



# LESOTHO

2024 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec



4 September 2025

## IN SUPPORT OF THE LESOTHO RED CROSS SOCIETY



10

National Society  
branches



105

National Society  
local units



62

National Society  
volunteers



900

National Society  
staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency  
Operations



11,592

Climate and  
environment



11,762

Disasters  
and crises



27,375

Health and  
wellbeing



7,739

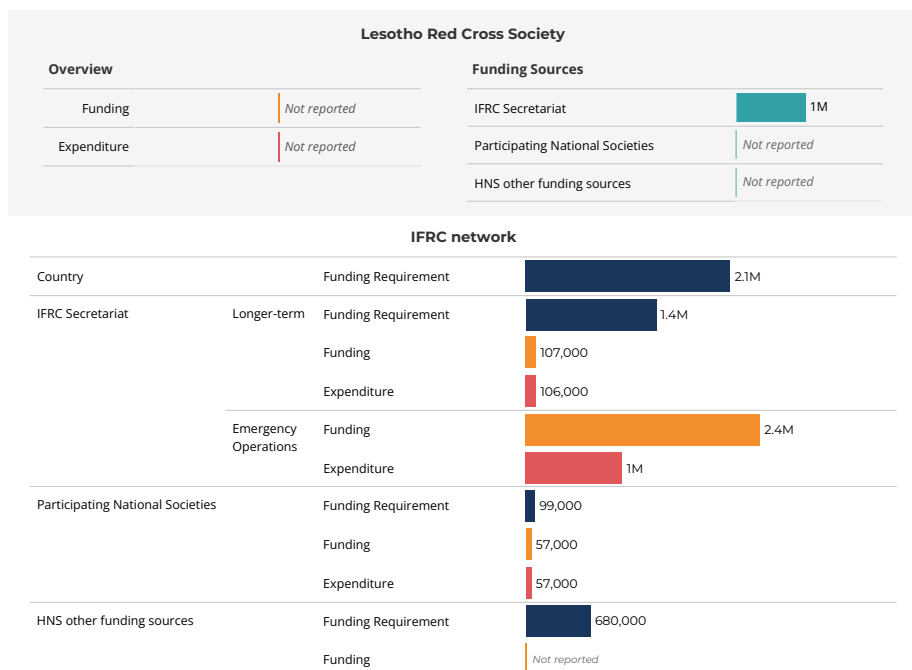
Values, power  
and inclusion



129,494

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)



Appeal number **MAALS003**

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

## ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

|                                   |                                                                                                                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| EF4 - Accountability and agility  | National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors      | Yes    |
| SP2 - Disasters and crises        | Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction                                                                             | 12,000 |
|                                   | Number of people reached with livelihoods support                                                                                 | 9,000  |
|                                   | Number of people reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery | 5,000  |
| SP3 - Health and wellbeing        | Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services             | 12,000 |
| SP5 - Values, power and inclusion | Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming                                                          | 12,000 |
|                                   | National Society has a Community Engagement and Accountability policy, strategy or plan                                           | Yes    |

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

|                             |                                                                                                                                                    |                    |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Climate and environment     | Number of people reached with activities to address rising climate risks                                                                           | <div></div> 12,000 |
|                             | Number of people reached with activities to address environmental problems                                                                         | <div></div> 4,000  |
|                             | 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 with disaster risk reduction                                                                                              | <div></div> 27,000 |
|                             | Number of people reached with livelihoods support                                                                                                  | <div></div> 14,000 |
|                             | Number of people reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery                  | <div></div> 1,000  |
|                             | Number of people reached with shelter support                                                                                                      | <div></div> 432    |
| Health and wellbeing        | Number of people reached with psychosocial and mental health services                                                                              | <div></div> 8,000  |
|                             | Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services                              | <div></div> 5,000  |
|                             | Number of people trained by the National Society in first aid                                                                                      | <div></div> 2,000  |
| Values, power and inclusion | Number of people reached by the National Society's educational programmes                                                                          | <div></div> 3,000  |
|                             | Number of people whose access to education is facilitated through National Society's programming                                                   | <div></div> 401    |

