BENIN

2024 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

1 September 2025

IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS OF BENIN

24
National Society branches

103
National Society local units

12,600
National Society volunteers

85
National Society staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion
96,979	**105,000**	**843,825**	**7,818**	**1,488**

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Red Cross of Benin

Overview	
Funding	*Not reported*
Expenditure	*Not reported*

Funding Sources	
IFRC Secretariat	*Not reported*
Participating National Societies	*Not reported*
HNS other funding sources	*Not reported*

IFRC network

Country		Funding Requirement	6.7M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term	Funding Requirement	4.8M
		Funding	1.5M
		Expenditure	572,000
	Emergency Operations	Funding	257,000
		Expenditure	243,000
Participating National Societies		Funding Requirement	508,000
		Funding	528,000
		Expenditure	362,000
HNS other funding sources		Funding Requirement	1.3M
		Funding	*Not reported*

Appeal number **MAABJ002**

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

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and enviroment	Number of people reached with activities to address rising climate risks	97,000
	Number of people reached with activities to address environmental problems	97,000
	National Society implements nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Yes
	National Society implements environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction, clean-ups or reducing GHG emissions	Yes
	National Society has received IFRC Network's support to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change	Yes
Disasters and crises	Number of people reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	105,000
	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction	42,000
	Number of people reached with livelihoods support	6,000
	Number of people reached with shelter support	4,000
	Percentage of assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	35%
Health and wellbeing	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate health services	844,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	257,000
	Number of people reached with immunization services	23,000
	Number of people donating blood	3,000
	Number of people reached with psychosocial and mental health services	1,000
	Number of people trained by the National Society in first aid	844
Migration and displacement	Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	8,000

	National Society has undertaken any data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move	Yes
	National Society has undertaken any advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move	Yes
Values, power and inclusion	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	1,000
	National Society has a Community Engagement and Accountability policy, strategy or plan	Yes

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
	Number of government-led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	90
National Society development	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of its volunteers	Yes
	National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies	Yes
	National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	Yes
	There is a National Society Development plan in place	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
	National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society has a functioning data management system that informs decision making and supports monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of its ..	Yes
	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	Yes
	National Society has strengthened its integrity and reputational risk mechanism	Yes
	National Society is implementing a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Bilateral Support						
	Funding Reported	Climate and enviroment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Belgian Red Cross	308,000		●	●			
Kuwait Red Crescent Society				●			

Total Funding Reported **CHF 528,000**

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

To ensure nationwide representation, the Red Cross of Benin has established a pyramidal structure comprising six regional coordinations, 12 departmental committees, and 79 local units, engaging over 12,600 grassroots volunteers.

Benin faces multiple humanitarian challenges due to its socio-political, economic, security, and environmental context. Environmentally, the country is affected by climate variability, leading to extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves. These conditions contribute to cross-border transhumance and conflicts between herders and farmers. Floods remain the primary disaster risk, while the northern region grapples with insecurity and population displacement.

Health challenges are significant, with malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS being the leading causes of hospitalization and mortality among vulnerable groups, especially children under five and pregnant women. Epidemic-prone diseases like cholera, meningitis, and measles, along with rising non-communicable diseases, demand ongoing epidemiological surveillance.

Despite adhering to its initial plan, the National Society had to respond urgently to widespread flooding in several municipalities. Additionally, it entered a new partnership with the Swiss Red Cross under the 2025–2028 sub-regional programme involving Togo, Benin, and Burkina Faso.

Key achievements

Climate and Environment

The Red Cross of Benin made notable progress in addressing climate and environmental challenges by planting thousands of multifunctional trees. These efforts helped reduce erosion, improve soil fertility, and support community nutrition, showcasing a strong commitment to climate adaptation.

Disasters and Crises

In response to recurring floods, especially in municipalities like Lalo, the National Society activated emergency mechanisms and deployed disaster response teams across its decentralized structures. Thousands of households received food, non-food items, seeds, and hygiene kits. The groundwork for future cash transfer programmes was also initiated.

Health and Well-being

The Red Cross of Benin conducted extensive awareness campaigns on health, nutrition, and WASH, reaching hundreds of thousands of people. It facilitated access to health services for vulnerable groups, including children and pregnant women, and maintained vigilance against epidemic-prone and non-communicable diseases.

Migration and Displacement

The National Society responded to displacement caused by insecurity in northern Benin by providing essential relief items to affected households. It also addressed humanitarian needs linked to cross-border transhumance and related social tensions.

Values, Power, and Inclusion

The Red Cross of Benin conducted self-assessments across all its branches using the BOCA tool, leading to tailored action plans aimed at strengthening organizational capacity and promoting inclusive governance. These efforts reflect a commitment to transparency and accountability.

Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

During July 2024, severe flooding in Lalo municipality prompted urgent intervention by the Red Cross of Benin, including an emergency appeal supported by the IFRC that assisted 615 of the most affected households. Widespread rainfall across the country triggered further flooding, leading the National Society to activate its Crisis Modifier mechanism under its partnership with the Belgian Red Cross Flanders, reaching an additional 600 households. To enhance grassroots response capacity, the National Society also initiated preparations for future Cash Transfer programmes, conducting a self-assessment with support from the Belgian Red Cross Flanders and the IFRC, resulting in a targeted action plan.

Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of Benin undertook significant environmental initiatives, including the planting of thousands of multifunctional trees to combat erosion, improve soil fertility, and support nutrition. These efforts reflect the National Society's commitment to climate adaptation and environmental protection at the community level.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical and financial support to strengthen the National Society's environmental programming and resilience-building efforts.

Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit IFRC GO page: Benin.

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In response to recurring floods, particularly in municipalities like Lalo, the National Society activated emergency mechanisms to assist affected households. It also deployed disaster response teams across all decentralized structures and supported thousands of households with food, non-food items, seeds, and hygiene kits. The National Society further enhanced its preparedness by initiating groundwork for future Cash Transfer programmes through internal assessments and planning.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the launch of an emergency appeal for flood response and contributed to the development of cash preparedness through technical and financial assistance. The Belgian Red Cross Flanders also partnered with the National Society to activate the Crisis Modifier mechanism and support affected communities.

Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of Benin conducted extensive awareness campaigns reaching hundreds of thousands of people on health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). It also facilitated access to health services for vulnerable groups, including children and pregnant women, and maintained vigilance against epidemic-prone diseases and non-communicable conditions.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical and financial support to strengthen health outreach and service delivery, especially in areas affected by climatic and health emergencies.

Volunteer and Youth Training – Ouémé Department (Photo: Benin Red Cross)

Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society responded to displacement caused by insecurity in northern Benin by supporting affected households with essential relief items. It also addressed the humanitarian needs arising from cross-border transhumance and related social tensions.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society's humanitarian response to displacement through financial and technical assistance, ensuring timely and coordinated interventions.

Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of Benin conducted self-assessments across all its branches using the BOCA tool, leading to the development of tailored action plans aimed at strengthening organizational capacity and inclusion. These efforts reflect a commitment to accountability, transparency, and inclusive governance.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC with the **Belgian Red Cross Flanders**, supported the self-assessment process and the formulation of action plans to enhance branch-level performance and inclusivity.

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

The **American Red Cross** is supporting measles campaign in the country through the implementation of the Community Engagement/Social Mobilization for Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign in Couffo and Atlantique Departments (regions).

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

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

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

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

Movement coordination

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

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

External coordination

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

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

National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Throughout 2024, the Red Cross of Benin prioritized strengthening its organizational structure at all levels. This included the regular convening of statutory meetings at the national level, as well as departmental and communal general assemblies. The National Society conducted self-assessments across all decentralized branches using the BOCA tool, resulting in tailored action plans to improve branch performance. It also expanded its local network by gradually establishing new sections in schools, universities, and boroughs to enhance visibility and community engagement. Capacity-building efforts were directed at local governance members to reinforce coordination and good governance. Volunteer development was actively promoted through training initiatives aligned with the volunteering policy. Additionally, the National Society pursued financial sustainability through income-generating activities such as guest house operations and commercial first aid services.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC along with the Swiss Red Cross, provided technical and financial support for the BOCA self-assessment process and the development of branch-level action plans. Support was also extended to strengthen volunteer development and resource mobilization efforts.

Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of Benin demonstrated strong commitment to enhancing its visibility and community presence. It recognized and celebrated the contributions of blood-donating volunteers, reinforcing its values of service and solidarity. The National Society also played a key role in supporting the International Committee of the Red Cross in securing its headquarters agreement in Benin, actively facilitating the process.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC Societies provided technical support to strengthen the National Society's communication and humanitarian diplomacy efforts.

Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of Benin implemented several initiatives to improve accountability and operational agility. These included planning and review workshops, supervision and post-distribution monitoring missions, and the establishment of a digital database for performance indicators. The National Society completed an external audit of its 2023 accounts and published financial statements for the same fiscal year. It also launched a volunteer capacity-building programme and initiated a mid-term evaluation of its Strategic Development Plan. Internal systems for personnel, volunteer, and payroll management were finalized and operationalized to enhance organizational efficiency.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical and financial support to strengthen internal systems, promote transparency, and improve performance monitoring and evaluation.

