



# PAPUA NEW GUINEA



## 2026-2028 IFRC network country plan

4 December 2025

### In support of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society



12

National Society branches



13

National Society local units



32

National Society staff



850

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



15,000

Climate and environment



20,000

Disasters and crises



10,000

Health and wellbeing



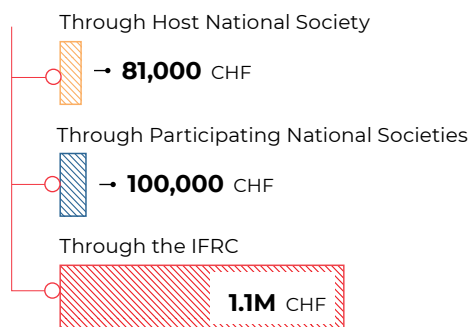
5,000

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 1.2M CHF



2027

Total 1.2M CHF

2028

1.2M CHF

Projected funding requirements

### Participating National Societies

Australian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society\*

The Republic of Korea National Red Cross\*

Netherlands Red Cross\*

Swiss Red Cross\*

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

### IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAPG003

## Hazards



Disease outbreak



Violence



Floods



Landslides



Volcanic eruptions



Earthquakes

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Longer term needs

- Protection, gender and inclusion
- Disaster preparedness and response
  - Health and care
- Climate change adaptation

#### Capacity development

- Branch development
- Digital transformation
- Internal system strengthening

### Key country data links

**INFORM Severity rating** **Low**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **High**

**Human Development Index rank** **160**

**World Bank Population figure** **10.6M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **39.9%**



National Society volunteers prepositioning Non-Food Items across key locations to ensure faster emergency response. (Photo: Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society)

## Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027		2028	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
<b>Longer-term needs</b>						
Climate and environment	10,000	400,000	25,000		20,000	350,000
Disasters & crises	20,000	250,000	25,000	250,000	30,000	250,000
Health & wellbeing	20,000	150,000	25,000	150,000	30,000	150,000
Migration & displacement		5,000				5,000
Values, power & inclusion	6,000	100,000	6,000	100,000	7,000	100,000
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	25,000		25,000	150,000	30,000	150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,000</b>	<b>1.1M</b>	<b>106,000</b>	<b>1M</b>	<b>117,000</b>	<b>1M</b>

### Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Australian Red Cross	2026	100,000		30,000	30,000	10,000	10,000	20,000
	2027	100,000		30,000	30,000	10,000	10,000	20,000
	2028	100,000		30,000	30,000	10,000	10,000	20,000

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society** was established by an Act of Parliament in 1976 and admitted to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1977. It acts as an auxiliary to the public authorities on delivering humanitarian services and providing humanitarian assistance where needed. The National Society coordinates closely with the Disaster Management team, which involves government representatives and all humanitarian organisations in the country.

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is headquartered in Port Moresby, with a network of 12 branches covering the country's 22 provinces. The National Society is governed by the National Council, comprising the National Chairman, Deputy, National Treasurer, Youth Representative and five other independent council members. The current composition of the board includes six men and three women. In addition, it has a network of volunteers spread across the country.

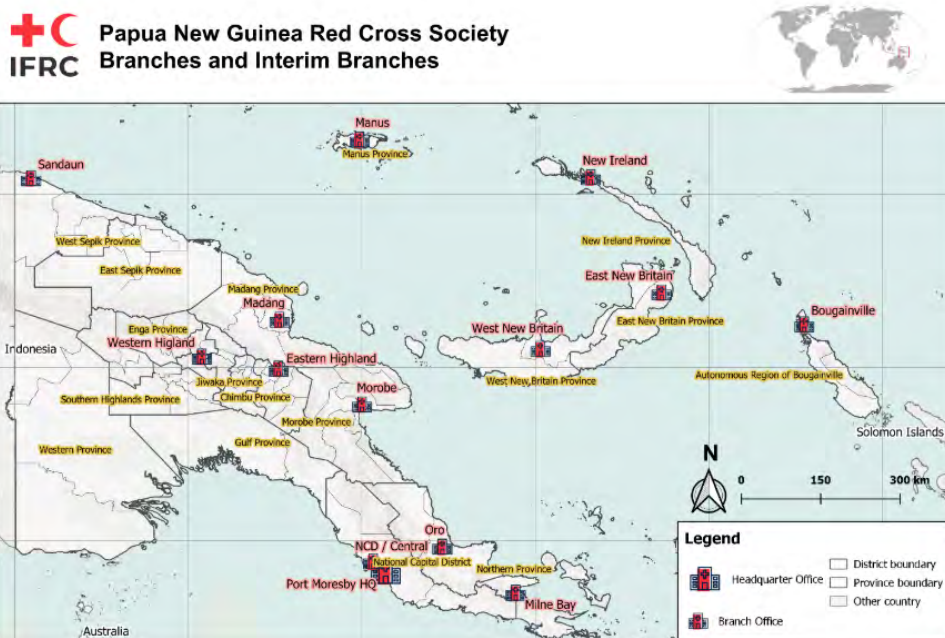
The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society recently held its General Assembly in June 2025, during which new members were elected to the National Council, including a new Chairman. The Secretariat, led by the Secretary General, now includes nine elected members of the National Council. Gellie Akui has been appointed as the new Secretary General.

