



SOUTH AFRICA

2024 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec



2 September 2025

IN SUPPORT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RED CROSS SOCIETY



51

National Society
branches



93

National Society
local units



10,700

National Society
volunteers



263

National Society
staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency
Operations



39,513

Climate and
environment



4,584,848

Disasters
and crises



56,542

Health and
wellbeing



2,549,040

Migration and
displacement



49,214

Values, power
and inclusion



8,378

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

The South African Red Cross Society			
Overview		Funding Sources	
Funding	Not reported	IFRC Secretariat	Not reported
Expenditure	Not reported	Participating National Societies	Not reported
		HNS other funding sources	Not reported

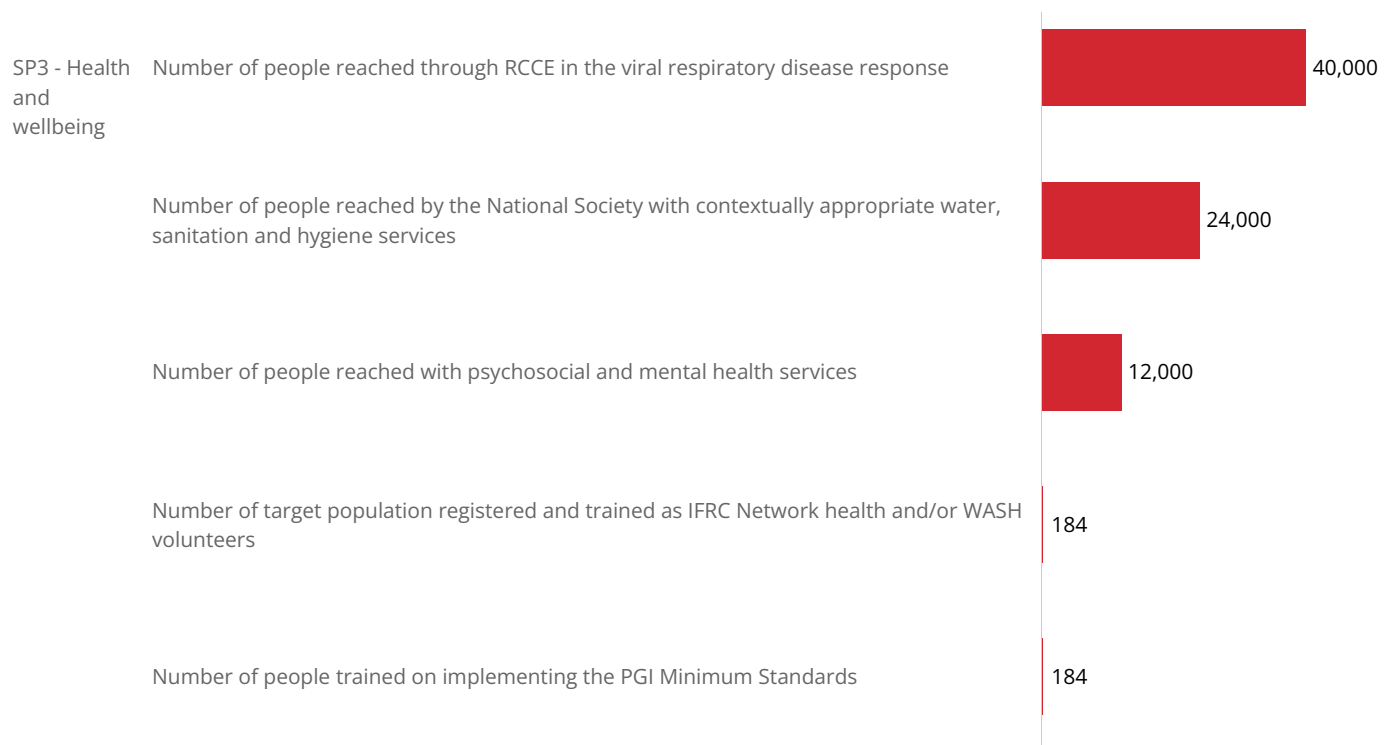
IFRC network			
Country	Funding Requirement		5.7M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term	Funding Requirement	1.5M
		Funding	467,000
		Expenditure	440,000
	Emergency Operations	Funding Requirement	Not reported
		Funding	2M
		Expenditure	1.9M
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement		Not reported
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement		4.2M
	Funding		Not reported

