



# ETHIOPIA

## 2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



31 December 2025

### In support of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society



**170**

National Society branches



**222**

National Society local units



**2,218**

National Society staff



**48,000**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



**1M**

Ongoing emergency operations



**429,000**

Climate and environment



**635,000**

Disasters and crises



**2.6M**

Health and wellbeing



**944,000**

Migration and displacement



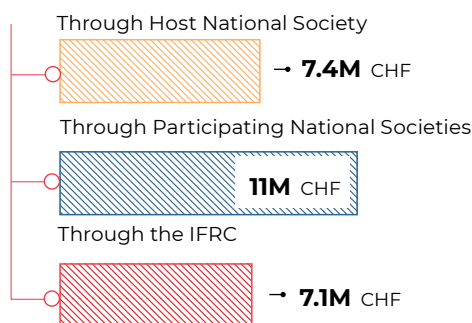
**1.6M**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

**2026**

**Total 25.5M CHF**



**2027**

**Total 4.2M CHF**

**2028**

**1.5M CHF**

Projected funding requirements

### Participating National Societies

- Australian Red Cross\*
- Austrian Red Cross
- British Red Cross
- Canadian Red Cross
- Danish Red Cross
- Finnish Red Cross
- German Red Cross
- Italian Red Cross
- The Netherlands Red Cross
- Norwegian Red Cross
- Swedish Red Cross\*
- Swiss Red Cross

\*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in 2025.

### IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeals:

**MDRET036**

Ethiopia Landslides and Floods

**MDRS1001 (MDRET030)**

Sudan Crisis Regional Population Movement

Longer-term needs:

**MAAET003**

## Hazards



Floods



Landslides



Population movement



Drought



Disease outbreaks

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Emergency response

- Landslides and floods
- Population movement

### Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and resilience
  - Migration and displacement
- Community-based health and WASH

### Capacity development

- Branch development
- Financial sustainability
- Systems development

## Key country data links

**INFORM Severity rating**

**Very High**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index**

**Very High**

**Human Development Index rank**

**180**

**World Bank Population figure**

**132.1M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line**

**33%**



Volunteers from the Ethiopian Red Cross Society distributing non-food items to migrants fleeing from the Sudan crisis across the border (Photo: Ethiopian Red Cross Society)

# Detailed funding requirements

2026

	Host National Society	IFRC
<b>Ongoing emergencies</b>		NA <i>Funding requirements for MDRS1001 (MDRET030) and MDRET036 are not available</i>
<b>Longer-term needs</b>		
Climate and environment	157,000	657,000
Disasters & crises	1.5M	3.8M
Health & wellbeing	4.5M	1.4M
Migration & displacement	400,000	1.1M
Values, power & inclusion	263,000	10,000
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	550,000	153,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.4M</b>	<b>7.1M</b>

## Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Austrian Red Cross	2026	3.2M	3.2M	700,000	1.5M	675,000	50,000	150,000	90,000
	2027	1.9M	1.9M	200,000	863,000	675,000	25,000	100,000	
	2028	400,000	400,000	200,000				200,000	
British Red Cross	2026	113,000	113,000						-
	2027	113,000	113,000						
	2028	113,000	113,000						
Canadian Red Cross Society	2026	100,000				100,000			
Danish Red Cross	2026	2.6M	2.2M	-	-	-	-		
Finnish Red Cross	2026	2.1M		-	1.5M	600,000		-	-
	2027	1.6M			1M	600,000			
	2028	700,000				700,000			
German Red Cross	2026	650,000			650,000				
Italian Red Cross	2026				-				
Netherlands Red Cross	2026	1.5M		579,000	-	-		-	877,000
	2027	628,000		579,000					49,000
	2028	337,000		337,000					
Norwegian Red Cross	2026	809,000	809,000		-	-			
Swiss Red Cross	2026				-	-			

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Ethiopian Red Cross Society** is one of the leading humanitarian organizations in Ethiopia with a wide network of branches throughout the country. Established in 1935, the Ethiopian Red Cross has a structure consisting of 12 regional offices, 36 zonal branches, 132 districts (woreda) branches, and more than 5000 committees (Kebele Red Cross Committees) at the grass roots level. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1950.