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society's Strategic Plan 2023-2030 was approved at the General Assembly in July 2023. The National Society's strategic goals are:

- Develop strong humanitarian partnership influence and network
- Improve readiness and response for crises and disasters including climate and environmental crises
- Lead resilient communities against growing gaps in health and well-being
- Promote and mobilise for values, power and inclusion

Looking ahead to 2026, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society will review and refine its Strategic Plan to capture lessons learned and reset operational priorities for the next five years through 2030. The review will draw on programmatic trends, donor engagement and capacity assessments to strengthen effectiveness, sustainability and community impact of the National Society's interventions.

In 2024, the National Society reached approximately 3,398 people through its long-term services and development programmes and 8,821 people through disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the branches of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society

*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

Papua New Guinea, the largest Pacific Island state, is home to a rich tapestry of geographic diversity and cultural heritage. With a population of approximately 11.7 million spread across the mainland and hundreds of islands and atolls, the country boasts over 800 languages and more than 1,000 ethnic clans.

Papua New Guinea faces significant development challenges, with [high living costs](#) and limited access to essential services disproportionately affecting low-income households. Despite its resource wealth, Papua New Guinea remains a low-income economy where over 26 per cent of the employed [population](#) lives on less than 2.15 dollars per day (PPP). Access to health-care, education, clean water and nutritious food is constrained by poor infrastructure, geographic isolation and frequent natural disasters.

In 2025, as the nation celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence with cultural events and community programs across provinces and districts, this milestone also highlights the stark development disparities between urban centres like Port Moresby and remote communities. While the capital experiences modest economic growth, yet these gains have not translated into improved living conditions for the majority, particularly in rural areas where 87 per cent of the population resides. The disparity between urban and rural development, compounded by recurrent crises such as landslides, disease outbreaks and civil unrest, continues to deepen humanitarian needs and hinder progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

Agriculture, fishing, forestry, artisanal and small-scale mining are the primary sources of [income](#) in these rural areas, while minerals and energy extraction is the largest export industry and the biggest contributor to GDP. It is classified as a low-income economy. While the island state has considerable natural resources, this is yet to benefit its population. The [Government Vision 2050](#), launched in 2010 and the [Development Strategic Plan for 2010–2030](#) outline steps by the current Government to create a prosperous middle-income country by 2030. Currently, the country's GDP is well below the average for Pacific countries. The development benefits in Port Moresby, for example, have not filtered down to rural areas, where more than 80 per cent of the population reside.

Papua New Guinea is exposed to several natural and man-made [hazards](#). These include floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, cyclones, diseases such as measles and polio, as well as ethnic and tribal conflict. In January 2024, a police protest led to civil unrest and looting in Port Moresby, resulting in 15 deaths and 31 injuries from gunshots and knife wounds. Major stores and shopping centres were damaged or burned

down. Protracted tribal conflicts in the Highlands and local elections have compromised safety and security for humanitarian operations and development projects, as well as access to vulnerable populations.

A landslide in Enga province on May 24, 2024, increased the crisis in a region already suffering from tribal clashes. The landslide affected six clans, and immediate relief efforts were required. Health and gender inequity [challenges](#) in Papua New Guinea are also critical. Malnutrition and stunting, high child and maternal mortalities, communicable diseases with vaccine hesitancy and lack of access to safe water are embedded in the city and rural areas that are [contributing negatively](#) to the national health indicators and Sustainable Development Goals. Gender inequality and any forms of violence against women are significantly challenging issue in the country.

In East Sepik, a 6.5-magnitude earthquake damaged homes and infrastructure and caused injuries, while in Jiwaka province, torrential rains led to severe flooding along the Waghi River, affecting several people and heightening the risk of further destruction due to continued rainfall. The most catastrophic event was a massive landslide in Yambali village, Enga province, which impacted several communities. Although a 6.0-magnitude earthquake in West New Britain caused minimal damage, the cumulative impact of these events highlighted urgent needs across the affected regions.

Health [challenges](#) in Papua New Guinea are also critical. Malnutrition and stunting, high child and maternal mortalities, communicable diseases with vaccine hesitancy and lack of access to safe water are embedded in the city and rural areas that are contributing negatively to the national health indicators and Sustainable Development Goals.

In May 2025, Papua New Guinea has declared a [poliovirus](#) outbreak following the detection of cVDPV2 in both healthy children and environmental samples. Due to low routine immunization coverage, especially at the local level, the risk of further spread is high. The affected province acts as a major commercial hub and seaport which increases the risk of virus importation, exportation and transmission particularly in under-vaccinated communities.

[Gender inequality](#) remains a challenge for Papua New Guinea. Around 60 per cent of women in the country have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner, which is twice the global average.