## 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 |
| British Red Cross | 47,000            |                        |                      |                      |                            |                             |                    |
| Monaco Red Cross  | 10,000            |                        |                      |                      |                            |                             |                    |

Total Funding Reported **CHF 57,000**

# Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

## Context

In 2024, Lesotho faced a complex and challenging landscape that significantly impacted humanitarian response in the country. The country, predominantly rural and heavily reliant on agriculture, encountered severe challenges related to livelihoods, climate, and food security. Erratic weather patterns, including prolonged dry spells and persistent heatwaves, critically affected agricultural productivity, resulting in decreased crop yields and limited pasture availability for livestock. As a consequence, vulnerable households across Lesotho experienced heightened food insecurity, with many struggling to access adequate and nutritious diets.

The situation was further exacerbated by pre-existing socio-economic vulnerabilities, including high poverty rates, limited access to resources, and persistent unemployment. Ongoing challenges related to infrastructure, market access, and the availability and affordability of agricultural inputs compounded these difficulties. The lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic strained already limited resources, adding further obstacles to food security and the sustainability of livelihoods.

According to the Lesotho Meteorological Services, the period from January to March 2024 witnessed exceptionally high temperatures, leading to widespread crop dryness and exacerbating ongoing crop failures. This climatic distress contributed to soaring food prices, forcing 41 per cent of rural families to allocate over half their income to food expenses. Approximately 325,000 individuals—around 22 per cent of the population—were identified as experiencing food insecurity, with eight out of ten districts classified under IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). The districts of Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Thaba Tseka, and Leribe were particularly hard-hit, necessitating urgent interventions and support.

Despite efforts by the government and humanitarian organizations to provide assistance to affected communities, the situation remained precarious, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive and sustainable interventions aimed at addressing the root causes of vulnerability and enhancing resilience to future shocks. The below-normal harvests and increased reliance on markets drove up maize prices during the main harvest season, with many households relying on market purchases earlier than usual due to significant crop losses.

Looking ahead, forecasts indicated a normal start to the 2024/25 agricultural season, with expectations of timely rainfall and seasonal agricultural labour opportunities for land preparation and planting. However, anticipated below-normal wage rates due to increased competition for labour and lower liquidity among middle and better-off households posed challenges for poorer households seeking to engage in casual labour for income to purchase staples.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

In 2024, the Lesotho Red Cross Society implemented a range of climate resilience and disaster preparedness initiatives, including a climate change and early warning systems workshop in partnership with the Ministry of Forestry. The National Society engaged volunteers in community-wide cleaning campaigns and conducted awareness-raising activities to address environmental degradation and climate risks. Additionally, the National Society trained District Disaster Management Teams on drought-based Forecast-Based Financing and facilitated local dialogue platforms for enhanced disaster risk management. The National Society also provided essential support to vulnerable communities through clothing and hygiene packs for infants and launched a cash transfer program to help households impacted by the Storm Surge in Maseru and Quthing. These efforts promoted community resilience, enhanced preparedness, and supported families in regaining stability after the disaster.

### Disasters and crises

In response to multiple emergencies, including storms and fires, the Lesotho Red Cross Society coordinated closely with the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) to provide cash transfers, psychosocial support, and emergency relief to hundreds of affected households. Progress was made in strengthening disaster management capacity, including

the establishment of the National Society Disaster Management Committee and the training of Village Disaster Management Teams under the Forecast-Based Financing Project. The National Society also launched a targeted cash transfer program following the Storm Surge in Maseru and Quthing and provided essential supplies after storms and fires. Through collaboration with government and humanitarian agencies, it ensured timely recovery and promoted resilient housing construction. Additionally, the Lesotho Red Cross Society developed an [Early Action Protocol](#) for droughts and is working on one for extreme cold events to enhance preparedness and response to future climate-related shocks.

### **Health and wellbeing**

In this reporting period, the Lesotho Red Cross Society expanded mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)), provided Psychological First Aid to affected households and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. It introduced tippy taps to promote handwashing and collaborated with partners on water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) and food safety education. The National Society also addressed child protection, nutrition, and menstrual health by distributing sanitary pads and dignity packs. It installed new water points in Botha-Bothe and educated students on water conservation to improve health resilience.

