



# ZIMBABWE

## 2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



30 January 2026

### In support of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society



10

National Society branches



169

National Society local units



167

National Society staff



19,000

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



100,000

Climate and environment



50,000

Disasters and crises



2.5M

Health and wellbeing



60,000

Migration and displacement



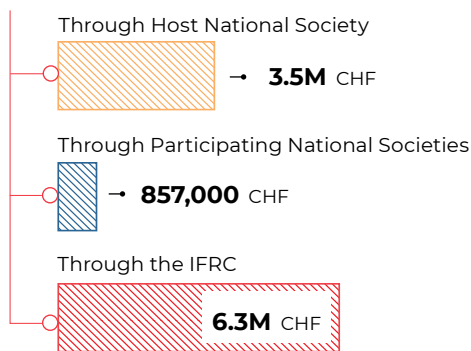
20,000

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 10.7M CHF



2027

Total 10.4M CHF

2028

Total 10.4M CHF

Projected funding requirements

### Participating National Societies

British Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross\*

The Netherlands Red Cross\*

### IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAZW002

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

## Hazards



Drought



Floods



Disease outbreak



Tropical storms



Migration

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action
  - Livelihoods
- Epidemic preparedness and response
  - Migration-related needs

#### Capacity development

- Communications
  - Partnerships
- Internal systems strengthening
  - Youth engagement

### Key country data links

**INFORM Severity rating** **High**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **Medium**

**Human Development Index rank** **153**

**World Bank Population figure** **16.6M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **38%**



The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society's cholera operation has reached over 650,000 people in Harare. (Photo: Finnish Red Cross)

## 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	800,000	1.5M	800,000	1.5M	800,000	1.5M
Disasters & crises	800,000	1.5M	800,000	1.5M	800,000	1.5M
Health & wellbeing	1M	2M	1M	2M	1M	2M
Migration & displacement	20,000		20,000		20,000	
Values, power & inclusion	100,000	500,000	100,000	500,000	100,000	500,000
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.5M</b>	<b>6.3M</b>	<b>3.5M</b>	<b>6.3M</b>	<b>3.5M</b>	<b>6.3M</b>

## Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
British Red Cross	2026	147,000	147,000	-					-
Finnish Red Cross	2026	710,000	110,000	710,000	-	-		-	-
	2027	615,000	15,000	615,000					
	2028	600,000		600,000					

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Zimbabwe Red Cross Society** is a humanitarian and developmental organization founded on the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and established by an Act of Parliament, in 1981. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1983.

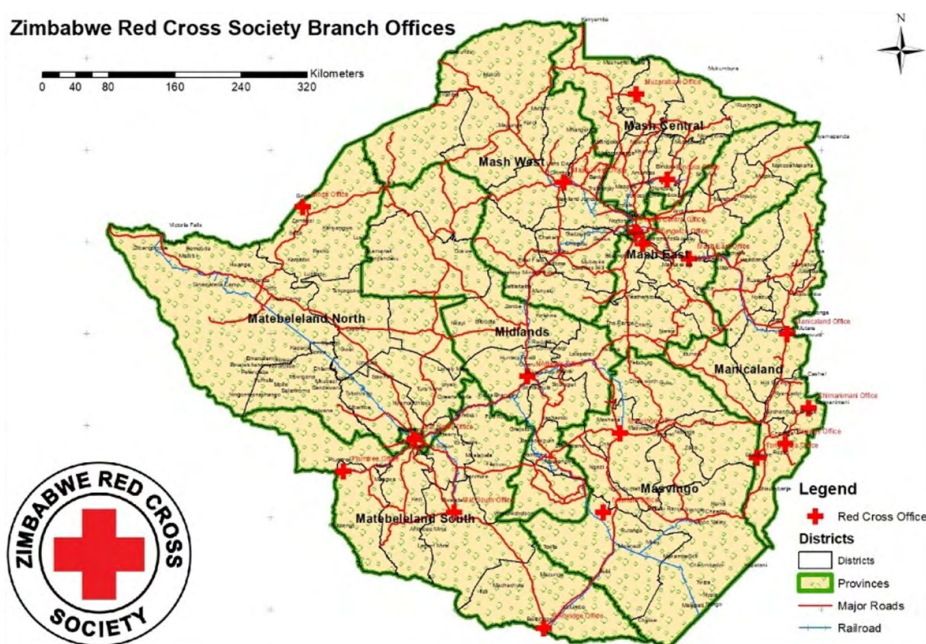
The National Society works as an auxiliary to public authorities in emergency and developmental contexts but also independently and through community structures. It operates in all the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe and currently has 168 branches providing emergency response and developmental programming to vulnerable communities and individuals.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society is guided by its Strategic Plan 2021-2025. The National Society's aim is to alleviate the suffering of most vulnerable communities. Its vision is one of a resilient country, able to withstand and quickly recover from natural and man-made disasters and its mission is to