The violence associated with [sorcery accusation-related violence](#) (SARV) is a significant challenge in Papua New Guinea. Vulnerable individuals are most affected, with SARV cases equally reported among men and women. It often involves large groups reacting to unexplained misfortunes, driven by fear, uncertainty and a search for answers. Influenced by deeply rooted beliefs and sorcery narratives, crowds may resort to violence to force confessions or stop alleged practices.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

Papua New Guinea is predominantly made up of a [tropical rainforest climate](#) with small areas in the southwest comprising tropical monsoon and tropical savannah climates. Topography is an important factor shaping climate in Papua New Guinea with locations in the central highlands experiencing near-freezing night-time temperatures. [Annual mean temperature](#) varies between 18 degrees Celsius in highlands regions and above 26 degrees Celsius in most of the country.

Papua New Guinea is one of the wettest countries in the world, with annual rainfall exceeding 4,000 millimetre in highlands and New Britain. The climate is predominantly hot, humid, and tropical year-round, with two distinct seasons differentiating the wet (December to March) and dry (June to September) periods.

Several hydrometeorological hazards, including floods, droughts, cyclones and landslides, affect Papua New Guinea, all of which will be magnified in both frequency and intensity by climate change. El Niño conditions can severely affect the southeast Pacific, causing drought and significantly affecting those parts of the population that rely on subsistence agriculture. In addition, the South Pacific Convergence Zone can affect the climate of Papua New Guinea and surrounding regions. The combination of these contrasting weather elements produces regions with extreme wet and dry seasons that receive less than 2,000mm rainfall. These include Markham Valley, Bulolo Valley, Maprik-Angoram, Eastern Highlands, and coastal areas near Cape Vogel, Port Moresby and Daru.

[High temperatures](#) and the resulting heat stress and humidity can have a negative impact on agriculture, which [85 per cent](#) of Papua New Guinea's population rely on. Crops may deteriorate quickly and increasing temperatures can cause the spread of pests and vector-borne diseases. Floods and landslides can affect soil fertility, while drought on the other hand lowers or destroy crop yields.

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

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is part of the IFRC [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and most marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach

consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, [anticipatory action](#) and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The focus of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society for the next two years is building and strengthening climate-resilient communities through climate change adaptation, youth education on climate change, and partnerships on climate change mitigation. The [IFRC Red Ready](#) programme which is set to complete this year will support this process of climate-related preparedness and community engagement. This entails increasing the knowledge, attitudes and practice of communities and youth on climate change and mitigation.

The National Society will continue to strengthen its focus on climate action, public health, and youth engagement, building on lessons learned and momentum gained from previous activities. The National Society will aim to deepen its involvement in regional climate initiatives through active participation in Pacific-wide networks and platforms, ensuring its Climate and Environment Officer remains engaged in peer learning and collaboration.

Efforts will also expand at the community level, with a particular emphasis on integrating climate adaptation and health preparedness into local programming. This includes scaling up community-based health and [first aid](#) training in vulnerable areas, especially in coastal and island communities affected by climate change. The National Society will also explore opportunities to collaborate with local authorities on environmental awareness initiatives, such as mangrove tree planting, coral reef restoration and climate education campaigns.

In parallel, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society will continue to invest in youth leadership and capacity-building. It will build upon regional training experiences, such as [Y-Adapt](#), by rolling out localized training sessions for youth volunteers and strengthening their involvement in community-based projects. These efforts will support the broader aim of promote resilient, informed and engaged communities capable of responding to the increasing challenges posed by climate-related risks and health emergencies.

Additionally, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is prioritizing the delivery of first aid training in small island communities impacted by climate change. These sessions aim to equip participants with essential [first aid](#) skills and raise awareness about communicable diseases and climate-related hazards, thereby enhancing community resilience and strengthening health preparedness in response to environmental challenges.

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society will raise awareness on climate and environmental issues among the communities that it works with. To mitigate and adapt climate crises including sea-level rise, the National Society seeks to prioritize community and youth-led action such as mangrove tree planting, coral reef restoration and [early warning early action](#).

The focus will be on increasing youth involvement in the [Hanoi Call for Action](#) to tackle climate change and help communities adapt to changing seasonal cycles. Strategies will be tailored to each region's specific climate issues and collaboration with key stakeholders will be essential to address these challenges.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Increase youth education and awareness on climate change through schools and communities, reaching both in-school and out-of-school youth
- Promote community-led solutions to address challenges, improve behaviour and promote climate action
- Roll out community-led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and [nature-based solutions](#) activities
- Train staff and volunteers on community engagement and behaviour change approach for climate adaptation

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support and standardized global materials on humanitarian advocacy. It will also help build staff knowledge and capacity in environmental sustainability at the

Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and coordinate with the [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](#) on risk analysis.

The IFRC will continue to support climate related preparedness, response, capacity building and community engagement with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society. The IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) unit and the Pacific climate and environment network will provide technical support.

The **Australian Red Cross** will support the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and people in Papua New Guinea to evolve readiness and response for climate and environmental crises through the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and the Australian Red Cross Partnership Strategy 2025-2032. The Australian Red Cross will continue providing technical support on [anticipatory action](#) and is committed to assisting the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society in adapting its response preparedness measures to address the challenges of a changing environment. This support includes the development of [green response](#) initiatives and the updating scenario plans.

