



# THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## 2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



12 January 2026

### In support of the Red Cross of The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)



**26**

National Society branches



**307**

National Society local units



**118**

National Society staff



**503,311**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



**965,000**

Ongoing emergency operations



**250,000**

Climate and environment



**600,000**

Disasters and crises



**3.5M**

Health and wellbeing



**500,000**

Migration and displacement



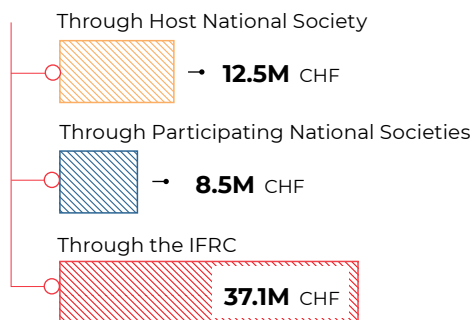
**200,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

**2026**

**Total 58.1M CHF**



**2027**

**Total 38.7M CHF**

**2028**

**37.8M CHF**

Projected funding requirements

### Participating National Societies

Belgian Red Cross

Canadian Red Cross\*

French Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society\*

Luxembourg Red Cross

Red Cross of Monaco\*

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross

### IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeals:

**MDRCD043**

DRC Population Movement

**MDRCD045**

DRC Mpox Epidemic

**MDRCD047**

DRC Ebola Outbreak

Longer-term needs:

**MAACD002**

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

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for DRC, Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, Kinshasa

## Hazards



Disease outbreaks



Conflict



Population movement



Floods



Food insecurity

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Emergency response

- Population movement
- Disease outbreak
- Ebola Outbreak

#### Longer term needs

- Disaster preparedness and response
- Epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response
  - Protracted displacement

#### Capacity development

- Regulatory texts
- Human, material and financial capacities
- Partnership development

### Key country data links

**INFORM Severity rating**

**Very high**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index**

**Very high**

**Human Development Index rank**

**171**

**World Bank Population figure**

**109.3M**



Following the Ebola outbreak in Kasai Province, the DRC Red Cross and IFRC are providing urgent, lifesaving assistance to communities at risk (Photo: IFRC)

## Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027		2028	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
<b>Ongoing emergencies</b>		14.5M				
			<i>(Note: Funding requirement for Mpox Emergency and Population Movement is not available)</i>			
<b>Longer-term needs</b>						
Climate and environment	450,000	250,000	400,000	300,000	400,000	300,000
Disasters & crises	4M	11.5M	3.5M	11.5M	3.5M	12M
Health & wellbeing	5.8M	8M	5M	7M	5M	7.5M
Migration & displacement	1M	500,000	900,000	500,000	900,000	500,000
Values, power & inclusion	500,000	700,000	400,000	700,000	400,000	600,000
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	750,000	1.7M	700,000	1.5M	800,000	1.6M
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.5M</b>	<b>37.1M</b>	<b>10.9M</b>	<b>21.5M</b>	<b>11M</b>	<b>22.5M</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
Belgian Red Cross	2026	1.3M	1.3M	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2027	960,000	960,000						
French Red Cross	2026	3.4M		75,000	460,000	1M	700,000	320,000	850,000
	2027	3.5M		400,000	700,000	1.2M	540,000	175,000	450,000
	2028	2.1M		200,000	100,000	1M	250,000	170,000	380,000
Luxembourg Red Cross	2026	650,000			450,000				200,000
	2027	650,000			500,000				150,000
	2028	1.1M			900,000				150,000
Spanish Red Cross	2026	1.9M	1.9M	601,000	-	-	752,000	546,000	37,000
Swedish Red Cross	2026	1.2M	1.2M	500,000	70,000	400,000	30,000	100,000	100,000
	2027	1.2M	1.2M	600,000	50,000	300,000	50,000	100,000	100,000
	2028	1.2M	870,000	600,000	100,000	200,000	100,000	100,000	100,000

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC Red Cross)** was created in its current form in 1961 as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1963. The National Society has a branch in each of the 26 provinces and 245 territorial committees, and a large network of trained and motivated volunteers and staff. The DRC Red Cross is equipped with provincial disaster response teams with 110 trained members, a regional disaster response team with 10 trained members, and a national disaster response team with 30 trained members. The strategic priorities for 2026-2028 are to further strengthen the National Society's capacity in organizational development and improve the quality of its services for the benefit of the most vulnerable.

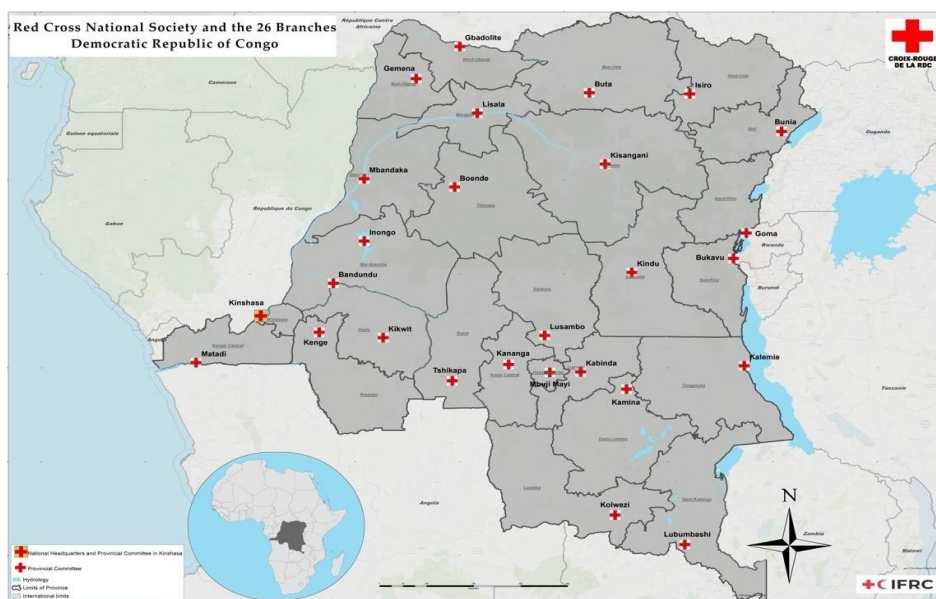
With its decades of experience in helping the most vulnerable people, the National Society has extensive experience in responding to epidemics of cholera and Ebola, disasters including floods, volcanic eruptions and landslides and population movements. The DRC Red Cross provides services ranging from immunization, sanitation and hygiene, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and epidemic reduction to community-based first aid and food security