provide timely, appropriate and sustainable humanitarian service. The past strategic plans have seen successful implementation of humanitarian response and community development programmes in categories of health, livelihoods, social protection, disaster management and emergency response among others. The National Society also successfully established a corporate business unit as a subsidiary, generating alternative revenue for sustainability which includes a High School and a Red Cross Clinic.

The National Society coordinates with relevant technical agencies, such as the Drought Relief Committees, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health.

In 2024, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society reached approximately 746,000 people through long term services and development programmes and more than 1.2 million people through disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of Zimbabwe Red Cross Society branches

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

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Zimbabwe is a landlocked country located in Southeast Africa, between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers. It is bordered by South Africa to the south, Botswana to the south-west, Zambia to the north and Mozambique to the east. The capital and largest city is Harare, and the second largest city is Bulawayo.

Low-income households in both rural and urban areas of Zimbabwe are struggling to purchase food and other basic items. Around [26.3 per cent](#) of the population is vulnerable to multidimensional poverty and an estimated [67.6 per cent](#) live in rural areas. A majority of people rely on subsistence rain fed agriculture and are perennially exposed to hazards such as drought, tropical cyclones, floods and epidemics and climate change. This dependence exacerbates vulnerability to hazards and worsens food insecurity. Climate change has also adversely impacted other key socio-economic sectors which include water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), agriculture and health.

The [2023/24 El Niño](#) phenomenon resulted in erratic rainfall and high temperatures, leading to severe water scarcity and widespread crop failures. This subsequently resulted in agricultural losses, food shortages and declining incomes for smallholder farmers across the country. The country experienced one of the driest seasons in decades, resulting in severe water shortages, reported to be worst on record in parts of the country. Zimbabwe is prone to mid-season dry spells which result in significant crop losses. According to Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) 2024, a total of 7.6 million people or 51 per cent of the population now require food assistance. The drought also impacted pastures, with 62 per cent of them inadequate, leading to over 9,000 drought-related cattle deaths and placing 1.4 million cattle at risk due to lack of pasture and water.

Disease outbreaks such as cholera (2023), measles (2022), malaria and diarrhoeal typhoid among others have further compromised the lives and livelihoods of the population. Rural areas, in particular, are disproportionately affected by a lack of water, sanitation and hygiene [facilities](#), exacerbating preventable disease burdens. Since February 2023, Zimbabwe has been responding to a cholera outbreak. [As of June 2024](#), there have been 34,549 suspected cases, 4,217 laboratory-confirmed cases, 87 laboratory-confirmed deaths and 719 suspected deaths.

Zimbabwe also faces moderate risks from Mpox and La Niña. Mpox, a viral zoonotic disease of global concern, poses risks due to factors such as international travel, porous borders and wildlife proximity. The Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum (SACOF) and National Climate Outlook Forum (NACOF) provided seasonal rainfall projections and sectoral implications for La Niña, which has distinct health and environmental impacts. Proactive measures by the government, supported by international bodies, are crucial, alongside increased investments in healthcare, public awareness and disaster preparedness to mitigate long-term effects.

Despite its resource wealth, Zimbabwe faces persistent social challenges. More than two million people face hunger due to recurrent droughts, high food prices, and reduced agricultural productivity. The country grapples with a high HIV/AIDS prevalence of 11.7 per cent [HIV Rates by Country 2025](#) and recurring disease outbreaks, including cholera (2023–2024) and Mpox (2024), which strain an already under-resourced health system. Reports of systematic human rights violations, including restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and political participation, continue to raise concern internationally. Although literacy rates remain high, school dropout rates are increasing in drought-affected and low-income areas due to economic hardship, reflecting the ongoing pressure on social services and human development.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

The key climate change risks in Zimbabwe stem from the general increase in mean annual temperatures, more variability and unpredictability in the rainfall pattern and the intensification of extreme weather events. Climate variability and extreme weather events have manifested in droughts and flooding that have threatened livelihoods. During the 2023/24 period, Zimbabwe experienced [drought](#) conditions driven by an El Niño event. Looking ahead to the 2024/25 period, a [La Niña](#) phenomenon is anticipated, likely resulting in normal to above-normal rainfall.