### **Migration and displacement**

In this reporting period, the Lesotho Red Cross Society conducted capacity building exercises for its staff on migration and restoring family links ([RFL](#)). This training has not only enhanced their understanding of migration issues but has also strengthened their skills in managing RFL-sensitive data and utilizing secure communication channels to protect the safety and privacy of beneficiaries. This capacity-building initiative is crucial for enabling the National Society to effectively implement Migration and RFL programs in response to the increasing needs within the country.

### **Values, power and inclusion**

In this reporting period, the National Society's interventions under health and wellbeing, disasters and crises were conducted with the inclusion of various protection needs to ensure a safer and more inclusive environment. Distribution of hygiene kits, mental health and psychosocial support to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) survivors, awareness raising campaigns in schools, child protection knowledge dissemination for parents, are some of the cross-cutting interventions that highlight the National Society's priorities.

### **Enabling local actors**

The Lesotho Red Cross Society has made progress in strengthening its governance and operational systems through divisional meetings, induction workshops, and youth engagement initiatives. These efforts aim to enhance understanding of governance and strategic goals, as well as encourage youth leadership and participation. Outreach initiatives have also been undertaken to address membership challenges, including revitalizing old memberships and recruiting new volunteers, further expanding the National Society's presence in the community. Additionally, visits to existing branches and efforts to establish new ones are enhancing the operational health and structure of the National Society.

At the advocacy level, the Lesotho Red Cross Society actively participates in technical working groups and engages with local governance structures, fostering collaboration with government ministries and implementing partners. It has also increased its national visibility through seminars, press conferences, and media presence. In line with accountability and safeguarding principles, the National Society is investing in talent development for staff and volunteers. As part of its [digital transformation](#), the Lesotho Red Cross Society is integrating the Emergency Preparedness and Response system to streamline operations, though challenges remain in fully utilizing data management and digital literacy initiatives.

## **Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS**

The Lesotho Red Cross Society faced significant resource constraints that necessitated strategic modifications. Limited financial and human resources restricted both the geographic reach and the depth of programmatic interventions initially envisioned. Consequently, certain activities particularly in remote and vulnerable districts were scaled down or reprioritized to ensure that essential support reached the most critically affected populations.

These constraints also led to adjustments in timelines, reductions in scope and a focused prioritization of high-impact activities to safeguard the achievement of key humanitarian objectives.

## Q2. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on IFRC emergencies, visit IFRC GO page: [Lesotho](#).

|                                  |                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Emergency Operation              | <a href="#">Lesotho   Drought-induced Food insecurity</a>                                                   |
| Appeal number                    | <a href="#">MDRLS008</a>                                                                                    |
| People to be assisted            | 87,381                                                                                                      |
| Duration                         | 06 September 2024 to 30 November 2025                                                                       |
| Funding requirements             | IFRC Secretariat funding requirements: CHF 5 million<br>Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 7 million |
| Link to Emergency Appeal         | <a href="#">Lesotho Drought-induced Food insecurity Emergency Appeal</a>                                    |
| Link to Operational Strategy     | <a href="#">Lesotho Drought-induced Food insecurity operational strategy</a>                                |
| Link to latest Operations Update | <a href="#">Operations Update No.4</a>                                                                      |

Lesotho’s mountainous terrain and high altitude make it highly susceptible to extreme weather events, which have intensified in recent years due to recurring El Niño and La Niña patterns. These climatic disruptions have led to severe droughts, floods, hailstorms, and cold waves, significantly impacting agriculture, food security, and public health. The 2021–2023 rainy seasons brought excessive rainfall, damaging crops and stored food supplies, while livestock diseases like Blue Tongue further strained rural livelihoods. As a result, many vulnerable households resorted to negative coping strategies, such as selling productive assets to survive.