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** has been providing financial support to the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society for a two-year Locally Led Climate Change Project, which focuses on climate change and the integration of [Protection, Gender, and Inclusion](#). The project is scheduled to conclude this year.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** has provided financial support to the National Society for the Chronic Crises project which ended in June 2025. Improved readiness capacity under the Chronic Crises project will continue to strengthen the National Society's climate-related preparedness, response, capacity building and community engagement.



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## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on IFRC emergencies, visit IFRC GO page [Papua New Guinea](#).

Papua New Guinea is prone to frequent disasters, including earthquakes, volcano eruptions, floods, drought and sea-level rises, which are expected to increase in frequency, magnitude, and intensity because of climate change. It has a score of 6.7 on the [INFORM Risk Index](#), ranking it 16th out of 191 countries. Papua New Guinea also has poor coping capacities because of weak physical and communication infrastructure and governance, as well as a lack of access to healthcare.

Like many Pacific countries, it experienced drought due to El Niño in early [2016](#), and later in 2021–2022 because of [La Niña](#), El Niño's colder counterpart, with both drought and floods in the Highlands and East New Britain. Papua New Guinea is particularly vulnerable to climate change, with unexpected weather events and declining rainfall, required for both crops

and drinking, amplifying the challenges of its population with regards to income, health and migration.

Civil unrest and conflict between different ethnic groups is common in Papua New Guinea, with efforts required by both the Government and all stakeholders to minimize the ensuing violence. This includes drawing on the well-documented lessons learned from the violence that followed elections in 2022 in both Mount Hagen and Port Moresby. From May to July 2022, incidents following the election escalated significantly, especially in the Highlands region, and communities in the provinces of Southern Highlands, Hela and Enga continued to experience sporadic violence up until early September.

In 2024, a police protest led to civil unrest and looting in Port Moresby, resulting in 15 deaths and 31 injuries. Major stores and shopping centres were affected or burned down. Protracted tribal conflicts in the Highlands and local elections

have disrupted safety, security, and access to vulnerable populations for humanitarian and development work.

In East Sepik, a 6.5-magnitude earthquake caused damage to semi-permanent houses and infrastructure, with injuries reported. In Jiwaka Province, heavy rains triggered severe flooding along the Waghi River, affecting an estimated 10,000 individuals. Although no fatalities were reported, the ongoing rainfall posed a significant risk of further flooding.

In May 2024, a massive landslide engulfed villages in Yambali Ward, Maip Multaka Local Level Government, Lagaip-Porgera District, Enga Province. The landslide caused extensive damage to lives, homes, and livelihoods, leaving many displaced and others at risk of displacement. The devastation left communities mourning the loss and destruction in Yambali village.

Food insecurity and other socio-economic challenges faced by these communities were amplified by the disruption to schools and health facilities in the affected areas, many of which were closed. Supply networks have yet to fully recover, further compounding the situation.

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

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society aims to build resilient communities by implementing effective disaster risk reduction and management strategies. This includes conducting Integrated or Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (IFRC-eVCA), enhancing preparedness and early action, and improving logistics and warehouse operations.

The National Society also plans to adopt anticipatory action approach and promote community-based disaster risk reduction. It will work to strengthen disaster law and coordination mechanism to reinforce its auxiliary role and ensure humanitarian access across the country.

As part of its multi-year objectives, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is prioritizing the establishment of household items prepositioning in four regional hubs, namely Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, East New Britain and Mt Hagen, and capacity development of a national disaster response team and/or an emergency response team for effective and agile response during emergencies. Additionally, the National Society is developing a contingency plan to address multiple disasters scenarios in the upcoming year.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Strengthen skills of National Society staff and volunteer skills in community development, warehousing protocols and emergency response
- Establish effective mechanisms for community feedback on risk-related information
- Develop and implement early action for seasonal disasters
- Review, finalize and reinforce policies to strengthen National Society logistics
- Form a regional disaster response team
- Maintain sufficient household items prepositioning in four regional hubs
- Develop clear guidelines and protocols for emergencies
- Strengthen disaster law knowledge and improve coordination with national disaster management offices

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical and financial support to the National Society in the form of funding and forecast-based action. It will also conduct a workshop on both this fund and Early Action Protocols (EAP) to ensure the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society's familiarity with the process. In addition, it will carry out training for the National Society's national disaster response team on managing local disasters and help develop methods to recruit and retain both staff and volunteers. IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal will be drawn on as needed for National Society responses to crises and disasters.

The **Australian Red Cross** will collaborate and support the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and people in Papua New Guinea to evolve readiness and response for crises and through the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and the Australian Red Cross Partnership Strategy 2025 – 2032. It aims to strengthen humanitarian programmes and services that enable targeted communities to better anticipate, adapt to and recover from disasters and crises.

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The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** is committed to providing support to the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society on Safer Access framework approach.



Papua New Guinea faces several [health challenges](#), including malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malnutrition and cancer. A lack of routine immunization also fuels occasional epidemics of diseases such as polio and measles. The impact of these is compounded by gaps in the country's [health infrastructure](#).

Papua New Guinea's [Global Health Security Index \(HIS\)](#) score is 25 and its rank is 174 out of 195. There has been negative change since 2019. Health care access and surveillance data availability and transparency indicate significantly [low scores](#), and healthcare facility vulnerability is at high risk. Nearly 50 per cent of the total deaths were associated with [non-communicable diseases](#) followed by infectious and parasitic diseases (35 per cent), injuries and external causes (11 per cent) and maternal and neonatal deaths (4 per cent) in Papua New Guinea.

