



MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES

2024-2025 IFRC network country plan



Multi-year Funding Requirement **CHF 3M**

28 May 2025

In support of the Red Cross National Societies of Mauritius and Seychelles



6

National Society
branches



5

National Society
local units



16

National Society
staff



424

National Society
volunteers

People to be reached



62,000

Climate and
environment



63,000

Disasters
and crises



47,000

Health and
wellbeing



81,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and resilience
- Climate change adaptation

Capacity development

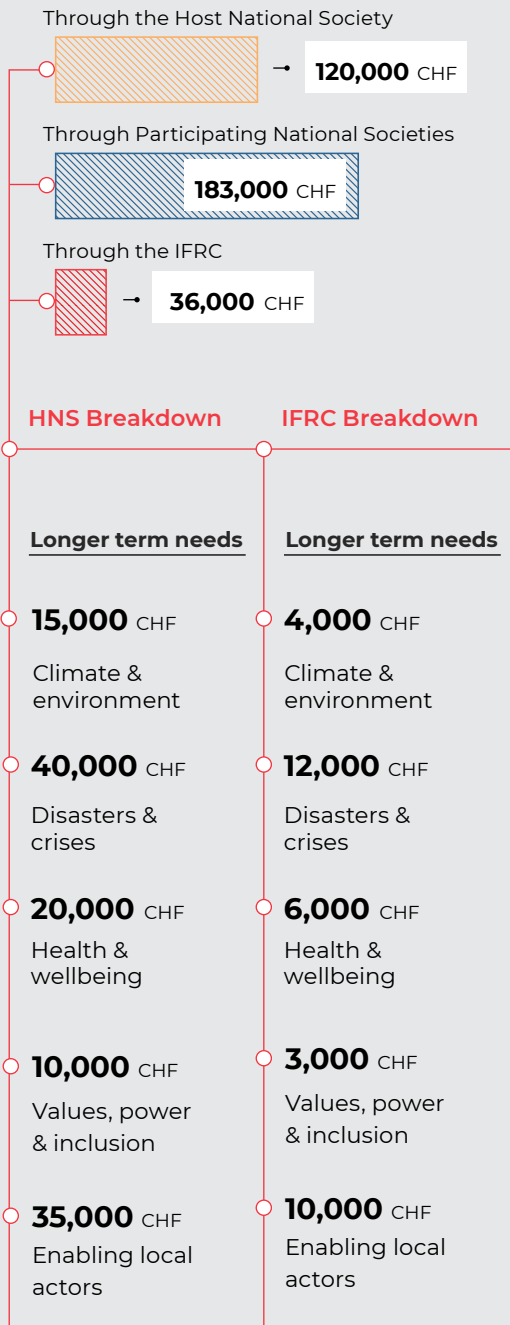
- Branch development
- Internal systems
- Partnerships and resource mobilization

Key country data links

	Mauritius	Seychelles
INFORM Climate Change Risk Index	Low	Very low
Human Development Index rank	72	67
World Bank Population figure	1.3M	120,000
World Bank Population below poverty line	10.3%	25.3%

