



BENIN

2025 IFRC network country plan



Funding Requirement **CHF 10.3M**

18 February 2025

In support of the Red Cross of Benin



24

National Society
branches



103

National Society
local units



83

National Society
staff



12,600

National Society
volunteers

People to be reached



20,000

Climate and
environment



45,000

Disasters
and crises



240,000

Health and
wellbeing



25,000

Migration and
displacement



40,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction
- Climate change adaptation and nature-based solutions
- Health • Water, sanitation and hygiene

Capacity development

- Branch development
- Financial sustainability
- Communications and advocacy

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating **Low**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Medium**

Human Development Index rank **173**

World Bank Population figure **13.7M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **38.5%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for
Nigeria, Togo, Benin & Ghana, Abuja

Funding requirements

2025

Total 10.3M CHF

Through the Host National Society



→ **1.8M CHF**

Through Participating National Societies



→ **1.3M CHF**

Through the IFRC



7.2M CHF

HNS Breakdown

Longer term needs

300,000 CHF

Climate & environment

200,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

750,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

50,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

25,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

500,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

1.1M CHF

Climate & environment

1.6M CHF

Disasters & crises

2.4M CHF

Health & wellbeing

350,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

500,000 CHF

Values, power & inclusion

1.2M CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

Belgian Red Cross

French Red Cross

Kuwait Red Crescent Society

Luxembourg Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Long-term needs:

MAABJ002

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				●			
Belgian Red Cross	306,000		●	●			
French Red Cross	280,000		●	●			●
Kuwait Red Crescent Society	176,000			●			
Luxembourg Red Cross	269,000		●	●		●	
Swiss Red Cross	236,000			●			●

Total Funding requirement **CHF 1.3M**

Hazards



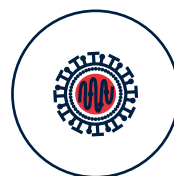
Floods



Droughts



Violence



Disease outbreaks



Population movement



The Red Cross of Benin provides socio-professional reintegration of girls affected by child marriage. (Photo: IFRC)

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Red Cross of Benin** is a humanitarian association founded in 1959 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1963. The mission of the National Society is to prevent and alleviate human suffering impartially and without discrimination on the grounds of nationality, race, sex, class, religion, language, or political opinion. It is recognized by the Beninese government as a voluntary, autonomous, auxiliary relief society of the public authorities in the humanitarian field.

The role of the Red Cross of Benin in the humanitarian field is sustained by its 12,600 volunteers, its 83 staff, and 24 branches. Through its initiatives in various sectors, the Red Cross of Benin seeks to improve the condition of those who are most vulnerable and exposed to situations that threaten their survival or their ability to live with social and economic security and human dignity. Key areas of interventions of the National Society include disaster preparedness and response, risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, emergency care, first aid, community-based health, psychosocial support, water, sanitation and hygiene, community social actions, support for women in mothers' clubs, support to migrants, social and youth mobilization and promotion of international humanitarian law.

According to the National Society's Strategic Plan 2022-2026, the Red Cross of Benin plans to improve its interventions on all its strategic axes to:

- Support more communities in preparing for and strengthening response actions to crises and disasters
- Develop effective programmes to respond to migration and displacement
- Setting up humanitarian service points integrating several areas
- Strengthen actions to combat climate change by encouraging behaviour change within the community
- Train volunteers and community members on first aid
- Establish rapid response teams at various levels and ensure the effective functioning of early warning systems
- Improve community health programmes, particularly through essential family practices with the involvement of communities
- Contribute to preparedness and effective response to epidemics (including cholera and monkeypox)
- Support communities in respecting and adopting good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices
- Strengthen social protection, psychosocial support, assistance in the event of migration and protection of family ties
- Support youth in their development through capacity building for professional integration
- Contribute to women empowerment actions
- Strengthen initiatives for the development of decentralized structures at the grassroots
- Develop more income-generating activities for financial empowerment

In 2023, the Red Cross of Benin reached more than 90,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of Red Cross of Benin 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

Located in the Gulf of Guinea, the Republic of Benin in West Africa is bordered by Niger in the north, Burkina Faso in the northwest, Togo in the west, Nigeria in the east, and the Atlantic Ocean in the south. The country has several areas of action that require short and long-term support from humanitarian organizations. Benin's valuable wetlands and fisheries which have high potential for tourism in the country—are increasingly being affected by rapid urbanization along its coast with increased demand for land, water, and other natural resources. Military infrastructure and extraction of sand present significant threat to its coastal areas. Like most West African countries, the country suffers from the adverse effects of climate variability and change, the manifestations of which result in increased recurrence of extreme weather events such as devastating floods, long droughts, heat waves and torrential rains among others. Climatic emergencies lead to waves of cross-border movement which leads to social conflicts between herders and farmers in several municipal areas of the country.

