



# CAPE VERDE

## 2026 IFRC network country plan



30 January 2026

### In support of the Red Cross of Cape Verde



19

National Society branches



46

National Society local units



137

National Society staff



2,200

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



49,000

Climate and environment



250,000

Disasters and crises



150,000

Health and wellbeing



200

Migration and displacement



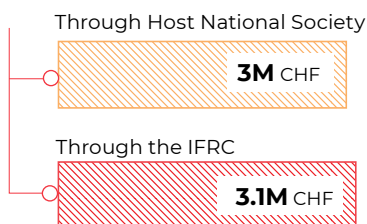
4,000

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

**Total 6.1M CHF**



### Participating National Societies

Canadian Red Cross Society\*

Japanese Red Cross Society\*

### IFRC Appeal code

Emergency Appeal:

**MDRCV005**

Cape Verde Flood

Longer-term needs:

**MAACV002**

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

## Hazards



Droughts



Floods



Migration



Food  
insecurity



Disease  
outbreak

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Longer term needs

- Food security
- Disaster risk management
- Climate change adaptation
  - Health and WASH
- Migration and displacement-related needs

#### Capacity development

- Internal systems strengthening
  - Communications
- Financial sustainability and resource mobilization
  - Volunteers and youth management
  - Digital transformation

### Key country data links

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **Very Low**

**Human Development Index rank** **135**

**World Bank Population figure** **525,000**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **25%**



Red Cross of Cape Verde briefed beneficiaries ahead of sensitization sessions and distributions in Santo Antão, as part of the response to Tropical Storm Erin. (Photo: The IFRC)

# Detailed funding requirements

2026

	Host National Society	IFRC
<b>Ongoing emergencies</b>		2.5M
<b>Longer-term needs</b>		
Climate and environment	750,000	100,000
Disasters & crises	1M	300,000
Health & wellbeing	350,000	
Migration & displacement	100,000	
Values, power & inclusion	50,000	
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	750,000	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3M</b>	<b>3.1M</b>

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

## NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

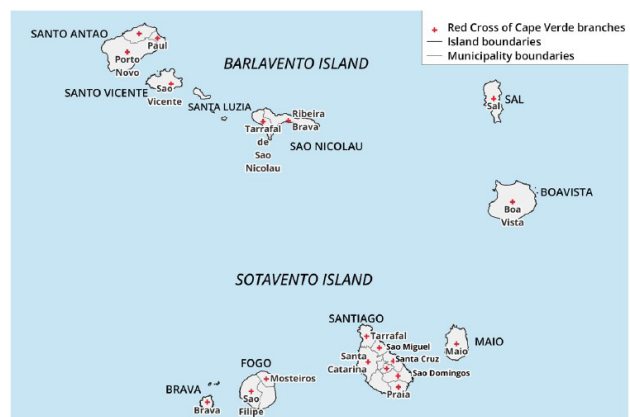
The **Red Cross of Cape Verde** was established by decree in 1975 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1985. It was the first humanitarian organization to exist in Cape Verde. Following the accession of the state of Cape Verde to the Geneva Conventions in 1984, the National Society has been recognized by the Cape Verdean state as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field and in support of the military and health services.

The Red Cross of Cape Verde works throughout the country, on all nine inhabited islands and throughout the 22 administrative municipalities. It acts in various fields such as disaster risk management, health and wellbeing and migration and displacement. As per its Strategic Plan 2024-2027, the National Society's mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering impartially, and without any discrimination of nationality, race, sex, class, religion or political ideologies. In compliance with the seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its mandate is to:

- Act on behalf of the victims of war, civilian or military- in the event of armed conflict, and prepare in times of peace to intervene as an auxiliary to the public services in the fields provided for by the Geneva Conventions
- Contribute to the improvement of people's health and wellbeing, prevention of diseases and the alleviation of human suffering through training and community assistance programmes adapted to the needs and living conditions of individuals

- Organize emergency assistance services for disaster victims
- Recruit, train and sensitize staff and volunteers as necessary to carry out the tasks entrusted to them
- Promote the participation of children and young people in Red Cross activities
- Disseminate the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and international humanitarian law with a view to developing the ideals of peace, respect and mutual understanding among the population, especially among children and youth

In 2024, the Red Cross of Cape Verde reached approximately 180,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the Red Cross of Cape Verde 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

Located 500 km from the Senegalese coast, the Cape Verde archipelago consists of ten islands, nine of which are inhabited. This island group is home to a population of 483,628 according to the [2021 census](#). Living conditions are particularly difficult, marked by extreme aridity and a relentless fight against hunger and poverty.