The country produces multiple grain crops, including maize, sorghum, mhunga, rapoko and oil seeds and industrial crops such as tobacco, cotton, edible dry beans and paprika. Approximately 80 per cent of agricultural production in Zimbabwe is [rain-fed](#). In addition, two thirds of working people in Zimbabwe are employed in the agricultural sector. Therefore, increasing temperatures, coupled with declining and more erratic rainfall, not only puts stress on agricultural and water sectors, but also adversely impacts food security and economic growth. The threat of climate change is at its highest in the southern provinces, where smallholder farmers, especially women, depend on rainfall for their food, livelihoods and income security.

The late onset and early cessation of rains across all agro-ecological regions have negatively affected the physiological maturity of most crops. The increasing frequency and length of dry spells have led to crop failure and agricultural drought, with Zimbabwe also facing a high risk of groundwater drought. Despite these challenges, the [Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum](#) (SARCOF) has predicted a La Niña event for Zimbabwe, bringing normal to above-normal rainfall from October to December 2024. These projections have been confirmed by the [National Climate Outlook Forum](#) for January to March 2025. However, the forecast also indicates heightened flood risks in vulnerable and flood-prone areas, which could potentially impact crop production and productivity.

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

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society has been strengthening the capacities of vulnerable smallholder farmers through Farmer Field Schools and peer to peer support to scale up climate-resilient agriculture, with access to resilient inputs, markets and actionable climate information supported by forecast-based [anticipatory](#) and early actions. The National

Society seeks to set aside funding to undertake anticipatory humanitarian action in the most vulnerable communities. Its high-level objectives are to:

- Undertake urgent action to adapt the communities to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation
- Equip staff and volunteers with the knowledge and skills to address climate and environmental crises effectively, enabling them to support government efforts by delivering essential last-mile services and enhancing the reach of existing initiatives
- Help catalyse climate change mitigation efforts and promote more sustainable environmental practices
- Cascade climate change information (both in English and local languages) from the management, staff members, volunteers to community members. This will be done through radio slots, posters, road shows and other relevant IEC materials
- Ensure that the adverse environmental impacts resulting from emergency response and long-term programmes are identified, avoided, reduced, and mitigated

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Train 5,000 community members in climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Train 4,000 farmers in climate smart agriculture
- Train 500 students in nature-based solutions
- Plant 500,000 trees and set up eight nurseries across provinces
- Organize a total of 120 monthly clean up campaigns across provinces
- Construct 500 keyhole gardens
- Develop an [early warning](#) communication manual
- Disseminate climate change information (both in local languages and English) to community members through radio slots, posters, road shows and other relevant materials

- Develop simplified [early action protocols](#) for drought and floods targeting vulnerable districts
- Upgrade its emergency operations centre to improve monitoring and [early warning and early action](#)

anticipating the impacts of the climate and environmental crises. Building the National Society's knowledge and capacity will allow them to serve as agents of change and develop new sustainable environmental practices. The IFRC will also work on devising new ways of reducing adverse environmental impacts resulting from emergency response and long-term programmes.

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in capacitating communities and assisting them with integrating and

The **Finnish Red Cross** supports the National Society in promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation and forecast-based financing.



## Disasters and crises

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

Zimbabwe continues to grapple with a series of overlapping natural, health, and economic crises, which have compounded vulnerabilities across communities and sectors. Heavy rains in February 2025 triggered widespread flooding, leading to at least 49 deaths and extensive destruction of property. More than 992 houses and 139 schools were affected, with damages estimated to exceed USD 330,000. The El Niño-induced drought of 2024 left over 2.7 million people facing severe food shortages, with a projected 60 percent deficit in cereal harvests. This drought also disrupted electricity generation, as hydropower accounts for approximately 70 percent of Zimbabwe's power supply.

Zimbabwe has also recorded several large-scale cholera outbreaks, including major spikes in 2018, 2022, and 2023, with 29,000 cases and nearly 600 deaths reported by March 2024. Significant malaria outbreaks were reported in March 2020 and again in January 2025, further straining the public health system in endemic regions. In October 2023, a polio outbreak was confirmed, underscoring the country's vulnerability to vaccine-preventable diseases and the need for strengthened immunization programs.

