



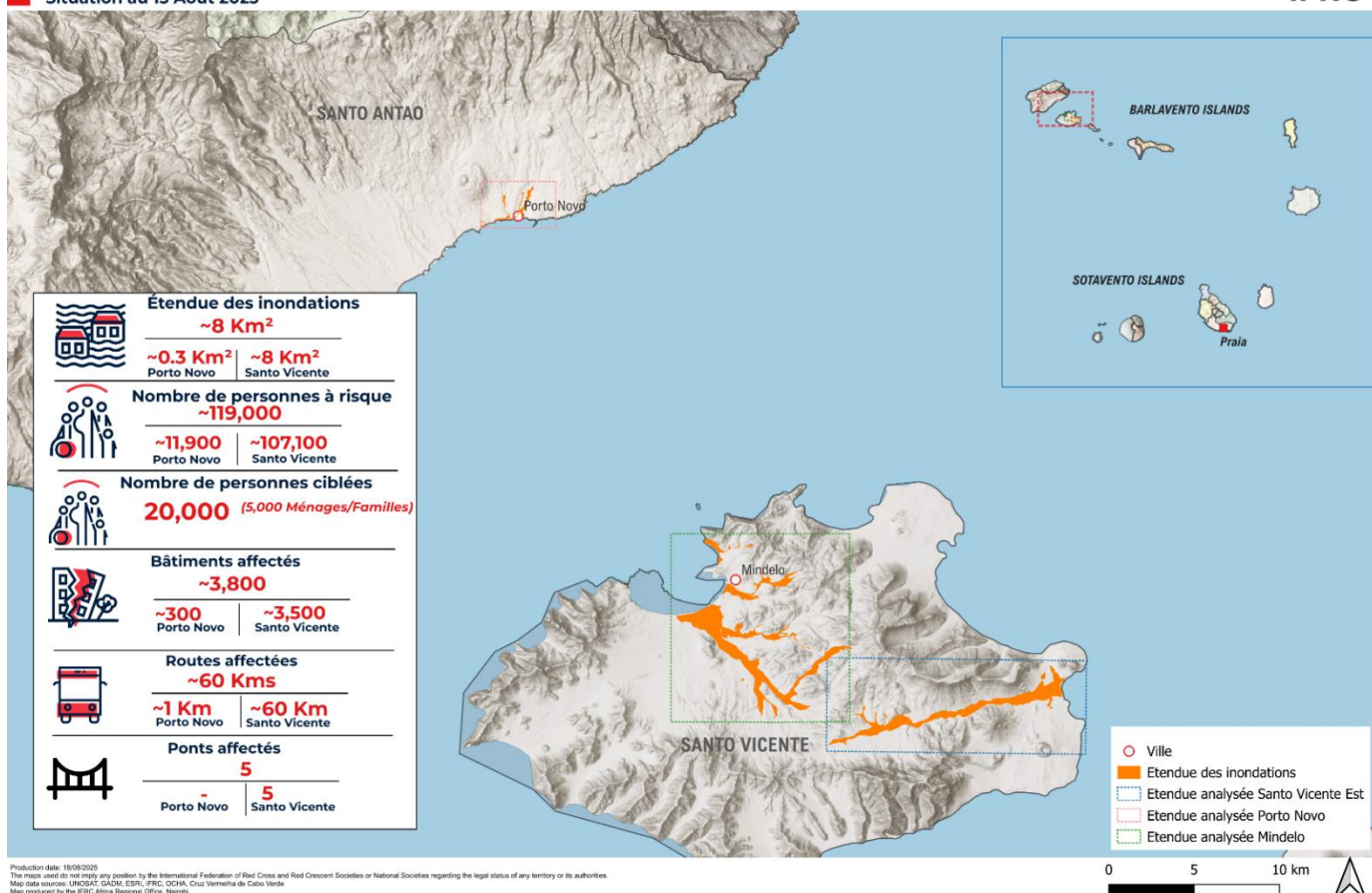
Volunteers from the Red Cross of Cape Verde on the ground supporting evacuations, assessments, and immediate relief. (Source: Red Cross of Cape Verde)