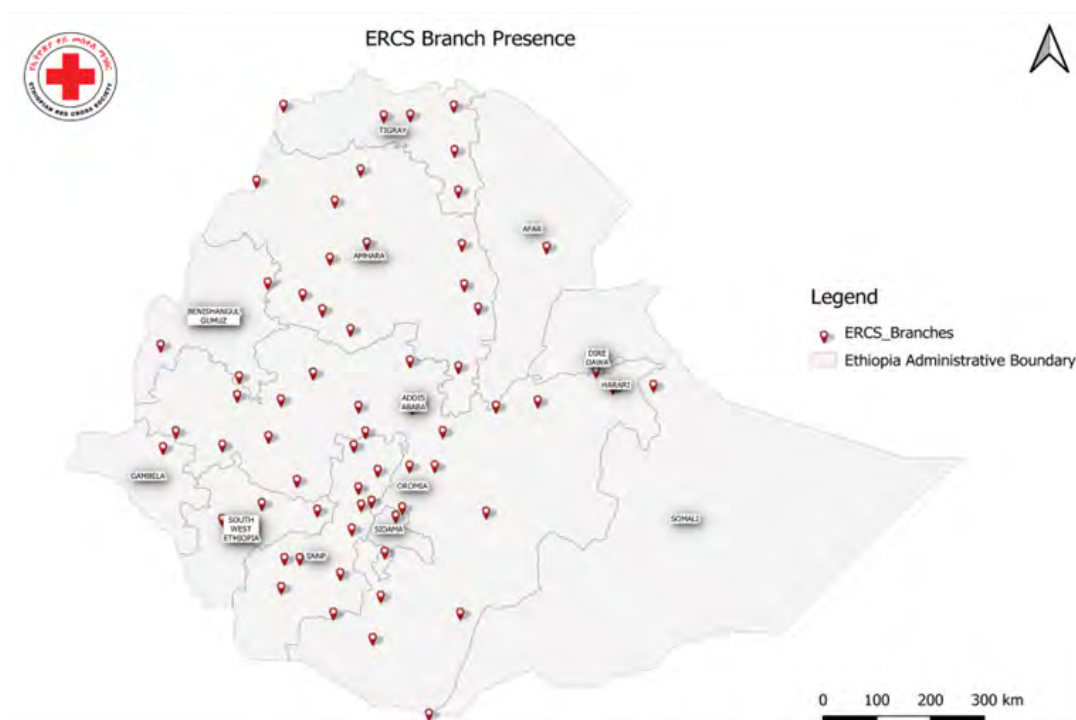
The Ethiopian Red Cross Society's extensive network enables it to reach vulnerable populations such as communities in highly remote areas who are not served by other humanitarian actors.

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society has a mandate to actively engage in disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities aligned to the Government of Ethiopia's development plans and national priorities. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society has a productive working relationship with the Federal Government and its network across the country ensures timely and efficient delivery of humanitarian services in coordination with public authorities. It is also a major provider of pre-hospital care services within the country, with a fleet of 562 ambulances.

In June 2025, the National Society officially launched its new five-year Strategic Plan (2025–2030), a comprehensive roadmap aimed at strengthening institutional resilience, operational excellence and long-term humanitarian impact. The Strategic Plan aligns closely with Ethiopia's National Development Agenda, the IFRC Strategy 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The plan articulates the following eight strategic priorities:

- Disaster preparedness and response
- Disaster risk reduction and community resilience
- Health and wellbeing
- Volunteer membership and youth engagement and management
- Humanitarian diplomacy and communications
- Partnership development and management
- Institutional and leadership transformation
- Resource development, mobilization and utilization

In 2024, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society reached about one million people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of Ethiopian Red Cross Society branches

*The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities*

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Ethiopia's strategic location in the Horn of Africa, near the Middle East, establishes it as a critical hub for trade and migration. Although landlocked, it relies on Djibouti's port for international trade. Ethiopia serves as the second-largest migration host in Africa, functioning as a country of origin, transit and destination for migrants. Covering 1,104,300 square kilometres, Ethiopia is bordered by Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Kenya. Its varied climate ranges from humid rainforests in the south to arid zones in the north and east, featuring three primary climatic zones. Ethiopia supplies over 80 per cent of the Nile's water, with the construction of the [Renaissance Dam](#) posing potential conflict risks with downstream nations.

With a population of approximately [126.5 million in 2023](#), Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous country after Nigeria, experiencing an annual growth rate of [2.6 per cent](#). Projections indicate the population could reach 139.6 million by 2030 and 190.8 million by 2050. Despite [economic growth](#)—marked by a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$95.5 billion in 2019 and an annual growth rate of 8.4 per cent over the past decade—poverty remains a pressing issue. The country has set a goal to attain [lower-middle-income status](#) by 2025 with its population projected to reach 139.6 million by 2030 and 190.8 million by 2050.

In 2025, Ethiopia is confronting multi-dimensional pressure on its [food security](#) and persistent climate shocks have severely impacted the nation's agricultural productivity, leaving over twenty million citizens facing [acute food insecurity](#) due to Ethiopia's heavy reliance on rain-fed farming. Concurrently, conflicts like the displacement of approximately twenty million people from Tigray and unrest in Amhara and Oromia have destroyed livelihoods in rural regions, necessitating food aid for millions of Ethiopians. Meanwhile, on the economic front, inflation has surged toward twenty-five percent by the middle of 2025, propelled by currency devaluation against international currencies, global cost increases, and supply disruptions. This high inflation environment, combined with substantial debt such as a one-billion-euro Eurobond maturing in 2024, is straining government budgets and limiting public investments. Proposed reforms like property and value-added taxes have evoked social responses requiring delicate negotiations to restore macroeconomic stability amid these compounding difficulties.

Currently, Ethiopia endures a [severe humanitarian crisis](#) marked by armed conflict, intercommunal violence, climate hazards, disease outbreaks and economic decline. Approximately 21.4 million people, including 12 million children, urgently require humanitarian assistance for services in water, sanitation and health (WASH), nutrition, education and social protection. As of June 2024, [8.32 million children](#) remain out of school, with the highest numbers in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray. Ongoing conflicts between armed groups and the Ethiopian National Defence Force have disrupted market supplies and access to services.

# ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

1.

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Sudan Regional Population Movement
<b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>	MDRS1001 (MDRET030)
<b>People affected</b>	People affected/at risk: 5.4 million people
<b>People to be assisted</b>	1.3 million people
<b>Duration</b>	31 months (30 May 2023 to 31 December 2025). Discussions ongoing to extend operation beyond 31 December 2025)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 38 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 47.5 million
<b>Link to Revised Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Sudan Crisis   Regional Population Movement</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Revised Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Link to Operational update</b>	<a href="#">Operational Update No. 5</a>
<b>Link to Country Response Plan</b>	<a href="#">Ethiopia NS Response Plan</a>

The conflict in Sudan, which began on 15 April 2023 still persists, causing the world's largest displacement crisis with 3.5 million people fleeing to neighbouring countries; by December 2024, arrivals included 1.2 million in Egypt, 931,846 in Chad, 933,971 in South Sudan, 210,000 in Libya, 160,284 in Ethiopia, 61,693 in Uganda and 42,951 in Central African Republic. Refugees, asylum seekers and returnees endure perilous journeys, often selling assets to pay for transport, while host countries face political instability, insecurity and natural hazards such as floods, worsening vulnerabilities. Chad, CAR and South Sudan rank among the lowest in the 2022 Human Development Index and CAR, Chad, Ethiopia, Libya and South Sudan have fragile health systems, risking overstretched services and worsening food insecurity and malnutrition. Despite repeated international mediation efforts, ceasefire negotiations have failed, and fighting continued through 2025, with risk of expansion into Blue Nile and White Nile states driving further displacement.

## Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through this Emergency Appeal the IFRC aims to support Ethiopian Red Cross Society in the response to the impact of the conflict in Sudan, where more than 177,124 people are fleeing the Sudan Conflict since April 2023, through the Metema (West Gondar) and Kumruk (Benishangul Gumuz) border points. Of the total arrivals, 59 per cent were Sudanese refugees, 14 per cent were refugees of other nationalities, and 27 per cent were Ethiopian returnees. In the Ahmara Region, the initial reception sites at Kumer and Awlala were later evacuated to a new site at Aftit Kebele due to insecurity and attacks.

The strategy of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society is to provide humanitarian assistance to 150,000 people affected, following the increased influx and stressed resources within the host communities. The current planned interventions focus on recovery and resilient building activities including sustainable access to safe water through constructions, rehabilitations and installation of extension lines for community and health facilities, public sanitation structures at the new refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, livelihood strengthening, skill trainings and business start pack support for returnees and prepare them for reintegration and graduation from donor dependency. Meanwhile, the National Society will continue to assess the situation and commit to extend the Humanitarian services while managing risks, ensure protection, dignity and accountability to affected population.

The highlights of the assistance are:

### Migration and displacement

Humanitarian Service Points will be maintained and mobile, while being equipped with relevant furniture and equipment. Information will be provided about contexts, rights, and services available such as phone call services to establish contacts.

### Shelter, housing and settlements

Targeted communities are reached with shelter kits, including mats, buckets, tarpaulins, soaps, blankets and mosquito nets.

### Multi-purpose cash

A rapid market assessment (RAM) to determine transfer modality is conducted, alongside the development of

Agreement and contract service providers (MOU). Encashment to targeted returnees will be followed with a post-distribution monitoring.

### Livelihoods

Refugee households will be provided with general food supply alongside assistance with the development of skills for livelihood entrepreneurship to reduce food security and increase income.

### Health and care

Conduct basic first aid and Emergency Medical Services and procure ambulances to support transport and referral in the refugees and returnees' camps

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

Affected people are supported through access to safe water and distribution of integrated Health and WASH packages. Environmental sanitation promotional activities will also be carried out bimonthly such as latrine cleaning, drainage, vector control, and solid waste removal in communities to influence behaviour change.

### 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 include the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms.

2.

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	<a href="#">Landslides and Flood Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>	<a href="#">MDRET036</a>
<b>People to be assisted</b>	23,682
<b>Duration</b>	29 months (30 July 2024 to 31 December 2026)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 3.5 million Total Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 6 million
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Ethiopia: Landslides and Flood emergency appeal</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Link to latest Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">Operational update no. 2</a>

Heavy rains on 21-22 July 2024 triggered landslides in southern Ethiopia, causing 2,364 confirmed deaths and leaving 13 survivors, marking Ethiopia's deadliest landslide. The rugged terrain has hindered rescue efforts, with community volunteers digging by hand. Subsequent landslides killed rescuers and emergency personnel, worsening the toll. Over 15,000 people are impacted, with immediate evacuation needs for more than 5,600 at high risk of further landslides. Concurrent severe weather in Gurage Zone affected 1,200 households, with farmland and infrastructure damaged, heightening the region's food insecurity and disease risks, including malaria and measles outbreaks. The IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal for CHF 6 million to support Ethiopian Red Cross Society to aid 25,500 people through emergency response.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The operation combines emergency relief, recovery and resilience-building to support affected communities. During the initial phase, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society provides shelter, food, water, sanitation, emergency health services and mental health and psychosocial support to families, emphasizing community and gender inclusion. In the recovery phase, it focuses on transitional shelters, water rehabilitation, disaster risk reduction and livelihood support. The National Society has engaged in extensive search and rescue, distributing emergency supplies and strengthening temporary shelters in high-risk zones. In collaboration with government and partners, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society plans to relocate vulnerable families, support sustainable livelihoods, provide food and enhance healthcare, while addressing climate risks and promoting resilience through training, community involvement and environmental conservation initiatives. The highlights of the assistance are as follows:

## Shelter, housing and settlements

Distribution and replenishment of shelter household items such as kitchen sets, blankets, nets, solar lamps, mattresses for both windstorm and landslide affected communities to meet the. Provision of training to community members in safe shelter construction. Distribution of shelter kits to facilitate the construction/strengthening of temporary shelters.

## Livelihoods

Farm inputs, including seeds and fertilizers, were provided to rain-fed seasonal farmers, while youth received skills training and starter kits tailored to assessed needs. Households received livestock, supported by animal health services, including treatment and vaccination.

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

Distribute long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets to high-risk households and supply first aid kits to ambulance and community services. Provide water treatment chemicals, along with water storage equipment, including jerrycans, buckets and wash basins. Install water storage tanks at and distribute household hygiene materials, including body soap, laundry soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes and provide dignity kits with reusable sanitary pads and personal items to women and girls.

## 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.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

Ethiopia is highly vulnerable to climate change. The changing conditions are significantly impacting water, agriculture, infrastructure, forestry, and public health. Increasing occurrences of droughts and water scarcity threaten food security, fuel resource-based conflicts, and drive displacement. Climate-related challenges, including environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, hinder development and poverty reduction, underscoring the urgent need for sustainable adaptation and resilience strategies.

Projections indicate that climate change could reduce Ethiopia's GDP by up to 10 per cent by 2045 with much of the decline attributed to drought-driven reductions in agricultural productivity. Past events have shown that major droughts alone have caused GDP losses ranging from 1 per cent to 4 per cent, while soil erosion resulting from intense rainfall is estimated to reduce GDP by an additional 1 per cent. These figures underscore the urgent need for climate resilience strategies, investment in sustainable infrastructure, and diversified economic development pathways to reduce the nation's vulnerability.

Between June to September 2025, over 14 million people in Ethiopia were estimate to face Emergency-level (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity. This crisis is driven by conflict, drought, flooding, and economic instability, severely impacting food access and production. Regions like Afar, Tigray, Amhara,

and Oromia are especially affected, with many relying on humanitarian aid. Urgent and expanded assistance is needed to prevent worsening food insecurity and rising mortality.

As of 2025, around 15.8 million people in Ethiopia needed food aid, including 5.5 million facing severe food insecurity 1.7 million of whom are internally displaced people and over 1 million are refugees. Conflict, climate disasters, and economic shocks have disrupted food access and production, challenging the World Food Programme's efforts to deliver timely assistance.

Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse food insecurity persists in conflict- and drought-affected areas of the country, where the Meher harvest only partially offsets food shortages due to reduced income and limited livestock. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes were expected in remote Tigray by early 2025, where poor and displaced households face severe shortages and limited coping options.

Additionally, flooding from heavy rains in the primary rainy season continues to displace tens of thousands across Ethiopia.

## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In today's risk-prone and interconnected world, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and community resilience are essential pillars for sustainable development and effective humanitarian response. For the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, this priority signals a strategic transition to proactive risk mitigation,

capacity building, and inclusive, community-led development. To achieve this ambition, the National Society has identified the following objectives under this priority:

- Empower communities to anticipate, absorb, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses, including those resulting from climate change, natural hazards, conflict, displacement, and economic instability
- Protect lives and livelihoods, promote peaceful coexistence, and build long-term resilience through targeted, scalable, and locally driven interventions
- Contribute to climate change mitigation and environmental restoration through [nature-based solutions](#)
- Enhance [livelihoods](#) and economic opportunities for vulnerable communities, including youth

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Train individuals in agriculture, livestock, and business management, followed by support for livelihood rebuilding

- Deliver community mobilization training for community development groups and health extension workers
- Establish and strengthen [early warning early action](#) systems
- Train households in [climate-smart agricultural practices](#) and provide drought-resistant pasture support to households

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in addressing climate change and socio-economic challenges through community-focused Nature-based Solutions (NbS). This includes promoting climate-smart agriculture, sustainable livelihoods, and the [Pan-African Tree Planting and Care initiative](#) to restore land and water sources. By training staff and fostering partnerships, IFRC will assist the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in implementing environmentally friendly programmes that strengthen food security and resilience.



## Disasters and crises

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

The humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia continues at a rapid pace. A combination of extreme climate events such as severe droughts and floods alongside ongoing conflict, economic instability, and outbreaks of pests and disease, has significantly disrupted agricultural production. These factors have led to widespread crop failures and livestock losses, deepening food insecurity nationwide. With approximately [80 per cent of the population relying on agriculture](#) for their livelihoods, the impact is especially severe on rural communities.