While the government has adopted laws to combat the rising threat of climate change in the country, especially its marine ecosystems and human settlements, the situation remains bleak. Natural hazards often provoke waves of cross-border migration, which is compounded by security threats in

northern Benin, leading to already vulnerable populations abandoning their crops and residences.

Benin faces health emergencies such as epidemics of viral haemorrhagic fever such as that of Lassa, malaria, cholera, meningitis, measles, yellow fever, and most recently, monkeypox. The health situation in Benin also highlights the unsatisfactory quality of healthcare, the poor development of human resources, poor planning for the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of infrastructure and equipment. More than 38,122 children under the age of five die each year in Benin, with 37.8 per cent of the deaths occurring due to malaria, diarrhoea, and acute respiratory infections. While the government has launched several public initiatives to improve health indicators, such as immunization programmes for children, promoting family planning, fighting malaria, improving water and sanitation facilities, and raising awareness of best hygiene practices, the vulnerability and social needs of Beninese are far from being met.

The World Bank estimates that several global and regional socioeconomic shocks could affect poverty reduction trends in the country. Benin faces volatility in the price of food, energy, and fertilizers due to factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, impact of WAEMU sanctions against neighbouring Niger, the fallout from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, political instability in neighbouring Sahel countries, growing insecurity, and social tensions in the North. These will adversely impact poor and vulnerable households, thereby slowing poverty reduction and pushing more households into situations of fragility.



The Red Cross of Benin conducting training for National Society volunteers under the IFRC Capacity Building Fund initiative. (Photo: Red Cross of Benin)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The adverse effects of climate change in Benin are likely to continue unabated. Rise in temperature and rainfall increase are likely to exacerbate the challenges faced by the country's agriculture and forestry sectors. Communities in coastal areas will adversely be impacted by the effects of rising sea levels. The agriculture industry, which is a significant driver for the Beninese economy, will need to adopt adaptive measures to respond effectively to the impacts of climate change and reduce food insecurity.

Several observational studies over the past few decades show that the African continent has warmed over the last century at a rate of about 0.05 degree Celsius per decade. Global mean sea levels have also risen, and the heat load of the oceans has increased. Rising sea levels threaten the southern coastal region of Benin, where more than 50 per cent of the population lives on the coast and in the city of Cotonou. Rapid urbanization has exacerbated the vulnerability of coastal cities, and communities there are unprepared to deal with increased flooding caused by sea level rise and coastal erosion. Demand for land, water, and other natural resources has also increased due to urbanization.

In the last 40 years, Benin's coastlines have witnessed massive erosion, with certain areas experiencing more than 400 metres of soil erosion. This has caused severe damage to coastal populations where homes and infrastructure have been swept away. Poor development of services and infrastructure in urban areas, such as sanitation facilities, have worsened the impact of coastal erosion on urban populations.

Furthermore, waste management is a growing problem in urban areas, where the accumulation of solid waste leads to the pollution of waterways and increased health risks. Climate change is intensifying these challenges by making rainy seasons more unpredictable, increasing the frequency of extreme weather events, and threatening food security. The agricultural industry, which is an important driver of Benin's economy, needs to adopt water management measures to effectively respond to the impacts of climate change and to reduce food insecurity.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Benin is part of the IFRC 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. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

Planned activities in 2025

- Develop a policy on environmental protection and its extension within the Red Cross of Benin
- Strengthen community preparedness and prevention actions in the face of climate change
- Establish early warning systems at the grassroots
- Support reforestation in various localities through the planting of seedlings
- Conduct capacity building exercises for volunteers on nature-based solutions
- Provide seeds for the benefit of vulnerable communities
- Organize awareness-raising sessions in communities to induce changes in behaviour on the risks related to climate change
- Promote the use of improved cooking stoves

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC continues to provide the Red Cross of Benin financial and technical support to enhance their work in providing humanitarian services to the Beninese community. The IFRC support includes development of enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (eVCA) training with volunteers on climate related impact and crises in communities, training farmers on climate smart agriculture and land management to improve food security, and provision of improved and climate resistant seeds for different climate crises in selected communities among others. The IFRC will support the National Society in advocating for environmental policies and implementation and reducing its carbon and climate footprint.