From 2023 to mid-2025, Lesotho faced a prolonged drought and heatwaves, prompting a national emergency declaration in July 2024. Compounding the situation, tropical cyclones and unseasonal snowfall disrupted planting cycles and killed livestock, especially in highland districts. The winter of 2025 brought repeated cold waves and heavy snow, causing human casualties, infrastructure damage, and further livestock losses. Despite forecasts of normal rainfall, the cumulative impact of these events continues to threaten agricultural productivity and community resilience.

The Lesotho Red Cross Society initially supported the response through a DREF allocation of CHF 711,203 to assist 12,500 people who were affected by drought in the areas of Maseru, Mochale's Hoek, Qacha's Nek, Quthing, triggered by intense heatwaves. The National Society assisted the targeted people assistance such as livelihood and basic needs support, multipurpose cash assistance, health and hygiene, WASH interventions, and CEA. Later, an IFRC Emergency Appeal was launched in September 2024 to enable an expansion of the National Society's response.

#### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The ongoing food insecurity crisis has forced many families to resort to negative coping mechanisms to ensure their survival. According to recent reports, 49 per cent of households have resorted to negative coping strategies in response to food shortages. The National Society prioritised interventions on food security through the distribution of seeds and cash distributions targeting 2,500 vulnerable households. In addition, complementary activities included WASH and PGI, while training sessions on climate smart agriculture and food preservation were also prioritised.

The interventions under this emergency appeal included:

**Multi-purpose cash:** Providing multi-purpose cash to affected communities for immediate relief and for the improvement of food security.

**Food security and livelihood:** Distribution of vegetable seed packages, fruit tree seedlings, summer seed packages, winter seed packages. Farmers were trained in climate-smart agriculture and food preservation techniques.

**Health and care:** Four nutrition campaigns were conducted with the government-led nutrition, food security and breast-feeding campaigns in two districts reaching 11 592 people.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene:** Water sources recommended for rehabilitation across the affected districts. Affected people were reached with WASH campaigns and it was integrated into lead farmers training and farm input distributions.

**Protection, gender and inclusion:** Conducted community validation meetings to ensure transparency and address grievances. Affected people were reached with PGI messages during cash and farm input distributions. Lead farmers were trained on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and who will further support farmers in their respective locations.

**Community engagement and accountability:** Conducted awareness sessions, community meetings and community feedback as part of promoting active engagement and accountability. National Society toll free number was used to disseminate information and also as a channel of reporting grievances related to drought operation. Group discussions were conducted on climate smart agriculture, food preservation, psychosocial support and Red Cross Red Crescent movement.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

During this reporting period, the Lesotho Red Cross Society implemented a range of training programmes aimed at climate risk reduction, community engagement, and behavioural change for climate adaptation. Volunteers and community leaders received knowledge and practical skills to respond to climatic threats, with particular emphasis on [anticipatory action](#) and early warning systems. The National Society conducted capacity-building sessions on [Forecast-Based Financing](#).

The Lesotho Red Cross Society engaged in active advocacy and policy influence, working closely with governmental stakeholders and other humanitarian partners to integrate climate risk management into all levels of operational planning and execution.

The [IFRC Pan-African Initiative](#) on Tree Planting and Care was effectively rolled out, contributing to national efforts to combat environmental degradation and enhance climate resilience. Community-driven tree planting campaigns, with strong involvement from volunteers and local stakeholders, played a key role in supporting national reforestation goals.

In addition, the National Society undertook strategic community-based initiatives to promote sustainable environmental practices. These included environmental awareness campaigns that focused on reducing plastic usage, encouraging tree planting, supporting restoration activities and promoting clean-up drives across communities.

#### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the Lesotho Red Cross Society in its efforts under climate and environment, which consists of raising awareness on climate change impact in communities, capacity building of staff and volunteers, community-led climate actions, among others. It supports the National Society to promote participatory community-

led solutions to address challenges, improve behaviours and promote climate action.



## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on IFRC emergencies, visit IFRC GO [Lesotho](#).

In 2024, an IFRC disaster response emergency fund ([DREF](#)) was activated for storm surge in Lesotho.

