks such as cholera and Ebola, in January 2024 (Photo: IFRC)

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

The Uganda Red Cross Society National Society is also part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) between the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission (DG ECHO) and IFRC, with implementation support from the **Netherlands Red Cross** as lead EU National Society, the **Austrian Red Cross**, the **Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)**, as well as coordination support of the IFRC.

The **Austrian Red Cross** focuses on emergency response, recovery and long-term development. It partnered with the Uganda Red Cross Society in 2017 during an Emergency Response Unit project. Over the years, the collaboration has expanded, encompassing projects to enhance emergency response capacities, develop water and sanitation structures,

manage waste and promote gender and inclusion themes within programming.

The **Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)** offers nationwide support in Uganda, with a focus on disaster-prone areas and initiatives in disaster risk management, health and migration.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** has been collaborating with the Uganda Red Cross Society since 2005. With a presence in the country, it is supporting the National Society in the development of data products to strengthen early warning early action mechanisms. This includes trigger development and the integration of forecast-based action into multi-hazard district contingency plans. Other support provided comprises community health and water, sanitation and hygiene for refugees and host communities, as well as epidemic and cash preparedness.

This partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with the potential for greater, longer-term impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the world's biggest international donor for humanitarian assistance. The partnership is scheduled to end in mid-2025.

The **German Red Cross** provides support to the National Society in the areas of climate change, disaster risk management, health and migration.

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## Movement coordination

The Uganda 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 Uganda, **the ICRC** contributes to addressing the humanitarian needs of people who have fled situations of violence in neighbouring countries and detainees. It also supports the integration and promotion of international humanitarian law, notably for troops deployed in operations abroad.



## Coordination with other actors

The Uganda Red Cross Society has a well-established role as auxiliary to the government and is therefore part of national-level emergency and disaster planning and response. During national and regional emergencies, the Uganda Red Cross Society receives support from non-movement actors (UN, private corporations and business) and the government of Uganda.

The National Society participates in national partnership meetings and those called for by the Government. It has an agreement with the Ministry of Health (MoH) allowing the

National Society to benefit from 15 donated ambulances from the government. During disease outbreaks and the recent Ebola outbreak, the MoH established daily national task force meetings for partners in the response, including the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Uganda Red Cross Society The National Society's actions are well coordinated with the MoH and key international actors including Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), World Health Organization (WHO), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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## 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](#)

### Contact information

**Uganda Red Cross Society**  
[redcrossug.org](http://redcrossug.org)

#### Mohamed Babiker

Head of Delegation  
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation  
for South Sudan,  
Uganda & Tanzania, Juba  
[mohamed.babiker@ifrc.org](mailto:mohamed.babiker@ifrc.org)

#### Louise Daintrey-Hall

Head of Strategic Partnerships  
& Resource Mobilization  
IFRC Regional Office for Africa, Nairobi  
T +254 110 843978  
[louise.daintrey@ifrc.org](mailto:louise.daintrey@ifrc.org)

#### Sumitha Martin

Lead  
IFRC Global Strategic Planning  
& Reporting Centre  
New Delhi  
[sumitha.martin@ifrc.org](mailto:sumitha.martin@ifrc.org)