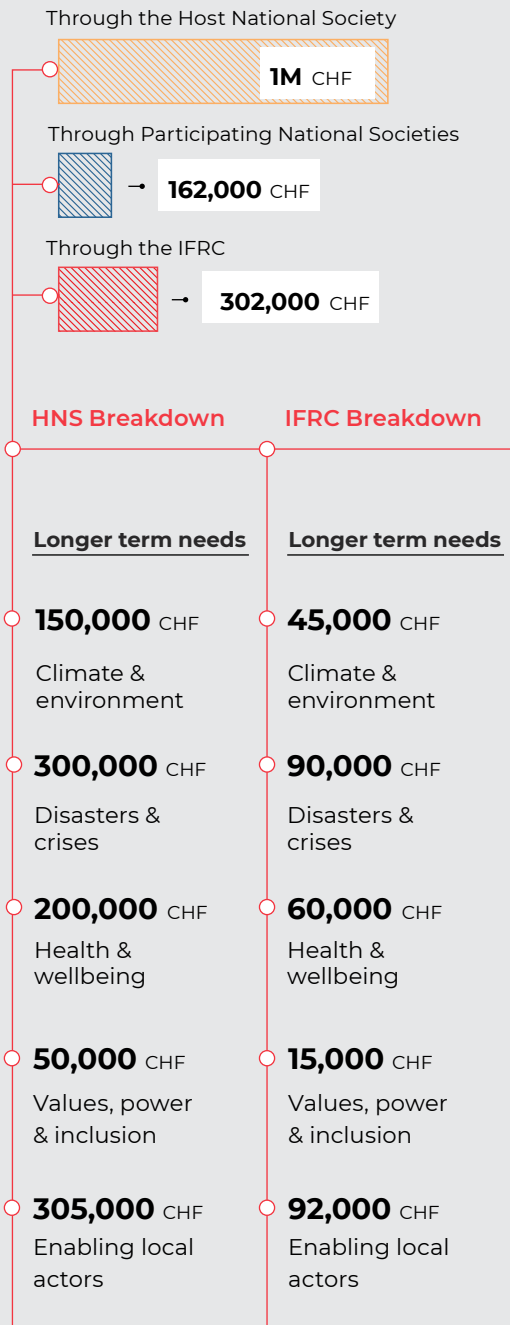
Mauritius

Total 339,482 CHF



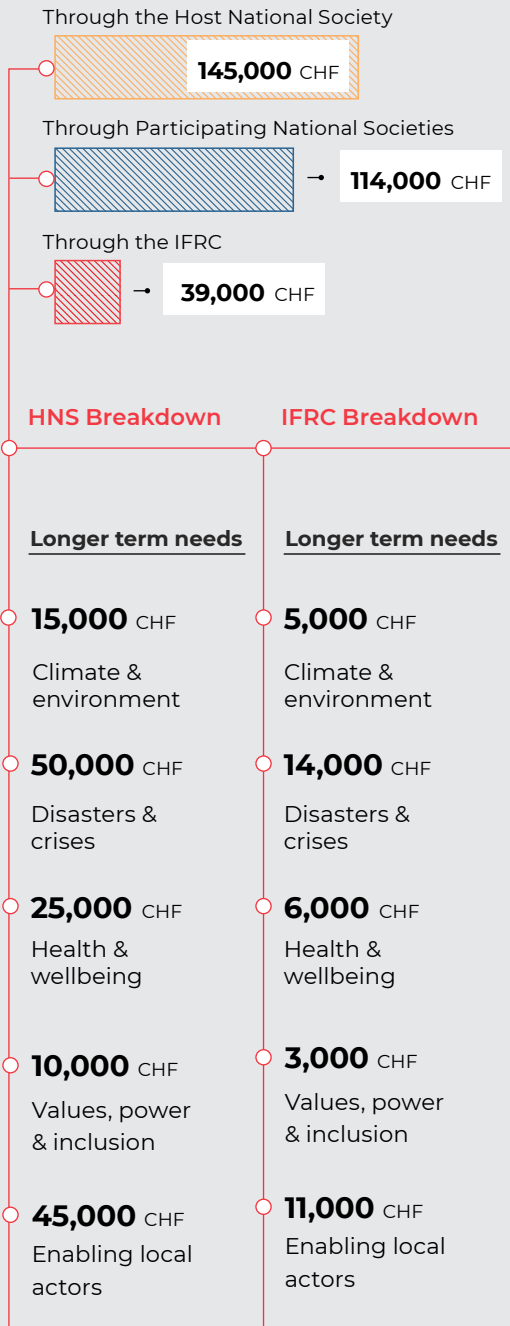
Seychelles

Total 1.4M CHF



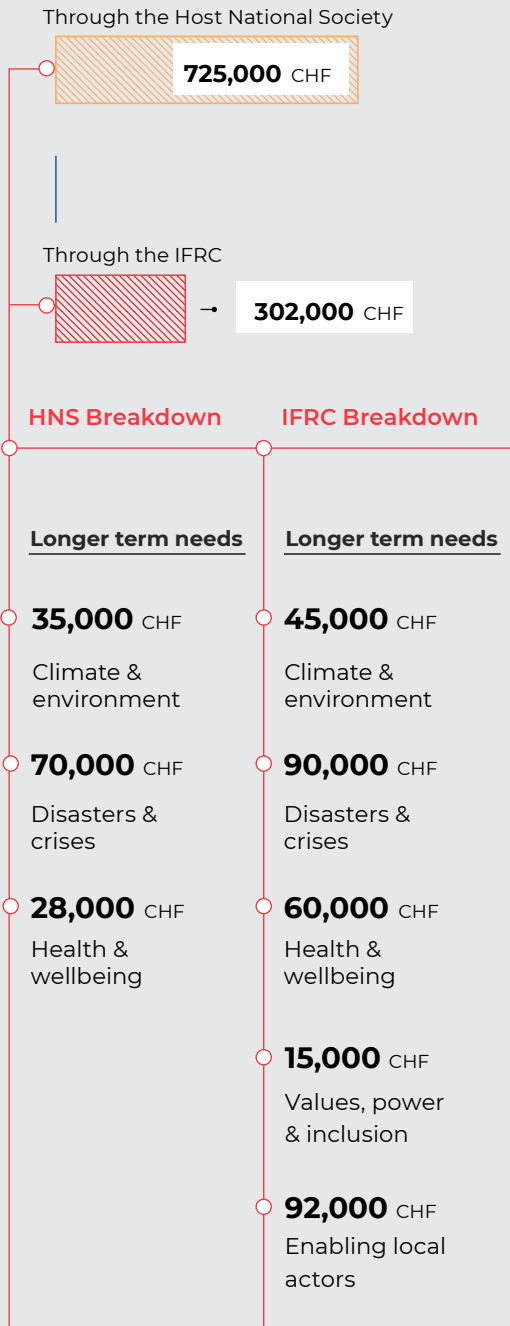
Mauritius

Total 298,000 CHF







Seychelles

Total 1M CHF



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
French Red Cross	95,000						
Italian Red Cross	19,000						

Total Funding requirement **CHF 114,000**

Participating National Societies

French Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Long-term needs:

MAAMU001

MAASC001

Hazards



Cyclones



Floods



Storm surge



Droughts



Landslides

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

Mauritius

The **Mauritius Red Cross Society** was founded in 1973 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1983. The National Society has years of experience in disaster preparedness and response and is a member of the Prime Minister's National Disaster and Other Calamities Committee (NDOCC). The Mauritius Red Cross Society has actively supported the awareness and implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management policy and provides technical assistance to facilitate the effective management of disasters and emergencies through volunteers and staff trained in basic safety and rescue techniques.

The National Society provides emergency ambulance services to strengthen the transport service for those with minor injuries and patients requiring regular and long-term hospital treatment. The Mauritius Red Cross Society carries out medical risk assessment on each of its services to establish the minimum medical requirement to safely cover an event with specific volunteers trained and equipped to provide medical coverage across a broad spectrum of events. The National Society's staff and volunteers are trained to respect the dignity of the beneficiaries in line with the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Its obligation is to spread knowledge of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), which is based on the idea that the knowledge of rules set forth in the law ensures the protection of people affected by armed conflicts.

