

CAMEROON

2024 IFRC network mid-year report, January – June

23 April 2025

IN SUPPORT OF CAMEROON RED CROSS SOCIETY





National Society branches



National Society local units



75,000National Society volunteers



National Society staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



10,003

Disasters and crises



54,504

Health and wellbeing



242,106

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)



Appeal number MDRCM031

*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

111,000

HNS other funding sources

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

| Climate and enviroment | National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups. | Yes |
|-----------------------------|---|--------|
| | National Society is implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves). | Yes |
| | National Society is supported in developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks. | Yes |
| | Number of people reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response activities. | 10,000 |
| | Number of trees planted for climate change adaptation, mitigation and/or to reduce disaster risk. | 3,000 |
| Disasters and crises | National Society is engaged in Early Warning and Anticipatory Action | 1 |
| | Number of people reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery. | 10,000 |
| | Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction. | 55,000 |
| Health and wellbeing | Number of people reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services. | 242,00 |
| | Number of people reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services. | 11,000 |
| | Number of people trained by National Societies in first aid. | 3,000 |
| Values, power and inclusion | National Society reports that they have integrated and institutionalised Community Engagement and Accountability in their policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks). | Yes |
| | | |

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

| Strategic and operational coordination | National Society increases the number of government led platforms in which they are actively participating to achieve humanitarian or development goals. | 0 |
|--|--|-----|
| | Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of. | 0 |
| | Number of strategic partnership the National Society is engaged in | 1 |
| National Society development | National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of their volunteers. | Yes |
| | National Society develops and/or implements a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role | Yes |
| | National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies. | Yes |
| | The National Society has a risk management framework in place | 1 |
| Humanitarian diplomacy | National Society has domestic advocacy strategies developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies | Yes |
| | National Society is participating in IFRC-led campaigns. | Yes |
| Accountability and agility | National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors. | Yes |
| | National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative). | Yes |
| | National Society has strengthened their integrity risk mechanisms. | Yes |
| | | |

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

| | Bilateral Support | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| National Society | Funding Reported | Climate and enviroment | Disasters and crises | Health and wellbeing | Migration and displacement | Values, power and inclusion | Enabling Functions |
| French Red Cross | | • | | | | | |
| Italian Red Cross | 49,000 | | | | | | |

Total Funding Reported CHF 49,000

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Located in Central Africa, the Republic of Cameroon is bordered by Nigeria to the west and north, Chad to the northeast, the Central Africa Republic to the east and Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo to the south. Cameroon's coastline lies on the Bight of Biafra, part of the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean. Cameroon's location gives it good links to neighbouring countries and opportunities for trade and tourism. However, its location also makes it susceptible to population movements and migration.

Cameroon is endowed with rich natural resources, including oil and gas, mineral ores and high-value timber and agricultural products such as coffee, cotton, cocoa, maize and cassava. However, despite these diverse resources and levels of growth in the last decade, Cameroon is a low-income country and ranks 151 on the <u>United Nations Development Programme Human Development</u> Index. The country's poverty reduction rate is also lagging its population growth rate, increasing the overall number of poor people, particularly in the vulnerable northern regions.

In 2024, Cameroon continues to be affected by three complex, protracted humanitarian crises: the Lake Chad basin conflict by Boko Haram on the border with Nigeria, the North-West and South-West crisis between separatist fighters and State Military Forces, and the impact of the influx of Central African Republic (CAR) refugees in the eastern continue to impact the lives of women, girls, men and boys in affected areas and have hampered the political, economic, and social development in the country.

Some 2.5 million people are projected to face acute food insecurity in 2024. The Cameroon National Society has been responding to the <u>Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal</u> as part of the priority beneficiary countries, where 4,000 most vulnerable households received cash assistance in the Far North, South-West and North-West regions between 2022 and 2023 to alleviate them from food insecurity and increase their purchasing power. So far, the National Society is still awaiting funds to proceed with these activities in 2024.

The beginning of 2024 was marked by a series of devastating fires in several settlements for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Far North region of Cameroon. These sites, which serve as a refuge for thousands of people fleeing conflict and environmental hardship, have faced an unprecedented challenge with flames consuming makeshift shelters. OCHA

Climate scenarios for Cameroon predict warming in all regions by 2050, with significant and widespread temperature increases in the northern regions. Climate events and climate change are leading to reduced rainfall, water scarcity and soil depletion, affecting the livelihoods of farmers, herders, and fishermen.