Appeal number **MAAZA003**

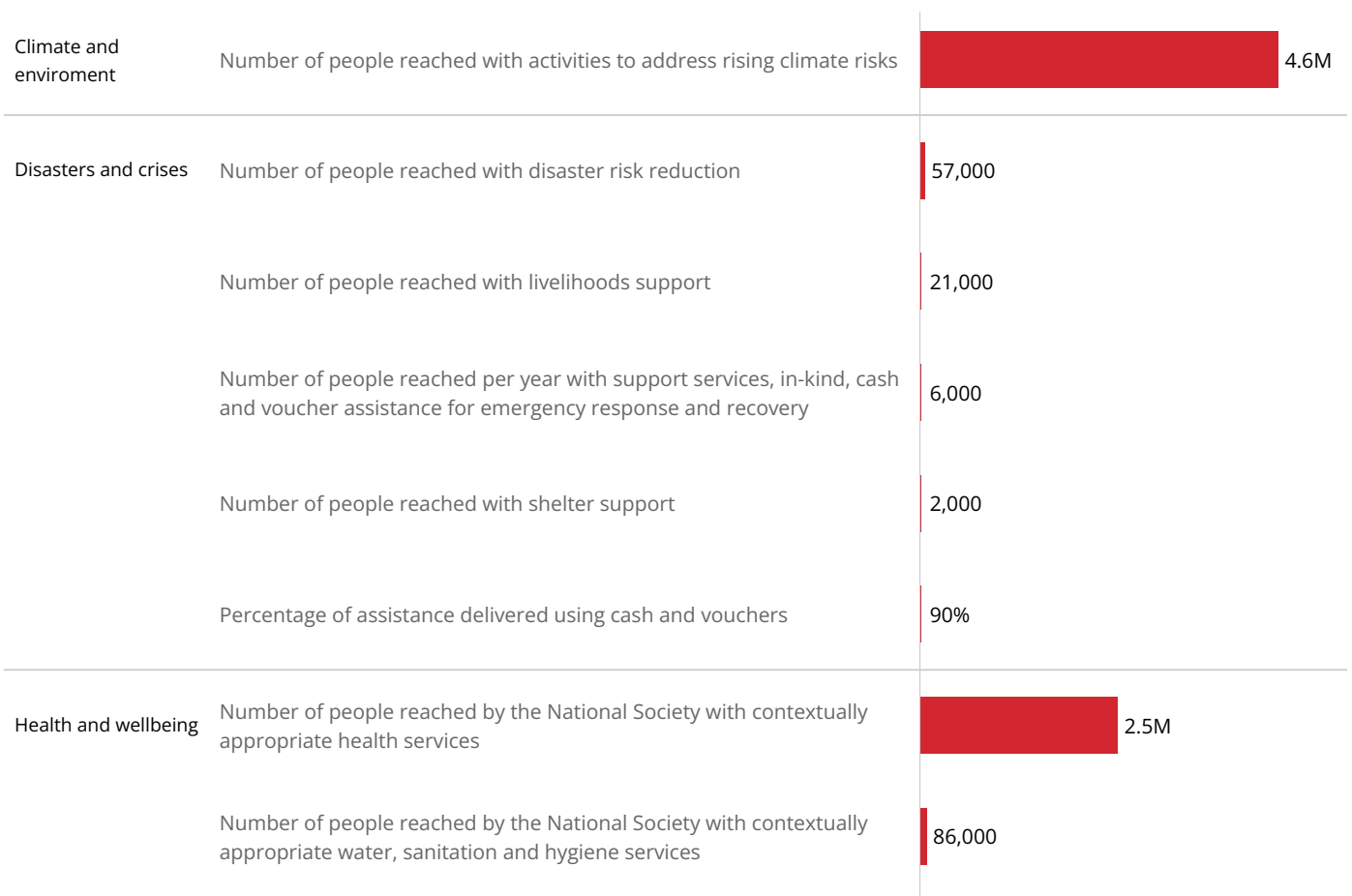
*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRS1003 / Mpox