In 2023, the Mauritius Red Cross Society reached almost 1,000 people with its disaster risk reduction effort under its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

Seychelles

The **Seychelles Red Cross Society** was founded in 1989 as an independent and auxiliary to the government in humanitarian services, particularly in disaster relief. It was subsequently admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1993. Through its network of volunteers, members, and staff, the National Society helps those in need especially during crises as well as equips the community with lifesaving skills through its various programmes and activities. The mandate of the Seychelles Red Cross Society is to prevent and alleviate suffering with complete impartiality, making no discrimination as to nationality, race, sex, religious beliefs, language, class or political opinions.

The National Society's recently completed Strategic Plan 2023-2027 spearheads the involvement of the Seychelles Red Cross Society in contributing towards its humanitarian mission nationally, regionally, and internationally as a component of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The new strategic approach focuses on how the National Society can maintain and strengthen its role as one of Seychelles' most trusted and reliable humanitarian organizations. It relies on five strategic objectives consisting of (i) a well structured and consolidated National Society structure, (ii) building strength through partnerships, (iii) working with the community, (iv) increasing volunteer recruitment and re-energizing existing volunteers, and (v) creating financial sustainability for the Seychelles Red Cross Society.

In 2022, the Seychelles Red Cross Society reached more than 2,000 people in disaster risk reduction efforts under its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Mangroves planting organized by the Seychelles Red Cross Society in La Providence, Mahe, Seychelles (Photo: IFRC)

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Mauritius

Mauritius is the main island of the Republic of Mauritius, which is also composed of the Rodrigues Island and the coral archipelago of Agalega and St. Brandon. The country suffered from an economic crisis throughout the 1970s and was remote from the world markets and was commodity dependent. It also exhibited low initial levels of human development and due to the absence of export diversification in developing countries, decline and fluctuations in export earnings negatively influenced income. But over the years, Mauritius has achieved significant progress in economic conditions, driven largely by the export-oriented approach, underpinned by a heterodox set of liberalization of policies. The government has played a strong and interventionist role as facilitator, as operator, and as a regulator for the country's economic growth.

The Mauritius government has avoided social and political tensions as part of its strategy of nation building and has instead supported solidarity and equity by investing in these social services, as well as introduced non-contributory basic retirement pension and an extensive set of social security measures. The government has a wide welfare state with the government providing free universal health care, free education up to tertiary level and free public transport for students, senior citizens and disabled people.

Mauritius is a multiparty democracy governed by a prime minister, a council of ministers, and a National Assembly. There are no primaries in Mauritius and potential candidates are selected or nominated by the party leader for whose party, or coalition, the candidate intends to contest the election. While many other ethnically diverse African countries have suffered from recurring ethnic conflicts, Mauritius has been known as one of the most stable countries in Africa with a track record of multiparty democratic elections since its independence in 1968. Indeed, the government has played a leading role in the diversification process.

Seychelles

The Republic of Seychelles is composed of some 115 islands spread over approximately 1.4 million square kilometres of the Indian Ocean: the Mahe group, which includes 43 granitic, mountainous islands with narrow coastal areas, and the coralline group, numbering, 73 which tend to rise only slightly above sea-level. Most of the islands are uninhabited and tend

to lie outside the cyclonic belt although the coralline islands to the south are affected by cyclones. However, both island groups are very vulnerable to multiple effects of climate change.

Seychelles is a microstate with a population of about 120,000 people, including migrant workers who represent an estimated 18 to 20 per cent of the total population. The large majority of the country's inhabitants live on the three main granitic islands, close to the island of Mahe where the capital, Victoria, is located.

The Seychelles granitic islands are particularly affected by events that are linked to storms, heavy rainfall, and unusually high tides – the impact being particularly strong if the last two occur at the same time. The topography of the granitic islands means that heavy downpours, even when they do not last long, can cause flooding of roads and housing areas as well as mudslides that destroy vegetation and damage houses. These heavy rains can also turn normally tranquil rivers into raging torrents that overflow their banks and cause havoc in communities nearby. The coralline islands and the coastal areas of the granitic islands are also threatened by sea-level rise and a UN report on climate change states that up to 70 per cent of the Seychelles available land mass would be submerged if sea level were to rise by one meter.

Projects focusing on mitigation strategies have been implemented by the Department of Environment (DOE) of the current Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE), the Ecosystem-based Adaptation project 2014-2022 which 'sought to reduce the vulnerability of the Seychelles to climate change, focusing on two key issues – water scarcity and flooding'.

For the last few decades, the most easily identified social ill in Seychelles has been substance abuse; over-consumption of alcohol and use of illegal drugs, issues that had already been identified as a significant problem in a paper dated 2003. The National Drug Observatory of the Ministry of Health recently reported that between 5 and 6 percent of the population is addicted to heroin. Steps to curb the entry of drugs into the country have increased substantially in the last couple of years but the impact of these efforts is not quite fully felt within local communities yet.

Crime rates in Seychelles are decreasing overall, nonetheless from reports on the media there seems to have been an increase in criminal violence – manifested in abuse of children, domestic violence, assaults with.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Mauritius

Climate change has become a growing concern in Mauritius, threatening the prospects for long-term economic resilience. Around 90 per cent of Mauritius' households are aware of climate change, and a great majority perceive it as a threat, including to food and water security. The average sea level and mean temperature have increased over time. Climate-related shocks are frequent, with an average of four adverse events - predominantly tropical cyclones - taking place every 10 years.