In May 2025, Papua New Guinea reported two [cases](#) of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in healthy children from Lae city, Morobe province. These cases were found during an investigation following earlier environmental detection of the virus. The children showed no symptoms but tested positive for the virus. The detection of the virus has confirmed a polio outbreak in the country and the Papua New Guinea National Department of Health has launched the national polio campaign together with all the stakeholders.

Polio vaccination coverage in Papua New Guinea is low, increasing the risk of virus spread. In 2024, only 44 per cent of children nationwide received the third dose of the oral polio vaccine. In Morobe province, coverage has remained below 40 per cent for the past five years.

The rates for [child mortality](#) remain high, more than 50 per cent of cause of under-five deaths is malnutrition and more than 50 per cent of children aged 6 to 59 months are stunted, and maternal mortality is higher than other Pacific islands and the [highest in the Pacific Region](#) and second highest in the Asia Pacific region. Immunization coverage has been around 60 per cent and has not changed for a decade.

Basic needs, such as water and sanitation, are often unmet in rural areas. While 87 per cent of the population lives in rural regions, only 44 per cent have [access](#) to basic water sources, and less than 15 per cent have access to basic sanitation. Additionally, only 46 per cent of schools in these areas have basic water supplies and sanitation facilities.

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

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society seeks to facilitate an effective public health programme through advocacy, implementation of a health and water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) strategy, [community-based health and first aid](#), epidemic control training for volunteers, risk communication and community engagement, and the delivery of [first aid](#). The Papua New Guinea

Red Cross Society First Aid programme will expand its trainers and instructors to provide training to community members, private sectors and the public, as a key income-generating activity. Additionally, interventions like [mental health and psychosocial support \(MHPSS\)](#), including psychological first aid (PFA), and [protection, gender, and inclusion \(PGI\)](#) will be integrated into all health and other activities.

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is actively involved in the national polio vaccination campaign, working alongside the government and other partners to protect children from polio. This includes social mobilization efforts to encourage vaccination and support for the broader vaccination campaign.

The National Society aims to increase the number of certified Pacific First Aid Level C instructors and facilitate more Training of Trainers programmes to ensure an adequate number of qualified trainers are available to deliver First Aid trainings. It facilitated one such training session in 2025 where seven staff and volunteers, including five males and two females were trained and are now certified as Pacific First Aid Level B trainers, which will support the expansion of the First Aid programme and contribute to income generation for the long-term sustainability of the National Society's activities.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Engage with health stakeholders on health plans, policies and law reviews
  - Support social and behaviour change communication through feedback mechanisms and radio shows
  - Share rapid information with communities to reduce risk and impact of disease outbreaks
  - Conduct health awareness sessions in the community
  - Build staff and volunteer capacity with [First Aid](#) training and certification in hotspots
  - Participate in health technical working group and national preparedness plans
  - Integrate and provide and psychological first aid in disaster and crises responses
  - Deliver key public messages on water, sanitation and hygiene to raise awareness of water-borne diseases using Epidemic Control for Volunteer tool kit
  - Conduct water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) related activities in schools
  - Foster risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) through peer-to-peer review
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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support which includes community-based health and first aid, volunteer training in epidemic control, introductions to the IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre and the provision of materials necessary to support both these initiatives and those for risk communication and community engagement. It will also provide support to the National Society in supporting the implementation of its First Aid Training of Trainers programme, especially at the branch level.

The Australian Red Cross will continue to provide support towards strengthening Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society's resource mobilization capability through improvements to its commercial First Aid programme. It will also work with the National Society in identifying priority areas for public health in emergencies and epidemic and pandemic preparedness programming.

The Swiss Red Cross will provide technical support to the National Society in the implementation of activities under the community-based health and first aid programme, with a strong focus on behavioural change approaches.



*Elizabeth Hensel, trained in CBHFA by the National Society, used her skills to save a boy from drowning at Mualim Island (Photo: Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society)*



With a heterogeneous indigenous population that consists of thousands of communities, tribal warfare and conflict remains an endemic challenge in Papua New Guinea. Tribal warfare has the potential to displace families and communities and harm vulnerable women and children. One third of internally displaced people in the country are displaced by conflict. In 2021, the country reported 9,500 internal displacements due to intercommunal violence and tribal conflicts, marking the highest number recorded.

The island of Bougainville, which voted to secede from Papua New Guinea in 2019, presents additional threats. Discussions between the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the national administration are ongoing and, depending on the outcome, there is a risk of potential conflict.

Apart from conflict, internal migration in Papua New Guinea is fuelled by development-induced displacement and environmental migration. There is a recognized urban drift towards the country's capital, Port Moresby. This has led to high unemployment and large informal settlements, with 45 per cent of Port Moresby's population and 50 per cent of the unemployed living in settlements.