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



	Number of people reached with psychosocial and mental health services	14,000
	Number of people trained by the National Society in first aid	5,000
Migration and displacement	Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	49,000
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing assistance and/or protection to people on the move along migration routes	2
Values, power and inclusion	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	8,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society's educational programmes	4,000
	Number of people whose access to education is facilitated through National Society's programming	7
	National Society has a Community Engagement and Accountability policy, strategy or plan	Yes

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

National Society development	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

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

In recent years, South Africa continues to experience the devastating effects of climate change, with frequent extreme weather events such as destructive thunderstorms, flooding, wildfires, gale-force winds, and persistent droughts affecting multiple provinces. Regions such as the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Northwest, Mpumalanga, Free State, Limpopo, and KwaZulu-Natal face recurrent flooding and thunderstorms, while Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape, and Western Cape suffer from fires and strong winds. Drought conditions persist in the Eastern Cape and parts of Gauteng, particularly Hamman kraal and the Namakwa region in the Northern Cape. In response to these ongoing crises, the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) plays a critical role in disaster relief and recovery, working across all nine provinces to mitigate the impact of climate-related disasters and provide essential support to affected communities.

The National Society operates through 51 branches, supported by provincial and national offices, to ensure a well-coordinated response in line with its auxiliary role to the government. The organization implements core programs, including Disaster Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Health and Care, Organizational Development, and Volunteer Recruitment and Management. These initiatives focus on disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery, alongside critical services such as health education, water and sanitation, mental health support, and family reunification efforts. The National Society's operations are made possible through partnerships with international and local organizations, including UNICEF, UNDP, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, corporate sponsors, and government departments. With a strong emphasis on risk communication, WASH interventions, psychosocial support, and food security.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

The South African Red Cross Society strengthened its role in climate resilience by implementing early warning systems, disaster preparedness campaigns, and safe shelter education. Ahead of major floods and storm surges, the National Society conducted public awareness activities through door-to-door outreach, community radio, social media, and loudspeakers. These efforts helped communities anticipate and respond to climate-related hazards, while post-disaster interventions provided essential relief and promoted sustainable recovery.

Evolving Disasters and crises

In 2024, the South African Red Cross Society launched three major Disaster Emergency Appeals to respond to severe weather events and fire outbreaks across multiple provinces. Thousands of people received critical support, including food parcels, hygiene kits, blankets, cash vouchers, and psychosocial care. The National Society's rapid and coordinated response reaffirmed its role as a primary responder during emergencies, operating through 51 branches and a network of over 10,000 volunteers.

Health and wellbeing

The National Society continued to deliver essential health services, including psychosocial support, water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions, particularly during disaster responses. These services were integrated into broader humanitarian operations, ensuring that affected individuals received holistic care. The organization also contributed to disease prevention and health promotion through its core programs, reaching millions across all nine provinces.

Migration and Identity

The South African Red Cross Society maintained its commitment to supporting migrants and displaced individuals through Humanitarian Service Points and the Protection of Family Links program. These services ensured safe, neutral access to assistance and helped reconnect separated families. The National Society's inclusive approach promoted dignity and protection for all individuals, regardless of their migration status.

Values, power and inclusion

Community Engagement and Accountability remained central to the National Society’s approach, ensuring that communities were active participants in shaping programs. Through participatory methods, the organization empowered individuals to contribute to disaster preparedness, health promotion, and resilience-building efforts. These inclusive practices helped the South African Red Cross Society reach over five million people in 2024, reinforcing its commitment to humanitarian values and equitable service delivery.

Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

In this reporting period, no changes or amendments were made to the plan

Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO [South Africa](#) 1.