The combined impact of drought and economic instability has driven widespread food insecurity, with many households unable to afford basic necessities. Zimbabwe faces a persistently high unemployment rate, leaving many citizens struggling to meet daily needs and exacerbating poverty levels. At the same time, the country continues to experience a currency crisis characterized by a fragmented and unstable monetary regime, cash shortages, and exchange rate distortions, which undermine market confidence and household purchasing power.

These intersecting crises have deepened humanitarian needs, weakened public service delivery, and slowed economic

recovery efforts. Coordinated interventions across disaster response, health systems strengthening, and economic stabilization are essential to mitigate the impacts on Zimbabwe's population and support longer-term resilience

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

Under the Pan African initiatives, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society will be engaged in [early warning](#) and anticipatory action to ensure that at-risk communities receive actionable early warning/risk information and are supported to take active steps including early actions to reduce vulnerability and exposure to hazards. Early warning early action systems for the identified and forecasted disasters including the El Nino effects will be developed.

The National Society will work to ensure that social assistance is extended to the most vulnerable households through cash transfers in-kind, food and NFIs to meet their needs in both urban and rural communities. It will review and roll out statement of purposes (SOPs) and tools for disaster management and establish pre-disaster agreements for resourcing response. The National Society will also establish and provide resources for the emergency operation centres across all provinces starting with headquarters and will continuously equip them to be able to coordinate emergency responses.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Monitor environmental conditions, water quality and sewer issues through regular assessments by volunteers and authorities using the High Frequency Monitoring approach
- Conduct 10 rapid assessments to inform response strategies

- Implement 10 early actions to reduce hazards, including risk communication, hygiene messaging and water chlorination
- Conduct 10 emergency response simulations
- Review and roll out standard operating procedures for [cash and voucher assistance \(CVA\)](#), [forecast-based action](#) and emergency operations centres
- Preposition non-food items for early action and response
- Improve access to safe water through borehole drilling, solarization as well as dam and borehole rehabilitation
- Build capacity of staff and volunteers in emergency preparedness and response

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society with technical and financial support. It will also link the National Society with global stakeholders working on early warning and early action development. The IFRC will assist in restocking and prepositioning response material alongside resourcing the emergency operations centres. Additionally, the IFRC will assist the National Society in establishing linkages with UN agencies and other development partners within the same sector.

The **British Red Cross** and the **Finnish Red Cross** will provide support to the National Society by linking it with global stakeholders in early warning and early action. It will provide technical support for emergencies and in development of early action protocols, among others.



The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society's climate-smart disaster preparedness programme employs climate smart agricultural approaches. (Photo: Finnish Red Cross)



## Health and wellbeing

Zimbabwe's health and wellbeing landscape is complex, reflecting both persistent challenges and notable progress in recent years. The country's healthcare system continues to face significant obstacles, including chronic underfunding, a shortage of skilled health personnel, and limited access to essential medicines, diagnostics, and equipment. These structural gaps have undermined service delivery and placed pressure on facilities, particularly during disease outbreaks

and emergencies. The situation has been further compounded by the cancellation of major USAID funding, which previously supported a wide range of NGOs working in the health sector. This withdrawal of support has disrupted programmes, reduced resources for critical services, and weakened the capacity of non-governmental partners to deliver health interventions at community level.

Despite these challenges, there are important signs of progress. The Government of Zimbabwe has proposed a National Health Insurance Scheme aimed at providing free treatment and improved access to medicines and diagnostic services by 2026. In addition, Zimbabwe recently completed its second Joint External Evaluation to strengthen national health security, assessing the country's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats. Together, these initiatives highlight a growing commitment to improving healthcare access, quality, and resilience across the system, although sustained funding and coordinated partnerships remain essential to achieve these goals.

The global situation of [mpox](#) remains a significant concern, especially in Africa. As of mid-September 2024, over 24,000 confirmed or suspected cases were reported in Africa, resulting in over 600 deaths. Affected countries include Cameroon, South Africa, Nigeria and Uganda. Zimbabwe is at [risk](#) due to its proximity to South Africa which has reported 20 mpox cases.