In the Logone et Chari division, Far North Region, there is an influx of people seeking proximity to water points and access to fishing resources around Lake Chad and the Logone river due to conflict and climatic events. These demographic changes put additional pressure on natural resources. Climate change is leading to forced population displacement and to preventing their return.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In 2023, the Cameroon Red Cross Society concentrated on tree plantation, planting trees in the far north region. Engaging youth volunteers in these efforts, the National Society successfully planted a total of at least 100,000 trees. Additionally, it utilized seasonal and weekly weather forecasts, as well as monthly climate updates from the Centre for Climate Application and Forecasting in Central Africa, to support its environmental initiatives.

Disasters and crises

For the period January to December 2023, the Cameroon Red Cross Society focused on enhancing community preparedness and response to disasters such as floods and epidemics. It formed and trained community response teams, developed contingency plans and conducted awareness-raising activities in disaster management, <u>WASH</u> and sustainable shelter construction. Efforts included rehabilitating storage facilities and strengthening response capacity at the branch level with trained disaster response teams and pre-positioning of emergency kits. The National Society

also supported flood-affected populations in Mayo-Danay by assisting with evacuations, water drainage, hygiene kit distribution and a widespread hygiene promotion campaign.

Health and wellbeing

During the reporting period, the Cameroon Red Cross Society concentrated on its Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3). It provided training in <u>community-based surveillance</u>, conducted awareness campaigns on epidemic-related issues and organized a workshop to prepare for diarrhoea and cholera outbreaks. In July 2023, the National Society conducted measles and rubella vaccination campaigns in the north and east regions, collaborating with the Ministry of Health on vaccination awareness. It also commemorated World Handwashing Day with demonstrations in hospitals and schools and drafted a health services plan for the Henri Dunant Medical Centre.

Values, power and inclusion

In 2023, the Cameroon Red Cross Society focused on integrating gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and risk mitigation into its interventions. The National Society adhered to gender and diversity standards in emergency programmes, by using a GBV checklist, conducting safety audits, and following up on audit results to mitigate risks. Gender balance and zero tolerance for discrimination were emphasized in representation and decision-making. It also made efforts to mainstream community engagement and accountability (CEA) by involving communities in planning and implementation, and held monthly briefings on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) to ensure a safe, respectful work environment and effective integration of protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in its interventions.

Enabling local actors

The Cameroon Red Cross Society actively participated in the <u>IFRC's Pan-African initiatives</u>, including Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready and National Society development. It engaged in the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership with DG ECHO and IFRC, supported by the French Red Cross, focusing on disaster risk management, epidemic preparedness and community engagement. The Cameroon Red Cross Society maintained strong partnerships with the Ministry of Health and various international organizations, enhancing health services and supporting vulnerable groups.

In 2023, the National Society developed proposals for domestic resource mobilization, updated its volunteer policy and conducted Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (<u>BOCA</u>). The National Society also established an integrity line, trained fraud examiners and developed a policy on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (<u>PSEA</u>). It reinforced its strategic capacity, including HR, finance, logistics and data management systems.



Cameroon Red Cross volunteers engage visitors on Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness at the First Forum on Primary Care and Community Health Institutionalization in Cameroon (Photo: IFRC)

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page Cameroon

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Cameroon Red Cross Society focused on tree plantation and planted as many as 2,990 trees in the far north region of Cameroon, in April 2023. It also enlisted its youth volunteers in furthering its tree plantation and care activities, resulting in at least 100,000 trees being planted. The National Society also received and utilized seasonal and weekly weather forecasts as well as monthly climate watch from the Centre for Climate Application and Forecasting in Central Africa.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Cameroon Red Cross Society in its tree planting and care efforts and other climate actions.



For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page Cameroon

In 2024, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Funds (IFRC-DREF) was approved for one emergency.