It is estimated that agriculture production may decline by as much as 20 per cent in the medium and longer term due to rainfall variability. The ecosystem and natural habitat of fish and other marine species are being rapidly eroded, with some coral reefs being extinct and natural assets, such as beaches, that are the pillars of the tourism industry may slowly disappear, affecting possibly over \$50 million in value added in the sector by 2050. Calculations based on the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) shows that, over the period 1960-2022, Mauritius experienced 22 extreme weather events, each causing deep socio-economic damage.

To address climate change threats, the authorities have developed a policy framework and engaged in international initiatives. In these respects, Government of Mauritius has launched the National Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework ([NCCAPF](#)), which is one of the outcomes of the Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP) funded by the Government of Japan (GoJ) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition, a Climate Change Act entered into force in April 2021 aiming to ensure compliance with international climate change agreements and set national objectives and targets. In their 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution ([NDC](#)) document under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)), the authorities set an ambitious objective to support climate change mitigation and adaptation. The key objectives are to expand the knowledge base on climate change risks and their impact on communities and increase resilience of human activities by improving governance and enhancing disaster preparedness and response, notably for infrastructure. The adaptation framework also integrates policy interventions for Fisheries (Blue Economy), Tourism, Biodiversity, Forestry, Agriculture and Coastal Zone.

Seychelles

Seychelles is vulnerable to climate change, though the location of many of its islands outside the cyclone belt has meant relatively less exposure to catastrophic natural disaster. Its

primary concerns are from the economic costs of temperature rise (coral bleaching and losses to fisheries and tourism); extreme rainfall (crop and fish losses, flooding); and sea-level rise (coastal erosion and salinization, and consequent losses to tourism and food and water security). Seychelles has adopted the ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) approach to offer better adaptation alternatives to the country to reduce the impacts of climate change. Seychelles have reinforced this position in its National Communications and also in its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to better deal with climate and the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, the national strategy incorporates commitments at global level, such as the United Nations Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Fisheries and coastal tourism provide most of the export earnings and [economic activities](#) in the Seychelles. In addition to coastal threats, Seychelles has been experiencing prolonged droughts and water shortages that affect agricultural productivity and other domestic and industrial needs. In 2014, the Government launched the Seychelles Blue Economy Vision to promote ocean based sustainable and resilient development as a pathway to Seychelles' shared prosperity. However, new patterns of rainfall distribution are emerging in Seychelles amidst increasing coastal development compared to two decades ago, causing flash floods that last for several days, as seen in some neighbourhood in Mahé during the month of May 2019.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

Following the [Pan-African Initiative on Tree Planting and Care](#), the Mauritius Red Cross Society has developed responses to the climate crisis through its goal to plan over 3,000 trees by 2025. This strategy involves public areas such as local schools, community centres as well as private areas. The National Society will be a bridge to spread the message of tree planting importance to mitigate the effects of global warming, flooding, coastal erosion and severe storms. [Nature-based solutions](#) will be adopted to enhance the disaster risk reduction while building community resilience. It will mobilize staff and volunteers to address this approach by ensuring their capacity building and training on nature-based approach and community engagement.

The Mauritius Red Cross Society is also involved in data collection to forecast the impact of climate change. Volunteers and staff will be trained on the Small Island Developing

States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) and nature-based solutions.

Seychelles

The Seychelles Red Cross Society's priorities under climate and environment consist of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Under this priority, the National Society will work to strengthen its positioning vis-à-vis the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Environment, and other external partners as actor of climate change adaptation in the country. This will take place through the continued implementation of the grant received from the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SEYCCAT).

Under the Tree Planting and Care Initiative, the National Society targets tree planting initiatives and programmes to increase environmental conservation and mitigate the effects of climate change. The National Society intends to carry out public campaigns on tree planting and plastic usage and disposal. The tree planting and afforestation campaign will align with the [IFRC Strategy 2030](#), disaster risk management policy, and the [Green Response strategy](#)

Planned activities in 2024 & 2025

Mauritius

- Organize two training sessions for volunteer and staff in terms of knowledge on adaptation to the effects of climate change and adaptation strategies in Mauritius
- Organize training session for the youth section on climate change and adaptation strategies
- Collaborate with youth clubs and existing youth clubs in the field of environmental protection and adaptation
- Sensitize young people in non-formal environment on the fight against deforestation

Seychelles

- Plan and conduct simulation exercises in high-risk areas
- Conduct data collection survey in communities
- Assist mapping of national stakeholders involved in early warning
- Update the National Society contingency plan
- Induction on early action protocol session for volunteers, parliamentarians, and team leaders
- Conduct outreach needs assessment and mapping exercise
- Conduct sensitization activities on early warning with partners/stakeholders/communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Mauritius Red Cross Society through technical and financial assistance for its objectives under climate and environment. The National Society is supported in its initiatives through capacity building initiatives, advocacy efforts, developing of relevant strategies, and other areas that ensure the effective implementation of activities under climate and environment.