Cape Verde has the typical disadvantages of the [Sahel zone](#), while facing the additional challenges of geographical isolation and the scattering of its islands. Exposed to natural hazards like volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, hurricanes, and tsunamis. Cape Verde faces heightened [vulnerability to climate change](#). The rainy season, from July to October, averages about ten days a year, contributing to a severe drought crisis. Due to Cape Verde's limited ability to respond to natural climate variations, these vulnerabilities result in a variety of ecological and socio-economic challenges. This complex context makes the daily survival of its inhabitants particularly difficult, requiring constantly renewed resilience strategies.

The increase in the frequency and intensity of [floods and droughts](#) is one of the most pressing manifestations of climate change in Cape Verde. These extreme events have a devastating impact on agriculture, a sector that is vital to the economy and livelihoods of the population. Prolonged periods of drought reduce crop yields and jeopardize water resources, while floods can destroy infrastructure, cause loss of life and degrade agricultural soils.

In addition, the change in hydrological regime has profound impacts on the availability of fresh water, which is needed not only for agriculture but also for domestic and industrial use. The management of water resources is thus becoming a major challenge for local authorities, who must navigate between water scarcity and the growing needs of the population.

Cape Verde's biodiversity is also under constant threat from climate change. Rising temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns are affecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems, endangering several endemic species. For example, some plants and animals, adapted to specific conditions, might not survive the rapid changes in their natural habitat.

In addition, the expansion of endemic disease vectors poses an additional health threat. Changing weather conditions promote the proliferation of mosquitoes and other vectors, increasing the risk of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. This situation places additional pressure on the already fragile public health system.

In addition to these environmental risks, Cape Verde faces significant socio-economic vulnerabilities. The country relies heavily on tourism and imports for its [economy](#), creating instability that can be exacerbated by global or local economic fluctuations. Precarious employment is commonplace, which reinforces the economic fragility of households. In addition, urban pressure in Praia, the capital, poses significant problems in terms of housing and access to basic services.

Migration dynamics add an additional layer of complexity. Cape Verde is experiencing significant migratory flows, both internal and international, which can increase tensions on infrastructure and available resources. Such migration, often motivated by the search for better living conditions, can also lead to losses of skilled labour and rural exodus, thus aggravating socio-economic difficulties.

All these factors combined – climate risks, socio-economic vulnerabilities and migration dynamics – expose Cape Verdean populations to various health risks. Waterborne diseases, for example, spread more easily in times of water stress, while malnutrition can worsen due to dwindling food resources. This situation also increases the frequency of localized humanitarian needs, requiring a rapid and effective response to mitigate the impacts on populations.

# ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Cape Verde Floods
<b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>	MDRCV005
<b>People to be assisted</b>	7,500
<b>Duration</b>	12 months (23 August 2025 to 31 August 2026)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 2.5 million Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 3 million
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Link to Operational update</b>	<a href="#">Operations Update No.2</a>

On 10–11 August 2025, Tropical Storm Erin brought torrential rains that caused severe flash floods and landslides across Cabo Verde, with São Vicente and Santo Antão experiencing the most significant devastation and partial impacts in São Nicolau. In just a few hours, rainfall exceeded annual averages, overwhelming drainage systems, and leading to widespread destruction of homes, public infrastructure, and essential services. At least 12 people lost their lives; five went missing, and more than 27,500 people were directly affected, including 1,500 displaced in São Vicente. About 20,000 people have been injured<sup>1</sup>. Over 2,500 buildings were damaged, five bridges collapsed, and more than 60 km of roads were cut off, isolating entire communities. Mindelo's central hospital and several health centers were inundated, resulting in the destruction of vaccine stocks and interruption of critical health services. Water and sanitation systems collapsed, forcing reliance on emergency water trucking, while markets and food stocks were destroyed, disrupting livelihoods and increasing food insecurity.

## Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through this operation, the Red Cross of Cape Verde is actively contributing to the national response to the dengue epidemic, supporting the emergency needs of 5,000 families (30,000 people) in the areas of health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), and community engagement and responsibility (CEA) across all 9 inhabited islands of Cape Verde. To achieve this goal, we need to continue promoting the reduction of dengue incidence in the most vulnerable communities, by implementing strategies that include chemical control, physical control and disease promotion and prevention at family and community level. This result can only be achieved through the continued implementation of sanitary measures and the improvement of

water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in these geographical areas. The highlights of the assistance are:

### Shelter, Housing and Settlements

Households in São Vicente are reached with essential household items such as including kitchen sets, blankets, mats, buckets, jerrycans, tarpaulins, and candles to address their immediate needs and support the restoration of stability and dignity.

### Multi-purpose Cash

A market assessment was carried out in Mindelo to better understand the functionality of local markets and their capacity to meet the basic needs of the affected population.

### Health & Care

The National Society will reach people through healthcare interventions, including mental health and psychological (MHPSS) support, medical services, and community health promotion activities

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

During the intervention, the National Society will reach people through WASH assistance, including education, health promotion, disinfection, and rehabilitation activities in schools and communities, and distributions of hygiene items, jerrycans and buckets

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

Cape Verde faces structural climate challenges that profoundly affect the resilience of communities. Its island geography, semi-arid climate, and dependence on limited water resources make the country highly vulnerable to droughts, chronic water stress, and severe climate variability. Erratic rainfall, combined with prolonged periods of drought, are undermining agricultural production, exacerbating soil degradation, and increasing the country's dependence on food imports. On coastal islands such as Sal, Boa Vista, and Santiago, coastal erosion and rising sea levels threaten infrastructure, human settlements and key economic sectors such as tourism and fisheries.

These climatic hazards exacerbate existing socio-economic vulnerabilities: precarious rural livelihoods, high dependence on the informal sector, youth unemployment, and fragility of female-headed households. Water stress also affects public health and access to safe drinking water, putting pressure on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services and increasing the risk of waterborne diseases during episodes of scarcity or contamination. Rural populations, communities dependent on rain-fed agriculture, the elderly and low-income households are the most affected.

During the wet months or seasons, rainfall is erratic and torrential, causing flash floods and torrential rains, particularly in the country's main urban centres. These centres are characterized by the extensive occupation of risk areas, with about 60 per cent of informal settlements located in such areas.

Additional hazards include mass movements, tropical storms, coastal erosion, volcanic activity, seismic events, epidemics and fires, all of which have a significant impact on Cape Verde's economic and social development.

Climate projections for Cape Verde generally indicate a warmer and drier future. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) models predict an increase in average temperatures of up to 2.5°C for the eastern tropical Atlantic, as well as a decrease in humidity and precipitation by 5 to 10 per cent per year. Sea levels are expected to rise between 0.13 and 1.4 meters by the end of the century.

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

The Red Cross of Cape Verde seeks to integrate climate change adaptation and environmental protection into its work. It will focus on strengthening the capacities of communities to face

climate and environmental risks and strengthen the capacities of National Society staff and volunteers to lead urgent action in the face of climate and environmental crises. The National Society aims to reduce vulnerability and reduce community exposure to climate crises and help affected people adapt by developing more sustainable and effective programmes and operations.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Build food resilience amidst droughts through improved irrigation infrastructure and crop diversification
- Assist in reservoir and dam construction and raise water conservation awareness through educational campaigns to promote water-saving practices
- Advocate for policies that integrate natural disaster risk management into urban development such as the regulation of informal settlements and relocation of populations living in at-risk areas, including flood valleys
- Train community teams capable of responding quickly to emergencies caused by natural disasters
- Strengthen collaboration with other countries and international organizations to mobilize the necessary resources for sustainable development

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of Cape Verde's efforts in reducing vulnerability of populations to the negative effects of climate change and climate variability. It will support the National Society in achieve its goal of climate resilience is to integrate climate change considerations in all planning and decision-making processes. These efforts will include a thorough analysis of the risks related to extreme weather events, the implementation of adaptation strategies, and continuous monitoring and evaluation.

The IFRC also extends support in areas such as establishing and equipping the National Society's community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation teams, establishing early warning system in collaboration with government authorities, strengthening the National Society's communications on climate change adaptation measures, among others.



## Disasters and crises

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

Cape Verde is exposed to various natural hazards, ranking 32nd out of 177 countries assessed in the [World Risk Report](#) due to its susceptibility, vulnerability, and level of adaptive capacity. The country most often faces natural hazards such as extreme weather events (including droughts and tropical cyclones), flash floods and landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and epidemics.