Disasters and crises

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

As a coastal country in West Africa, Benin is exposed to significant ecological and environmental risks which include floods, drought, desertification, sea-level rise, degradation of coastal wetlands, soil erosion, terrorist threats, and epidemics. Floods, the most frequently recurring hazard in Benin, are becoming increasingly severe and more destructive. Recurring floods in urban areas such as Cotonou, Porto Novo, and Parakou pose significant challenge to Benin's [inadequate water supply and its sanitation and waste collection systems](#).

In 2022, heavy rainfall was [reported](#) across several areas in Benin, flooding 27 of the 77 municipalities, with the rivers Mono, Oueme, and Niger breaking their banks. The sudden increase in water levels led to the death of 39 people, while more than 50 primary schools and 12 colleges were submerged in the influx of the water. The government reported that more than 73,000 people were affected by the flood and that more than 1,400 homes were damaged, of which 670 houses were destroyed.

Coupled with the threat of floods, Benin also faces [risk of droughts](#) which have been observed in some northern regions and affected agricultural production. Lack of effective early warning systems will increase present vulnerabilities, threatening food security and livelihoods in the country.

The presence of socio-political conflicts related to [transhumance](#) and election results means that Benin also faces significant security issues. This is mainly due to the upsurge in attacks, abuses, and human rights violations by unidentified armed groups in almost all communes of Benin bordering Burkina Faso and Niger. The situation causes population movement towards areas deemed more peaceful, creating challenges related to the protection of people and property. There are mechanisms in place to prevent risks and better manage disasters in the event of disasters and crises: operational entities federate their energies within the National Platform of [DRR-CCA](#) which brings together all sectoral ministries, humanitarian NGOs, the National Society, and resource persons capable of responding promptly in crisis or disaster situations. Also, the National Policy for Prevention and Integrated Disaster Management (PNPGIC), the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (SNRRC), the National Contingency Plan and the ORSEC plan are implemented by the various protection and relief entities.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Benin maintains the protection and rescue of people affected by crises and disasters as its main objectives

as an auxiliary to the public authorities. The National Society will focus on preparedness and prevention actions and will provide coordinated and effective responses to help those affected. Actions to support vulnerable people will be carried out as part of rehabilitation and reconstruction. The National Society also participates in the [IFRC Red Ready Pan-African initiative](#), which aims to strengthen disaster operations, management, coordination and accountability, while promoting the localization of humanitarian responses by strengthening the capacity of local branches and volunteers.

Planned activities in 2025

- Update the National Society's multi-risk contingency plan
- Organize capitalization and experience sharing sessions related to crisis and disaster management
- Establish reliable mechanisms for the management of information related to crises and disasters
- Provide emergency relief kits for the benefit of local committees/local units
- Conduct first aid training for volunteers and community members
- Organize training on cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)) and epidemic control for volunteers
- Conduct capacity building of volunteers and staff members on safety and security
- Strengthen preparedness actions in the field of cash transfer
- Organize enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment (eVCA) training
- Implement preparedness approach for effective intervention (guidance, evaluation, prioritization and analysis)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the Red Cross of Benin consists of [anticipatory action](#) through training on National Society preparedness for effective response ([PER](#)) to disasters, strengthening the National Society's coordination with relevant stakeholders, and improving the quality of assistance provided, the National Society's resource mobilization efforts and the signing of a [disaster law](#) agreement with the Beninese government. Other areas of ongoing support from the IFRC will include the assessment and pre-positioning of stocks and the establishment of a cash transfer system and capacity building of the National Society in thematic areas related to cash.