The IFRC supports the Seychelles Red Cross Society in developing new project proposals for climate change mitigation and adaptation to climate-related vulnerabilities programmes, and in building and consolidating partnerships with key regional and international stakeholders. It also provides technical guidance in the implementation of the SEYCCAT funding and the early warning for all initiative, as well as emphasizing the adoption of environmentally sustainable practices within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



Disasters and crises

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

Mauritius

Mauritius is projected to become a [water stressed country](#) by 2025 and its agricultural production may decline by as much as 20 per cent. The summer outlook released by the Mauritius Meteorological Services predicted explosive intensification of cyclones for 2024 summer, while 7 to 9 tropical cyclones which would be evolving in the vicinity of the Mascarenes regions could generate high waves that are likely to reach the shores. Additionally, in the [World Risk Report 2021](#), Mauritius ranked 51 out of 181 countries for risk of disaster from extreme

natural events. As early as 1989, the United Nations (UN) adopted a specific resolution on the potential negative effects of rising sea levels on islands and coastal areas, thus officially recognizing the high climate vulnerable profile of SIDS. Poor development planning and lack of coordination between public and private actors have increased the exposure of human assets along the Mauritius coastline. To reduce these risks, the government leads risk reduction activities in coastal zones, functioning on a centralized top-down governance approach.

The Government adopted the Sendai Framework to cope with the disaster risks. The [Sendai Framework for Disaster](#)

Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is built on elements which ensure continuity with the work done by States and other stakeholders under its predecessor, the Hyogo Framework for Action, and introduces several innovations as called for during the consultations and negotiations. Many commentators have identified the most significant shifts as a strong emphasis on disaster risk management as opposed to disaster management, the definition of seven global targets, the reduction of disaster risk as an expected outcome, a goal focused on preventing new risk, reducing existing risk and strengthening resilience, as well as a set of guiding principles, including primary responsibility of states to prevent and reduce disaster risks, all-of-society and all-of-State institutions engagement. Currently, disaster-proof architecture and up-to-date early warning system make the communities less vulnerable.

Seychelles

Seychelles currently faces unprecedented threats to its viability because of climate change. Development in Seychelles has occurred mostly in the coastal areas that often suffer from constant flooding events that pose a risk to critical infrastructures. Seychelles remains particularly vulnerable to natural hazards such as super-strong 2 cyclones (as in 2016), recurrent floods, sea level rise and ocean acidification (existential). In addition, Seychelles experienced moderate and severe food insecurity in 2017: 9 per cent of households have been affected. Fish remains the major contributor to dietary protein of the local population, accounting for 35-40 per cent of total protein consumed.

The Division of Risk and Disaster Management (DRMD) is responsible for coordinating both Seychelles' disaster risk reduction effort and emergency response to a natural catastrophe or manmade emergency. It has established a National Emergency Operations Centre. The Government has setting out the baseline structures for emergency preparedness and response through the Seychelles National Integrated Emergency Management Plan.

The experience of Seychelles in dealing with disasters is very minimal. The most significant loss of life related to disaster was in 1862, when a landslide killed 75 people. The lack of training, personal protective equipment (PPEs) and risk assessments have indicated that the media sector lags far behind in understanding their respective risks. However, efforts have been seen on behalf of the Division to partner with tertiary education institutions and invest in its human resource development through projects, technical and capacity building support funded by international entities such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). One way of staying alerted with national and international incidents is through an Early Warning System (EWS).

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

The Mauritius Red Cross Society will continue to support communities in disaster risk management by providing capacity building and training to understand disaster risks in the country and strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risks by enhancing partnership with local authorities, governments and donors. The National Society will emphasize its support on affected communities and will ensure early warning system as part of its commitment to strengthening resilience and responding to disasters. The Mauritius Red Cross Society, as an auxiliary of government, will support the implementation of the Sendai framework and national plan by mobilizing volunteers and staff to identify the most vulnerable or affected by disasters and supporting them throughout the program such as relief distribution, cash distribution or shelter programme.

Seychelles

The Seychelles Red Cross Society is a member of the National Committee for Disaster Risk Management, which operates under the Disaster Risk Management Department. The National Society continues to build its capacity to prepare and respond to disasters through training and prepositioning of stock to effectively cater to those affected in times of disasters and crises. For the coming year, the Seychelles Red Cross Society will continue to focus on building the capacity of communities to respond effectively to disaster risk reduction. One of the main focuses of the National Society is to seek technical support to conduct a national assessment on establishing a baseline of Seychelles' current disaster risk reduction system and its future. The National Society's other objectives under disasters and crises include engaging its staff and volunteers on the four components of early warning, on preparedness for effective response (PER) approach, and conducting relevant training to build capacity in targeted areas. The National Society will also update its contingency plan and collaborate with the Ministry of Education to strengthen disaster risk reduction in schools by reviewing and improving school emergency plans.

Planned activities in 2024 & 2025

Mauritius

- Strengthen capacities of communities by organizing awareness sessions on the risks of natural hazards
- Implement school-based actions based on capacity and vulnerability studies in at least 8 schools in Mauritius and 5 schools in Rodrigues
- Train prevention actors in awareness-raising tools
- Reconstruct and expand the Mauritius Red Cross Society contingency warehouse

- Replenish warehouse and set up an emergency operations centre at the National Society headquarters
- Train branch disaster response teams on KOBO tool and participate in coordination meetings

Seychelles

- Review/set up National Society operational centre and conduct training on preparedness for effective response ([PER](#))
- Monitor/evaluate pre-positioning stocks in warehouses
- Train staff, volunteers and local government on national disaster response
- Conduct training on radio communication
- Advocate for the review and update of relevant local policies and framework

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Mauritius Red Cross Society in the creation and updating and general public and school disaster prevention tools, establishing early warning systems and emergency plans in schools which include training and first aid and lifesaving actions.

The IFRC support to the Seychelles Red Cross Society consists of areas such as coordinating national authorities and partners to assess risks and hazards to prepare for raining and equipping volunteers as first responders, working with communities to understand their needs, setting up early warning systems, and developing a full early action protocol ([EAP](#)) on flash/tidal floods and cyclone by 2027. The IFRC also supports the National Society through the provision of guidance tools, resources, such as enhancing preparedness and readiness to anticipate and respond to crisis in a timely manner.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises.