The DRC Red Cross launched its 2024-2028 Strategic Development Plan (SDP) in February 2024. Although the humanitarian challenges are enormous in many parts of the country, there is limited capacity and resources to reach the entire country in a single three-year plan. With the support of the IFRC and the participating National Societies, the DRC Red Cross has already rehabilitated buildings in some of these

provinces where operations and projects/programmes are underway. The main objective of the Strategic Plan include:

- Strengthening and modernizing institutional capacities by enhancing the organizational, managerial, technical, logistical and infrastructural capabilities of the DRC Red Cross at all levels to ensure effective service delivery and self-sufficiency by 2028
- Improving quality and reach of service delivery by elevating the standard and scope of humanitarian services, including community health, disaster risk management and support for vulnerable populations, to effectively prevent and respond to crises across the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Promoting Community Engagement and Accountability and Protection, Gender and Inclusion by integrate community participation, transparency and accountability into all programmes, while ensuring gender, youth, and diversity considerations are mainstreamed
- Strengthening resource mobilization and strategic partnerships by developing sustainable financial strategies, diversifying funding sources and strengthening collaborations with internal and external partners to support long-term development and humanitarian response

In 2024, the DRC Red Cross reached approximately 3.8 million people through its long-term services and development programmes and 403,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the branches of the Democratic Republic of Congo Red Cross

*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

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is about the size of Western Europe and is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa. It is endowed with exceptional natural resources, including minerals like cobalt and copper, hydropower potential, significant arable land, immense biodiversity, and the world's second-largest rainforest. Most people in the DRC have not benefitted from this wealth. The country is experiencing a complex, protracted crisis resulting from a combination of factors such as conflict, environmental hazards, and disease outbreaks. Internal and cross-border displacement, acute food insecurity and malnutrition, epidemics and protection issues affect the population.

A long history of conflict has led to a grave humanitarian crisis. There are more than 120 active non-state armed groups in eastern DRC, with a resurgence of violence in 2022. The most active groups include the 23 March Movement (M23), and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) which have escalated violence in the Kivu region, leading to severe humanitarian consequences. Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) notes that Kivu is experiencing its worst crisis in 30 years, with nearly [1.5 million displaced people](#), including 600,000 in Goma. Living conditions are dire, marked by epidemics of measles and cholera, inadequate sanitation and drinking water, widespread insecurity, and frequent incidents of rape.

The underestimation of the crisis may have devastating consequences for the entire Great Lakes region. The [OCHA DRC 2023 reports](#) that conflict, forced displacement, and disasters caused by natural hazards have left 26.4 million people food insecure, while gender-based violence affects 7.6 million Congolese women. Armed conflict and grave human rights violations continue to force millions from their homes, with the DRC now hosting the highest number of internally displaced persons in Africa—more than 6.8 million ([OCHA June 2025](#)).

Displaced individuals lack access to adequate services, and preventable epidemics like measles, yellow fever, cholera, and malaria persist. Maternal mortality is high, with four women dying every hour during childbirth or due to pregnancy-related complications. The infant mortality rate is alarming at 70 per 1,000 live births. 7.4 million people are in need of health services, and 6.8 million require humanitarian assistance for water, sanitation, and hygiene. The country has also seen outbreaks of [Mpox](#), compounding existing health system challenges.

The DRC faces one of the highest stunting rates in sub-Saharan Africa, with malnutrition causing nearly half of all deaths in children under five. Unlike other African countries, the prevalence of stunting in the DRC has not decreased in the past two decades, partly due to a high fertility rate. Almost [60 per cent of the population is below 20 years of age](#). Urbanization is growing rapidly, at a rate of 4.5 per cent annually, placing further strain on basic services in major cities.

# ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

1.

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Population Movement
<b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>	<a href="#">MDRCD043</a>
<b>People affected</b>	2.5M people
<b>People to be assisted</b>	500,000 people
<b>Duration</b>	9 July 2022 to 31 December 2025 <b>(Emergency Appeal maybe extended)</b>
<b>Funding requirements</b>	Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 50 million IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 30 million
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Population Movement Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Population Movement Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Link to Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">Operational Update No.4</a>

The protracted conflict in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), has persisted for nearly 30 years, escalating significantly since 2022. This has created a complex emergency with numerous armed actors, mass displacement, and a dire humanitarian crisis.

Since March 2022, around 1.6 million people have been displaced, with Goma and Nyiragongo territory experiencing multiple waves of displacement. Between 28 January and 12 February 2024, approximately 135,000 IDPs fled from Sake to Goma, and 60,000 more sought refuge in South Kivu. The conflict has neared Goma, causing civilian casualties and straining healthcare facilities. Blocked roads have disrupted food supplies, and displaced individuals lack access to basic necessities, forcing them into negative coping mechanisms. The spread of cholera further exacerbates the crisis.

Urgent interventions are needed to provide healthcare, food, water, and shelter while also focusing on long-term resilience-building efforts.

## Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through this emergency appeal, the DRC Red Cross aims to assist up to 500,000 people, including 400,000 IDPs and 100,000 host community members. The National Society has set up humanitarian service points across North Kivu and South Kivu to provide essential services to those affected. It has been actively coordinating with the DRC authorities and humanitarian partners to ensure an effective response.

The National Society's interventions under the emergency appeal focus on the following areas: Health and healthcare, Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Shelter, Livelihoods, Cash transfer assistance, Protection Gender and Inclusion, Migration and Displacement.

**The operation is planned to end on December 31, 2025. An extension of the operation in 2026 has not yet been decided, but it is important to note that humanitarian needs will remain high if the armed conflict continues. The National Society will also continue to provide humanitarian assistance through long-term programs.**

2.

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Africa Regional Mpox Epidemic
<b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>	<a href="#">MDRS1003 (MDRCD045)</a>
<b>People affected</b>	300 million people
<b>People to be assisted</b>	30 million people
<b>Duration</b>	16 months (20 August 2024 to 31 December 2025) <b>(Emergency Appeal maybe extended)</b>
<b>Funding requirements</b>	Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 40 million  IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 30 million
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Africa – Regional Mpox Epidemic</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Mpox Epidemic Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Link to Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">Operations Update No.3</a>

In 2024, a concerning surge in Mpox cases and deaths has been reported across 12 African countries, with over 17,000 cases and 500 deaths. While the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains the epicentre, accounting for 92 per cent of cases, cross-border transmission has extended to Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. Outbreaks have also been observed in other endemic countries such as Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Central African Republic. The DRC Red Cross Society is actively involved in preparedness and response efforts, with support from the IFRC and other National Societies. The IFRC is mobilizing its vast network across Africa to provide critical interventions, including community-based surveillance, risk communication, vaccination efforts and psychosocial support to curb the spread of the virus.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The regional Mpox emergency appeal aims to assist National Societies in preparing for and responding to the Mpox epidemic. The strategy includes scaling up Health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, community engagement and accountability (CEA) and addressing socio-economic impacts. The operation will be guided by a risk-based approach and regional coordination, prioritizing preparedness, readiness and response. The DRC Red Cross will receive support to develop country-specific response plan, enhance community-based advocacy and mitigate the spread of the virus, particularly in areas with imported cases or established transmission. The operation will also target vulnerable populations, including marginalized and immuno-compromised groups, with a focus on protection, gender and inclusion. The highlights of the assistance are:

**Integrated assistance:** Affected people and families are provided with a safety net scheme, including multipurpose cash to meet immediate needs and cover basic necessities while recovering from Mpox infections. Affected people who have lost their livelihoods due to Mpox are aided in reintegrating into the labor market through skills enhancement and diversification.