The [Famine Early Warning Systems Network](#) reports that weather shocks, conflict, and failed seasonal rains have left millions in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse, particularly in Tigray, Afar, Somali, Amhara, and Oromia. An estimated [15.8 million people](#) are experiencing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above), and 4.6 million women and children are suffering from acute malnutrition. Additionally, 4.4 million people are internally displaced due to conflict and climate-related disasters.

Ethiopia also faces increasing climate-related disasters like landslides, flooding, and earthquakes, threatening public health and infrastructure. More than 87,000 people in Afar and Oromia have [been evacuated to safer locations](#) following a surge in seismic activity linked to magma movement in the Fentale

volcanic complex in the Main Ethiopian Rift. The increased activity, which began in late December 2024, triggered a rise in earthquakes near the Dofen and Fentale volcanoes and led to the emergence of steam vents releasing gases and steam. Fearing the instability of infrastructure and a potential volcanic eruption, local authorities swiftly evacuated nearby populations. The earthquakes caused significant damage to homes, health centres, schools, and roads.

Most evacuees are pastoralists or agro-pastoralists whose livelihoods depend on livestock. Evacuating pastoralist communities is particularly challenging due to their [concerns about abandoning their livestock](#), which are vital to their livelihoods, as well as the potential disruption of their communal connections. In some cases, heads of households are behind to care for their property. Movement continues, and all sites are still receiving internally displaced persons.

### Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society is a key first responder to the multiple emergencies affecting the country and provides multi-faceted assistance to people affected. It is well equipped to respond to disaster situations. It has a roster of national disaster response team members and branch disaster response teams' presence across the country. Its objectives include:

- Deliver timely humanitarian responses to affected communities and strengthen early recovery in disaster-affected communities
- Integrate local knowledge with innovative technologies and empower communities to better anticipate, prepare for, and respond to disasters
- Adopt a proactive and collaborative approach to disaster preparedness and response through [community-based early warning systems](#)
- Lead national [anticipatory action](#) initiatives in collaboration with other organizations, fostering the exchange of resources, expertise, and best practices to strengthen community resilience
- Establish a comprehensive [disaster preparedness and response](#) framework that not only addresses immediate humanitarian needs but also supports long-term resilience-building
- Implement and support [early warning and early action](#) initiatives with at-risk communities in both urban and rural contexts
- Implement [cash transfers](#) for households, distribute multi-purpose assistance to those in need

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's goal of enhancing early action and preparedness by strengthening its capacity in cash preparedness, rapid response, and scalable [Cash and Voucher Assistance](#) (CVA). This includes support for anticipatory action, contingency and response planning, and business continuity. By improving systems and tools, the IFRC will assist the National Society in timely delivery and multi-sector humanitarian assistance based on rapid and seasonal assessments. The collaboration will aim to reduce disaster impacts, support early recovery, and boost community resilience through effective cash and [livelihood programmes](#).

IFRC mechanisms such as the [Disaster Response Emergency Fund](#) (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will continue to be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2025, the IFRC provided DREF allocations for a [landslide](#), [cholera outbreak](#), and [drought](#) emergencies.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Form or strengthen Branch Disaster Response Teams in zonal branches for rapid assessments
- Extend the Emergency Operations Centre to regional branches



## Health and wellbeing

Ethiopia is currently experiencing a [severe public health crisis](#) compounded by a critical supply chain disruption of essential healthcare commodities, disproportionately impacting vulnerable groups such as women and children. This shortage threatens the availability of vital medical supplies for managing outbreaks of cholera, malaria, measles, severe malnutrition, mental health conditions, skin diseases, and laboratory diagnostics. The ongoing civil unrest in regions like Amhara and Oromia further limits humanitarian aid, worsening the crisis. Without urgent interventions to stabilize supply chains, increase funding, and enhance coordination, preventable morbidity and mortality rates are expected to rise sharply.

Currently [Ethiopia](#) is under an ongoing cholera outbreak which started in late 2022. In the past four years, Ethiopia reported 60,299 cholera cases and 778 deaths, resulting in a case fatality rate of 1.29 per cent. Cholera outbreaks have affected multiple regions and woredas (districts) across Ethiopia, including Oromia, Somali, Amhara, Central Ethiopia, South Ethiopia, Dire Dawa, Benishangul-Gumuz, Sidama, and Tigray. Oromia remains the hardest hit.

Malaria also [remains endemic](#) with more than 10 million reported cases. Hindered by vaccine shortages and insecurity, Measles too continues to severely affect populations, tallying over 30,000 cases and [240 deaths](#) since early 2024. The [emergence of Mpox](#), with 24 cases and one infant death since May 2025, adds complexity to the disease burden, triggering expanded surveillance efforts.

Malnutrition is a critical aggravating factor. Climate change, conflict, and economic challenges have driven severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admissions up 13 per cent, with an alarming 31 per cent Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate among children aged 6-59 months. It further strains health services in Oromia, Amhara, Somali, and other regions. Regions like Gambella and Benishangul Gumuz report emergency-level malnutrition, with increasing treatment failures and mortality. Severe funding shortfalls have halted nutrition treatment for 650,000 women and children, leaving over one million at risk of losing access to therapeutic food.