Name	Africa Regional Mpox Epidemic
Appeal number	MDRS1003
Duration	20 August 2024 to 30 June 2025
People affected/At risk	300 million people
People to be assisted	30 million people
Funding requirements	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 30 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 40 million
Emergency Appeal	Africa – Regional Mpox Epidemic
Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Operational Update	Operational Update No. 2

In 2024, Mpox cases and deaths surged significantly in Africa, with over 17,000 cases and 500 deaths reported across 12 countries, marking a sharp increase from 2023. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains the epicentre, contributing 92 per cent of cases, with transmission spreading across all its provinces and into neighbouring Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. Non-endemic countries such as South Africa have also reported cases, while endemic regions, including Nigeria and Côte d’Ivoire, continue to see expanding outbreaks. The emergence of Clades 1a, 1b and 2 in disparate areas highlights the heightened risk, prompting organizations such as the Africa CDC, WHO and the IFRC to declare the outbreak a public emergency. Red Cross Red Crescent Societies are working closely with governments to provide community-based surveillance, risk communication and community engagement and vaccination support to mitigate the spread and reduce mortality.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The regional Mpox emergency appeal aims to assist National Societies in preparing for and responding to the Mpox epidemic. The strategy includes scaling up health and [water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\) services](#), [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) and addressing socio-economic impacts. The operation will be guided by a risk-

based approach and regional coordination, prioritizing preparedness, readiness and response. The South African Red Cross Society will receive support to develop country-specific response plan, enhance community-based advocacy and mitigate the spread of the virus, particularly in areas with imported cases or established transmission. The operation will also target vulnerable populations, including marginalized and immunocompromised groups, with a focus on protection, gender and inclusion. The highlights of the assistance are:

Integrated assistance

Affected people and families are provided with a safety net scheme, including multipurpose cash to meet immediate needs and cover basic necessities while recovering from Mpox infections. Affected people who have lost their livelihoods due to Mpox are aided in reintegrating into the labour market through skills enhancement and diversification.

Health and care, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Affected people are provided with community-based surveillance to detect and actively find suspected Mpox cases, feeding into existing surveillance systems. Clinical care pathways for screening, triage, isolation, testing and assessment are identified through national plans and guidelines, ensuring awareness among clinical facilities. Communities are engaged on Mpox transmission, symptoms and preventive actions. Health services ensure individuals with Mpox symptoms seek care, with support for isolation and referral. Vaccination efforts are supported through community engagement. WASH facilities are improved in health centres, with ongoing hygiene promotion to reduce transmission.

Cross-cutting approaches: the operational strategy integrates community engagement and accountability (CEA) and **protection, gender and inclusion** (PGI) as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities includes the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms. The strategy emphasizes local voice amplification, collaborative engagement and transparent communication, extending into **long-term resilience building** through initiatives such as the IFRC Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative.

For the period 20 August 2024 to 28 October 2024, the following assistance was provided by the South African Red Cross Society:

The South African Red Cross Society focused on volunteer training, community engagement and accountability and public health interventions, focusing on KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. The National Society trained community-based volunteers to support Mpox surveillance, health education and outreach. It reached individuals through community meetings, peer education and targeted engagement. The South African Red Cross Society also conducted rapid qualitative assessments, including focus groups and interviews with diverse stakeholders such as LGBTQ+ individuals, traditional healers and healthcare workers for inclusive interventions. The South African Red Cross Society continued to collaborate with health authorities and community stakeholders to ensure an effective and sustainable Mpox response.



The South African Red Cross is empowering youth and communities in KwaZulu-Natal to combat the Mpox outbreak through education, stigma reduction, and life-saving health outreach. (Photo: South Africa Red Cross Society)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

South Africa continues to face severe climate-related hazards including floods, cyclones, droughts, and uncontrolled fires, disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities. The South African Red Cross Society (National Society) has played a pivotal role in responding to these crises by mobilizing volunteers to integrate response and recovery efforts, saving lives and rebuilding communities.

In planning and implementing climate adaptation initiatives, the National Society carefully considered gender vulnerabilities. Efforts included promoting climate-resilient agriculture, enhancing economic diversification, and strengthening farmers' productive capacity through sustainable practices. These initiatives created opportunities for youth and women, while fostering collaboration between men and women to meet development needs collectively.