Drought are one of the most recurrent crises, severely affecting agriculture, which remains a source of livelihood for many people. Long periods without rain lead to food shortages, exacerbating poverty and putting national food security at risk. The United Nations [estimated](#), following a drought impact assessment mission in the country, that about 140,000 people could be in a situation of acute nutritional vulnerability. The results presented as part of the Regional Food Crisis Prevention and Management System (PREGEC) showed that food insecurity was most prevalent on the island of Santiago, particularly in the municipality of Ribera Grande.

Tropical storms also pose a threat, causing flooding and destruction of infrastructure. For example, the cyclones of 1989, 2013, and [2025](#) which have had devastating consequences on some islands, necessitating reconstruction efforts that weigh heavily on the country's limited resources.

Additionally, despite its success in the tourism sector, Cape Verde remains dependent on the import of goods and services. Fluctuations in global markets, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, have exacerbated a pre-existing economic crisis. Over-dependence on imports makes the country particularly vulnerable to external shocks, threatening job stability and economic growth. In addition, unemployment, especially among young people, is a major challenge. The lack of economic diversity limits employment opportunities, pushing some young people to emigrate in search of better living conditions, leading to brain drain.

Economic and environmental crises also have social consequences. Poverty and inequality are daily realities for a significant part of the population. Women, in particular, often suffer the most severe effects of these crises, as they tend to be confined to the most precarious sectors of the economy. Limited access to health care reinforces these inequalities, creating a cycle that is difficult to break. Governmental and non-governmental initiatives are trying to respond to these challenges, but resources are often insufficient to bring about lasting change.

In sum, Cape Verde is facing a series of interconnected disasters and crises that are testing its resilience. The urgency of an integrated approach to address these issues is crucial, requiring a collective effort by governments, international organizations and civil society to build a more sustainable and equitable future for its citizens.

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

The Red Cross of Cape Verde is one of the first actors to respond to the multiple disasters and crises affecting the country. To maintain and ensure expertise in emergency preparedness, response and management, the National Society has established various response mechanisms, the most important of which are disaster response teams at the community and national levels. In its 2022/2026 governance programme, the National Society has introduced disaster risk reduction and disaster response mechanisms into programmes related to migration, climate change, food and nutrition security, livelihoods, (urban) environment, health and [digital vulnerabilities](#), to ensure that it works in an integrated manner, especially in contexts of crisis and fragility.

The National Society will also focus its efforts on mitigating the vulnerabilities and inequalities caused by different types of crises and disasters on individuals, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Establish a system to disseminate early warning information (including sentinel sites) from national meteorological and hydrological services to communities at risk
- Participate in technical working groups related to climate change and deploy [anticipatory action](#) mechanisms such as triggers and pre-authorized financing
- Strengthen [preparedness](#) and local response capacity and strengthen volunteerism and decentralization of capacities
- Review currently available emergency plans and adapt them into a simplified emergency plan considering regional or district specifications
- Develop sector-specific tools in emergency response operations and integrate protection and inclusion into all emergency and recovery actions
- Update a simplified emergency plan adapted to the local context and linked to, developed in collaboration with national and regional disaster or emergency emergency plans, standard operating procedures and early warning systems

- Train volunteers in [PASSA](#) and best practices for building houses using local materials
- Pre-position emergency items (for [shelter](#), [water](#), hygiene, and health) at the national and local/regional levels for in-kind assistance to households

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross of Cape Verde in areas such as establishment of system for early warning information dissemination, implementing participatory approach for safe shelter awareness, research for local risk reduction and climate change adaptation techniques, supporting formal and informal market assessments in the most affected regions and developing standard operating procedures for the National Society's [cash and voucher assistance](#) (CVA).

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and [Emergency Appeals](#) will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2025, IFRC provided DREF allocations for an emergency in the country. The DREF allocation has been described below:

[IFRC-DREF Dengue Outbreak](#): The DREF allocation of CHF 398,658 in September 2024 supported the Red Cross of Cape Verde in assisting more than 30,000 people affected by the sharp rise in the number of cases. The National Society supported the targeted people over a six-month period with assistance such as the distribution of multipurpose cash, [water](#), [sanitation](#), and [hygiene](#) (WASH) interventions, community engagement and protection, among others.