A significant underlying challenge is inadequate access to clean water. Nearly one-third of rural water schemes are non-functional, severely limiting safe water availability crucial to preventing disease transmission and supporting hygiene coordinated, adequately funded, and well-logistics-supported humanitarian interventions, Ethiopia faces a looming escalation in preventable deaths and prolonged health system collapse.

### Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society plays a significant role in the health sector, with activities spanning community-based health and first aid, pre-hospital care, primary healthcare and water, sanitation and hygiene services. The Ethiopian Red Cross Society has a fleet of 566 ambulances that are strategically located to respond to emergencies. Additionally, the National Society has a functional network of 83 pharmacies and drug outlets across 11 regions, offering thousands of people medicines at affordable prices.

The National Society's objectives are:

- Ensure equitable access to lifesaving and life-sustaining health services for vulnerable populations through the integration of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions
- Remain committed to expanding health service delivery, enhancing health education, and strengthening disease prevention and emergency medical systems
- Adopt innovative technologies and evidence-based approaches that enhance service quality and ensure responsiveness to the evolving needs of communities

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Improve access to safe water and sanitation facilities for all, especially vulnerable populations
- Operationalize ambulances and conduct first aid training for local leaders
- Continue to provide drugs and medical equipment to health facilities and equip health facilities with advanced medical machinery such as laboratory machines and ultrasound units
- Provide sanitary materials to individuals and deliver emergency water supplies to households in need
- Run hygiene awareness campaigns and leverage the celebration of major events such as World Handwashing Day

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide critical technical and financial support to help the National Society achieve its health and wellbeing goals and deliver effective humanitarian services. This includes mobilizing resources, offering tailored technical assistance, and strengthening systems for emergency preparedness and sustainable development. Through training, mentoring, and capacity-building, the IFRC aims to enhance the National Society's resilience, operational effectiveness, and self-reliance, ensuring alignment with global humanitarian standards.



The Ethiopian Red Cross Society constructed water facilities to reduce water-borne diseases. (Photo: IFRC)



Ethiopia, the third-largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, is home to over 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers as of April 2025. A large portion of Ethiopia's refugee population are children, many of whom, if given no access to education, face the danger of being left behind, missing out on essential learning, skill building, and future opportunities. Education plays a vital protective role, shielding young refugees from risks like exploitation and early marriage. It also lays the foundation for long-term stability, independence, and stronger ties between refugees and host communities.

Ethiopia continues to face a severe displacement crisis, with an estimated 3.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the country, largely driven by conflict and drought. IDPs are sheltering in over 200 collective centres and planned sites, with Tigray and Amhara hosting the most planned sites, while Somali, Afar, and Oromia regions have the highest numbers of informal settlements.

Conditions remain critical, with service access alarmingly low with regard to WASH, health, and education. Overcrowding, shelter shortages, and protection risks persist, and lack of privacy.

Simultaneously, Ethiopia hosts over 1.15 million refugees and asylum seekers, many of them children, whose access to education is crucial for protection and future stability. While the Tigray Interim Administration has initiated returns for 690,000 IDPs, protracted displacement remains widespread across Tigray, Amhara, Afar, Oromia, Somali, and South Ethiopia. Additionally, the Sudan conflict has led to an influx of over 163,000 refugees into Ethiopia since April 2023, further stretching humanitarian resources. These complex, overlapping crises underscore the urgency of a coordinated, sustained humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN) approach to support displaced populations and ensure long-term stability.

Elsewhere, after earthquakes, IDPs continue to reside in precarious conditions, where shelter inadequacy and livelihood vacuum challenge their overstretched displacement. Droughts and floods have hit both Afar and Somali, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and foreshadowing further displacement risks due to climatic shocks. With above-average Kiremt rains anticipated, the threat of flooding and landslides further elevates humanitarian concerns yet again requiring pre-emptive and coordinated action across sectors.

Amid growing operational challenges across the country, Ethiopia Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES/NFI) Cluster is witnessing a concerning decline in response capacity, potentially leaving many target populations stranded and exposed to increasing shelter and living standard related woes.

### Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society is part of the IFRC's three-year Global Route Based Migration Programme, which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually, through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points (2) strengthening National Society capacities and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

Additionally, the National Society will:

- Expand and strengthen support for migrants, returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities with a special focus on addressing the protection and assistance needs of vulnerable groups along migratory routes and in areas of return or resettlement
- Enhance its Restoring Family Links (RFL) services to reconnect separated families, especially in contexts affected by conflict, displacement, or migration

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Maintain family contacts and provide free phone calls to affected people in refugee camps and returnees
- Establish stationery and mobile humanitarian service points (HSP) along migratory routes
- Engage local authorities and stakeholders to protect and integrate immigrants and internally displaced persons, promote peaceful coexistence and establish community feedback mechanisms
- Offer protection services, including prevention of gender-based violence and psychological support
- Train community leaders in negotiation, conflict management and dialogue facilitation

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in strengthening its capacity to address the needs of migrants and displaced people by improving access to essential services, protection, and dignified recovery. This includes promoting social cohesion, supporting humanitarian aid along migration

routes through Humanitarian Service Points, and advancing community-driven advocacy. The IFRC will also enhance emergency preparedness, integrate migration principles into

National Society's operations, and work with stakeholders to ensure migrants' rights are protected and included in national policies.