**Health and care, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH):** Affected people are provided with community-based surveillance to detect and actively find suspected Mpox cases, feeding into existing surveillance systems. Clinical care pathways for screening, triage, isolation, testing and assessment are identified through national plans and guidelines, ensuring awareness among clinical facilities. Communities are sensitized on Mpox transmission, symptoms and preventive actions. Health services ensure individuals with Mpox symptoms seek care, with support for isolation and referral. Vaccination efforts are supported through community engagement. WASH facilities are improved in health centres, with ongoing hygiene promotion to reduce transmission.

**Cross-cutting approaches:** the operational strategy integrates community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities include the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms. The strategy emphasizes local voice amplification, collaborative engagement and transparent communication, extending into long-term resilience building through initiatives such as the IFRC Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative.

**The operation is planned to end on December 31, 2025. An extension of the operation into 2026 has not yet been decided, but the Red Cross will also contribute through long-term health programs.**

3.

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Ebola Epidemic
<b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>	MDRCD047
<b>People affected</b>	680,000 at immediate risk 2 million at extended risk
<b>People to be assisted</b>	965,000 people
<b>Duration</b>	12 months (15 September 2025 to 30 September 2026)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 20 million IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 14.5 million
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Ebola Epidemic emergency appeal</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Ebola Epidemic operational strategy</a>
<b>Link to Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">Operations update no.1</a>

The 16th outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was declared in the province of Kasai on September 4, 2025, by the Minister of Public Health, Hygiene and Prevention. As of 6 October, the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has reached a total of 64 cases (53 confirmed, 11 probable), including 43 deaths, for a case fatality rate of 67.2 per cent.

The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is contributing to the humanitarian response through an emergency appeal launched on 15 September 2025 for 12 months by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). 506 volunteers have been mobilized. Their interventions have made it possible to reach 82,878 people through health services.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The operation focuses on Mweka and Bulape while preparing the neighboring health zones in Kasai Central, Sankuru and KwangoLa operational strategy balances urgent and life-saving interventions with institutional strengthening, aimed at strengthening CRRDC sections, training of volunteers and staff, while improving preparedness in preparedness and outbreak areas.

Key interventions include safe and dignified burials, which prevent transmission while respecting local customs, with trained funeral teams, family involvement when safe, and reduced-risk burials in hard-to-reach areas.

WASH activities ensure access to safe drinking water, PPE, disinfectants, hygiene kits, decontamination of homes and public spaces, handwashing stations and hygiene promotion. With the deployment of Public Health ERUs, support to health facilities for the establishment of screening areas, the provision of essential supplies, the improvement of access to water and waste management as well as the training of health workers, including traditional healers.

The Public Health ERU will also support the DRC Red Cross in the establishment of an SBC system in coordination with the Ministry of Health. Risk communication and community engagement will provide timely, accurate and accessible information, using reliable two-way channels, local languages and multiple media, while CEA mechanisms will track rumours, gather feedback and empower communities, while mental health and psychosocial support will provide patient care, families, children, GBV survivors and responders. ERP considerations are integrated into all activities, including child protection, dignity kits, safe spaces, and partnerships with women's and disability rights organizations. National Societies' capacities are strengthened through retraining volunteers, pre-positioning of SDB supplies, PPE and contingency plans, while regional preparedness includes support to Angola, relying on the Red Cross volunteer network for cross-border surveillance, risk communication, training and coordination to prevent the importation of Ebola cases.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

The DRC is the 10th most vulnerable and the 189th most ready country in the world, when it comes to the impacts of climate change, according to the [ND-GAIN Index](#) in 2020. The DRC is experiencing rising annual temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events, such as [flash floods and prolonged periods of drought](#). It is exposed to increased vulnerabilities linked to climate change, such as food insecurity due to crop losses and failures, increased livestock mortality, negative impacts on fisheries, and damage to infrastructure.

Desertification, environmental degradation, changes in water resources and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services constitute serious obstacles to the country's continued development. Changes in precipitation patterns can have far-reaching consequences for ecosystems and biodiversity, food production, the water industry, and rivers. Climate change is likely to exacerbate these concerns because the majority of agricultural production – providing livelihoods for a large part of the population – is rainfed. Rising temperatures, particularly in the south, threaten agricultural production and rural livelihoods.

Rising temperatures and more variable rainfall will also impact the country's forests, which are critical to rural livelihoods, and the ecosystem services they provide, which are already under threat from land use changes and a growing demand for charcoal and tropical forest products. More than half the country's 2.3 million square kilometres are covered by forests, and between 2001 and 2021, the DRC lost 5.91 million hectares of primary rainforest, representing 34 per cent of the total loss of vegetation cover over this period. The total area of primary rainforest in the DRC decreased by 5.6 per cent over this period, even though the Congo Basin rainforest plays a key role in the fight against global warming, absorbing around 4 per cent of the world's annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The loss also has a huge influence on the lives of the people who consider it to be their 'motherland'.

The DRC has finalized a [National Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#) (2022–2026) as stipulated in the Paris Agreement. This plan, as well as the [National Strategic Development Plan](#) (2019–2023), encourage the implementation of reforestation programmes and domestication of species of high ancestral value. [The aim of the plan](#) is to ensure the resilience of ecosystems and populations to the impacts of climate change.

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

The DRC Red Cross is part of the IFRC's [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 marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction and 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 National Society is also a signatory to the [Climate and Environment Charter for humanitarian organizations](#) since 2022, and engaged in the [IFRC Pan African initiative on tree planting and care](#), in line with governmental reforestation and preservation efforts. The National Society, with the support of the French Red Cross, has also constituted a pool of trainers on the nexus environment tool ([NEAT+](#)).