Health and wellbeing

Mauritius

Mauritius has sustained a welfare state for over four decades with free health services in all public facilities. However, paradoxically, the national universal health coverage service index stood at only 63 in 2017. The public system of healthcare is financed through general tax revenue. The overall policy objective of the government is to achieve the highest attainable level of health regardless of gender, age, disability, geographical location, social status and ability to pay. The epidemiological landscape demonstrates a complete shift from communicable to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) accounting for 84 per cent of diseases burden. Infant mortality rate dropped from 21.2 per 1,000 population in 1990 to 10.6 per 1,000 population in 2020. More than 72 per cent of healthcare services (inpatient, outpatient and day care) are accessed through a well-established network of public health facilities. The government also reviewed its priority related to health for 2020-2024, which is to improve healthcare services and create a healthy lifestyle for all Mauritians based on social, cultural and sports activities. It provides a coherent framework that will guide policymakers, stakeholders and partners, in health development.

Mauritius is one of the renowned tourism destinations in the world therefore the government has made tremendous efforts to support health in the tourism sector. It is currently under

bilateral social security agreements with several countries, including the UK. This only meets health insurance needs of some foreigners.

Seychelles

Seychelles is vulnerable to various threats of diseases, such as the [H1N1 pandemic in 2009](#). The country has a pluralistic healthcare system, with different public and private providers and financing agents. Seychelles' National Health Strategic Plan 2022-2026 is based on the principles on the "Right to Health Care: Health for All and Health by All", inscribed in the Seychelles constitution and the health policy declarations of the government of Seychelles. The country has achieved impressive health care indicators and is on track to achieve most of the Millenium Development Goals.

Despite its economic shock, the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic brought about positive changes among institutions, shedding light on the need for a business continuity plan, the importance of health and safety officers along with the need for an integrated surveillance system. The government of Seychelles has several key partners in the health sector, including the United Nations, bilateral partners, financial institutions, and non-governmental organizations, all contributing through diverse mechanisms to the overall development agenda of Seychelles. Donor agencies/partners

in Seychelles continuously test and implement innovative approaches to the use of official development assistance by simultaneously seeking ways to raise the effectiveness of existing aid streams and more traditional financing mechanisms.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Mauritius Red Cross Society's multi-year high level objectives under health and well being include capitalizing on its auxiliary role to ensure positioning on relevant country level public health strategy, improving the health and wellbeing of communities through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course, and strengthening partnership under the SLL programme by delivering critical risk communication and community engagement (RCCE).

The Seychelles Red Cross Society will focus on critical risk communication and community engagement activities to vulnerable communities due to experience of the National Society in psychosocial support, and community-based health and first aid (CBHFA). The National Society is also focused on improving access to sustainable health services by establishing blood donation groups in three workplaces, enhancing volunteer capacity for community outreach.

Planned activities in 2024 & 2025

Mauritius

- Participate in health platform to contribute to the development of the state's health policy and strategic documents
- Update and disseminate the epidemiological contingency plan
- Increase National Society capacity to provide ambulance and health service, including [first aid](#)
- Review first aid training curriculum and maintain commercial first aid training

- Support Ministry of Health and Welfare through ambulance service in emergency situations and during hurricanes
- Strengthen the capacity of volunteers on identification of endemic, pandemic, and epidemic diseases

Seychelles

- Conduct meetings with the blood transfusion unit
- Participate in the national level health platforms and contribute to elaboration of strategies and policies
- Participate in meetings and coordinate with health stakeholders in the country
- Establish blood donation groups
- Provide [psychosocial support](#) training to communities and set up health and care clubs
- Conduct training for first aid instructors (including training equipment and materials)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Mauritius Red Cross Society in achieving its goals and objectives under health and wellbeing by providing technical and financial support to leverage the influence of the National Society. It also supports the National Society in developing and maintaining partnerships with local actors, authorities, and stakeholders by ensuring accountability in actions.

The IFRC supports the Seychelles Red Cross Society in achieving its health and wellbeing objectives through advocacy, technical assistance, and funding. It provides tools and resources in areas such as ensuring access to quality health and care of beneficiaries, promotion of CBHFA, development and leveraging existing and new partnerships, and training of first aid instructors, among others.

The **French Red Cross** provides technical and financial support to the National Society through the PIROI platform, which is integral to ensuring the effective implementation of health programmes in the country.



Mauritius

The Mauritian society is multi-religious, multicultural and multilingual. Mauritians are officially differentiated across four ethnic groups: Hindus, Muslims, Chinese and the general population. The latter encompasses all those who do not practice the Hindu or Muslim religion or are not Chinese by ethnicity. This diversity of religions is linked to various cultural practices and norms, which play a central part in defining gender roles, employment aspirations and marriage patterns to name a few.

Mauritius fares poorly in terms of economic participation and opportunity and political empowerment. The low index for economic participation is due to high [female unemployment](#) and the widening gender gap in the labour market over the recent decades. The total female unemployment rate was 2.5 times that of the male unemployment rate in 2018. Though Mauritius has signed various international and regional conventions on gender equality and made relevant changes in local legislations, for instance, ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women ([CEDAW](#)) in 1984 and the Optional Protocol on violence against women in 2008, the country also signed the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa in 2005. Mauritius further adopted the National Gender Policy Framework (NGPF) in 2008 whose objective is to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in line with human rights treaty obligations and intergovernmental policy commitment. In addition, the Government enacted a Local Government Act in 2012 to provide for a minimum number of candidates standing for election for local authorities to be of a particular sex, with a view to ensure adequate representation of each sex. Further, a new "Code of Corporate Governance" was launched in 2017, to pledge for a more equitable gender representation on Board of Directors.