The Red Cross of Cape Verde volunteers verified beneficiary details ahead of kit distribution in Salamansa, one of the communities hardest hit by Tropical Storm Erin. (Photo: The IFRC)



Public health emergencies are a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide, particularly in small island developing countries such as Cape Verde, where globalization and climate change are gradually altering the health landscape. Cape Verde experiences a high mobility of people and goods with other countries, posing a significant threat for the entry of emerging and re-emerging diseases.

In Cape Verde, the impact of emergencies on public health affects various aspects of human, animal, and environmental health. Waterborne diseases, including diarrhoea, are linked to the quality and quantity of water for drinking and sanitation. The country has faced recent epidemics such as dengue, Zika, malaria and COVID-19. Other outbreaks in the country include Rubella, pandemic influenza H1N1, Dengue type 3, viral meningitis caused by enterovirus, malaria, Coxsackie virus, with Zika being the most notable one.

Beyond direct health risks, Cape Verde's vulnerabilities are exacerbated by its volcanic origin, frequent droughts and susceptibility to climate change-related risks. Recent outbreaks underscore the urgent need to strengthen disease surveillance and response systems in the country. This necessity highlights the importance of prioritizing the One Health approach, which integrates human, animal, and environmental health in a multisectoral context.

Despite the State's efforts, there are still deficiencies in the provision of healthcare, both in terms of availability and quality. Maternal, newborn and child health, malnutrition and infectious diseases remain significant challenges for the archipelago. These factors indicate a potential deterioration of the current health situation and the erosion of health gains if effective measures are not implemented.

In November 2023, the dengue fever outbreak in Cape Verde began with the first reported case on Santiago Island. By June 2024, a total of 1,205 cases had been recorded, including 562 confirmed and 643 suspected cases, spanning nine islands. The situation escalated in July 2024 with the onset of rains, leading to a significant rise in cases that peaked through September due to favourable conditions for the spread of the epidemic. According to the Situation Report (SITREP) for week 36, dated September 18, 2024, the total number of cases had surged to 6,238, with 4,002 confirmed cases and two deaths reported on the islands of Fogo and Santiago. The epidemic affected all municipalities across Cape Verde's islands except Santo Antão, with Fogo being the hardest hit, accounting for 59 per cent of cases, followed by Santiago with 37 per cent. Despite the government's efforts, the outbreak highlighted the challenges posed by environmental and climatic conditions in managing such epidemics.

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

Health is a key priority programme of the Red Cross of Cape Verde. The National Society is considered a reference institution in first aid, very often being requested by various institutions, public, private and non-governmental organizations, to provide first aid services or training. Other services of the National Society include follow-up of the chronically ill in centres for the elderly, implementation of projects related to HIV/AIDS, and support to patients with temporary or chronic conditions of various nature and complexity.

The Red Cross of Cape Verde's strategy aims to ensure safe and equitable access to health, water, sanitation, and adequate living conditions for all. This means expanding integrated community-based health, care and first aid programmes, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes, to address the unmet needs of vulnerable or marginalised groups. It also means investing significantly in epidemic and pandemic preparedness, and more specifically in local actors, networks and volunteers as community responders who can detect and respond to outbreaks and other health risks.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Scale up integrated community-based health and first aid programmes, as well as water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programmes, to address the unmet needs of vulnerable or marginalised groups
  - Invest significantly in epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, with a particular focus on local actors, networks, and volunteers as community-based responders capable of early detection and effective response to epidemics and other health risks
  - Ensure the integration of National Society into different national, regional, and local public health preparedness and response coordination platforms
  - Integrate the mental and psychosocial health management of staff, volunteers and affected communities into the National Society's interventions, particularly in crisis situations, taking into account the specific needs of individuals, families, and communities
  - Implement community-based surveillance in vulnerable communities
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts through technical and financial assistance in areas such as intensifying health promotion in vulnerable and marginalized communities, conducting awareness sessions on the themes of health and WASH, collecting community feedback and suggestions,

implementing community-based awareness programmes about epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, and improving the National Society's coordination with other stakeholders in health.



## Migration and displacement

Cape Verde is an island archipelago marked by isolation, chronic aridity and climate vulnerability. Historically, international emigration has been a major survival and development strategy for many families. Recent shocks such as floods, droughts, economic and health crises are increasing internal and international movements, as well as seasonal and circular forms of displacement. The diaspora is mainly in the United States, Portugal, Angola, Senegal, the Netherlands and France. Additionally, Cape Verde has become a transit country for migration to Europe.