The **Belgian Red Cross Flanders** supports the National Society to improve the resilience of communities as well as disaster preparedness actions.

The **Luxembourg Red Cross** supports the National Society by enhancing the capacity of the volunteers and staff in the construction of emergency shelters.



Health and wellbeing

The major causes of death in Benin are attributable to neonatal disorders, malaria, lower respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, ischemic heart disease, stroke, road injuries, tuberculosis, congenital defects, and HIV/AIDS. The epidemiological situation of Benin is characterized by a predominance of endemic-epidemic diseases, in particular malaria (44.5 per cent of consultations in 2010) and acute respiratory infections (13.2 per cent consultations in 2010). The maternal mortality ratio is estimated to be 397 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births between the period of 2015 to 2018. In 2020, the Global Health Observatory estimated that the rate of neonatal mortality in the country was 29.74 per cent per 1000 live births, infant mortality rate at 56.59 per cent per 1000 live births, and under-five mortality at 86.03 per cent per 1000 live births, indicating the need for continued health interventions in the country. Regarding the nutritional status of women, 41 per cent suffer from anaemia, 6 per cent from chronic energy deficiency, and 27 per cent from obesity. With the adverse impacts of climate change increasingly becoming clear, this trend in nutritional status could worsen. A lack of good quality food products and balanced, nutritional meals lead to dietary deficiencies that affect the health and growth of children. Pregnant women and nursing mothers are generally unaware of their families' dietary needs, and vulnerable people are often unable to prepare their meals properly or safely. Access to adequate healthy food is also limited by low purchasing power and inadequate levels of domestic food production.

Frequent flooding and higher temperatures due to climate change has an impact on the spread of infectious diseases across Benin. Prolonged dry seasons and hotter days and nights will give vectors more time to breed and spread diseases, with stagnant water providing them with habitats, putting the population at a greater risk of vector-borne infections. The need for palliative care is increasing in Benin because life expectancy is going up and non-communicable diseases are increasing. Many people reach the end of their lives in physical, psychological or spiritual distress, and these patients are sometimes forgotten and left to die alone. Cancer, especially for women, is the primary reason for needing palliative care.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society seeks to ensure that people living in Benin, regardless of their race, nationality or other factors,

can benefit from adequate health care and appropriate psychological support. It intends to prevent and respond to the urgent needs of grassroots communities through robust community engagement and accountability (CEA) initiatives. Health and hygiene risks will be communicated through sensitization in households, schools, health centres, and public places. These sensitizations are supported by mass sessions through radio programs on different themes.

Community-led solutions to combat the spread of infections/improve hygiene or sanitation will be supported through coaching, community capacity building activities in the field and advocacy with NGOs and state structures for resource mobilization. Best practices within communities will be identified and encouraged through CEA.

Planned activities in 2025

- Develop and implement the National Society community health policy focused on community-based surveillance implemented by volunteers
- Strengthen actions to improve community health with a focus on the promotion of essential family practices
- Contribute to the improvement of good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices (repair/installation of water and sanitation infrastructure, community awareness, WASH materials)
- Support the national health system through the organization of advanced strategies for the provision of health services, particularly in hard-to-reach areas
- Implement interventions focused on sexual and reproductive health, including HIV
- Improve community mobilization initiatives around blood donation and support to the National Blood Transfusion Agency in blood collection
- Implement community actions to promote health aging and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)
- Implement initiatives related to palliative care

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the National Society consists of technical guidance and financial support to enable the National Society

to effectively meet its objectives. Support for the National Society extend to areas such as the strengthening its health portfolio and resource mobilization for health initiatives. The IFRC support capacitates the staff and volunteers of the Red Cross of Benin to provide enhanced humanitarian services in their respective regions and to meet the health and wellbeing needs of their communities.

The **American Red Cross** is supporting measles campaign in the country through the implementation of the Community Engagement/Social Mobilization for Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign in Couffo and Atlantique Departments (regions). Although the measles campaign will start in December 2024, the project will end in February 2025.

The **Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)** supports the Red Cross of Benin in the implementation of the community resilience project to respond to health risks, particularly for women and children, by strengthening community mobilization actions for blood donation.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the Red Cross of Benin in the implementation of the Community Health Improvement Project to address health risks, especially for women and children, with a particular focus on essential family practices.