The DRC Red Cross multi-year objectives include to:

- Implement a tree planting initiative by planting 4,000 trees per year, contributing to the preservation and restoration of Congo's rainforests
- Harness [nature-based solutions](#) focused on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation, with a particular focus on tree and mangrove planting,
- Carry out actions to adapt to the growing and changing risks of climate and environmental crises, protecting at least 250,000 people per year from heat in at least three towns in Grand Ouest and Grand Kivu
- Harnessing the power of nature through nature-based solutions focused on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation, with a particular focus on planting trees and mangroves (Implementation of the Tree Planting initiative by planting 25,000 trees/year). The SN thus plans to contribute to the preservation and restoration of Congo's rainforests over the period 2025-2027.
- Implement environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction and clean-ups
- Raise community awareness on the impact of climate change
- Mainstream climate-smart approaches with communities
- Implement [environmentally sustainable practices](#) and contribute to climate change mitigation

- Build and enhance the climate action capacity of National Society volunteers and technical staff

- Systematize environmental assessments through the use of [NEAT+](#)
- Organize cascading trainings for volunteers, members of target communities, civil society actors and the media on protection of the environment and environmental sustainability
- Identify, nominate, and train focal points in [green response](#) and nature-based solution approaches in branches and at headquarters, and sensitize governance and management
- Ensure participation in coordination platforms related to environmental protection

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## Planned activities in 2026

- Raise community awareness on the impacts of climate change and respect for the environment, including through the dissemination of related educational materials based on trusted information sources and local languages, and ensuring a feedback system to strengthen community engagement in their diversity and meet their information needs
- Conduct enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments (IFRC-eVCA) in communities, integrating climate change and environmental risks
- Organize community sanitation and risk mitigation sessions on waste disposal, waste collection/drainage/rainfall, compost, and reforestation
- Develop a climate-smart food security programme related in communities
- Support community resilience initiatives relating to the adverse effects of climate change and recurrent disasters – three initiatives by province in Grand Ouest and Grand Kivu (Kongo Central, Kinshasa, Kwango, Kwilu, Maindombe, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema)
- Fight against erosion and desertification through tree planting 4,000 trees or 1,000 per branch (Kwango, Kongo Central, Maniema, North Kivu)

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will also support the DRC Red Cross with the development and implementation of action plans, project proposals and resource mobilization for climate change and tree planting initiatives.

The **Swedish Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and Belgian Red Cross** will support the DRC Red Cross in its climate change and environmental preservation efforts, including with the establishment and equipping of sanitation teams in the villages, training and support to women producers' cooperatives, use of organic fertilizers, and promotion of women's agricultural cooperatives' access to markets and a safe environment.



## Disasters and crises

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

The DRC is highly vulnerable to sudden, recurrent, or protracted crises and disasters. The [INFORM country risk profile](#) classifies the DRC as very high risk, especially for humanitarian crises linked to epidemics, conflict and environmental hazards, including volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods and droughts. The DRC's exposure to these risks is exacerbated by poverty and political insecurity. Lower-income populations tend to live in more hazardous locations, with a high potential for significantly increased exposure.

In recent years, floods in the DRC have affected thousands of people and caused extensive damage to infrastructure and crops. In 2022, 26 million DRC residents were affected by drought, equivalent to one in four people. Landslides, exacerbated by the rugged terrain, further claim lives and impact food security through soil and infrastructure degradation. Active volcanoes and earthquakes, notably in the Virunga volcanic chain, pose a direct threat to over a million inhabitants, exemplified by Mount

Nyiragongo's 2021 eruption, causing significant damage and displacement.

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The DRC has experienced several forms of conflict, including ethnic clashes, armed group attacks, and intercommunal violence. In 2023, against a backdrop of escalating conflict since November 2022, particularly in North Kivu and Ituri, and despite several ceasefire announcements, fighting between the M23 non-state armed group and the Congolese army is continuing, causing massive population displacements, and heightening the risk of food insecurity.

While the main factors influencing food insecurity are conflicts and population movements, food security is also affected by land and infrastructure degradation due to erosion and landslides, a rise in livestock and crop diseases due to temperature increases, direct crop failure due to floods and heavy rains, and nutrient leaching and fungal growth due to high humidity. In 2023, conflict zones, including North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri, had many displaced households that lacked regular or any harvest due to abandoned fields. In the areas with large displaced populations and are affected by conflict, there has been an increase in [visible signs of malnutrition](#) and the use of [emergency strategies](#) such as begging or going without food for several days. Despite seasonal improvements in household food consumption, conflict-affected areas struggle with agricultural disruptions, emphasizing the complex challenges facing the DRC.

The DRC [National Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2023](#) for Natural Risk and Disaster Reduction identifies nine priority axes across risk reduction and preparedness. National platforms and coordination mechanisms are also in place.

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

With 26 branches, an active volunteer base and high levels of access and acceptance across the territory, the DRC Red Cross is a key humanitarian actor and first responder. The National Society is also a member of the national platform for disaster risk reduction and contributes to the national plan through disaster preparedness and risk reduction. It works to strengthen its capacity to effectively manage disasters and emergencies, as part of the [IFRC Pan-African Red Ready initiative](#).

The DRC Red Cross multi-year objectives on [disaster risk management](#) include to:

- Intensify the implementation of the pan-African Red Ready and Zero Hunger initiatives.
- Contribute to the scale-up of humanitarian action and risk reduction, with a focus on risk reduction at the local level by building local capacity for early warning and early/effective response
- Systematically integrate [cash and voucher assistance](#) into operations
- Engage in preparedness and capacity building processes, such as the IFRC preparedness for an effective response ([PER](#)), cash preparedness, logistics
- Strengthen its leadership in the field of [disaster law](#) and assist the Government in adopting related legal instruments and frameworks

The DRC Red Cross also seeks to contribute to the national food and nutrition security policy, implementing elements of the IFRC Pan-African Zero Hunger initiative. The National Society's aim is to address severe food insecurity (supported

through the IFRC regional hunger crisis Appeal), support recovery and build resilience in the country.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Establish early warning systems in partnership with local media to promote key messages on disaster risk and encourage [risk reduction](#)
- Develop the mapping of risk areas or areas of refuge in the event of disaster threats and organize simulation exercises within communities
- Provide timely and appropriate in-kind and [cash and voucher assistance](#) to people affected by crises and disasters
- Support the most profitable agricultural and commodity processing activities, including access to inputs and equipment for related activities
- Support to 5,000 smallholder farmers, through climate-smart anticipatory action, including technical support and complementary resources
- Pre-position a stock of intervention equipment such as assistance kits and [first aid kits](#)
- Elaborate and disseminate contingency plans in branches for a variety of hazards
- Undertake advocacy with the Ministry of the Interior on the facilitation and national regulation of relief operations
- Participate in meetings within the disaster risk reduction coordination platforms

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the National Society in resource mobilization to implement the IFRC Pan-African Preparedness and Readiness and Zero Hunger initiatives. It will provide technical and financial support for cash and voucher assistance, risk communication, early warnings and community preparedness. The IFRC will also support the National Society on disaster law.