The factors that push people to leave are, among others: aridity, loss of agricultural livelihoods, degradation of water resources, structural unemployment, urban precariousness, extreme climatic impacts, high cost of living in urban areas.

According to the [2021 census](#), Cape Verde's foreign-born resident population is 18,562, representing 3.8 per cent of the total population. Most reside in Praia, Sal, S. Vicente, Boavista and Santa Catarina. Significant percentages were born in Guinea-Bissau, S. Tomé and Príncipe, Portugal, Senegal and Angola. The population with only one foreign nationality totals 10,875, primarily from Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Portugal, China, São Tomé and Príncipe, Nigeria, the United States, Italy, Brazil and Guinea Conakry.

Humanitarian needs for migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Cape Verde range from emergency assistance in health, WASH and nutrition to protection and longer-term needs related to livelihoods, education, social integration and durable solutions. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted vulnerabilities, with migrants facing difficulties accessing information and services due to legal status, language barriers, and social stigma.

Despite the lack of reliable data, the vulnerabilities and specific needs of migrants and internally displaced (inter-island) people are increasingly recognized by government and administrative authorities, hence the importance of strong cooperation and shared responsibility. However, much remains to be done to implement these commitments.

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

The Red Cross of Cape Verde, as an [auxiliary](#) to the government, has been actively working with migrants and internally displaced peoples (IDPs), providing services such as food distribution, healthcare, restoring family links ([RFL](#)) and mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)).

While progress has been made, ensuring access to services and strengthening resilience for migrants are key dimensions of the National Society's work. The National Society aims to integrate migrants into Cape Verdean society through tailored assistance, expanding humanitarian service points ([HSPs](#)), and supporting social protection systems. Strengthening work with migrants and IDPs to build trust and promote tolerance in host communities is another focus.

## Planned activities in 2026

- Implement Humanitarian Service Points ([HSPs](#)) with the technical support of the International Federation, including mental health and psychosocial services
- Building strategic partnerships with other NGOs, government agencies, and community actors to optimize resources and strengthen the humanitarian response
- Organize cross-border coordination National Societies located along migration routes, including through the migration technical group of the [Sahel Plus Group](#) (early warning system, exchange of information on available services, joint assessment/training and coordination meetings among others)
- Contribute to the development of national migration policies/strategies, as an Auxiliary of Public Authorities in the humanitarian field
- Work to prevent the risk of family separation and strengthen access to family protection services

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC is committed to supporting the Red Cross of Cape Verde in the implementation of its migration programmes, including integration into the overall [Global Route-Based Migration programme](#) for the Sahel region. Existing programmes will be strengthened and expanded to meet

the immediate needs of people on the move, while new longer-term programmes will be developed with a focus on improving the livelihoods of migrants and displaced persons, to ensure their meaningful inclusion and sustainable integration and reintegration and address the negative effects of returns, including the mental health and well-being of these individuals.



## Values, power and inclusion

Cape Verde is below global averages in [gender-based violence](#) and has made progress in recent years. However, the rate increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Domestic violence is regarded by law as a public crime and is punished accordingly. The country ranked 89th on the [UNDP HDI Gender Inequality Index](#) in 2020.

Cape Verde has also made progress on disability inclusion. The country signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was ratified in 2011. Article 72 of the Constitution provides the legal framework for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. A 2021 study, supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, analysed the [profile of persons with disabilities](#) in Cape Verde, highlighting their high vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. The findings revealed that 79 per cent of the people with disabilities participating in the study were unaware of the existence of HIV care, support and prevention facilities. According to Handicap International, the project contributed to increasing the technical and organizational capacity of civil society organizations to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the fight against HIV/AIDS at the national level.

While significant efforts have been made in recent years, many gaps and challenges remain in the field of disability integration, inclusion of young people and minorities in socio-economic and political life, protection of the elderly and support for education in humanitarian emergencies. Significant efforts are needed to improve the inclusion and participation of women, young people, the most at-risk and vulnerable groups, and their representation in decision-making bodies that affect them.

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

The Red Cross of Cape Verde's programmes emphasize promoting dignity, access, participation and security. Upholding human dignity is rooted in understanding and valuing the fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. These principles drive solidarity, equality, inclusion and the imperative to protect people, requiring a supportive

environment within the National Society and society at large for sustainable positive change.