## Values, power and inclusion

With child marriage rising by 119 per cent due to the drought and prevalence of conflict-related sexual violence, [Gender-Based Violence](#) (GBV) and mental health support services are of dire need. Conflict, particularly in Tigray and Amhara, has disrupted healthcare services, leaving women vulnerable to inadequate reproductive healthcare and protection. Moreover, the crisis has significantly impacted mental health, with access to services severely limited. Prior to the emergency, mental health resources were already scarce, with a 95 per cent treatment gap for severe mental disorders. The World Health Organization estimates that [22 per cent of the affected](#) population require Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).

There is also a great need to support children. Children [affected by conflict](#), drought, cholera, flooding, and other emergencies across the country require child protection services including MHPSS, gender-based violence (GBV), family tracing and reunification (FTR), alternative care services for unaccompanied and separated children, and explosive ordinance risk reduction (EORE) assistance.

The country is also facing a growing human trafficking issue, involving forced labour, sexual exploitation, organ harvesting and domestic servitude. Gender inequalities within families and society contribute to the vulnerability of women and girls to such abuses. Older populations with specific needs are disproportionately affected by the humanitarian crises. Limited savings, restricted access to credit and the absence of social protection further worsen the situation for these vulnerable groups.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society seeks to prioritize Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) across all programmes, operations and strategic agendas over the coming years. It also aims to apply Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) throughout its operations, including by deploying robust feedback mechanisms to ensure responsiveness and transparency.

### Planned activities in 2026

- Developed and implement a comprehensive PGI Action Plan based on thorough assessments and collaboration with Movement partners
- Ensures [protection against sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment](#) (PSEA-H) are embedded across all operations
- Mainstream Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) initiatives across all projects and programmes
- Establish inclusive and safe community centres in Amhara, Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz and Tigray to facilitate community dialogue
- Conduct outreach programmes to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)
- Set up community-based psychological support committees

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to apply the [IFRC PGI policy](#) and [PGI minimum standards on protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies](#). It will support the National Society on safeguarding, referral pathways and in its development of community-based information, education and communication initiatives. This involves advancing diversity, dignity, and protection through accessible, safe, and participatory information and education initiatives. IFRC will also provide technical assistance to implement Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) policies, including measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Support includes building robust safeguarding systems, such as safe reporting channels, child protection, and referral pathways, while also offering guidance and training to institutionalize safeguarding, implement PSEA-H frameworks, and upholding accountability and integrity across Ethiopian Red Cross Society operations.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society is committed towards institutional strengthening and has twice carried out the self-assessment section of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process, first in 2011 and later in 2014. That part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

The National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms and ultimately take necessary action to improve them.



### Strategic and operational coordination

#### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Boost resource mobilization efforts by revising current strategy and developing a comprehensive business plan
- Assess the local humanitarian context, identify potential investment opportunities, and attract new partners to expand its domestic fundraising capacity
- Strengthen role in national disaster risk management to improve disaster response capabilities



### Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategy
- Health, accident and death compensation for volunteers
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- PSEA Action Plan

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in strengthening its strategic and operational coordination. This includes allocating financial resources to enhance coordination efforts and creating platforms for knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning. Furthermore, the IFRC will offer technical assistance to the National Society in establishing long-term, sustainable partnerships with key stakeholders.



### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Prioritize transformational initiatives that enhance organizational performance across all levels
- Develop a National Society Development (NSD) roadmap to reflect and enable the ambitions identified under its new strategic plan
- Foster a supportive and enabling environment for staff and volunteers and invest in decentralized branch development
- Work to enhance branch capacity and optimize localization through local structures, strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) systems, and improve institutional risk management capacity
- Train volunteers and data collectors on platforms like 'digitalize' for effective data collection and analysis

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in strengthening operational readiness and service quality by enhancing institutional capacity, improving talent and volunteer management, and promoting accountability. It will also help the Ethiopian Red Cross Society build sustainable, multi-year partnerships with diverse stakeholders to secure funding and pilot innovative financing models. Additionally, IFRC will assist the expansion of access to resources for National Society Development (NSD) through funding mechanisms. IFRC funding mechanisms such as the IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF), the IFRC-ICRC National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) and the Empress Shoken Fund enable National Society's to target development initiatives.



The construction of smaller storage for safe drinking water provides support to families to gather and store rainwater. (Photo: Finnish Red Cross)



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Institutionalize Humanitarian Diplomacy across all levels of the organization, promote evidence-based advocacy, strengthen engagement with national and international stakeholders
- Enhance strategic communication and visibility of Ethiopian Red Cross Society's humanitarian work
- Disseminate and advocate to influence humanitarian policy and practice

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in strengthening its Humanitarian Diplomacy and strategic communication to enhance its auxiliary role and global presence. This includes developing a national Humanitarian Diplomacy Framework, training on negotiation and communication skills, and improving engagement with stakeholders like government and donors.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Mainstream community engagement and accountability (CEA) initiatives across all projects and programmes
- Foster a culture of transparency and responsiveness, enabling communities to participate in decision making processes that affect their lives
- Continue its digitalization efforts to support global digital fundraising campaigns as well as to conduct digital outreach, media partnerships, increasing the National Society's visibility