Appeal No: MDRCV005	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 2.5 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 3 million¹	
Glide No: FL-2025-000147-CPV	People [affected/at risk]: 119,000 affected	People to be assisted: 40,000 people
DREF allocation: CHF 565,565	Appeal launched: 23/08/2025	Appeal ends: 31/08/2026

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Red Cross of Cape Verde in response to the emergency. It includes the Red Cross of Cape Verde's domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 0.5 million), as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC Secretariat (CHF 2.5 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilised to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

Cap-Vert : Inondations pluviales / crues soudaines

Situation au 15 Août 2025



SITUATION OVERVIEW

On the night of 10–11 August 2025, torrential rains triggered devastating flash floods across São Vicente and Santo Antão islands in Cabo Verde, with partial impacts also reported in São Nicolau. The heavy rainfall, occurring within just a few hours, caused widespread flooding, landslides, and extensive destruction of homes, infrastructure, and essential services.

Preliminary assessments suggest that approximately 119,000 people may have been affected, representing the combined population of the two worst-hit islands. At least 12 people have been confirmed dead, with five missing, while over 5,500 households have been severely impacted, including 1,500 displaced people in São Vicente alone.

The floods have severely disrupted essential services. Health infrastructure was heavily damaged, with the main hospital in Mindelo and São Nicolau. Water and sanitation systems were also disrupted, creating acute drinking water shortages

that now require daily ferry transport of potable water (150 m³) from Santo Antão to São Vicente. Power and communications networks were intermittently affected, further complicating coordination and response efforts.

Infrastructure damage is extensive, with 2,500 buildings damaged, five bridges destroyed, and several kilometres of roads affected according to currently available information. Flooding also devastated local markets and supermarkets, limiting food access and damaging small businesses. Several areas remain difficult to access due to blocked or damaged roads, isolating affected communities.

The Government of Cabo Verde has declared a national emergency, activating national disaster response mechanisms. The Red Cross of Cape Verde (Cruz Vermelha de Cabo Verde or CVCV), supported by the IFRC and partners, has mobilised volunteers to provide immediate relief, including the distribution of essential household items to 300 families.

The floods have struck Cabo Verde in the midst of the rainy season, which typically extends from

August to October. This heightens the risk of further heavy rainfall, storms, and secondary impacts such as additional flooding and landslides. Ongoing weather instability complicates response

operations, increases humanitarian needs, and poses serious challenges for early recovery planning.

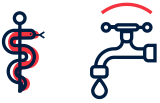
TARGETING

The response strategy for the Cabo Verde floods will carefully consider the evolving humanitarian needs and operational challenges, with a focus on the islands of São Vicente and Santo Antão, where the majority of the estimated 119,000 affected people reside. Based on the scale of destruction and access constraints, the operation will initially target 8,000 households (approximately 40,000 people) who have been most severely impacted, including the 1,500 displaced in São Vicente. The strategy will prioritise urgent needs in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter, health, and food security, while integrating cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to support household recovery. Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) considerations will be mainstreamed throughout, ensuring equitable and dignified access to assistance. The operation will also prepare for early recovery interventions, including livelihood support and community resilience measures, recognising the heightened risks of further storms during the ongoing rainy season.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to support the CVCV in the response to the floods. Through a three-phased approach, the strategy of the IFRC’s response will focus on providing immediate relief support to the affected population (0-3 months), followed by early recovery (3-6 months) looking at cash, shelter, livelihoods, water, sanitation, hygiene, health promotion, psychosocial support and community risk reduction interventions, and finishing with a transition phase (6-9 months) which will focus on the integration of climate resilience approaches and long-term disaster preparedness and adaptation, as outlines below:

	Integrated assistance <i>(Shelter, Livelihoods, and Multi-purpose Cash)</i> During the first stage of the response, priority will be given to the distribution of essential household and emergency shelter items, including tarpaulins, mattresses, mosquito nets, and kitchen sets. These distributions will be supported by clear guidance on their use and maintenance. Consultations with affected communities will help determine whether additional items are needed in subsequent phases. In the early recovery phase, multipurpose cash transfers will be implemented to support approximately 800 households (around 4,000 people) whose homes and livelihoods were damaged or destroyed by the floods. This cash-based assistance will enable families to meet their priority needs with dignity and flexibility. Feasibility assessments will inform the scope of the recovery programme, considering needs, available financial service providers, market conditions, transfer values, and associated risks. Further sectoral cash assistance may be considered in the early recovery phase following feasibility and needs assessments, while community facility rehabilitation and protective measures for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction will also be implemented. Livelihood recovery will be supported through the provision of recovery kits (seeds, tools, and small assets) to help households restore basic income-generating activities.
---	--

	Health and Care including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) <i>(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support/Community Health)</i> The operation will ensure access to safe water, provision of chlorine and Aquatabs, rehabilitation of water points, and the distribution of hygiene kits. These activities will be complemented by hygiene promotion and awareness campaigns on safe water handling and vector-borne disease prevention. To address heightened public health risks, the response will also include first aid services, epidemic preparedness, and health promotion initiatives led by trained volunteers. Mental health and psychosocial support will be made available, particularly for displaced families and frontline volunteers, with psychological first aid integrated into community-level outreach.
	Protection and Prevention <i>(Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability, Migration, Environmental Sustainability, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, Education)</i> The operation is committed to Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) standards, applying the DAPS (Dignity, Access, Participation, and Safety) framework. This includes safeguarding mechanisms against sexual exploitation and abuse and child protection measures. Volunteers and staff will be trained in PGI, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and gender-based violence (GBV), and referral mechanisms will be put in place. Community engagement and accountability (CEA) will be central to the response, ensuring that people affected are informed, consulted, and able to provide feedback to continuously adapt the operation to their needs. As the operation transitions into recovery, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction (DRR) will be mainstreamed through vulnerability and capacity assessments (eVCAs), community-based risk reduction initiatives, reforestation, and DRR education in schools. Health system strengthening, including water-sanitation integration with epidemic preparedness, and livelihood resilience activities linked to the regional Sahel+ Food Security and Livelihoods Initiative (VIGIE), will further contribute to a sustainable recovery.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

	Coordination and partnerships The IFRC Secretariat will coordinate inputs and support information sharing, analysis, and coordination with Participating National Societies (PNSs) and donors to support the actions of this Emergency Appeal. Streamlined communications with donors will allow a holistic approach to partnering and resource mobilization, programming, reporting, risk management, and information management, supported by a response team from the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation that is being deployed to strengthen coordination.
---	--

	The IFRC Secretariat will reinforce external partnerships along with the CVCV to align with the interests of relevant external actors and promote transparency and accountability in all actions to be taken in Cabo Verde.
	IFRC Secretariat services The IFRC Secretariat will play an important role in ensuring efficiency, effectiveness, and compliance with financial procedures and accountability for the operation, implementing mitigation measures for the identified risks. Therefore, in the first three months of the response, a multidisciplinary surge team will be deployed to provide support in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of this operation. At the end of this period, the operation will be carried out with the support of IFRC staff and the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation based in Dakar, Senegal. During the initial period of the operation, transport will be conducted by air, with a later transition to sea transport.
	National Society Strengthening This appeal will contribute to strengthening the CVCV at both the national and branch levels, with a particular focus on branches in São Vicente and Santo Antão, which are at the forefront of the current response. Based on the findings of branch capacity assessments, a tailored plan will be developed and implemented to reinforce the National Society's systems and preparedness, enabling more effective management of this and future emergencies. This will enhance the fulfilment of the Red Cross Humanitarian Mandate and Fundamental Principles, while improving the CVCV's internal coordination and response capacity. Recognising the essential role of volunteers in alleviating human suffering, the appeal will prioritise investment in their skills, safety, and well-being. Volunteers will benefit from training opportunities in emergency response, including WASH, health, first aid, and community engagement. In parallel, efforts will be made to ensure they have the necessary equipment, protective gear, and psychosocial support to carry out their work safely and effectively.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