Human rights issues are mainly reported regarding discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons. Homophobic attitudes persist and homosexuality tends to be framed within a discourse of sin and unnatural behaviour. However, the 2019 Equal March took place peacefully and under safe conditions guaranteed by the authorities. Domestic violence, violence against women and discrimination are also mentioned among human rights abuses.

Seychelles

Despite measures taken to redress gender inequalities, traditional cultural gender stereotypes, norms and roles remain deeply rooted in Seychelles. A gender-based violence [survey](#) published in 2018 indicated that 58 per cent of women

had been assaulted mainly by their partners, and 1 in 10 had been raped. In 2019, 371 cases of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) were reported, an increase from 2018. Despite the scant availability of sex-disaggregated data across sectors in Seychelles, available statistics show that the private sector is male dominated, while women are concentrated in the public sector at 61 per cent compared to 33 per cent men. Higher paid jobs favour men, while women are mostly present in low paying jobs such as home carers (estimated at 2500) and other service industries. National efforts to train and employ women in the environmental sector have empowered women in this sector. Grassroots organizations such as SIDS Youth AIMS Hub (SYAH) of Seychelles have simultaneously launched awareness campaigns to mobilize and convince girls to take up ICT career paths, which they stressed are not restricted to cliché IT or software programming but offer inexhaustible career prospects.

Gender-focused Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), such as Alliance of Solidarity for the Family (ASFF), Women in Action and Solidarity Organization, Gender, and Media (GEMPos), Entreprendre au Feminin Ocean Indien (EFOIS) and Mpower continue to develop programmes to work in their various fields with vulnerable and disadvantaged women, seeking to empower them through their programmes and various projects. These actions include training in business start-up, accounting, marketing, and writing business plans, providing support services in SRHR, and helping women improve access to financial assistance for small-scaled home-based businesses.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer Seychelles (LGBTIQ Seychelles) is a newly created NGO (2017) which has also conducted sessions on violence on sexually diverse women with service providers (social workers, probation officers, police, counsellors, and health professionals) and has participated in education and awareness programmes on national radio and television.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

The Mauritius Red Cross Society will maintain support to the community by providing capacity building and training to volunteers and staff on gender equality, women's empowerment, social development and human rights, elimination of violence against children, women and girls. The message will be voiced with the partners and donors to respect the compliance with international human rights norms and standards. The National Society will also provide psychological support and prevention and response to

sexual exploitation and abuse (**PSEA**) to the volunteers and beneficiaries.

Seychelles

The Seychelles Red Cross Society will engage in gender equality, women's empowerment, social development and human rights. The focus areas of the National Society also target human rights awareness and practices in social and economic development processes as well as support compliance with international human rights norms and standards. The National Society will pursue the capacity building activities for staff and volunteers, local authorities and communities, while also providing awareness sessions and psychosocial activities on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). The National Society will promote access to quality education for all young people affected by disasters, crises, or population movement. It is committed to fostering humanitarian values and inclusivity in its operations and within the communities it serves. To promote positive change, the National Society focuses on empowering young people by enhancing their knowledge, skills, and behaviour aligned with humanitarian principles. This includes a review of the Strategic Plan for 2023–2027 and conducting assessments to map its capacities and draft an actionable plan for its implementation.

Planned activities in 2024 & 2025

Mauritius

- Train young leaders of the youth section on humanitarian values and fundamental principles

- Develop recommended action plans based on the results of the organizational assessment
- Establish and provide mandatory information session for all staff and volunteers on protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#))

Seychelles

- Review implementation of the National Society strategic plan 2023-2027
- Conduct PGI and community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) training for National Society staff and volunteers

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Mauritius Red Cross Society to foster a broader understanding, ownership and practical application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles. The National Society is supported in its objectives under protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) as well as under community engagement and accountability (CEA) to foster inclusivity and protection for vulnerable people in the country.

The IFRC supports the Seychelles Red Cross Society to ensure that they operate as a safe and inclusive organization. With a strong emphasis on dignity, access, participation, and safety, the National Society provides the tools and frameworks necessary to embed these principles into all aspects of organizational operations and community outreach.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Mauritius Red Cross Society and the Seychelles Red Cross Society are committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response ([PER](#)) process and are both currently at the orientation phase. The PER approach is a continuous

and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, and ultimately take necessary actions to improve them.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

- Strengthen commitment as an auxiliary to the government and focus on volunteer mobilization in emergency response and disaster management
- Work towards health systems strengthening by enhancing effective coordination and innovation in service delivery
- Emphasize engagement to partners and the government by supporting regular meetings with actors in health, food security and disaster risk reduction
- Develop partnerships with key ministries and improve coordination with UN through thematic cluster meetings
- Strengthen resource mobilization to support capacity strengthening of the volunteers and staff

Seychelles

- Organize annual partners' meetings with support from Movement members

- Organize and participate in international days such as Red Cross Day, World Volunteer Day, World Blood Donor Day, and more
- Disseminate the auxiliary role of the National Society among representatives and relevant ministries, humanitarian, and development agencies
- Review and develop a resource mobilization framework and policy for the National Society

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Mauritius Red Cross Society to increase cooperation with both internal and external stakeholders. It provides technical and financial support to the National Society for its core role in strategic and operational coordination to enhance the National Society's reach and presence in the country.