Zimbabwe faces [healthcare disparities](#) between rural and urban areas. Rural populations, which constitute about 67 per cent face limited access to healthcare due to distances from facilities and poor transport infrastructure. Many rural health centres are under-resourced, with shortages of medical supplies, personnel and equipment. Urban areas such as Harare and Bulawayo have better access to health facilities, but face resource challenges due to high population density and strained infrastructure. Climate change threatens Zimbabwe's agricultural productivity, as changes in rainfall patterns and prolonged droughts reduce crop yields, potentially leading to widespread [food insecurity](#), malnutrition and related health issues, particularly in rural populations dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

Additionally, vaccination challenges remain significant in Zimbabwe, particularly for zero-dose and under-immunized children. According to recent [WHO](#) and [UNICEF](#) data, over 90 per cent of children received their first doses of vaccines such as BCG and polio in 2022. However, coverage drops for subsequent doses, particularly the third dose of DTP.

Access to water and sanitation continues to be a major challenge in Zimbabwe, particularly in rural areas. According to [ZIMLAC 2024](#) only around 52 per cent of households have access to basic water services, with rural communities disproportionately affected. About 67 per cent of people in rural Zimbabwe lack access to safe drinking water. Urban areas, including Harare, also struggle with water supply issues, leading to reliance on unregulated wells, which can cause waterborne diseases such as cholera. [Open defecation remains high](#), particularly in Binga (74 per cent), Kariba (64 per cent), Chiredzi (63 per cent) and Lupane (53 per cent).

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

Zimbabwe Red Cross Society aims to continue supporting public authorities in addressing various disease outbreaks in the country. The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society has actively worked to mitigate the rising cholera cases in Manicaland, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central, Midlands and Masvingo provinces. The National Society also has proven expertise, experience and staff capacity to facilitate effective water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) interventions. Its high-level objectives include:

- Be an active member of national and local coordination platforms for public health, WASH and advocacy with relevant policies and mechanisms in place
- Deliver evidence-based and impact-driven, effective, appropriate health promotion, disease prevention and community-based care activities, focusing on the people in situations of vulnerability in all contexts
- Improve the access to health services during emergencies
- Build and maintain [community-level capacity](#) in effective prevention, detection and response to infectious disease outbreaks
- Respond to [mental health and psychosocial](#) needs effectively during emergencies through early, sustained and integrated service provision
- Provide at-risk communities with sustainable access to safe water by drilling and rehabilitating boreholes, upgrading to piped water schemes, training water point committees, training village pump minders and providing a spares bank

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## Planned activities in 2026

- Implement anticipatory and [early action](#) responding to epidemics
- Conduct risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) in communities in response to diseases outbreaks
- Equip existing clinics with medical equipment and drugs
- Train community health clubs through in diseases trends and modern disease preventive methods
- Construct latrines and rehabilitate boreholes
- Subsidize sanitation facilities for marginalized groups
- Capacitate Community Health clubs through trainings in diseases trends and modern disease preventive methods.
- Measure, report, and improve quality and patient safety in all health care services of the RCRC

- Reduce the prevalence of diseases through clinical records
- Respond to mental health and psychosocial needs effectively during emergencies through early, sustained, and integrated service provision
- Provide at-risk communities with sustainable access to safe water through drilling and rehabilitating boreholes and upgrading boreholes to Piped Water Schemes as well as training of water point committees, training of Village pump minders and provision of a spares bank

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide the National Society with technical support on health promotion, disease prevention and community-based care activities. The IFRC will continue to actively mobilize resources, secure funding and support the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society in its WASH-related programmes.

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 two

emergencies in Zimbabwe. The DREF allocations have been described below:

[IFRC-DREF Zimbabwe Malaria 2025](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 192,783 supported the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society in assisting more than 1 million people affected by the onset of malaria outbreak in the region of Mashonaland West. The National Society supported the targeted people over a period of 5 months with assistance such as health interventions for the vulnerable, coordination, PGI and CEA interventions, among others.

[IFRC-DREF Zimbabwe Cholera 2025](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 289,726 in March 2025 supported the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society assisting more than 300,000 people in the areas of Mashonaland East, Mashonaland Central and Matabeleland South with cholera outbreak prevention intervention. The National Society supported the targeted people over a period of 5 months with interventions such as oral rehydration, health campaigns, risk communication and community engagement, WASH interventions, among others.

The **Finnish Red Cross** will provide technical support on health promotion, disease prevention and community-based care activities and initiatives. It will also provide support on capacity building on matters of MHPSS, among others.