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

[IFRC-DREF DRC Flood 2025](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 607,966 in April 2025 supported the DRC Red Cross in assisting more than 15,000 individuals affected by floods in the areas of Kinshasa, Kongo Central, and Tanganyika. The National Society supported the targeted people over a four-month period with assistance such as shelter, multipurpose cash assistance, WASH and health interventions.



Since the start of the 16th Ebola outbreak in September 2025, DRC Red Cross volunteers have worked tirelessly to protect their communities by sharing lifesaving information, supporting affected families, and promoting safe practices on the ground (Photo: DRC Red Cross)



## Health and wellbeing

The DRC ranks low at 104 out of 140 countries assessed on the 2021 [Global Health Security Index \(GHS Index\)](#), despite progress since the 2019 assessment in the country's preparedness and capacity to prevent, detect, respond to, develop norms and risk culture to epidemics and other public health crises. [Evidence suggests](#) that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the level of use of health services since March 2020.

A food security overview from January to June 2024 shows that 24.5 million people living in the DRC are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or higher). According to [\(OCHA/IPC\)](#), nearly 4.5 million children under the age of five are likely to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2024. Of these, 1,390,409 are likely to be severely acutely malnourished and more than 3.7 million pregnant or lactating women are likely to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2024 in the country. In early 2025, persistent fighting in North Kivu and Ituri continued to displace populations and worsen food insecurity, with over 5.5 million people displaced, often repeatedly. High inflation and currency devaluation in early 2025 have caused sharp rises

in staple food prices in eastern provinces, further eroding food access.

In 2025, the DR Congo is experiencing one of the most severe food crises in the world. More than

25.4 million people are facing acute food insecurity, representing nearly 25% of the national population. Approximately 2 million children under the age of 5 are affected by acute malnutrition, including more than 600,000 severe cases requiring urgent care. Approximately 4 in 10 children suffer from stunted growth (chronic malnutrition), a rate that can exceed 60% in some remote rural areas. The country also experiences floods and epidemics (Ebola, Mpox, Covid-19, Cholera, Measles, Polio, etc.).

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase ([IPC](#)) assessment, published on March 27, 2025, there are around 28 million people, or almost a quarter of the DRC's total population, facing acute food insecurity.

Malaria is still a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the DRC, and cases are expected to increase in terms of seasonality

and geography. This is due in part to rising temperatures, more variable precipitation, and increased humidity, which affect the lifecycle and habitat of malaria-carrying mosquito and parasite species. Malaria cases are expected to triple in already vulnerable areas by mid-century. This anticipated shift will expose an additional 65,000 to 80,000 people in [previously unsuitable regions](#), primarily in the south-west (Kwango province) and east (Kivu provinces).

The DRC faces recurrent disease outbreaks such as cholera, Murray Valley encephalitis, monkeypox, measles, Ebola, meningitis, plague, and yellow fever. The Ebola outbreak [declared](#) in the DRC in August 2022 was the fifteenth Ebola outbreak since 1976, seven of which have occurred since 2018. The country has also been facing a [measles and deadly cholera](#) epidemic for several years, with regular outbreaks in different parts of the country.

Since 2024, Mpox has seen a significant surge, with 120 394 suspected cases and 1879 deaths reported by end of June 2025 ([Ocha](#)), affecting all 26 provinces. The most affected areas include Equateur, South Kivu, North Kivu, Sankuru, Sud-Ubangi and Tshopo.

These epidemics also contribute to the food and nutritional insecurity of the displaced households, which are cut off from their livelihoods. As the number of displaced people increases in the area, epidemics are resurfacing in the camps for displaced people in North Kivu. According to [Médecins Sans Frontières \(MSF\)](#), an average of 90 new cases of cholera are reported every day, and the same is true of the measles epidemic, which continues to spread, with almost 900 cases already reported since the start of 2023 in the Nyiragongo health zone alone. This is a worrying situation, given the [overcrowded conditions](#) in the internally displaced person sites, which are conducive to the rapid spread of the disease.

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

The DRC Red Cross has been responding to multiple disease outbreaks over the years, including notably the series of Ebola virus disease outbreaks since 2018 in the Equateur province and eastern part of the country. Through an IFRC [Emergency Appeal](#), the DRC Red Cross carried out critical activities during these outbreaks, including safe and dignified burials, infection prevention and control in health facilities, and risk communication and community engagement.

With its network of community volunteers and extended experience responding to outbreaks, the DRC Red Cross seeks to contribute to the development of integrated health, with a focus on [community-based health and first aid](#), and [water, hygiene and sanitation](#) (WASH) programmes to meet the unmet needs of vulnerable or marginalized groups. This also includes interventions in [epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response at the community level for surveillance](#), early detection and rapid response to outbreaks and other health risks. The National Society involves traditional healers,

religious leaders, community-based organizations, community leaders, schools, media and other community networks and volunteers as community responders.

The National Society multi-year objectives include to:

- Reach 3.5 million people per year with health services to help protect and improve the health and well-being of communities
- Reach 5,000 people a year with [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS) services
- Train at least 5,000 people a year in [first aid](#)
- Contribute to preserving the health and dignity of communities in emergency situations by giving them access to appropriate health services
- Reach one million people each year with WASH services
- Increase access for communities exposed to pandemics and epidemics to affordable, appropriate and environmentally friendly WASH services
- Contribute to a 50 per cent reduction in deaths related to [cholera](#) and other diarrhoeal diseases, by promoting access to and the use of clean water and sanitation infrastructure
- Continue to implement community engagement and accountability activities as well as WASH activities to fight COVID-19
- Contribute to the response to the Mpox epidemic by continuing to implement the activities of CREC, CEA, PSS, as well as the PCI/WASH and community-based surveillance activities and also to support the livelihoods of the target communities

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Establish community animation cells in health zones for the development and strengthening of community initiatives in health education, hygiene, and basic sanitation in Kinshasa and each of the major cities of the provincial branches
- Strengthen and promote community-based solutions to health emergencies
- Produce and popularize educational materials related to [epidemic control](#), WASH and vaccination
- Ensure awareness of good practices in communities exposed to epidemics and pandemics and epidemics, including cholera as part of the IFRC [One WASH](#) initiative, and ways to better mitigate their impact
- Construct, rehabilitate, and develop water structures in the provincial branches of the target operational areas alongside mapping the existing functional and non-functional water points

- Provide WASH management committees with maintenance kits for the sustainability of water and sanitation facilities in the branches of two target operational areas
- Provide quality first aid services and training in vulnerable communities, and commercial first aid to public and private sector institutions
- Partake actively in the Ministry of Health's platforms to strengthen its auxiliary role in health and WASH, and other coordination platforms at all levels
- Finalize, produce and disseminate the National Society health and WASH strategy
- Pursue capacity building and training of volunteers and staff on multiple health and WASH themes

interventions on epidemics such as cholera, measles, Ebola, plague, and yellow fever, among others. It will also support the DRC Red Cross in strengthening routine immunization and nutrition, and its participation in the meetings of the humanitarian coordination platforms for the health, nutrition and WASH clusters.