1.

|                                |                                                    |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>       | Lesotho Storm Surge                                |
| <b>MDR-CODE</b>                | <a href="#">MDRLS007</a>                           |
| <b>DURATION</b>                | Four months (17 January 2024 to 31 May 2024)       |
| <b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>      | CHF 71,435                                         |
| <b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>         | 2,400 people                                       |
| <b>DREF OPERATION DOCUMENT</b> | <a href="#">Lesotho Storm Surge DREF operation</a> |

The DREF allocation of CHF 71,435 in January 2024 supported the Lesotho Red Cross Society to assist 770 people who were affected by heavy rains and storms in the areas of Berea, Leribe, Maseru, Mokhotlong, Quthing, and Thaba Tseka. The National Society supported the targeted people over a four-month period with assistance such as shelter, multipurpose cash assistance, provision of mental health assistance, WASH, and PGI services.

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

During this reporting period, the Lesotho Red Cross Society responded to multiple emergencies including storms and fires by coordinating closely with the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) to deliver cash transfers, [psychosocial support](#) and emergency relief to hundreds of affected households across various regions. The National Society strengthened its internal disaster management capacity, in alignment with the DMA Act and the National Response Plan. A key milestone was the establishment of the Lesotho Red Cross Society's Disaster Management Committee, which now oversees the development, implementation and maintenance of the National Society's Disaster Management Programme. This programme outlines procedures for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in emergency situations.

During this reporting period, the Lesotho Red Cross Society also strengthened knowledge exchange and management on early action and anticipatory approaches through active participation in platforms such as the Anticipation Hub and the Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action. Annual readiness activities and refresher trainings were conducted under the drought [Early Action Protocol](#). The National Society also facilitated engagement in Forecast-Based Financing events at local, national and regional levels to promote awareness and advocacy around [anticipatory action](#). In response operations, the National Society scaled up the use of cash assistance across multiple sectors, enhancing flexibility and impact. The National Society also conducted targeted training and capacity-building initiatives for Village Disaster Management Teams (VDMT) under the Forecast-Based Financing project. VDMT members across various districts also received instruction in disaster response and community planning.

The Lesotho Red Cross Society maintained strong collaboration with the Government of Lesotho, the DMA and other humanitarian partners to ensure coordinated disaster response efforts. Following a severe storm that damaged numerous households, the National Society led verification and registration of affected families, provided psychosocial support and distributed cash transfers. Essential supplies including mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits and food were delivered to impacted communities. In response to multiple fire incidents, the National Society provided emergency shelter materials, food, hygiene kits, clothing, kitchen utensils, and psychosocial support. Fire-damaged homes also received agricultural tools to support livelihood restoration.

Additionally, the Lesotho Red Cross Society assessed storm-affected households in various areas and distributed hygiene packs to vulnerable families. In one instance, the National Society supported an elderly man whose shack was destroyed by fire, coordinating with the DMA and other organizations to deliver essential items and extend aid to other fire-affected community members.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC support to the Lesotho Red Cross Society in this reporting period consisted of identifying risks and response system gaps, supporting timely review and process of IFRC disaster response emergency fund ([DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeal requests, providing assistance through technical assessments of the disaster management ecosystem in the country, supporting the roll out of mandatory briefings on protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) in emergencies and supporting the development/refinement of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) referral systems.



## Health and wellbeing

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Lesotho Red Cross Society has made progress in scaling up mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)), focusing on raising community awareness and providing timely interventions for those in need, particularly during emergencies and for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The National Society has prioritized immediate emotional support, such as providing Psychological First Aid to affected households and conducting team-building initiatives for health staff and military personnel to ensure service providers are also attentive to their mental health needs.

In its efforts to reduce illness, death, and public health impacts, the Lesotho Red Cross Society has implemented various initiatives aimed at enhancing community health resilience. The introduction of tippy taps promotes handwashing, a critical practice in preventing the spread of diseases. Collaborating with District Child Protection Teams and Catholic Relief Services, the Lesotho Red Cross Society has conducted educational sessions on water, sanitation, hygiene ([WASH](#)), and food safety for caregivers and children, helping to prevent waterborne diseases and ensuring a healthy environment for children's growth and development. Furthermore, the National Society continues to emphasize the importance of public health services such as HIV/AIDS awareness and [first aid](#) training.