## Migration and displacement

The migration and displacement landscape in Zimbabwe is characterized by its role as a country of origin, transit and refuge, with significant internal displacement occurring within its borders. Zimbabwean nationals frequently migrate to neighboring countries such as [South Africa and Botswana](#) in search of employment opportunities and better living conditions. This outward migration is driven primarily by economic instability, including high unemployment rates, hyperinflation and political challenges that limit local job prospects. Zimbabwe also serves as a [transit point](#) for migrants heading to other regions, further highlighting its strategic position in regional migration flows.

Additionally, Zimbabwe hosts a considerable number of refugees and asylum seekers, predominantly from neighboring countries experiencing conflict and instability, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mozambique and Rwanda. According to the UNHCR Refugee Data Finder, there are approximately [22,000 refugees](#) residing in Zimbabwe, with many concentrated at the [Tongogara Refugee Settlement](#). These refugees encompass diverse demographics, including a significant number of children, women, the elderly and

individuals with disabilities, all of whom are particularly vulnerable and in need of targeted support.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are a critical component of Zimbabwe's displacement profile. The [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre](#) reports that natural disasters, such as recurrent floods and prolonged droughts, are the primary drivers of internal displacement. Political instability and economic hardships also contribute to violence and land disputes, further exacerbating the crisis. Vulnerable groups such as women, children and persons with disabilities are especially at risks due to inadequate access to essential services and protection.

Migrants, particularly those who are undocumented, frequently encounter protection challenges, including exploitation, trafficking and limited access to healthcare and education. Refugees and asylum seekers, while benefiting from some support through the refugee settlement, still face significant [gaps](#) in healthcare, education and livelihood opportunities, hindering their ability to achieve self-sufficiency.

Zimbabwe's governmental framework addressing migration and displacement includes several key laws, policies and coordination mechanisms. [The Refugees Act \(Chapter 4:03\)](#) establishes the legal status of refugees and outlines their rights and protections within Zimbabwe. Additionally, Zimbabwe is a signatory to various international conventions on refugee protection and participates in regional initiatives under the [Southern African Development Community \(SADC\)](#), which includes protocols on migration management and cooperation.

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

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society has strategically integrated migration and displacement into its overarching Strategic Plan, ensuring that migration and displacement challenges are addressed within its humanitarian interventions. Its high-level objectives include to:

- Ensure that migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes as well access to durable solutions when appropriate through [humanitarian service points](#)
- Offer protection services to migrants, in line with protection, gender and inclusion approach and [minimum protection approach](#)
- Develop mechanisms to collect, analyze and respond to community perceptions and concerns regarding the needs of migrants, displaced persons and host communities

### Planned activities in 2026

- Offer humanitarian assistance to migrants through [restoring family links](#), ensuring prevention of separation and maintenance of family links through Trace

the Face, connectivity services, Red Safe and general tracing

- Assist migrants in areas of health, psychosocial support, safe referrals, non-food items, food items, shelter, [cash and voucher assistance](#), two-way information sharing and participation
- Advocate for and be part of the development of a national migration and displacement strategy
- Establish and consolidate a strong referral pathway with other organizations to better assist displaced persons and migrants
- Provide free services at the Tongogara Refugee Settlement, Beitbridge Border and Harare Road port, including phone calls, internet connectivity, Red Cross Messages and registration

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical and programming support to the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society in ensuring that the [PGI](#) guidelines and minimum protection approach are met. It will also assist the National Society in developing mechanisms for collecting, analysing and acting on specific community perceptions and concerns.

The British Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross will provide support to the National Society in PGI guidelines and PGI minimum standards approach.

Under wider Movement support **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** will offer support with [restoring family links](#).



## Values, power and inclusion

The Government of Zimbabwe prioritizes gender equality, as outlined in Section 56 of the Constitution, which provides a robust framework for protecting the rights of women, men, girls and boys of all abilities. The Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development spearheads the promotion of gender equality across government programmes through the [National Gender Policy](#). However, despite these progressive laws, the implementation of formal rights remains a challenge, limiting tangible gains for women and girls, who make up 52 per cent of the population but still [lag behind](#) in key sectors.

Zimbabwe's current food insecurity has heightened protection risks for children and women, increasing incidents of sexual violence, exploitation, child labor and child marriage. The COVID-19 pandemic, initially a health emergency, has exacerbated food insecurity, creating a protection crisis that disproportionately affects the most vulnerable, especially women and girls.