After 31 August 2026, the response activities will continue under the [IFRC Network Cape Verde Country Plan](#), which takes an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the country's needs, while also providing a Federation-wide perspective on actions in Cabo Verde. This aims to streamline activities under one plan while ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in a way that is both accountable and transparent, with timely information shared if the crisis-specific response needs to be extended beyond the above-mentioned period.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY

RED CROSS OF CAPE VERDE



Core areas of operation	
1. Climate and Environment 2. Disasters and Crises 3. Health and Well-being 4. Migrations and Displacement 5. Values, Power, and Inclusion	
Number of staff:	134
Number of volunteers:	2,500
Number of branches	19

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the CVCV operates nationwide across nine inhabited islands and 22 municipalities with a mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering, without discrimination, while adhering to the seven Fundamental Principles of the Movement. The National Society works in the areas of disaster risk management, health and well-being, shelter, WASH, migration, and restoring family links, as well as in promoting humanitarian values, education, and protecting vulnerable children.

With 19 branches, 134 staff, and more than 2,500 volunteers across the country, the CVCV has a wide network that enables rapid and effective response to crises. Recognised by national authorities and active in humanitarian coordination platforms, it has a strong capacity to mobilise and protect the most vulnerable communities. The CVCV develops inclusive programmes to improve health and socioeconomic conditions, strengthen community resilience to climate shocks and disasters, and promote peace, equality, and social inclusion.

IFRC Membership coordination

Although there is currently no PNS presence in the country, the IFRC Secretariat's role in coordinating the Movement's membership is pivotal at the regional level. At the moment, there is ongoing open communication and coordination with PNSs in the region which will be maintained throughout the operation.

At the country level, Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) representatives and IFRC staff in the field will be part of the Membership Coordination structure. The main purpose of this coordination is to establish a harmonised approach to programming, implementation, reporting, and evaluation of the operation, as well as to manage information, engage with other humanitarian actors, and mobilise resources.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

The IFRC and ICRC have delegations in Dakar and hold regular meetings to ensure smooth coordination and information sharing.

External coordination

The National Society is actively coordinating with key actors, including the Ministry of Health and the National Civil Protection Service, under the oversight of the Ministry of Territorial Administration. By participating in coordination groups, the CVCV ensures the effective delivery of assistance to affected communities. Simultaneously, the IFRC is maintaining communication and coordination with the United Nations system to

identify needs, define target populations, and develop joint intervention strategies. These collaborative efforts guarantee that there are no gaps or duplications in the response while contributing meaningfully to the national strategy for emergency assistance.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

At the Red Cross of Cape Verde:

- **President of the Red Cross of Cabo Verde:** Arlindo Soares de Carvalho; email: arlindo.carvalho@cruzvermelha.org.cv, phone: (+238) 992 90 66
- **Secretary General:** Salomão Sanches Furtado; email: salomao.furtado@cruzvermelha.org.cv, phone: (+238) 993 83 94
- **Operational coordination:** Abdoul Wahabou; email: abdoul.wahabou@cruzvermelha.org.cv, phone: +238 997 54 77 / +238 917 03 72

At the IFRC:

- **Head of IFRC Country Cluster Delegation:** Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy; email: alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org,

At the IFRC Regional Disaster, Climate and Crisis Unit:

- **Regional Head of Health and Disaster, Climate and Crisis Unit:** Matthew Croucher; email: matthew.croucher@ifrc.org
- **Lead, Preparedness & Response; Health and Disaster, Climate, and Crisis Unit:** Rui Oliveira, email: rui.oliveira@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Santiago Luengo, Senior Officer Operations Coordination; email: santiago.luengo@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

- **Head of Regional Strategic Engagement and Partnerships:** Louise Daintrey-Hall; email: louise.daintrey@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:

- **Head, Global Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management:** Allan Kilaka Masavah, email: allan.masavah@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability Support (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting)

- **Head of PMER & QA:** Beatrice Okeyo, email: beatrice.okeyo@ifrc.org, phone: +254732 404022

Reference

Click here for:

- Link to [IFRC Emergency landing page](#)