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in mainstreaming Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) by providing technical assistance and training to embed CEA principles across all programmes. This includes strengthening staff and volunteer skills in community participation, transparency, and responsiveness, while establishing effective feedback mechanisms. The IFRC will also assist with the design and implementation of a comprehensive Community Complaint and Feedback Mechanism, ensuring safe, accessible channels and building capacity to manage feedback, fostering trust and accountability in humanitarian actions.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

**The IFRC** re-established its presence in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2021 with a country cluster delegation which also covers Djibouti. The IFRC provides support to the National Society in its delivery of services and advocacy on behalf of vulnerable people and the strengthening of its capacity. The IFRC facilitates international support to the National Society's emergency response activities, coordinates the membership and supports the network's global and regional initiatives. It provides wider humanitarian diplomacy in

international circles on the situation in Ethiopia and the action of the National Society. IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, IFRC has supported the Ethiopian Red Cross Society through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations in relation to population movement, civil unrest and elections preparedness, drought, floods, disease outbreaks and food insecurity.

## 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 Ethiopian 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. The IFRC Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal promotes a Federation-wide approach towards the emergency response, inclusive of all participating National Societies present in southern Ethiopia.

It builds on their expertise, capacities and resources as active members in the targeted areas. In addition to IFRC members channelling overall support to sister National Societies through the IFRC, participating National Societies providing long-term support to the Ethiopian Red Cross and with a presence in Ethiopia are the following:

The **Austrian Red Cross** will support the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in strengthening emergency medical services, cash assistance, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), basic health, protection, gender equality, inclusion, food security, livelihoods and disaster preparedness. It aligns its efforts with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's National Society development plan, prioritizing branch development, volunteer management, financial sustainability and digitalization, including contributions to long-term projects such as the 'ADA Strategic Partnership Skybird' for gender equality in WASH and emergency medical services through gender-transformative approaches.

The **British Red Cross** supports the Ethiopian Red Cross Society by coordinating comprehensive assistance across diverse sectors and regions.

The **Canadian Red Cross Society** will continue its partnership with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, alongside the

Government of Canada, focusing on humanitarian responses to conflict, climate-related crises and health emergencies, while assisting with resource mobilization and future funding.

The **Danish Red Cross** will assist the Ethiopian Red Cross Society with expertise in migration, social cohesion, mental health, non-communicable diseases and disaster preparedness, emphasizing technical support and capacity building in humanitarian supply chains, disaster management and early action planning.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supports the Ethiopian Red Cross Society with projects in Afar and Oromia, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and gender equality, while providing regional staff salaries and drought response efforts. It also supports safer access initiatives and continues developing funding proposals for further projects.

The **German Red Cross** backs the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's work in Benishangul-Gumuz, emphasizing WASH, shelter, basic needs and National Society development. It prioritizes cash-based assistance and supports emergency preparedness with logistics, pre-positioning of non-food items and capacity building.

The **Italian Red Cross** aids the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in Tigray and Amhara, focusing on health, migration and WASH. It provides medicines, equipment and training for psychological support and migrant care, in addition to WASH project funding.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** is assisting the Ethiopian Red Cross Society by focusing on emergency health, WASH, water management and disaster preparedness, with future plans emphasizing climate change, water management and environmental sustainability.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** aids the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's health and protection efforts for vulnerable populations affected by conflict and climate change and is committed to improving health services and financial development through partnerships.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will continue supporting the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in emergency drought responses, community preparedness, hunger crisis response, WASH in schools and community health initiatives while assisting in branch development, financial management and governance.

## Movement coordination

The **Ethiopian 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](#).

In Ethiopia, **the ICRC** supports conflict and violence-affected people with food and essential items, helps to establish livelihoods and incomes, builds and maintains water-supply systems, provides health structures with medical supplies, visits detainees, reunites separated families due to conflict, provides physical rehabilitation and promotes international humanitarian law (IHL).

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## Coordination with other actors

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society engages with the Government of Ethiopia at national and below-national levels. It is part of the national coordination platforms, such as Disaster Risk Management Technical Working Groups organized by the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC). Through these bodies, the EDRMC sets the policy direction and the coordination mandate, while the National Society contributes technical expertise, mobilizes volunteers, and implements humanitarian response activities.

The National Society also has long-term partnerships with the Ministry of Health on public health initiatives, the Ministry of Education on school-based first aid and youth engagement, and the Ministry of Agriculture on food security and livelihoods programmes. At the international and inter-agency level, Ethiopian Red Cross Society actively participates in humanitarian coordination mechanisms including the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), sectoral clusters, and thematic working groups.

The National Society has also partnered with several internationally recognized organizations including United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Children Fund, UN World Food Programme (WFP), International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Health Organization (WHO), and many others in diverse areas to mobilize resources and build technical capacity and coordinated humanitarian action.

Nationally, the National Society has also established a partnership with these academic institutions aiming at research and innovation in disaster management and some private sector actors to improve logistics and supply chain initiatives and community resilience initiatives.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

### Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

### Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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