Empowerment of communities, staff, and volunteers has been central to climate action. A total of 1,230 volunteers were mobilized for public sensitization activities such as loud hailing, local radio interviews, community forums, and public gatherings. Awareness sessions reached 2,119,209 people (1,124,518 females and 994,691 males) across all nine provinces. To support knowledge dissemination, 3,902 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials were developed, tailored to provincial contexts.

Community-led adaptation efforts were supported through the establishment of climate change working groups and the integration of indigenous knowledge, particularly in environmentally friendly farming practices. Ten food hubs were created to enhance food security through subsistence farming. [Early warning messages](#), disseminated in partnership with the South African Weather Service and other stakeholders, reached over 1,003,210 people. Climate risk management practices addressing thunderstorms, floods, droughts, and cold fronts were integrated into community programs, with 45,210 interventions recorded.

The National Society strengthened partnerships with universities and key stakeholders to enhance capacity and develop strategies for future climate impacts. Mitigation efforts and environmentally sustainable practices were promoted through community engagement, workshops, and strategic collaborations. [Green response strategies](#) were integrated into community interventions, and new partnerships with humanitarian and environmental actors were formed. Addressing gaps in eco-friendly projects and enhancing the inclusion of vulnerable groups in decision-making remain critical areas for improvement.

Pan African Initiative: Tree Planting and Care

The National Society continues to promote tree planting as a green approach to disaster mitigation. Collaborations with local communities, schools, and organizations have fostered ownership of the initiative. During the reporting period, 583 trees were planted across all nine provinces and distributed among community members to encourage home planting. Financial constraints, however, limit the expansion of this initiative despite strong community interest.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided financial and technical support to the National Society.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO South Africa](#)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The South African Red Cross Society has responded effectively to recurring disasters such as floods, thunderstorms,

and fires, delivering timely humanitarian assistance including meals, hygiene items, and cash support to affected individuals. These efforts were reinforced by the reactivation of national and local disaster response teams and close coordination with government departments and international humanitarian organizations.

To sustain its operations, the National Society secured funding from local and international donors, enabling mobile cash disbursements and broader relief coverage. It also advanced legal and operational preparedness by integrating international disaster response laws and humanitarian law into its frameworks, conducting workshops with key stakeholders, and reviewing internal policies to improve emergency response.

Participation in regional and global forums further strengthened its capacity for [anticipatory action](#) and [early warning](#) systems. The organization remains committed to developing early action protocols and enhancing disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation through ongoing training and collaboration with international partners.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided critical financial and technical support to the South African Red Cross Society, facilitating emergency funding approvals and enabling large-scale disaster response operations.

Under the [Pan-African Initiative for Zero Hunger](#), the National Society addressed food insecurity through the distribution of meals, food parcels, and cash vouchers, with support from IFRC and local donors. Despite these efforts, limited resources and stock shortages posed challenges to reaching all those in need, underscoring the importance of increased investment.

Through the Pan-African Initiative for Readiness and Preparedness, the National Society strengthened its legal frameworks, led national workshops, and participated in regional platforms focused on early warning and anticipatory action. These initiatives, supported by IFRC and other partners, have enhanced the organization's ability to respond proactively and build resilience in vulnerable communities.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The South African Red Cross Society continues to strengthen health outcomes and support vulnerable communities through its Health and Care Core Programme. This initiative addresses a broad spectrum of health needs, including infectious and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, mental health, home-based care, early childhood development, and WASH services. As an [auxiliary](#) to the government, the National Society plays a key role in disease prevention through vaccination drives, [health education](#), and outreach, targeting conditions such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, diabetes, and hypertension.