In terms of safeguarding and inclusion, violence against children follows distinct gender patterns. Boys are more likely to face physical punishment, while girls are at greater risk of sexual violence, both at home and in schools, where gender-based

violence remains a serious concern. In the water, sanitation and hygiene sector, women and girls bear the overwhelming burden of fetching water for household use, accounting for 84 per cent of water collection in Zimbabwe. Menstrual health and hygiene poverty also pose significant challenges, especially for adolescent girls, often hindering their ability to attend school consistently.

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

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society is using the IFRC Community Trust Index, launched in 2022 as an evidence-based tool to measure community trust in humanitarian action over time and explore the factors that influence trust in specific communities. These measurements will be translated into behaviours and actions that improve levels of trust, maintain trust over time and allow for humanitarian actors to integrate them in programs and operations.

The National Society also intends to integrate in its process the protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) guidelines in a bid to eliminate the harmful practices, focusing on the most vulnerable. This also enhances the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society's ability to provide timely and effective humanitarian assistance to those who need it and ensure vulnerable groups are empowered and protected from abuse, violence and exploitation. Its high-level objectives include to:

- Address education-related humanitarian needs through assessments, programmatic integration, research, data collection and support with educational materials for vulnerable learners
- Ensure all staff and volunteers sign the Code of Conduct and establish feedback mechanisms with clear referral systems linked to reporting of sexual exploitation and abuse, disaggregating feedback data by age, sex and disability
- Promote women's participation in disaster and emergency response teams and involve them in decision-making related to disaster risk management

- Contribute to a positive change in communities through wider understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Conduct training in community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) using focal persons to target 500 volunteers and community members involved in projects
- Support and scale up youth-led education and action building on the youth engagement strategy and other youth-led initiatives such as youth as agents of behavioural change
- Conduct child risk assessments and develop action plans to integrate protection, gender and inclusion
- Train 50 staff members and 450 volunteers on feedback collection, including recording and entering disaggregated data for feedback reporting
- Conduct policy dissemination sessions with staff and volunteers across all provinces and districts using provincial focal persons

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will assist the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society by providing technical and fundraising support for protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) as well as prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). It will further provide technical support in the establishment and strengthening of feedback mechanisms and will help Zimbabwe Red Cross Society develop its youth engagement strategy.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supports the National Society in the development of school capacities and education in emergencies.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society is committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) process and is at



### Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Increase cooperation and coordination with external partners to address major challenges facing communities
- Enhance membership coordination as well as efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions
- Ensures effective shelter cluster coordination with partners
- Increase financial resources, both through domestic fundraising and international support

the action and accountability 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 ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

- Continue to strengthen the existing relationship with major government departments such as the Meteorological Services Department (MSD), Department of Civil Protection, Social Service and Agricultural Service Department from national to the ward level

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

The IFRC will provide the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society both technical and financial support for travel and workshops. The IFRC will also support the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society's in strengthening its capacity for local resource mobilization.



### National Society development

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

- Improve internal resource mobilization capacity for self-sufficiency
- Align all external support in National Society development to National Society strategic priorities and development plans in line with the principles of the NSD Compact
- Secure increased unearmarked funding to reduce its dependency on programme funding
- Invest in National Society development through IFRC funding mechanisms such as the IFRC-ICRC National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) and the IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF)
- Ensure quality and timely delivery in line with commitments to donors on implementation and reporting
- Build data and digital literacy through the use of Entity Resource and Planning Systems (Dynamic 365 Business central) across all the key departments

- Ensure that youth and volunteers are involved in community engagement and accountability systems and decision making while improving the youth structures at their community levels
- Ensure that youth assist in project implementation as agents of change in communities
- Capacity building on Life Skills and Project Management training will be done for Youth volunteers and members across the National Society
- Continue training Youth Leadership skills in Governance for the youth structures to strengthen their participation in decision making

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

The IFRC will support the Zimbabwe Red Cross on branch development and sustainability. It will assist the National Society with accessing the National Society Investment Alliance and the [Capacity Building Fund](#). It will also link the youth structures to global platforms and forms besides helping the National Society secure unearmarked [funding](#).