The participating National Societies will support the National Society in advocacy with health authorities for the involvement of volunteers at health zone level, and with various health and WASH actions in different provinces. Support will also be provided for the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights, and for the mothers' clubs in setting up and managing health solidarity funds to facilitate access to care. They will also provide technical and financial support to the National Society in the province of Kwilu/Tshikapa, within the framework of the food security and nutrition projects. The participating National Societies, which contribute to the implementation of actions under this priority are the **Belgian Red Cross** (French and Flemish communities), **French Red Cross**, **Spanish Red Cross**, and **Swedish Red Cross**.

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide technical and financial support to the National Society for the community epidemic and pandemic preparedness programme (CP3), and for cholera control. It will also support the development and implementation of new health and WASH programmes, and



## Migration and displacement

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There has been widespread forced displacement of people fleeing from conflicts, epidemics, and disasters in the DRC. As no national registration system exists, migration statistics are provided by humanitarian organizations and verified by the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration. However, they do not cover the entire territory or offer a very reliable estimate of the situation. The majority of people have been forced to move because of the Congo wars, ethnic conflicts and clashes between non-state armed groups and government forces, while others have been displaced by floods, earthquakes, and epidemics.

In 2023, following an alarming resurgence of violence between the non-state armed groups Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and the March 23 Movement (M23), more than one million people were displaced across the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tanganyika in eastern DRC. In total, between 5.3 and 5.5 million people have been displaced, of whom 4.7 million are internally displaced and over 900,000 are now refugees in neighbouring countries. The majority of refugees from the DRC are hosted by Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania.

In 2024, the number of internally displaced persons has risen to over 7.2 million, with up to 7.7 million people displaced due to escalating violence, including the ongoing M23 insurgency.

According to Ocha, since the beginning of 2025, more than 1 million people have been newly displaced in the DRC, bringing the total to approximately 6.82 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Women account for 51% of the displaced population. Nearly 90% of displacements are due to armed attacks and clashes. While the provinces of South Kivu, North Kivu, and Ituri have received more than 74% of IDPs over the past three months, almost all of those who have returned are in these same provinces.

Floods also continue to drive displacement; in 2025, over 423,000 people have been newly displaced due to disasters, with flooding responsible for more than half of such events since 2008.

Although almost a million migrants live in the DRC, the overall migrant population represents just over 1 per cent of the total population. Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, and Rwanda have been the main countries of origin of immigrants who have moved to the DRC in recent decades, mainly as a result of conflicts. Despite its poor economic system and violent conditions, the DRC remains a refuge for asylum seekers due to

its [geographical location](#). According to the UNHCR in 2022, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers registered in the DRC was almost 525,000, with the largest concentrations in the eastern and northern parts of the country.

The DRC has adopted a number of main international conventions related to population movement, including the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1956) and the 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Refugee Convention of the African Union, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1993), the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (1996), the Protocols against Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants (2005), and the Kampala Convention on Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (2016). In addition, articles of the DRC Constitution recognize the rights of migrants and grant additional rights to asylum-seekers and refugees. However, the government has not developed a clear and effective migration policy and lacks a solid legal framework on migration issues.

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

The DRC Red Cross's neutrality, access and integrated programming provide a strong foundation for its work with people on the move. While the DRC Red Cross serves the needs of displaced people and migrants as part of its overall action, its high-level objectives are to:

- Assess, understand and respond effectively to the priority needs of 490,000 migrants, displaced and host communities each year as part of the National Society's overall action
- Provide humanitarian assistance and protection for migrants and displaced people at key points, and access to durable solutions where needed
- Operate along the main migratory routes, establishing [humanitarian service points](#)
- Engage with the authorities and other actors on migration and displacement solutions

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Cover the specific needs of 500,000 migrants and displaced persons concerning assistance, diseases, [psychosocial support](#), and other requirements in the target operational areas
- Set up first aid stations at the entrance gates of priority branches
- Pre-position intervention, recording, communication and rescue equipment in operational areas and border branches
- Participate in national and international forums on the issue of population movements
- Map the capacities of actors by sector in the target branches
- Organize advocacy sessions with stakeholders for the strengthening of structures for the supervision of displaced persons
- Sensitize the political and administrative authorities and other stakeholders on the role of the DRC Red Cross as an auxiliary in supporting migrants, internally displaced persons, and other vulnerable people

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society with conducting a migration and displacement needs assessment and help it integrate migration and displacement into its new strategic planning. It will develop joint plans with participating National Societies and fund proposals to support refugees and returnees in the sub-region.

The participating National Societies will assist the DRC Red Cross with providing humanitarian assistance and protection to host communities, displaced persons, and migrants to increase social cohesion and inclusion. They will also ensure that people affected by crises and disasters receive timely and appropriate [cash and voucher assistance](#). Particularly, the **Luxembourg Red Cross** is heavily involved in the [shelter](#) sector, providing essential support to ensure safe and adequate housing for displaced people.



## Values, power and inclusion

The DRC was ranked 140 on the [Global Gender Gap Index](#) in 2023. A [World Bank](#) report identifies three main factors behind persistent and significant gender gaps: control over land, capacity for expression and action, and risk and uncertainty, in particular vulnerability to shocks and gender-based violence. Half of the women have reportedly experienced physical violence and almost a third have experienced sexual violence, most often perpetrated by an intimate partner. More than 340 cases of sexual violence against women and girls have been [documented](#) since the beginning of 2023 in localities hosting people who fled violence in North Kivu.