The Lesotho Red Cross Society is also actively engaged in child protection and well-being initiatives, focusing on WASH and food hygiene practices to minimize illness risks among children. Collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Society addresses child protection concerns by educating parents on nutrition, vaccinations, and referral pathways to ensure children's well-being.

Additionally, the National Society has taken proactive measures to support menstrual health and dignity, particularly for vulnerable girls. Initiatives such as distributing sanitary pads and providing dignity packs have significantly improved menstrual hygiene, thereby reducing absenteeism in schools.

The Lesotho Red Cross Society has significantly scaled up the provision of mental health and psychosocial support, particularly for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Since the beginning of the year, over 150 individuals have benefited from psychological first aid, receiving timely and compassionate care through targeted interventions developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Capacity-building initiatives were undertaken to enhance health promotion, prevention, curative and rehabilitation services. Health care workers, village health workers and health committees received targeted training on key health initiatives to improve service delivery at the community level.

The National Society has engaged students in educational programmes focused on water conservation practices. These efforts promote safer water usage, particularly in drought-prone areas, and empower young people to adopt sustainable habits that contribute to their community's overall health and resilience.

To ensure preparedness and effective response to health emergencies including mental health impacts of disasters, epidemics and pandemics, the National Society procured essential drugs and supplies. It also built and maintained multi-hazard readiness, including first aid, emergency medical services and medical countermeasures for epidemic response. During emergencies, the National Society responded effectively to mental health and psychosocial needs

through early, sustained and integrated service provision.

The National Society strengthened primary health care services by community resilience activities such as health promotion, community-based surveillance, support for immunization campaigns, water and sanitation initiatives and disaster risk reduction.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical support to the National Society in the implementation of the community health projects and resource mobilization to expand the scope of the health promotion projects. It also supported the National Society contributing towards the agenda for renewal, especially the Pan-African initiatives such as the Saving Lives and Livelihoods and Community Health Worker Programme. The National Society supported health teams to develop specific procedures and map referrals for comprehensive and holistic care for survivors of SGBV, including clinical management of sexual abuse, clinical response and protective care, referrals and procedures.



## Migration and displacement

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In this reporting period, the Lesotho Red Cross Society conducted capacity building exercises for its staff on migration and restoring family links (RFL). This training has not only enhanced their understanding of migration issues but has also strengthened their skills in managing RFL-sensitive data and utilizing secure communication channels to protect the safety and privacy of beneficiaries. This capacity-building initiative is crucial for enabling the National Society to effectively implement Migration and RFL programmes in response to the increasing needs within the country.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides support to the Lesotho Red Cross Society in its migration and displacement initiatives. This involves strengthening of capacity around migration, advocacy efforts, or catering to the various service needs of migrants through assessments.

The ICRC provides support to the Lesotho Red Cross Society through the restoring family links (RFL) programme.



National Society volunteers planting trees at a local primary school in Ha-Ramabanta, Lesotho. (Photo: IFRC)



## Values, power and inclusion

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Lesotho Red Cross Society empowers individuals and communities vulnerable to and affected by crises to influence decisions that impact their lives. This is achieved by integrating community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) and protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) commitments into guidance, tools, and operational plans at various levels, including country, clusters, and regional frameworks. To increase reach, PGI is mainstreamed across the National Society's work through recap trainings of [PGI minimum standards](#) for all the projects. All service providers working closely with children are given the child safeguarding policy and code of conduct to abide with.

In this reporting period, the National Society's interventions under health and wellbeing, disasters and crises were conducted with the inclusion of various protection needs to ensure a safer and more inclusive environment. Distribution of hygiene kits, mental health and psychosocial support to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) survivors, awareness raising campaigns in schools, addressing issues such as child marriage during emergencies, child protection knowledge dissemination for parents, are some of the cross-cutting interventions that highlight the National Society's priorities.