The **Kuwait Red Crescent Society** and the **Qatar Red Crescent Society** support the National Society in its social action initiatives.



Migration and displacement

In Benin, recent developments in the situation of unidentified armed groups in the subregion have led to the recording of several migratory movements. Since January 2023, raids by unidentified armed groups have spread to the departments of Atacora and Alibori, which have a total of 15 municipalities out of the country's 77. The attacks in the Savanes region of Togo have caused forced displacement of populations in several localities bordering the region. These events have led to an increase in the number of internally displaced persons and Togolese and Burkinabe refugees in Benin's border towns. The last major attack took place in May 2023, where authorities claimed that about 28 people were killed in the communes of Materi, Tanguieta, Kérou, and more than 6,852 people were displaced due to the violence. It should also be noted that in 2024, the situation has not really improved, accentuating vulnerability at various levels.

Benin is also a destination country for migrants who need protection after leaving their home countries due to armed conflicts or political crises. Figures from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) show that in 2020, Benin registered 1,396 refugees and 464 asylum seekers. Most of the people with refugee status (75.21%) are from the Central African Republic (CAR), 11.96% from Côte d'Ivoire, 2.58% from Mali and 2.51% from Cameroon. Of the asylum-seekers, 36.85 per cent were from the Central African Republic, 13.79 per cent from Cameroon, and 11 per cent from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Persons with refugee status have the right to movement and have access to the labor market, education, social protection and scholarships. However, upon arrival, they are often discriminated against. Conflicts also arise because the school fees of immigrant children are higher than those of Beninese citizens. The informal market of the migrant population is mainly in the sectors of industry, agriculture and trade. However, Benin is first and foremost a country of origin - 666,357 people left in 2019 (5.65% of the population). Emigration to other countries is driven by poverty, informal

employment and lack of access to quality education. Many people leave in search of work opportunities and better living conditions. People tend to migrate from Benin to Nigeria, Togo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, and Niger. Others try to reach European countries such as France, Italy and Germany, or travel to other countries such as Canada.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Benin is part of the IFRC 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, and 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 multi-year objectives of the National Society will continue to remain the safeguarding of displaced people. It will ensure that they are treated with humanity and dignity and that they receive the support and protection they need to thrive in inclusive societies. The Red Cross of Benin also aims to propose key actions to support the government in mitigating the migration and internal displacement of people and its effects on their wellbeing.

Planned activities in 2025

- Strengthen capacities for the development of specialized and adequate skills for an effective and sustainable response to migration
- Establish humanitarian service points (HSPs) along migration routes offering integrated services to migrants and displaced persons
- Implement restoring family links (RFL) initiatives

- Develop National Society policy on migration
- Develop community actions to strengthen the resilience of migrants and displaced communities

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC works with the National Society to strengthen its capacity to understand migration dynamics and provide appropriate humanitarian services to asylum seekers, refugees, internationally displaced persons, migrant workers, stateless persons and other vulnerable people regardless of their legal

status. The IFRC works with the Red Cross of Benin to address the vulnerabilities of migrants through three main areas of response: assistance, protection, and public awareness and promotion of respect for diversity, non-violence, and social cohesion. The IFRC also works with the National Society to propose key actions to support the government in mitigating the migration and internal displacement of people and its effects on human well-being.

The **Luxembourg Red Cross** mainly supports the National Society in multi-sector assessments focusing on population displacement in the north of the country (Atacora and Alibori).



Values, power and inclusion

As of February 2021, only 8.4 per cent of the parliamentary seats in Benin are occupied by women, highlighting existing gender inequalities in the country when it comes to leadership roles. According to the [UN Women](#), women of reproductive age are often unable to access their sexual and reproductive rights and healthcare, with only 28 per cent acquiring family planning needs with modern methods in 2018. The prevalence of sexual-based gender violence and gender-based violence serve as deterrents towards women's development in the country. In 2018, 14.6 per cent of women aged 15–49 years said that they had experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the 12 months prior; 30.6 per cent of women aged 20–24 were married or in a union before the age 18, and the birth rate among women aged 15–19 was 108 per 1,000 in 2016 (up from 94 per 1,000 in 2014). While the problem of gender equality remains, the Benin government has taken steps to promote gender equality in its various national development programmes. In 2009, the government developed the National Policy for the Promotion of Gender (PNPG) which was divided into various actions plans and into various cross-cutting sectors.