Papua New Guinea also contends with displacement driven by climate change, as its coastal zone confronts the threat of sea-level. The massive landslide in Enga Province has displaced several communities, with many individuals directly impacted and others at risk of losing their homes. The scale of destruction has caused widespread disruption and heightened vulnerability across the affected areas. Projections from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) also indicate a potential sea-level rise of 10 cm by the end of century across the South Pacific where Papua New Guinea is situated. Additionally, Carteret islands have already experienced environmental refugees due to sea-level rise

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

Over the coming years, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society aims to improve its knowledge and capacity on migration and displacement by setting up of humanitarian service points. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society will also seek to include internally displaced persons affected by ethnic violence, disasters and climate and environmental crises in primary service delivery. The National Society will also improve coordination with migration related organizations such as IOM and UNHCR.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Build its capacity in migration and displacement, including on the running of humanitarian service points, through training and peer-to-peer support
- Develop a strategy to ensure quality humanitarian assistance and protection to vulnerable migrants and displaced people
- Engage key stakeholders and take on diplomacy work to streamline inter-agency engagement on migration

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will continue to provide support on migration issues, including support for internally displaced persons and encouraging close coordination with organizations such as IOM and UNHCR, as well as other international non-governmental organizations.

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As part of wider Movement support, the **ICRC** will assist the National Society in providing safe water and shelter to people displaced by conflict. It will also support the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society in providing Safer Access training in conflict-prone areas.



## Values, power and inclusion

Papua New Guinea is one of the lowest ranked countries on the [UN Gender Inequality Index](#), ranking 158 out of 189 in 2023. Only 10 per cent of adult women have received secondary level education compared to 15.2 per cent of their male counterparts. According to UNICEF, only [47 per cent](#) of girls in Papua New Guinea attend primary school, and only 17 per cent of girls attend secondary school. Women are less likely to participate in the formal workforce than men. According to the World Bank, only [20 per cent](#) of women in Papua New Guinea participate in the labour force, compared to 75 per cent of men. Women are also underrepresented in the political system.

Gender-based violence including sexual harassment, physical violence, emotional violence are common problems faced by women across the country. The 2019-2020 Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee report states that [83 per cent of women](#) have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime.

[Sorcery Accusation Related Violence \(SARV\)](#) is an emerging issue in Papua New Guinea, significantly affecting women and children, particularly in the Highlands region. Victims can be of any gender, age, or social status. Accusations tend to follow regional patterns: mostly male victims in Bougainville and mostly female victims in Enga. Children are often accused due to beliefs that sorcery passes through bloodlines or are harmed when their parents are attacked, as seen in two 2018 convictions. The Papua New Guinea government is currently reviewing the [National SARV policy](#) to better protect accused women and children.

Around 15 per cent of Papua New Guinea's total [population](#) live with some form of disability. Many continue to face challenges such as stigma and limited access to healthcare and education. Women with disabilities are among the most marginalized, often experiencing discrimination based both gender and disability. To promote an inclusive development, the Papua New Guinea government launched the [National Policy on Disability for 2015-2025](#). It emphasizes the protection of human rights, inclusiveness, barrier-free services and partnerships. The policy aims to address these issues by improving participation, ensuring equal rights, and expanding job opportunities for people with disabilities.

According to international NGO research conducted in previous years, approximately [30 per cent](#) of Papua New Guinean sex trafficking victims are children younger than the age of 18, with some as young as 10 years old. Immediate family or tribe members reportedly exploit children in sex trafficking or forced labour. Papua New Guinea also faces widespread poverty. While progress has been made since 2018, over 35 per cent of the population (about 3.5 million people), are below the national poverty line. This [disparity](#) is particularly prominent in rural areas, where 40 per cent struggle to make ends meet, compared to 27 per cent in urban areas.

Primary school completion rates are low and [educational disparities](#) are evident. Primary school completion is 35 per cent, with rural rates plummeting to a dismal 27 per cent, and a further 25 per cent of children aged between 6 and 18 are out of school, with girls disproportionately affected. The 2022 net-school attendance rate declines significantly from elementary, primary, and secondary, dropping from 54 per cent to 52 per cent to 22 per cent, respectively. Moreover, only 68 per cent of persons with functional difficulties have ever been to school.

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

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society seeks to implement an effective protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) programme to ensure support to marginalized populations. It seeks to raise awareness on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

The National Society's objectives also include harnessing the [youth as agents of behavioural change](#) by empowering them to take up leadership roles in their communities. The National Society also aims to enhance capacity of staff and volunteers on PGI and PSEA through mandatory training. The focus will be on integrating [PGI minimum standards](#) into the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society programmes and projects.

The National Society will enhance awareness and coordination to ensure a safe and healthy environment for children with disabilities at the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society Special Education School and Research Center in Port Moresby.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Integrate [Protection, Gender and Inclusion](#) (PGI) within all operational planning and programming
  - Develop a policy on [PGI minimum standards](#)
  - Establish partnerships with local, national or regional disabled person's organizations
  - Promote and integrate community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) in community resilience activities
  - Disaggregate the feedback data collected by age and sex
  - Focus on youth and women-related initiatives
  - Improve safety, health and hygiene environment and manage the special education school for disabled children
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society in integrating Protection, Gender and Inclusion across all its projects and initiatives. It will also provide technical support to the National Society in development of policy and guidelines as part of its operations and for programme implementation.