Q4. AFFECTED PERSONS (PEOPLE REACHED)

See cover pages

Q5. PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

See Strategic Priority on 'Values, power and inclusion' under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q6. RISK MANAGEMENT

This information is not available in Annual Reports

Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

See Strategic Priority on 'Values, power and inclusion' under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q8. LESSONS LEARNED

The Red Cross of Benin's experience in 2024 highlighted several key lessons to guide future interventions. Community mobilization and participatory approaches proved essential for project acceptance and impact. However, challenges such as logistical delays and gaps in coordination among partners underscored the need for improved planning and intersectoral communication. Strengthening volunteer capacity emerged as a priority, given their central role in crisis response. The National Society also recognized the importance of enhancing disaster preparedness and reinforcing safety and security protocols across all levels. Lastly, there is a need to improve mechanisms for ongoing assessment of beneficiary needs to ensure more targeted and resilient programming. These insights will inform the design of future initiatives to better address emerging challenges.

SUCCESS STORIES

1

Empowered by Knowledge: Transforming Community Health and Hygiene in Dogbo

(Excerpt from the comments collected during the focus group with the mothers' club, Dogbo, December 2024).

"There are changes because today, we maintain our houses well and beyond our houses, we have formed this association "ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SWEEPERS ADROWO" of DEVE to contribute to the ownership of the village. We do this work voluntarily. Through this association, we are at the same time setting an example for all the people in the village and everyone is therefore obliged to keep their house clean. Now, before preparing, we wash our hands and also, before going to draw water we wash the jars and canisters properly. Similarly, in terms of breastfeeding children, before, in the village here, all the women already gave water or porridge to the child at 2 or 3 months. But the project has taught us that it is after 6 months that you can give something other than breast milk to a child. We applied it and indeed, we noticed that our children no longer get sick regularly. Finally, before, here in this village, when a woman was pregnant, she only went to the prenatal consultation when she was sick. But through the project, we understood that we would have to go to prenatal consultations every month. Many started doing it. "

ANNEX 1. IFRC APPLICATION OF THE 8+3 REPORTING TEMPLATE

The IFRC network structures its result-based management along five Strategic priorities and four Enabling functions, developed based on the IFRC network's Strategy 2030:

IFRC network Strategic Priorities	IFRC network Enabling Functions
SP 1 - Climate and environment	EF 1- Strategic and operational coordination
SP 2 - Disasters and crises	EF 2 - National Society development
SP 3 - Health and wellbeing	EF 3 - Humanitarian diplomacy
SP 4 - Migration and displacement	EF 4 - Accountability and agility
SP 5 - Values, power and inclusion	

The Federation-wide results matrix provides a standard way for the IFRC network to measure its progress towards Strategy 2030 implementation and supports consistent quality of the IFRC network planning, monitoring and reporting. To further advance coherence in monitoring across the IFRC network, a Federation-wide Indicator Bank has been developed and integrated into the Federation-wide monitoring systems for emergencies and longer-term work, structured along the Federation-wide results matrix as well. Signatory of the Grand Bargain Agreement, the IFRC has committed to its monitoring and reporting standards through integration of the 8+3 reporting template contents into its results-based management approach. The following mapping demonstrate the way in which this report aligns with 8+3 reporting:

8+3 template	IFRC network Annual Report (with variance in structure in red)
Core Questions	
1. Overall Performance	Overall Performance
2. Changes and Amendments	Changes and amendments
3. Measuring Results	Measuring Results
4. Affected Persons	Cover pages with indicators values
5. Participation & AAP	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 5: Values, power and inclusion – Community Engagement and Accountability
6. Risk management	Risk management
7. Exit Strategy and Sustainability	Under Q3 sub-sections by Strategic Priority/Enabling Function where relevant
8. Lessons Learned	Lessons learned
Additional Questions	
1. Value for Money/ Cost Effectiveness	Not included in annual reports
2. Visibility	Not included in annual reports
3. Coordination	Under Q3 Enabling Function 1: Strategic and operational coordination
4. Implementing Partners	Cross-cutting, with a focus on support to localization through the Q3 Enabling Functions 1 to 4
5. Activities or Steps Towards implementation	Cross-cutting in Q3 Strategic Priorities and Enabling Functions
6. Environment	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 1: Climate and environment

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 15 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 31 December 2024. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies.
- **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 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'. Also note that funding requirements are already reflected in the published 2024 IFRC network country plan. The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network has sought 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
- **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) 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

- BJ_Benin AR Financials.pdf
- IFRC network country plans
- Subscribe for updates
- Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) data
- Operational information: IFRC GO platform
- National Society data: IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System
- Evaluations database

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