Efforts to improve maternal and child health include prenatal and postnatal care, nutritional support, and infant care education. Youth-focused programs address sexual and reproductive health, mental well-being, and substance abuse prevention. Despite limited resources, the National Society provides Psychological [First Aid](#) and [psychosocial support](#) to individuals affected by trauma and disasters. Through partnerships with national and international stakeholders, it contributes to broader health initiatives and working groups focused on risk communication and community engagement. These collective efforts have reached communities across all nine provinces.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC has provided financial and technical support to the South African Red Cross Society, enabling the implementation and expansion of its Health and Care Programme. This support has been instrumental in reaching vulnerable populations and strengthening the National Society's capacity to deliver essential health services across South Africa.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The South African Red Cross Society continues to play a vital role in restoring family links disrupted by disasters, migration, and humanitarian emergencies. Through service kiosks located along key migration routes and targeted efforts in high-influx border areas, the National Society provides essential services such as phone access, internet, tracing support, and Red Cross Messages. These initiatives have helped reconnect thousands of individuals with their families and referred many to specialized support services.

Awareness campaigns have educated communities on migration-related challenges and available assistance. In Durban and surrounding areas, the National Society has partnered with migration-focused organizations to promote social cohesion between migrants and host communities. A dedicated migration project, funded by the Australian Red Cross, is currently supporting refugee and asylum-seeker households alongside host communities in Limpopo, with a focus on protection and sustainable livelihoods.

The Red Safe Campaign showcased the use of digital platforms to enhance community safety and strengthen the Restoring Family Links program, positioning the National Society as a leader in tech-driven humanitarian services. Ongoing collaboration with national and international partners continues to reinforce its commitment to inclusion, protection, and empowerment of vulnerable populations.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC has provided financial and technical support to the South African Red Cross Society, enabling the expansion of migration-related services and the implementation of targeted humanitarian initiatives. This support has been instrumental in strengthening protection, promoting social inclusion, and enhancing the resilience of both migrant and host communities across South Africa.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The South African Red Cross Society continues to uphold dignity, access, participation, and safety across all its programs, with Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) integrated into every aspect of its operations. This includes awareness on sexual and gender-based violence, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and child safeguarding in both evacuation centers and communities. PGI briefings and feedback mechanisms have been established to support affected individuals and volunteers, including sensitive complaint handling.

In partnership with the Department of Social Development, the National Society provides mental health and psychosocial support and facilitates referrals for protection services. Hygiene kits have been distributed with a focus on women, children, and survivors of gender-based violence. Youth engagement is actively promoted through mentorship and skills development, particularly in climate-resilient agriculture and income-generating activities like vegetable gardening, sewing, and craftwork. Land secured from local chiefs has helped expand these initiatives.

Climate risk mitigation is embedded in project planning, with inclusive participation from women, youth, and people with disabilities. Early warning messages are disseminated through community channels, and indigenous knowledge is incorporated into environmentally friendly farming practices. Forums with duty bearers have been held to strengthen PGI in emergency response, and staff and volunteers across all provinces have received PGI training to ensure inclusive and safe programming.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC has provided financial and technical support to the South African Red Cross Society, enabling the integration of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion across its programs and enhancing its capacity to deliver inclusive, climate-resilient, and community-driven humanitarian services.

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 South African Red Cross Society is 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 South African Red Cross Society does not have in-country presence of any participating National Societies. However, it receives support from the **Australian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross**.

Movement coordination

The South African Red Cross Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) 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's Pretoria Regional Delegation carries out humanitarian activities in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Using innovative tools, its humanitarian action aims to address the humanitarian consequences of armed violence and migration; to support authorities to trace missing persons, to reconnect separated families; to strengthen respect for and compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and international standards of policing; and to improve the capacity of National Red Cross Societies in the region to be first responders to natural and man-made disasters. Through humanitarian diplomacy, the ICRC in Southern Africa builds support for humanitarian action, norms and values amongst policy and decision-makers.

External coordination

In line with its auxiliary role, the South African Red Cross Society collaborates closely with the public authorities. During emergencies, the National Disaster Management Centre coordinates the interventions from all humanitarian agencies, with support from UN agencies, through the Command-and-Control Centre. During episodes of urban violence, the South African Red Cross Society also works closely with the Cooperative of Governance and Traditional Affairs. The South African Red Cross Society partners with the government to build its capacity in climate change adaptation, disaster management and health.