It is estimated that 10 per cent of Benin's population lives with a disability, although official statistics are unreliable and there is a lack of data about the number and the range of barriers they face in terms of participation in social, economic, and cultural life. It is estimated that 13 per cent of the people living with disabilities have experienced discrimination. Women and children with disabilities are the most affected, and most illiterate people with disabilities are women. Discrimination takes many forms, including exclusion, marginalization and social stigma. According to the UNICEF (2015), children with disabilities are profoundly disadvantaged by discrimination and lack of access to basic and specialist services.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

An important part of the National Society's actions abounds in the direction of promoting gender equality and opportunities through the concept: leave no one behind. Through this priority, for the protection and promotion of a positive change for humanity, based on humanitarian values and principles, the National Society will orient its interventions to reach more local branches and increase awareness and action through the role of young people and engagement with the educational community. This will contribute towards an [inclusive](#) work dynamic, greater diversity and efforts to protect people, their dignity and their contributions to resilience and peaceful environments.

In its emergency responses and programmes, the Red Cross of Benin seeks to identify the urgent basic needs and the protection needs of specific groups such as women, children, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups. It streamlines community engagement during emergency responses and uses different mechanisms to engage communities at different stages.

Planned activities in 2025

- Institutionalize community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) in all the National Society's programmes
- Provision of funds for the investigation of allegations related to protection and prevention from sexual exploitation and abuse ([PSEA](#))
- Provide support for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) through orientations, psychosocial support, professional reintegration

- Provide technical, financial and material support to women's groups for their empowerment
- Contribute to efforts in the field of education, particularly in emergency situations
- Organise technical workshops and training sessions for staff on the handling of sensitive feedback and on aspects of community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of Benin to enhance its capacities to reach more local branches and increase awareness and actions through the powerful influence of young people on humanitarian action. Additional support is provided in areas such as awareness raising campaigns, training of key stakeholders, supporting the National Society in developing and validating the youth policy, and disseminating available tools on PSEA, CEA, and PGI through meeting and training.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Cross of Benin is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC)

process in 2021. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen partnerships with national stakeholders, including authorities, civil society, the private sector and international stakeholder research institutes and inter-agency coordination
- Actively participate in Movement coordination mechanisms such as regional coordination meetings to foster a common approach and sharing of expertise
- Implement resource mobilization strategies to promote National Society financial empowerment
- Strengthen the capacity of local committees and staff on leadership and resource mobilization

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society by putting in place resource mobilization strategies both nationally and internationally. The IFRC encourages cooperation with other National Societies and international organizations to strengthen opportunities for resource mobilization. It also encourages the National Society to actively engage in the various communities of practice, where practitioners from all levels (headquarters, branches and in certain cases, external stakeholders) can come together to share, interact, learn and develop. The IFRC supports the setting up of local, regional and global events and roundtables for peer-to-peer exchanges between National Societies.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Ensure installation and operation of local sections and sub-sections
- Strengthen the decentralization of the General Secretariat through the establishment of new branches closer to the communities
- Support local committees in the planning and implementation of annual/multi-year interventions aligned with the strategic development plan based on identified local needs
- Develop and implement a corporate risk management framework, including practical ways to operationalize it
- Develop new internal standard policies focusing on accountability to all stakeholders at all levels
- Popularize the volunteering policy at all levels
- Organize volunteer recruitment campaigns at the local level
- Set up a digital platform for the management of volunteer's careers in order to better capture volunteer achievements

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the National Society consists of workshops and training sessions for its leaders to facilitate the identification of development priorities and the actions needed to achieve them. The IFRC works with the National Society to conduct advocacy with the National Assembly, Federal Ministry of Justice, and other stakeholders for review of the Red Cross Society Act. Technical guidance extends to areas such as assessments and gap analysis in the organization's policies to identify areas in need of updates or revisions, conducting branch capacity assessments ([BOCA](#)), developing financial management and accountability capacities, among a host of organizational activities that are intended to gradually result in the development of the National Society.