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Enhance visibility and credibility through its 2026 Communication and Humanitarian Diplomacy plan
- Influence decision-makers to prioritize vulnerable communities
- Advocate on issues such as climate change, migration, missing persons, food insecurity, and health emergencies
- Invest in communication capacity through digital transformation, storytelling, and staff training
- Improve public trust, accelerate response, attract funding, and ensure coordinated action to protect and support those most at risk

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will assist the National Society in strengthening its communications department. It will also financially support the profiling of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society's activities. Additionally, the IFRC also offers support to the National Society in advocacy, helping it elevate its visibility and influence policies at the national and international level. Support will also include components such as training on humanitarian diplomacy, negotiation skills, crisis communication, deployment of technical surge support for digital communication, provision of tools, donor engagement, facilitating of partnerships in all sectors, among a range of other activities.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Strengthen organizational risk management across the national network, addressing risk management culture at all levels, with a clear link to accountability and quality assurance
- Ensure that all the programming and communication aimed at public behaviour change (in public health, resilience, inclusion, etc.) and informed by science and data-informed approaches (e.g., "nudge theory") and integrated with CEA initiatives
- Enforce strong internal controls through the implementation of the Risk Management Framework
- Adhere to policies and procedures as stipulated by the accounting policies and procedures manual

- Ensure that annual audits are done and disclosed to relevant stakeholders for transparency
- Strengthen the Internal audit department to carry out its duties and recommendations

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society with technical support in implementing a risk management framework. It will also support the annual auditing processes and strengthen the National Society's internal audit department.

The **British Red Cross** supports the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society in conducting advocacy for safeguarding. It also assists the National Society in adopting equitable accountability approaches and implementing innovative work practices.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society through its country cluster delegation for Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi based in Harare, Zimbabwe. The IFRC supports the National Society with strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC supports the National Society to strengthen its auxiliary

role by meeting key stakeholders at Government level on a regular basis.

The IFRC provides the National Society with technical support for ongoing operations and ensures its capacity is enhanced. The cluster is also very instrumental in supporting the National Society to mobilize resources from the IFRC movement.

## IFRC membership coordination

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

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society is part of the four [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) focusing on Tree Planting and Care; Zero Hunger; Red Ready and National Society Development.

These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society has long-term partnerships with the following in-country participating National Societies, which contribute to the priorities of this country plan and to emergencies as they arise:

The **British Red Cross** supports the Zimbabwe Red Cross with National Society development, safeguarding and inclusion.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supports the National Society in the development of school capacities, education in emergencies, promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation and [forecast-based financing](#).



Health workers under the Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) programme leading mobilisation efforts in Gokwe North Zimbabwe. (Photo: IFRC)

## Movement coordination

The Zimbabwe 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's office in Harare monitors the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe, promotes international humanitarian

law, restores contact between family members separated by conflict and works in partnership with the Zimbabwe Red Cross to enhance its emergency response capabilities. The ICRC supports the National Society with restoring family links, including the tracing, registration and follow-up of unaccompanied and separated children. It also supports connectivity services (such as phone charging, free calls and internet connections), the transmission of Red Cross messages and the Red Safe digital humanitarian platform. The ICRC also supports the National Society with cooperation activities such as communications and National Society development.

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## Coordination with other actors

Due to its unique mandate in Zimbabwe and ongoing humanitarian interventions, the Zimbabwe Red Cross sustains unmatched institutional relationships with the authorities at all levels. This facilitates the rapid initiation of activities and promotes the continuous involvement of relevant agencies in the monitoring and coordination of its work. The National Society continuously coordinates with relevant technical agencies, such as the Department of Civil Protection, the Drought Relief Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health and Childcare, the Ministry of Public Service and Social Welfare, the Meteorological Services Department and the District Development Fund under the Offices of the President and Cabinet.

In times of emergency, the Department of Civil Protection coordinates the response at all levels. The National Society typically supports rapid joint assessments and the development of selection criteria for targeting, in coordination with communities and civil protection groups.

UN OCHA organizes emergency meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, of which the IFRC is a member. The Zimbabwe Red Cross is an active participant in the food security and water, sanitation and hygiene working groups, which are activated at cluster level when needed. With regards to the current food security crisis, the World Food Programme is the lead organization, and the National Society has been a co-lead since the preparedness phase of responses. There are monthly meetings with all other humanitarian partners in the country, coordinated by the Government. The National Society also actively participates in the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, along with other partners and UN agencies.

The National Society also collaborates with other international actors, including UN agencies such as UNICEF, for humanitarian interventions and other projects.



**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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