It also partners with UN agencies and other national and international organizations to deliver its programmes and operations. UNICEF supports the National Society in disaster relief and capacity building, while the UNDP supports disaster relief and gender integration programming. Santam supports disaster relief and capacity building across disaster management, [first aid](#) and communications. Old Mutual supports disaster relief and capacity building in the areas of [cash and voucher assistance](#), small, medium and micro-sized enterprises, and life skills. Nedbank collaborates with the National Society to deliver disaster relief and capacity-building for the information management of cash and voucher assistance.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

National Society Development remains central to the South African Red Cross Society's operations, strengthening its structures from branch to national level and enhancing community engagement and accountability. With branches across the country, the South African Red Cross Society continues to improve volunteer recruitment, training, and support, despite financial constraints that limit activities in some areas. The organization maintains a large base of active volunteers and is committed to expanding training and development to ensure effective service delivery.

Youth engagement is a key focus, with peer education initiatives addressing health, social, and humanitarian issues such as substance abuse, gender-based violence, and unemployment. Youth also play a leading role in climate action through clean-up campaigns and environmental awareness activities. The revival of the youth program was marked by the successful hosting of inland and coastal youth camps, which empowered participants through leadership and first aid training.

In a significant milestone, the South African Red Cross Society held its first Annual General Meeting in over a decade, bringing together members and stakeholders to review progress and set future priorities. The event reinforced the organization's commitment to transparent governance, collaboration, and humanitarian excellence.

The South African Red Cross Society continues to strengthen its training programs, which remain a key revenue source, despite challenges such as declining enrollments and financial constraints in some areas. The organization has expanded First Aid and Home-Based Care training to schools, corporates, and the mining sector, while pursuing broader accreditation to improve accessibility and quality. Accredited by HWSETA and QCTO, the National Society is working to extend its scope to include additional health and safety programs, with several branches undergoing renovations to meet compliance standards. A major opportunity through the Services Sector Education and Training Authority has enabled large-scale learner engagement, while blended learning initiatives and instructor training have further enhanced capacity. The National Society also continues to lead policy advocacy in health, disaster management, and youth development, despite setbacks such as the postponement of its National Technical Training Committee meeting. To safeguard the integrity of its certification process, the organization is implementing a Quality Management System and QR code verification to combat rising cases of fraud. These efforts reflect the National Society's commitment to excellence in workforce development and its role as a leading provider of accredited humanitarian training in South Africa.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The South African Red Cross Society has strengthened its auxiliary role and strategic communications to better engage with communities, government, and humanitarian partners. Through the Plan of Action for Preparedness for Effective Response, the National Society resumed disaster law and policy dialogues, secured pre-disaster agreements, and reinforced its humanitarian diplomacy efforts. Active participation in regional and intergovernmental forums, including those hosted by the United Nations and the Pan-African Parliament, has elevated its recognition among key stakeholders. Domestically, the National Society continues to be viewed as a neutral and trusted provider of health services, psychosocial support, and Restoring Family Links, with the expansion of Humanitarian Service Points further enhancing safe access to essential services.

In parallel, the South African Red Cross Society has significantly expanded its digital presence to strengthen engagement with youth, communities, and donors. Platforms like TikTok and Instagram have been used to connect with younger audiences, while localized campaigns promote disaster preparedness and health awareness. Donor engagement has been enhanced through storytelling, newsletters, and real-time updates, supported by a revamped website featuring improved navigation and a donor portal. High-impact campaigns and advanced analytics have positioned the National Society as a leader in digital humanitarian outreach, driving broader support for its mission.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC has provided financial and technical support to the South African Red Cross Society, enabling the advancement of its strategic communications, humanitarian diplomacy, and digital engagement efforts. This support has helped the National Society strengthen its visibility, credibility, and impact across South Africa and the broader region.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The South African Red Cross Society continues to strengthen accountability, agility, and operational efficiency across its branches nationwide. In human resources, the organization has enhanced safeguarding, promoted gender inclusion, and prioritized staff development. Financial management has been improved through transparent budgeting, independent donor reporting, and strict adherence to procurement procedures, while integrity and risk management policies have been reinforced to prevent fraud and mismanagement. The Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting unit has been strengthened to support results-based management, with new tools developed to track progress against strategic indicators.