The IFRC also supported the Red Cross of Benin through the IFRC Capacity Building Fund ([CBF](#)) in 2022 and 2023 for its various National Society development initiatives.

In 2024, the **Swiss Red Cross** supported the National Society in the implementation of a self-assessment of the capacities of its decentralized structures through which several development actions were identified. The Swiss Red Cross will support the implementation of the action plan drawn up to strengthen the local Beninese Red Cross network.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Promote the dissemination of the activities of National Society to leverage its auxiliary role and promote interventions
- Plan and organize meetings with media officers to help them understand the National Society's mandate and improve its visibility
- Conduct training for staff members on collecting and producing content to present their work in the country

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC continues to provide technical and financial support to the National Society in pursuing its objectives under humanitarian diplomacy. This collaborative approach includes collaboration with external agencies on development of policies and advocacy to various ministries.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Establish an effective PMER mechanism at all levels (including at the grassroots level)
- Encourage evidence-based and needs-based decision-making
- Conduct audits (internal and external) at the level of all structures of the National Society
- Establish effective anti-fraud and anti-corruption mechanisms
- Strengthen data management capacities at the National Society level through the establishment of an IM service Support digital development initiatives

- Equip the National Society with a digital system (web ERP) for accounting and financial management
- Train actors on various levels on integrity and good governance

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides long-term support for the National Society in key areas of increasing the National Society's accountability. These include interventions such as the dissemination of Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy at the level of decentralized structures, organization of training sessions on the themes of integrity and good governance, popularization of good financial management practices, and strengthening of monitoring and evaluation.

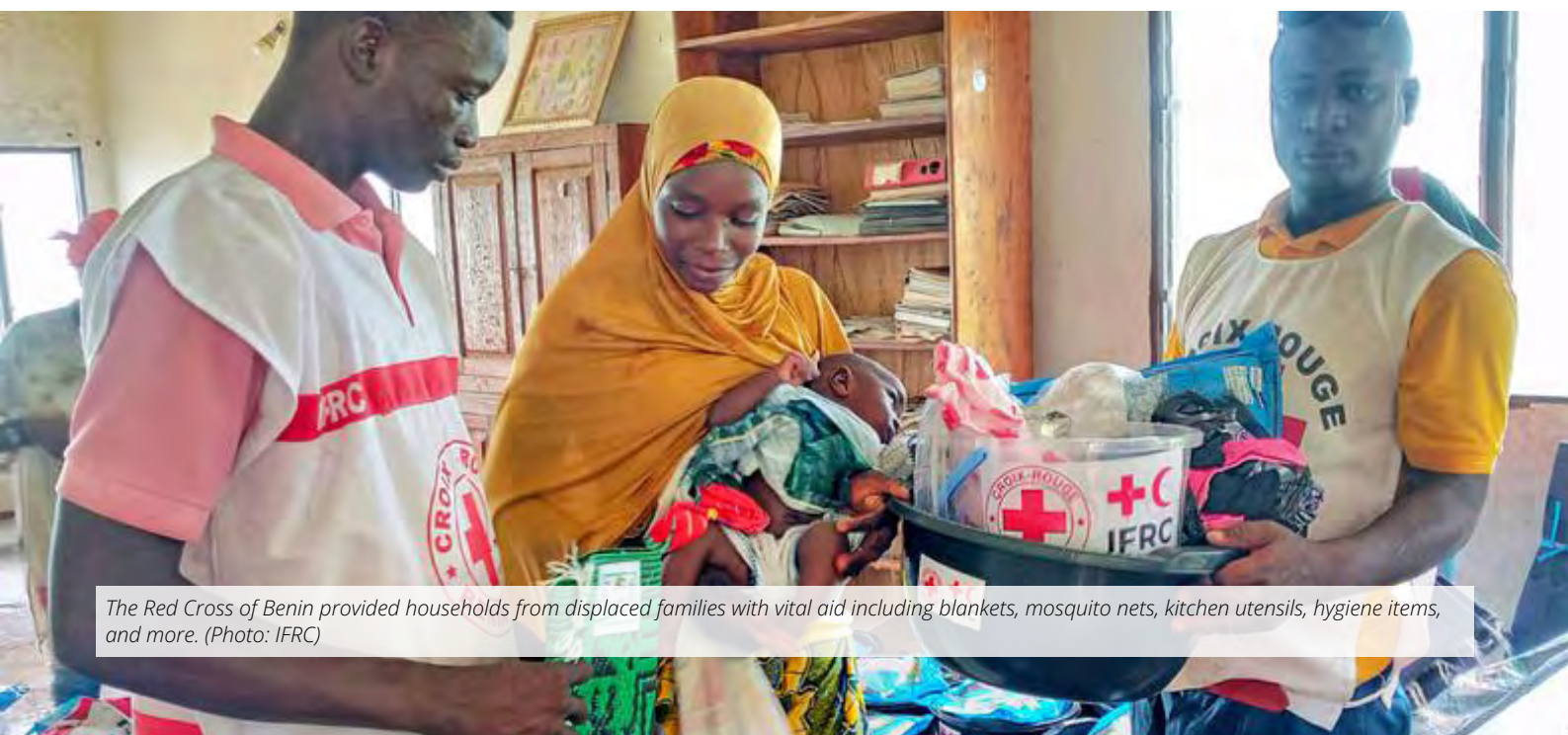
THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC, through its cluster delegation in Abuja, which covers Nigeria, Ghana, Togo and Benin, supports the Red Cross of Benin in strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including strengthening its auxiliary role. The IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme and provides technical support to the National Society in various other areas.