The IFRC supports the Seychelles Red Cross Society by ensuring that the National Society harnesses digital tools to improve operational efficiency, enhance communication and increases community engagement.



Mauritius Red Cross Society responds to the warning level 4 for Mauritius due to the Tropical Storm Batsirai (Photo: Mauritius Red Cross Society)



National Society Development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

- Reconstruct the war memorial building and restore the historic character of the building to house the contingency warehouse, emergency operations centre, and a Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum
- Strengthen the capacities of headquarters and branches on good governance on management, monitoring and evaluation, PSEA approach and Code of Conduct of the Movement to ensure accountability

Seychelles

- Review/set up policies, standards of procedure (SOP), guidelines, framework for key programme areas

- Revamp National Society offices in Praslin and La Digue, including equipment and staff
- Acquire computerized financial software

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Mauritius Red Cross Society in its National Society development initiatives, ensuring the capacity building and leveraging of funding.

The IFRC supports the Seychelles Red Cross Society in building diverse and adaptive leadership. It prioritizes reviewing and enhancing the National Society's volunteer management and retention strategy and policy, ensuring a focus on gender parity, youth involvement, and equitable geographic representation. By leveraging innovative and transformative approaches, the IFRC supports the National Society to anticipate and adapt to complex challenges.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

- Carry out advocacy of the National Society's role and impact through a communication plan
- Maintain regular meetings with ministries, local authorities to publicize National Society activities
- Disseminate information and raise awareness of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement
- Support the hosting of the National Society website and other communications tools

Seychelles

- Advocate for the establishment of health clubs
- Produce quarterly e-newsletters on National Society activities

- Update/upload relevant information on National Society website and social media pages

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Mauritius Red Cross Society in leveraging the advocacy, negotiation, communication, formal agreements, and other measures to maintain public trust towards the National Society. The IFRC supports the National Society to adopt tools aligned with the fundamental humanitarian principles such as the CEA approach, engaging in a diplomatic approach with relevant line ministries and donors to strengthen public opinion of the Movement, and foster lasting partnership outside the Movement.

The IFRC supports the Seychelles Red Cross Society to disseminate a distinctive message on climate crisis and disaster risk reduction as mentioned during the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Mauritius

- Conduct regular technical and financial controls by sharing a systematic report
- Train staff and volunteers on Code of Conduct and in respecting humanitarian principles to improve the quality of support towards the community
- Ensure digital transformation by incorporating the resources needed for digital transformation
- Create a computerized database for members/volunteers
- Train staff in the usage and enhance their understanding of digital computer system and update the volunteer database

Seychelles

- Produce regular and timely financial qualitative reports and policy for the National Society

- Conduct regular financial internal controls and share reports
- Exchange youth programmes with the Seychelles National Youth Council
- Review the National Society volunteer, management and retention strategy and policy

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Mauritius Red Cross Society in strengthening its agility in its organizational mindset and processes through financial resources and supports the National Society in capacity building of the staff and volunteers.

The IFRC supports the Seychelles Red Cross Society in strengthening its agility in its organizational mindset and processes. It offers training on IFRC financial procedures to financial officers and programme managers, facilitate the development of project budgets according to IFRC standards, and organizes organizational capacity assessment and certification (OCAC).

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has a permanent delegation in the Indian Ocean islands, based in Antananarivo, Madagascar. Its support to the National Societies of Mauritius and the Seychelles centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported both National Societies through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([DREF](#)) operations, in relation to epidemic preparedness and response, and tropical storms. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global appeal, has supported the National Societies in their COVID-19 response.

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.

Both National Societies are 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 **French Red Cross** is a key strategic partner for the two National Societies, through the Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI), which is based in La Réunion. PIROI provides a range of training courses, resources and tools for the National Societies in the Indian Ocean, and maintains emergency response capacities, in close coordination with the IFRC. PIROI also directly supports activities for disaster risk reduction in Mauritius and the Seychelles, and health in emergencies in Mauritius.

Movement coordination

The Mauritius Red Cross Society and the Seychelles 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](#).

Coordination with other actors

Mauritius

The Mauritius Red Cross Society aims to strengthen its partnerships and coordination with stakeholders in emergency response, disaster risk reduction, health, protection, and education. To achieve this, the National Society will continue to work closely with key partners, including the Ministries of Health and Education, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC), and PIROI.

The National Society is committed to active participation in all coordination meetings, including online meetings, and collaborative activities with our partners. By sharing valuable information on activities and initiatives, the Mauritius Red Cross Society seeks to foster better coordination and collaboration, ultimately enhancing its role as an auxiliary to the government in the humanitarian sector.

Through consistent engagement, cooperation, and communication, the Mauritius Red Cross Society will maintain and develop strong relationships with partners, ensuring a

unified and effective approach to addressing the needs of the served communities. By working together, it continues to make strides in emergency response, disaster risk reduction, health, protection, and education initiatives.

Seychelles

The Seychelles Red Cross Society has pointed an improvement on coordination amongst stakeholders in commitment and routine stakeholder engagement meetings and trainings. The National Society involved with the Disaster risk management project funded by the PIROI, Indian Ocean Commission and European Union. The project involves work with the Disaster Risk Management Department, the Seychelles Fire and Rescue Services, the Seychelles Police, Agency for Social Protection, and the Ministry of Education.

The National Society will pursue this commitment with the other ministries such as the Health Department and United Nation agencies.



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 Global Plan and IFRC network country plan](#) • [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](#)
- [IFRC Evaluation and Research Databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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