Women in the DRC face significant barriers to economic opportunities and empowerment. Only 16.8 per cent of women have completed secondary school, about half of the rate of completion for men. Early marriage and high reproduction rates represent a challenge, and women and girls without any education have a reproduction rate twice that of women who complete secondary school. The participation of women in the DRC's labour force is estimated at nearly 62 per cent, and most of them work in agriculture. The country has a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.601 and [ranks 151](#) out of 170 countries in 2023. It ranks 179 out of 191 on [UNDP's Women Empowerment Scorecard](#).

The situation in the DRC also has a devastating impact on children. Grave violations of children's rights are compounded by the massive population displacements, which increase the vulnerability of children and put them at risk of violence and exploitation. In 2019, over 3,000 children escaped armed groups in the DRC. Despite efforts to combat trafficking, the government's progress is hindered by challenges in identifying victims and ineffective border surveillance. [UNICEF reports](#) that 54% of the DRC's 90 million people are children, and nearly 20 million people, including 11.5 million children, are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. One in ten children dies before the age of five, and over 7 million aged 5–17 is out of school.

The DRC is a source, transit, and destination for human trafficking, with armed groups in eastern areas being the primary perpetrators. Exploitation forms include forced labour, prostitution, forced marriage, and domestic servitude. Children are engaged in agriculture, mining, smuggling, and begging. While specific data on exploitation is lacking, [estimates indicate](#) around 68 per cent of trafficking victims are Congolese women, and children constitute 61 per cent of victims. The government made progress in 2019 by [increasing prosecutions](#) and investigations of trafficking cases, particularly those involving trafficking in women and forced labour, and secured convictions of traffickers. Illegal migration and smuggling routes have historically been identified in the western, eastern and southern regions of the country.

In 2020, the DRC's National Assembly passed its first law on the rights of people living with disabilities, which could improve the lives of millions of people across the country.

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

The DRC Red Cross puts strong emphasis on [protection, gender, and inclusion](#) in the delivery of its action, and leverages [community engagement and accountability](#) in its people-centred approach. Dignity, access, participation, and safety for people of all identities are at the heart of everything it does. The National Society seeks to integrate gender and diversity into all its services and programmes and develop initiatives to fight against sexual and gender-based violence and all forms of discrimination. The DRC Red Cross aims to be a safe and inclusive organization and aims to revitalize its youth section.

The National Society high-level objectives include to:

- Contribute to positive change in communities through a better understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of fundamental principles and humanitarian values, with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of young people
- Promote and support safe, equitable, and continuous access to quality education for all, especially for boys and girls affected by disaster, crisis, or displacement
- Become a safe and inclusive network, ensuring the dignity, access, participation, and safety of people of all identities
- Encourage vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals and communities to influence decisions that affect them and trust the IFRC network to best serve their interests

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Sensitize crisis-affected communities on SGBV, PGI and PSEA in branches of six target operational areas
- Organize awareness-raising sessions on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in target universities and schools
- Establish and maintain community feedback mechanisms in programmes and services
- Sensitize community members and leaders to feedback mechanisms and commitments to work in a transparent and participatory manner
- Ensure implementation of the [CEA minimum standards in emergencies](#)

- Sensitize affected communities to promote equitable access to education for girls and boys in the branches of six target operational areas
- Organize advocacy sessions with state authorities and other partners for equitable access to education for girls and boys
- Support a National Congress of the Red Cross Youth and encourage the exchange of experiences of the youth with young people from other National Societies or other structures/organizations
- Organize public activities (sanitation, guided tour, solidarity awareness walk), and multidisciplinary competitions for the promotion of humanitarian norms and values, in the branches of two target operational areas
- Popularize the National Society's Gender and Diversity policy
- Integrate and institutionalize CEA into the National Society policies, operations, and procedures

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society's PSEA policy and its action plan to implement prevention and support survivors. It will further assist the National Society with integrating and institutionalizing Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) into their policies, operations, and procedures.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The DRC Red Cross is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and has carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (IFRC-OCAC) process in 2017. Self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (IFRC-PER) process and is in 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.



### Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

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



## Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Strengthen coordination and collaboration with key national and sub-national stakeholders
- Broaden the participation of the network and enhance leadership role in international and inter-agency coordination
- Increase engagement in government-led platforms to contribute to the achievement of humanitarian and development goals

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in co-facilitating coordination meetings, using innovative Federation-wide approaches, and advocating with other organizations for their participation and support to the National Society. This includes support to the development of long-term relationships with potential donors and the implementation of resource mobilization activities.

The participating National Societies, mainly **Belgian Red Cross, Flemish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross** and **Swedish Red Cross** will continue to participate in the coordination meetings organized by the National Society and support innovative approaches to coordination.



## National Society development

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

- Implement the Strategic Plan (2024-2028) to guide actions over five years
- Invest in training governance members on good practices and leadership
- Organize ordinary general assembly, provincial assemblies, and the annual management conference
- Develop volunteerism and youth action as drivers for behaviour change and local engagement
- Revitalize youth activities at all levels, including youth sections, school and university brigades
- Create a youth management system and maintain a volunteers database
- Provide training for youth and young people on various institutional topics across all 26 branches
- Strengthen branches in provinces facing major humanitarian challenges, including building rehabilitation for ongoing operations and programmes
- Conduct organizational capacity assessments (IFRC-BOCA) in branches
- Rehabilitate central warehouse and headquarters facilities

- Reduce extreme dependence on external support through resource mobilization policy and strategy implementation
- Develop a business plan and map available in-country funding sources
- Inventory existing income generating activities, such as commercial first aid and ambulance training
- Establish mechanisms to monitor and maximize revenue
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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to cover the health, accident, and death costs of volunteers, and will contribute to providing technical and financial support to the National Society for the volunteer management system. It will also support the National Society to popularize its existing policies in all branches, conduct BOCA exercises, and organize its ordinary assemblies.

The participating National Societies will support the construction and solar electrification of Kwango branch office and aid the management of income generating activities, as well as support the training of trainers in (commercial) [first aid](#). The participating National Societies will also provide financial support for the organization of general assemblies at the national and provincial levels. The participating National Societies which contribute to the implementation of actions under this priority are the **Belgian Red Cross** (Flemish and French communities), **French Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross,** and **Swedish Red Cross.**



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Advocate for change by influencing public behaviour, policies, and decisions at national, regional, and global levels through a strategic, evidence-based approach to humanitarian diplomacy
- Promote public image by producing and broadcasting radio and television programmes highlighting the National Society's activities
- Advance humanitarian diplomacy at both national and branch levels, leveraging its auxiliary status with public authorities
- Build and maintain the trust of key stakeholders—including governments, donors, the media, and communities

- Focus on influencing decisions made by public authorities and inter-agency networks, particularly concerning IFRC priority issues
- Support capacity building for effective humanitarian diplomacy, collaborating within the IFRC network and participating in both national and regional forums

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the DRC Red Cross across its humanitarian diplomacy and public communication efforts.