In 2022 and 2024, the IFRC supported the Red Cross of Benin with two DREF operations in response to floods and

population movement. The floods response targeted 7,968 people or 1,328 households in 10 municipalities, whose homes were destroyed by floods in September 2022. The affected population was exposed to disease and hygiene risks. The population movement intervention targeted 6,000 people affected by the situation in northern Benin caused by attacks from non-state armed groups, affecting civilians, and resulting in displacement, loss of life and putting additional pressure on host communities.



The Red Cross of Benin provided households from displaced families with vital aid including blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils, hygiene items, and more. (Photo: IFRC)

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 Red Cross of Benin takes part in the IFRC-facilitated sub-regional network of National Societies called the [West Coast Group](#), which is currently chaired by the President of the Nigerian Red Cross Society. The Red Cross of Benin is also part of the four [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) as reflected in the relevant sections of this plan. The National Society is supported by several participating National Societies to achieve the objectives in its strategic development plan:

The **American Red Cross** is supporting measles campaign in the country through the implementation of the Community

Engagement/Social Mobilization for Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign in Couffo and Atlantique Departments (regions).

The **Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)** supports the Red Cross of Benin in its implementation of the community resilience programming to respond to health risks, particularly for women and children. It also supports National Society development.

The **Kuwait Red Crescent** supports the Red Cross of Benin's health and wellbeing programme.

The **Luxembourg Red Cross** mainly supports the National Society in multi-sector assessments focusing on population displacement in the north of the country (Atacora and Alibori) and in training volunteers on the construction of emergency shelters.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supported the National Society in 2024 for the implementation of a self-assessment of the capacities of its decentralized structures through which several development actions were identified. The Swiss Red Cross will support the implementation of the action plan drawn up to strengthen the local Beninese Red Cross network.

Movement coordination

The Red Cross of Benin ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC supports the Red Cross of Benin from its office in Lomé, Togo, focusing on strengthening the capacities of the National Society to prepare and respond to situations of crises and on National Society development.

Coordination with other actors

The Red Cross of Benin is recognized as an auxiliary of the public authorities. The Red Cross of Benin is a member of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA), which convenes during emergencies. The platform brings together several international organizations, including the United Nations agencies, national organizations and other formally structured associations. It is led by the Benin Ministry of Interior and Public Security through the civil protection agency. The Red Cross of Benin is also fully integrated in the national contingency plan for floods, epidemics, wildfires, and socio-political crises.

It regularly participates in other in-country working group meetings which comprise government counterparts.

The Red Cross of Benin has the support of organizations including the UNFPA, UNICEF and GIZ in the implementation of the maternal and child food security project. It works in close collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) for the distribution of food. The Red Cross of Benin is an important partner of the USAID and ECOWAS for health and disaster management interventions. The Red Cross of Benin maintains partnerships within and outside the IFRC network to work collectively on the key challenges facing communities.



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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