The Lesotho Red Cross Society, through its Lars Amundsen Foundation project, is addressing the educational needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children. The project provides vital support by assisting with the purchase of school uniforms, books, and covering school fees, ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder these children's access to quality education.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides support to the Lesotho Red Cross Society in its values, power and inclusion interventions.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

#### IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

#### Movement coordination

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

The ICRC, through its Pretoria regional delegation, monitors the humanitarian situation in the region, promotes international humanitarian law, restores contact between family members separated by conflict and helps National Societies enhance their emergency response capabilities.

## External coordination

In line with its auxiliary role, the Lesotho Red Cross Society collaborates closely with authorities at national level. These include the Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education and Training, Department of Traffic, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water Affairs and Ministry of Communication. At district level, it works alongside the district administration, disaster management team, district health management team and district child protection team. At community level, it works with councils and chiefs, Ministry of Agriculture extension workers, and village health workers.

As part of the national disaster management mechanisms in Lesotho, the Lesotho Red Cross Society is typically a first responder and also supports with initial rapid assessments when a disaster strikes. It designs its own humanitarian response based on assessments, in close coordination with the authorities.

The Lesotho Red Cross Society also collaborates with a range of international and local actors. These include UN agencies comprising the World Food Programme, the UN Development Programme, UNICEF, UNESCO, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, and UN Population Fund. International and national non-governmental actors and civil society organizations include the Lesotho Council of NGOs, Lesotho Network of People living with HIV and AIDS, Partners In Health, Johns Hopkins Programme for International Education in Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Lesotho Network of AIDS Services Organization, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and World Vision Lesotho.



## National Society development

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Lesotho Red Cross Society has made significant strides in strengthening its governance and operational systems through various initiatives. Divisional meetings and induction workshops have been conducted to enhance the understanding of governance, operational procedures, and strategic goals among branch and divisional committee members. These workshops are essential for familiarizing committee members with their roles and responsibilities within the National Society.

Youth engagement has been a focal point, exemplified by successful Annual General Meetings that facilitate the election of new leadership and provide platforms for youth members to refresh their knowledge of the National Society's history and activities. Reports on previous activities are shared, and resolutions are made to guide future youth initiatives, thus enhancing youth leadership and participation in governance.

To address membership challenges, outreach efforts have been undertaken to revive old memberships and recruit new members for various branches. These initiatives have generated increased interest in volunteering for the Lesotho Red Cross Society, contributing to the National Society's expansion and visibility within the community.

Efforts to establish new branches and revitalize existing ones are also underway, further strengthening the overall structure of the National Society. Branch visits aim to enhance operational health, ensuring that all branches remain integral to the National Society's activities.

In addition, strategic meetings with local governance structures have reinforced the relationship between the Lesotho Red Cross Society and community leaders, enhancing operational efficiency and response capacity at various levels.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides both financial and technical support to the Lesotho Red Cross Society in its National Society development initiatives, which consists of development and implement strategies and tools, capacity building, establishing new systems, among others. IFRC funding mechanisms such as the IFRC-ICRC National Society Investment Alliance ([NSIA](#)), the IFRC Capacity Building Fund ([CBE](#)) and the Empress Shoken Fund are utilized for National Society development objectives.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Lesotho Red Cross Society actively upholds its advocacy roles at the district level through its 10 divisional offices. This commitment is demonstrated by robust participation in various technical working groups, fostering collaboration with government ministries, and engaging with various implementing partners. At the national level, the Lesotho Red Cross Society's technical and management teams have represented the National Society in numerous seminars and dialogue platforms, both nationally and regionally. These engagements have facilitated the sharing of knowledge and best practices, enhancing the National Society's visibility and influence in humanitarian discussions.

Additionally, the Lesotho Red Cross Society has commemorated Red Cross days, conducted press conferences and maintained a significant media presence across multiple platforms, further strengthening public trust and awareness of its critical role and activities. The National Society continues to develop targeted materials and advocacy resources aimed at engaging a wide range of audiences, including policymakers, donors, volunteers and the general public.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides support to the Lesotho Red Cross Society in effectively advocating with relevant authorities for increasing its visibility and highlighting its humanitarian interventions in Lesotho. The IFRC supports the National Society in also ensuring that the National Society is the first responder in humanitarian emergencies in the country.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In the realm of policy and guidelines, Lesotho Red Cross Society continues to adhere to its policies for structured execution of its day-to-day activities. In alignment with accountability and safeguarding principles, the Lesotho Red Cross Society is actively engaged in talent development initiatives. This includes offering tailored development programmes that encompass training opportunities for key staff and volunteers.