1. Cameroon Landslide

| NAME OF OPERATION | Cameroon Landslide |
|-------------------------|---|
| MDR-CODE | MDRCM036 |
| DURATION | 3 months (16 October 2023 to 31 January 2024) |
| FUNDING ALLOCATION | CHF 61,882 |
| PEOPLE TARGETED | 700 people |
| DREF OPERATION DOCUMENT | DREF Operation |

The DREF allocation of CHF 61,882 in October 2023 supported the Cameroon Red Cross Society in aiding 700 people affected a landslide in the Mbankolo neighborhood of Cameroon caused by torrential rainfall. The support comprised of emergency relief services and psychological first aid as well as multi-purpose cash assistance covering shelter, health, food and essential items. The National Society also prioritized risk prevention in health, WASH, and landslide mitigation in the area.

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Cameroon Red Cross Society focused on community preparedness and response to disasters such as floods and epidemics. This was undertaken under the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership (DG ECHO – IFRC PPP). It formed and trained community

response teams and developed community contingency plan. The National Society also carried out awareness-raising activities in disaster management, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as well as sustainable shelter construction techniques. Additionally, the Cameroon Red Cross Society also took efforts to rehabilitate and stock storage facilities to mitigate community vulnerability in the event of a hazard. It made efforts to strengthen its response capacity on branch level by training a branch disaster response team as well as pre-positioning of emergency response kits.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society provided critical support to populations affected by the 2022 floods in Mayo-Danay. It assisted with evacuations, water drainage and conducted awareness sessions on waterborne diseases. The response included distribution of hygiene kits to households, offering multi-purpose cash and voucher assistance and conducting a widespread hygiene promotion campaign.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Cameroon Red Cross Society with mechanisms such as the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals. In 2023, IFRC provided DREF allocations for three separate emergencies. Through the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership (<u>DG ECHO – IFRC PPP</u>), the IFRC also provided the Cameroon Red Cross Society with assistance to support the communities affected by the Mayo Danay floods.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

For the reporting period the Cameroon Red Cross Society focused on its Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3). It provided training in community-based surveillance and conducted awareness-raising activities reaching people and school children with critical messages on epidemic-related issues. Additionally, the National Society organized a workshop for the preparation of a contingency outline for diarrhoea and cholera epidemics.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society conducted vaccination campaigns for measles and rubella in July 2023 in the north and east regions. It sensitized households on the importance of vaccination in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Additionally, the National Society organized a workshop for the preparation of a contingency outline for diarrhoea and cholera epidemics.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society strengthened community committees and village hygiene committees by training them in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The National Society also commemorated World Handwashing Day and raised awareness about the importance of handwashing for health, reaching people through demonstrations. Awareness-raising activities were conducted in hospitals and schools across Mfou, Yaonde and Baertoua. Additionally, the Cameroon Red Cross Society also drafted a plan for health services at the Henri Dunant Medical Centre.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in conducting training in community-based surveillance. It also aided in conducting awareness-raising activities and organizing youth camps. Additionally, the IFRC provided technical and financial support to the Cameroon Red Cross Society in the supervision of infection prevention and control at its health centres. It also supported epidemic preparedness and response. This was undertaken under the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership (<u>DG ECHO – IFRC PPP</u>).



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Cameroon Red Cross Society actively integrated prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and risk mitigation into its interventions. It trained its staff in handling gender-based violence cases, including the referral process and steps to take when GBV focused services were unavailable. It also prioritized meeting minimum gender and

diversity standards in all emergency programmes. The National Society systematically used a gender-based violence checklist and conducted safety audits, including focus groups with women beneficiaries, to ensure that interventions and distributions did not increase risks. Additionally, the Cameroon Red Cross Society consistently followed up on the safety audit results and referenced potential cases of gender-based violence after each intervention to identify necessary actions. Representation and decision-making processes emphasized gender balance and zero tolerance for discrimination, with teams comprising a maximum of 50 per cent men and 50 per cent women as far as practicable

To integrate community engagement and accountability (CEA) approach, the Cameroon Red Cross Society also made efforts to involve communities at every stage of implementation to ensure that their priority needs were addressed, including the location and timing of assistance. It conducted monthly staff briefings on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and safeguarding to ensure consistent incorporation of PGI approach into its programmes and operations. This fostered a safe work environment free from sexual harassment while respecting the dignity, access, participation and safety of the communities served.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the Cameroon Red Cross Society with technical and financial support to conduct monthly staff briefings on protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) and safeguarding. These briefings ensured the integration of PGI across all programmes and operations. Additionally, the IFRC helped the National Society to mainstream community engagement and accountability (CEA) throughout its interventions.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