The **Australian Red Cross** will provide technical and financial support to mainstream protection, gender and inclusion into the National Society's programmes, and increase the knowledge and skills of its staff and volunteers. This extends to technical support on child protection, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) as well as harassment.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is committed to strengthening its institutional standing.

To that end, it has carried out assessments as part of the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in both 2013 and 2019. This is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of a National Society as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the work plan phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and take the necessary action to improve it.



### Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy



## Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Maintain and strengthen coordination with key partners both inside and outside the Movement
- Increase engagement with in-country donor organizations, such as DFAT, Japanese and Korean Embassies and the private sector for a long term/multiyear partnership opportunity
- Focus on domestic and public fundraising activities through commercial first aid, fundraising events and in-kind donations

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in the mobilization of resources, capacity building and partnership development.

The **Australian Red Cross** will also continue to support the commercial First Aid programme along with public and domestic fundraising for improving regular income, finance sustainability and accountability of the National Society to enable humanitarian action driven by local priorities.



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

- Focus on branch development, financial management and sustainability, and volunteer and youth management
- Review important manuals, including HR and finance and procurement and improve key procedures and policies
- Produce monthly financial reports and master Capacity Review and Risk Analysis (CRRA) modality
- Establishing an online SharePoint for filing of projects and operations documents
- Develop corporate partnerships in support of core services
- Establishing minimum standard safeguarding for volunteers and staff
- Establish a revised volunteer management system
- Consistency in policy implementation across all departments
- Structured oversight and management support of support services
- Complete the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) for all branches as part of the branch development and regionalization
- Build capacity in warehouse, fleet management and digital transformation for disaster preparedness
- Establish a unified IT system for better communication between HQ and branches
- Prioritize data literacy training, starting with finance and programme reporting
- Set up Country Integrity Line for building a transparent and trusted National Society at volunteer and governance levels

- Successfully celebrate the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society's 50th anniversary in 2026
- Prepare for the potential independence of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and the establishment of its National Society

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society in the development and implementation of a strategy for strengthening its auxiliary role in the country. It will also support the National Society in developing and implementing the National Society development roadmap plan to improve branch operational capacity, governance and management systems and accountability. It will also support the National Society in capacity development for finance management, fleet and warehouse management and the establishment and capacity building of the National Disaster Response mechanism. The IFRC will also facilitate peer-to-peer support opportunities and strengthen Pacific technical networks

The **Australian Red Cross** will support the National Society in identifying key development priorities and alignment areas, including building a skilled and engaged volunteer network and ensuring financial sustainability and accountability. This will enable impactful humanitarian action aligned with local priorities and strengthen governance, risk, and financial systems for evidence-based decision-making and effective risk management, guided by the Partnership Strategy 2025–2032 and the Finance Development Action Plan led by the Financial Development Specialist.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Strengthen partnerships with key government departments such as the National Center for Disaster and the National Department of Health, as well as with provincial authorities
  - Develop advocacy content for the National Society's core services and needs using traditional and social media
  - Create and share timely and high-impact visibility on emergencies
  - Strengthen public position of the National Society as an auxiliary to the public authorities
  - Implement advocacy activities through partnership meetings
- Advocate to stakeholders through donor mapping and coordination platforms
  - Highlight National Society's achievements in delivering humanitarian assistance during disasters through social media, newsletters and coordination and partnership meetings
  - Advocate for stronger collaboration with the private sector to seek new long-term supporters

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will promote humanitarian diplomacy by supporting the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society to be better positioned and have a stronger capacity to protect the most vulnerable and safeguard the humanitarian space. The IFRC will also provide technical support to the National Society on humanitarian diplomacy, advocacy and disaster law.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Continue financial development plan based on Capacity Review and Risk Analysis (CRRRA) to improve accountability and financial management at National Society Headquarters and branches
- Prioritize timely acquittals, regular reports and a digital financial system
- Strengthen planning, monitoring, reporting, evaluation, and results-based management to improve accountability
- Enhance information management through workshops
- Drive digital transformation
- Improve data use and protection
- Develop and institutionalize internal controls for finance, procurement and communication
- Develop Business Continuity Plan for identifying threats and disruption

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Papua New Guinea Red Society to build strong, credible and well-functioning structures and tools that enable the National Society to deliver relevant, scalable and sustained quality humanitarian services. It will also provide financial and technical support to the National Society through weekly project and finance meetings, as well as needs-based technical workshops conducted online and in person.

The IFRC will also provide technical support on financial development plan based on capacity review and risk analysis initiative to further strengthen accountability and risk mitigation within the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC's support to the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also helps to strengthen the National Society's auxiliary role in the country by regularly meeting with key stakeholders at government level. This has been facilitated by the re-opening of its country office in December 2016, which is now a full-fledged delegation.

Additional technical resources come from the IFRC Asia Pacific regional office based in Kuala Lumpur, the IFRC

country cluster delegation for the Pacific based in Suva and other IFRC members. Specifically, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society has been supported through National Society development schemes, the Red Ready project, the Pacific core costs and financial sustainability initiative, the Empress Shoken Fund and the IFRC Capacity Building Funds.