To be effective, the Red Cross of Cape Verde aims for equal power relations, opportunities and access to resources and services for all individuals, irrespective of gender, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The National Society is committed to preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence in emergencies, as outlined in Resolution 3 of the XXII International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The National Society's youth programmes, rooted in [Fundamental Principles](#) and humanitarian values, aim to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to contribute positively to their communities. Leveraging extensive experience, a flagship humanitarian education programme will be developed, adaptable to the context and scalable nationwide. Drawing from successful practices globally, the programme includes elements such as Red Cross and Red Crescent School and Youth Programmes, [Youth as Agents of Behaviour Change](#) initiative, first aid, disaster risk reduction, violence prevention, intergenerational dialogue and climate action. The programmes serve as a platform for innovation through new methodologies, tools and technologies.

### Planned activities in 2026

- Implement adapted strategies that respond to the realities of vulnerable populations and ensure a holistic approach that integrates gender and inclusion concerns into every stage of project
- Integrate gender and diversity into all Red Cross activities in efforts to ensure cross-cutting interventions
- Analyse each programme to ensure that it promotes equality, challenges stereotypes, and facilitates equitable access to available resources and services
- Develop programmes to protect the dignity of those affected by disasters and crises, promoting equitable access to services

- Support informal education activities, including awareness-raising on children's schooling and child protection

The IFRC will also support the National Society in integrating community engagement activities into plans, budgets and proposals, including mechanisms to share information, facilitate participation, listen to and act on feedback. It will provide support in the institutionalization of community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) and protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) approaches in the planning and implementation of programmes and activities. This includes the inclusion of informal education activities, raising awareness of children's schooling, and child protection.

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of Cape Verde in ensuring that its programmes promote dignity, access, participation and safety for all the people it supports, regardless of race, gender, language, nationality, disability and age. It will support the National Society in meaningfully engaging with communities and raising awareness about equitable distribution of resources and advocating for the most vulnerable section of the people in Cape Verde.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



### Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Ensure effective and well-coordinated use of the responsibilities assigned to the components of the Movement to support the conduct of operations and other activities and to influence stakeholders at all levels
- Ensure consistent data management to improve operations, ensure accountability, and communicate timely information thereby enhancing the relevance and visibility of the operations
- Ensure that services are delivered efficient and at the required level of quality
- Promote complementarity of national and international responses, ensuring coherent and sustainable strengthening of local capacities, including for resource mobilization purposes

- Promote joint planning at the national level to maximize their collective impact, improve efficiency, and increase the quality and scope of their activities

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

The IFRC will support the Red Cross of Cape Verde in promoting volunteerism in the country and to provide training to ensure that volunteers have targeted capacities in various areas, with the aim of having a strong and professionally serving national society in the communities. It will also establish partnerships with vocational training and funding structures to support the integration of young volunteers.

The IFRC is also supporting the National Society in updating its volunteer database through the [IFRC Capacity Building Fund \(CBF\)](#), it is developing a programme to support vulnerable people, its staff and volunteers, a medical assistance service in the field of clinical analysis.



## National Society development

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

- Develop and implement a system/mechanism for collecting and analyzing data, combined with real-time assessments or follow-up visits
- Establish an updated corporate risk management system across the national network, addressing the risk management culture at all levels, with a clear link to accountability and quality assurance
- Continue the assessment of the risks of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse within National Society
- Develop a strategy and action plan to mitigate the identified risks of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse

- Continue the dissemination of the strategy and action plan within the various components of the National Society

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** supports the Red Cross of Cape Verde in its efforts under National Society development through both financial and technical assistance, in accordance with the priorities the National Society has set for itself. It will also assist the National Society in implementing a youth engagement strategy based on a youth policy and identifying priority areas for the development of volunteering.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Continue encouraging new forms of management and governance, through cooperation in various sectors, the promotion of different areas of expertise, the fight against poverty, the promotion of social inclusion, civil protection, disasters and emergencies, first aid
- Continue to support the development of support programmes for children, young people, and the elderly, including the dissemination of [humanitarian principles](#)
- Continue cooperation and partnerships with the aim of strengthening itself in a wide range of areas, both at the national level with the government and all local

branches, public and private institutions, clinics and universities, and in the international context as well