In the area of digital transformation, the Lesotho Red Cross Society is in the process of integrating the Emergency Preparedness and Response system, housed within the Finance department. This integration aims to link internal systems, facilitating more efficient and transparent day-to-day operations, thereby contributing to the National Society's overall digital maturity. However, a gap remains in fully utilizing data management and digital literacy initiatives, which are essential for optimizing data-driven humanitarian services and ensuring effective access to infrastructure.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides support to the National Society in its efforts to enhance accountability and agility within overall systems and processes. This consists of supporting the National Society in the development of relevant strategies and tools, raising awareness and capacity on components such as digital transformation, and strengthening the management system of the National 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

A key lesson learned was the integration of Forecast-Based Financing (FbF) and anticipatory action planning at the community level, which enabled timely mobilization of response mechanisms ahead of predictable hazards. The training of Village Disaster Management Teams, along with simulation exercises, significantly enhanced local-level readiness and was positively received by both communities and stakeholders. However, the process also highlighted challenges in sustaining preparedness systems between emergency cycles. Limited resources for refresher training pose a risk to maintaining momentum and institutional memory. Additionally, while digital tools such as the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) system show promise, their potential remains underutilized due to gaps in digital literacy and infrastructure across the country.

A key lesson learned is the importance of continuous engagement and localized capacity-building, even during non-crisis periods, to ensure sustained preparedness. Moving forward, the Lesotho Red Cross Society plans to integrate refresher training into its annual preparedness cycles and expand digital literacy initiatives to support the effective rollout and use of systems like EPR.

Improved coordination between national-level planning and community-level implementation will also be prioritized. This includes establishing routine monitoring mechanisms and feedback loops to inform adaptive programming. The National Society recognized the need to strengthen the link between early warning data and community decision-making and intends to invest in simplified, community-based early warning tools to enhance local responsiveness.

## SUCCESS STORIES



1

### A Second Chance

Mr. Lefu, a 49-year-old resident of Ha Sekhonyane in the Makoabating council, has faced immense hardship in recent years. For the past five years, he has been jobless after a tragic accident in Cape Town where his lower hand was amputated by a machine. Despite the challenges, he is deeply grateful for the cash assistance of 1,500 LSL, which he received as part of the Lesotho Red Cross Society and IFRC-supported drought emergency appeal. This support has brought him a renewed sense of hope and relief.

2

### Bangladesh Flood

Tseleng Lenka, a 23-year-old third-year student at the National University of Lesotho, is pursuing a degree in Sociology and Public Administration. Growing up without parents, he faced numerous challenges, particularly during his high school years. At one point, he feared that his dream of furthering education would remain unfulfilled due to lack of financial support. However, thanks to the Red Cross, he was able to continue studies, receive school fees, books and uniforms, and ultimately progress to university.

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### 3

#### **Path to Safety and Care**

In the remote village of Qacha's Nek, the Safeguarding Team discovered a girl living in extreme neglect. With her mother working in South Africa, the girl had no one to care for her, making her situation dire.

Recognizing the urgent need for intervention, the Safeguarding Team acted swiftly, taking the girl to the Ministry of Social Development. After an assessment, it was confirmed that she was eligible for a social welfare grant, which would provide essential financial support for her basic needs. The team worked to identify a responsible guardian who could offer the care and protection the girl needed.

# 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)                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Core Questions</b>                         |                                                                                                      |
| 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                                                                                      |
| <b>Additional Questions</b>                   |                                                                                                      |
| 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

- [LS Lesotho AR Financials.pdf](#) (Note: This financial report link will be fed upon the completion of the audit. For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see [MDRLS007](#))
- [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](#)

## Contact information

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### Lesotho Red Cross Society

[redcross.org.ls](https://redcross.org.ls)

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