Digital transformation remains a priority, with investments in infrastructure and data literacy enabling more efficient, data-driven humanitarian services. Secure storage systems have been implemented to protect organizational records, and technology is being used to improve financial documentation and donor verification. Innovation is actively encouraged through leadership and strategic partnerships, fostering adaptability and local problem-solving. These efforts have positioned the National Society as a reliable and transparent partner, committed to continuous improvement and sustainable impact.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC has provided financial and technical support to the South African Red Cross Society.

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 Priorities or Enabling Local Actors, where relevant under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q8. LESSONS LEARNED

- The South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) plans to strengthen partnerships with other humanitarian organizations, government agencies, and international bodies. Collaborative efforts will enhance resource sharing, coordination, and the implementation of best practices in shelter management and risk mitigation. Additionally,

SARCS will actively involve the community in planning and implementing shelter guidelines. Community input is essential for understanding the specific needs and challenges of different groups, especially vulnerable populations like children and adolescents. This participatory approach will lead to the development of more effective and relevant guidelines

- NS actively engaged key stakeholders, partners, and technical working groups to strengthen early warning systems and ensure a coordinated response. Collaboration with the South African Weather Service and [Climate Centre](#) ensures continuous hazard monitoring and timely dissemination of warnings to at-risk communities
- Partnered with schools, community organisations to Organise events such as community clean-up and tree-planting campaigns to foster hands-on learning. These clubs serve as platforms to nurture environmentally conscious leaders of tomorrow

SUCCESS STORIES



1

Relief for Stranded Families Amid Heavy Snowfall

SARCS provided critical humanitarian assistance to individuals stranded due to heavy snowfall along the N3 in Mooi River, KwaZulu-Natal. Responding swiftly to the emergency, SARCS teams distributed warm blankets and served hot meals to those affected by the extreme weather conditions. Stranded travelers, including families and truck drivers, received much-needed relief as temperatures dropped significantly. Volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure comfort and support, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable individuals such as children and the elderly. The intervention not only provided immediate aid but also reinforced SARCS's commitment to disaster response and community support.

<https://youtu.be/Bnh2lZlOk2Y?si=Pi3ZopQlcn2yEg-3>



2

Humanitarian Aid Delivered to Fire-Displaced Patients

On 25 July 2024, as part of its humanitarian relief efforts, SARCS Free State province, in partnership with the Old Mutual Foundation, donated blankets and essential supplies to patients at Bloemfontein National District Hospital. This initiative followed a devastating fire on 7 July 2024, which forced the evacuation of 83 admitted patients. They were relocated to various health facilities across Mangaung Metropolitan, including Universitas Academic Hospital, Pelonomi Tertiary Hospital, Botshabelo District Hospital, JS Moroka Hospital, 3 Military Hospital, MUCCP, and the UAH Annex Oncology Department.





3

Collaboration for Youth Empowerment in KwaZulu-Natal

SARCS KZN, in collaboration with SNARS and the Department of Education (DOE), organized a Girls' Talk session aimed at addressing critical challenges faced by young girls. The session provided a safe and interactive platform for open discussions, empowerment, and awareness-building. Key topics included teenage pregnancy, peer pressure, and the dangers of drug and substance abuse. Expert facilitators engaged participants in meaningful conversations, offering guidance, prevention strategies, and support resources. The initiative emphasized the importance of informed decision-making and resilience among young girls. Through this program, SARCS KZN reaffirmed its commitment to youth development and community well-being.

4

Strengthening Accountability Through 2024 AGM

The SARCS held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June 2024 after eleven years, marking a pivotal step in revitalizing its governance. Hosted at the Birchwood Hotel, the in-person event brought together members, stakeholders, and leadership to review achievements and set future priorities. Key highlights included presentations on operational successes, financial updates, strategic discussions, and interactive Q&A sessions. The AGM concluded with an Awards and Gala Dinner, reinforcing SARCS's commitment to humanitarian excellence, collaboration, and transparent governance.



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

- [ZA_South Africa 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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