Progress by the National Society against objectives 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 Cameroon Red Cross Society is part of the four <u>IFRC Pan-African initiatives</u> on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready, and National Society development.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society is part of the global <u>Pilot Programmatic Partnership</u> between DG ECHO and IFRC. It benefits from the support of the French Red Cross and the IFRC for the implementation of activities in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemics and pandemic preparedness and response, cash and voucher assistance, risk communication, community engagement and accountability. The partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with greater impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the EU as the biggest donor for international aid in the world.

The **French Red Cross** has been present in Cameroon since 1967, and it signed a cooperation framework agreement with the Cameroon Red Cross Society in 2009. The French Red Cross works to ensure the sustainability of the host National Society's activities and intervenes in the far north and east of the country to improve the resilience of vulnerable populations.

Movement coordination

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

The ICRC supports the Cameroon Red Cross Society in emergency preparedness, partnerships and National Society development. The ICRC's Yaoundé delegation promotes international humanitarian law, helps people displaced by violence, restores family links and visits detainees.

External coordination

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Cameroon Red Cross Society maintains strong partnerships with the Ministry of Health and various international organizations, including WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and Foundation Hirondelle. These collaborations focus on supporting refugees and vulnerable groups, enhancing health services and strengthening health security.

The National Society has partnered with external donors, including USAID's IFRC Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3) and the CDC, to bolster community health preparedness, risk communication and vaccine hesitancy efforts during the COVID-19 response.

The National Society's programmes are coordinated with the Ministry of Health and key partners, reinforcing its community health teams and responders to improve disease surveillance, outbreak detection and overall health care quality and coverage at the grassroots level.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Cameroon Red Cross Society developed proposals for domestic resource mobilization. It focused on financial sustainability through application to IFRC <u>Capacity Building Fund</u> proposals for National Society development and capacity building. The National Society also organized sub-regional events for peer-to-peer learning and sharing. Additionally, the Cameroon Red Cross Society updated its volunteer policy and conducted Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (<u>BOCA</u>) at four of it branches.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical support in acquiring the IFRC Capacity Building Fund. It also supported the Cameroon Red Cross Society the organization of events for facilitating peer-to-peer learning. Additionally, the IFRC provided assistance to the National Society in carrying out Brach Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA).



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Cameroon Red Cross Society strengthened its communications by providing updates on the evolving humanitarian context in Cameroon, including public health emergencies and humanitarian crises as well as the actions it undertook in response, in accordance with its auxiliary role and mandate. The Cameroon Red Cross Society shared updates on programmes implemented with the support of various partners and engaged in discussions about key challenges in its areas of intervention. It also explored possibilities for collaborative efforts to address these issues.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Cameroon Red Cross Society in its humanitarian diplomacy efforts.



Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Cameroon Red Cross Society established an integrity line and a reporting system for misconduct or integrity incidents involving operations or personnel. In partnership with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), it trained professional investigators resulting in a roster of certified fraud examiners. It also developed a policy on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and continued to mainstream safeguarding across the network.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society conducted a mid-term evaluation of its Strategic Plan to assess its relevance and implementation. It prioritized reinforcing its capacity to deliver support services, which involved developing and implementing policies and enhancing staff capabilities in HR, finance, logistics as well as planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER). Additionally, the National Society strengthened its information and data management systems and tools.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Cameroon Red Cross Society in strengthening its integrity capacities. It also provided technical assistance to the National Society in training professional investigators and fraud examiners. The IFRC supported the Cameroon Red Cross Society in developing a policy on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse. Additionally, it also aided the National Society in its digital transformation efforts.



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.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2024. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a light grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods, and may be incomplete. "Not reported" could sometimes mean "not applicable."
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over 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) and 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<u>IFRC Cameroon 2024 Financial Report</u>
 For emergencies for which financial report is not yet available, see: <u>MDRCM033</u>, <u>MDRCM034</u>,
 MDRCM035, MDRCM036

- IFRC network country plan
- Subscribe for updates
- · Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) data
- Operational information: IFRC GO platform
- National Society data: <u>IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System</u>
- IFRC Evaluation and Research Databank

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