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the Red Cross of Cape Verde becoming more involved and influential and will have a stronger voice on the Movement's platforms, including through the initiative on strengthening coordination and cooperation within the Movement, which will help to strengthen its auxiliary role and visibility in the country. It will also aid the National Society in influencing decision-makers at local, national, regional and regional levels to adopt new or updated decisions, laws, policies and practices that promote the safety and well-being of vulnerable people and enable the National Society to carry out its activities.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Strengthen the administrative capacity of its provincial and local structures, standardize and improve its performance
- Produce timely financial and results-based programme reports, create additional revenue streams, and explore non-traditional revenue streams to survive in a digital economy
- Set up a technical working group in charge of monitoring and evaluation and properly develop the matrix of results and resources

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of Cape Verde in ensuring that beneficiaries and all staff and volunteers are treated with respect and without any discrimination. It ensures that no abuse, physical, verbal, or sexual, is tolerated within the National Society and provides support in raising awareness among its staff and volunteers on zero tolerance. The IFRC also supports the National Society in ensuring community engagement and accountability (CEA) and in facilitating the digital transformation of the National Society.

## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

The IFRC provides support to the Red Cross of Cape Verde through its country cluster delegation based in Dakar, Senegal, which covers Cape Verde, Gambia, Mauritania and Senegal. The IFRC support to the Red Cross of Cape Verde centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The delegation supports the National Societies in implementing unified plans aligned with the Federation's operational plans

and strategies. The Dakar hub facilitates coordination, and the delegation team focuses on National Society development, coordination, humanitarian diplomacy and collaboration with partners.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Red Cross of Cape Verde through numerous Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations.



In the islands of São Vicente and Santo Antão, the Red Cross of Cape Verde distributed food kits and essential household items. (Photo: The IFRC)

## IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging, and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development assistance, and contribute to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Red Cross of Cape Verde is part of the [Sahel+ Resilience Platform](#). This platform, created in 2018, includes a steering

committee and three technical groups focused on food security and livelihoods along with migration and shelter. It brings together designated focal points and technical staff from Movement components that are part of the overall Resilience Platform. Their ambition is to create a common understanding and vision among members, increase communications, information generation and capacity, and shape a collective voice through common advocacy tools and messages.

The Red Cross of Cape Verde has benefitted from several participating National Societies including the **British Red Cross**, the **Canadian Red Cross**, the **Luxembourg Red Cross**, the **Spanish Red Cross** and the **Turkish Red Crescent**.

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## Movement coordination

The Red Cross of Cape Verde 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. A strategic platform, comprising the presidency of the Senegalese Red Cross and the heads of delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the IFRC has been meeting ad hoc since 2023. The platform addresses general country contexts, issues related to the functioning of National

Societies, and budgetary constraints. 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 regional delegation in Dakar, monitors the humanitarian situation in the region, promotes international humanitarian law (IHL) and restores contact between family members separated by the conflict through its restoring family links (RFL) services.

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## Coordination with other actors

The Red Cross of Cape Verde maintains a privileged partnership with the government, with the Ministries of Health, National Defence and Internal Administration within the collaboration framework for the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. It also collaborates with the Ministries of National Education, Finance, Agriculture and Environment and the Ministry of Justice. The National Society also works closely with all 22 municipal administrative divisions, with which cooperation and collaboration agreements have been signed for the implementation of the National Society's social projects at local level. A protocol for collaboration between the Presidency of the Republic of Cape Verde and the National Society has been signed as part of the implementation of the "Campaign for the Prevention of Alcohol Abuse". Several other partnerships are in place with the country's private sector and public institutions, including the following: Banco Cabo Verdiano de Negócios (BCN); Moagem de Cabo Verde (MOAVE); SA (industry and trade in the food sector); with universities

(UNI-Piaget and UNI-CV); telecommunications companies (CVTelecom and Unitel T+); churches (Igreja de Jesus Cristo dos Santos dos Últimos Dias); and private clinics (Clínica + Saúde).

In recent years (2018-2020), several other partnership initiatives of the Red Cross of Cape Verde with external partners have included the Embassies of Canada and Japan, Santa Casa de Misericórdia (Portugal), Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Portugal), Médecins du Monde (Portugal) and EUCED (European Economic Interest Grouping for Economic Cooperation and Development at European and International Level), and institutions accredited to the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission. The Red Cross of Cape Verde is affiliated as an associate member of EUCED. The National Society also receives funding from the UK Government (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office-FCDO), through the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), whose secretariat is hosted by the IFRC.



**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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