The IFRC supported the National Society with DREF allocations for two separate emergencies (election violence and landslide) in 2022 and 2024 respectively.

## 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; co-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, development assistance and of efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

In Papua New Guinea, there are no in-country participating National Societies. However, the **Australian Red Cross** is a long-term partner and the **Japanese Red Cross Society, New Zealand Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross** and **Swiss Red Cross** have provided targeted support.

The following participating National Societies are providing long-term support to the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society:

The **American Red Cross** has indirectly supported the National Society through its donor relationship with the US Government (USAID BHA Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance). Since 2024, it has also contributed to the Pacific Core Cost Finance Support Initiative (CCFS), benefiting the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society in terms of core costs and financial sustainability.

The **Australian Red Cross** has a long-standing partnership with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society. The overall goal of Australian Red Cross is to achieve stronger, more resilient communities with increased capacity to prepare for, anticipate, respond to and recover from disasters and crises.

In recent years, its advisory, technical, and funding support has focused on National Society development and emergency response. The National Society development support has been guided by key priorities of Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, including resource mobilization, finance development, strategy and policy development, and Protection, Gender and Inclusion. Complementary to this support, Australian Red Cross and other Movement partners contribute to the National Society's core costs gap through the core costs and financial sustainability initiative.

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** has funded a new two-year project, the Papua New Guinea Locally Led Climate Change Project, which focuses on climate change and PGI integration. The project began on April 1, 2024, and will run until March 31, 2026, as part of the Japanese Red Cross Society's Pacific strategy. In addition, the Japanese Red Cross Society has seconded junior delegates to IFRC Papua New Guinea Country Delegation to learn and work with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society.

The **New Zealand Red Cross** supports the National Society through its first aid programme, humanitarian technology, and participation in the core costs and financial sustainability initiative.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** has engaged with the National Society for supporting chronic crises since 2023. The project ended in June 2025.

The **Republic of Korea National Red Cross** has supported the emergency response starting with the Enga Landslide response in 2024.

The **Singapore Red Cross** has provided financial support to the National Society towards enabling its humanitarian action.

The **Swiss Red Cross** is contributing to the IFRC Red Ready Phase III project, which supports the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and other National Societies in the Asia-Pacific region. The Swiss Red Cross will also assist the National

Society in the effective implementation of activities under [community-based health and first aid](#) programme, with a special focus on behavioural change module.

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## Movement coordination

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

The **ICRC** promotes international humanitarian law and raises other humanitarian issues with the Papua New Guinea government, security forces, academic circles, the media and

civil society. It helps communities affected by conflict and visits detainees. The ICRC also provides assistance to the National Society on various organizational priorities such as Communications and [Restoring Family Link \(RFL\)](#). In 2025, a staff member from the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society's Autonomous Region of Bougainville Branch received the RFL medal for 20 years of dedicated and outstanding service. The ICRC's work extends to increasing acceptance, security and access to affected populations through the application of the [Safer Access Framework](#).

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## Coordination with other actors

The government at both national and provincial level recognizes the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society as a key partner in its National Disaster Risk Management Plan. It recognizes that the National Society is instrumental in providing humanitarian assistance to communities affected by disasters and contributes to disaster risk reduction by building community resilience and response readiness. As a result, the provincial administrative office has provided some space for the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society to make use of container storage and is well coordinated for disasters.

The strength of the National Society is evident through its active volunteers who are members of local communities, understanding the local context and working towards alleviating human suffering by bringing relevant support and services where needed. In addition, the National Society's neutrality and humanitarian space are acknowledged by the authorities.

Papua New Guinea is commemorating its 50th year of independence throughout 2025. As part of this historic milestone, the government is launching major infrastructure projects including new schools, hospitals and roads. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is playing an active role in the national celebration. By collaborating with the government, the National Society aims to expand its core humanitarian services and strategically leverage the anniversary as an opportunity to refresh its brand and broaden its impact across communities. It will also integrate its programmes into the broader 50th anniversary framework, contributing to the legacy of the celebrations through its work in disaster preparedness, health services and youth engagement. Active participation in national

and local events will further strengthen public trust, promote volunteerism, and reinforce the National Society's role as a vital humanitarian actor in Papua New Guinea's future.

The National Society is a member of the Papua New Guinea Disaster Management Team, with the IFRC and ICRC acting as observers when needed. This team is a coordination mechanism for preparedness and response to disasters with all stakeholders and is composed of the Government of Papua New Guinea, UN agencies, international NGOs and NGOs, for any disasters. Meetings are held every month and hosted and chaired by the Disaster Management Team secretariat. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society actively participates in these meetings and plays a key role as a local humanitarian actor in contributing to emergency response and coordination.

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society maintains strong collaboration with various external partners, including UN agencies in country, namely WHO, UNICEF and IOM for future partnerships in disasters and long-term programming in the country.

The National Society has established a close partnership with the Australian High Commission. It is also engaging with potential long-term partners and donors, including the Japanese Embassy, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the American Embassy. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society will continue to engage with these partners and plans to pursue concrete collaborations in the coming years. The National Society is also holding ongoing discussions with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to explore potential collaborations and funding partnerships.



**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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