The participating National Societies which contribute to the implementation of actions under this priority are the **Belgian Red Cross** (Flemish and French communities), **French Red Cross**, **Luxembourg Red Cross**, **Spanish Red Cross**, and **Swedish Red Cross**.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Enhance financial controls and accountability, with a strong focus on anti-corruption measures
- Strengthen both internal and external financial controls, ensuring secure and compliant reporting aligned with statutory and contractual obligations
- Develop and implement comprehensive frameworks, policies and action plans related to accountability, including the finalisation and dissemination of the Code of Conduct and regulatory documents addressing fraud, corruption, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)
- Drive innovation and fully embrace digital technologies by adopting and deploying digital data collection tools, enhancing data literacy, and promoting data-driven decision-making across the organisation
- Equip headquarters and operational branches with information technology hardware and software to support digital transformation
- Implement an ICT management strategy, establish a data security policy, and introduce a cybersecurity charter to safeguard organisational data

- Advance digital transformation efforts in accordance with the IFRC's Digital Maturity Model
- Develop a robust and functional data management system to enable evidence-based decision-making and effective reporting

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen its integrity and reputational risk mechanisms, which includes support for the DRC Red Cross PSEA policy and action plan, and risk management framework. It will support the National Society with the acquisition/development of a financial system (software) and the improvement of the HR system, through a grant of the IFRC Capacity Building Fund. The IFRC will also support the National Society to show the progress of digital transformation according to the digital maturity model.

The participating National Societies will support the training of accountants on accounting management software, the digitized collection of routine data, and capacity building in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER). The participating National Societies which contribute to the implementation of actions under this priority are the **Belgian Red Cross** (Flemish and French communities), **French Red Cross**, **Spanish Red Cross**, and **Swedish Red Cross**.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC country cluster delegation in Kinshasa supports the DRC Red Cross 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 in strengthening its auxiliary role by meeting key stakeholders at the government level on a regular basis.

With staff based in Goma, Bunia, and Lomami, IFRC provides support to the National Society emergency operations and thematic programmes in the DRC, in particular disaster preparedness, health, and protection, gender, and inclusion. The support includes planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting, as well as participation in monitoring and evaluation.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the DRC Red Cross through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeals operations in relation to food insecurity, population movement, floods and disease outbreaks, including Ebola virus disease, COVID-19, plague, meningitis, measles, polio, yellow fever and cholera. The IFRC

also supports the DRC Red Cross in accessing funding from the IFRC Capacity Building Fund and multilateral and governmental donors, leveraging the IFRC international organization status.

In 2025, the operations and projects supported by the IFRC in the Democratic Republic of the Congo include the Population Movement Emergency Appeal in North and South Kivu; and the Mpox outbreak response through the Africa Region's Mpox Emergency Appeal (closed on 30 June). Additional initiatives include the DREF response to flooding in Kinshasa and Tanganyika, the Early Warning Protocol project (simplified), the Zero Famine Project in North Kivu and Tanganyika (Sécal), the CDC MasterCard SLL Project, and the Community Pandemic Preparedness Program (CP3). The DG ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) also concluded on 30 June 2025. Other ongoing projects are the joint WFP-FAO-IFRC Anticipatory Action Project titled 'Disaster Preparedness: Pioneering Innovations in Flood Risk Management in the DRC' and the Maniema Immunization Support Project supported by the CDC.



Since the 16th Ebola outbreak began in September 2025, DRC Red Cross volunteers have worked tirelessly to protect their communities with lifesaving information and support (Photo: DRC Red Cross)

## IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC 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 auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

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

The DRC Red Cross, with the support of participating National Societies, is implementing several programmes in different geographical locations on thematic areas clearly identified in its strategic plan, and which contain elements of National Society capacity building.

The **Belgian Red Cross** French speaking community supports the DRC Red Cross by focusing on the province of Kwango (health areas of Barrière, Bangombe, and Pont-Wamba in the Kenge health zone) with projects on road safety, community

resilience to environmental disaster risks related to erosion, violent winds, floods, community health/WASH (drilling, family latrines, hygiene promotion), and capacity building for the SN (2023-2026). It also supports the SN in humanitarian protection actions for people displaced by the Kwamouth crisis (AMOPAH 2 & 3) for the period 2023-2027. The **Red Cross of Flemish Belgium** supports humanitarian protection activities in Kwango and Kwilu provinces for those displaced by Kwamouth conflicts, for the period of 2023-2027. It also supports the National Society in first aid and blood donation.

The **French Red Cross** enhances its partnership with the DRC Red Cross, particularly in eastern DRC, pursuing health initiatives in South Kivu and supporting protection/GBV strategy.

The **Luxembourg Red Cross** aids the DRC Red Cross with shelter and protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) in South Kivu, focusing on building houses for sexual violence survivors and rehabilitating the Panzi hospital.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports disaster management, health, WASH, and community resilience in Kinshasa. Their contributions extend to protection, gender, and inclusion actions, the green response, and strengthening the National Society's PMER capacities.

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## Movement coordination

Regular senior management meetings between the DRC Red Cross, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) enable effective International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement coordination in the DRC, which is crucial to ensure the impact and relevance of the Movement in a country with multiple crises and great needs. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

In the [DRC](#), the **ICRC** promotes respect for international humanitarian law in the treatment of civilians and detainees and helps those adversely affected by conflict and internal violence to survive and become self-sufficient. It also improves

water supply and sanitation, strengthens health care for the wounded and sick, including victims of sexual violence, and reunites families in DRC. The ICRC has been running a large operation in the country for decades, and supports the National Society in the areas of community health support, protection, first aid and safer access, humanitarian diplomacy, National Society development and resource mobilization, migration, restoring family links and security. The ICRC actively participates in operational and institutional coordination within the Movement, and its sub-delegations in the DRC facilitate coordination, security monitoring, and information-sharing with the DRC Red Cross and IFRC.

## Coordination with other actors

The DRC Red Cross, in line with its auxiliary role, maintains close coordination with the public authorities. The Ministry of Health is the supervisory ministry of the National Society. Collaboration is in place through the technical offices of the Ministry of Health and other Government offices. As an example, the DRC Red Cross is part of the Technical Secretariat set up by the Ministry of Health for the response to COVID-19. It also works closely with the Ministry of the Environment for its tree planting initiative, and is a member of the national platform for disaster risk reduction.

The National Society is carrying out routine immunization (EPI) support activities in Kinshasa and Kwilu with funding from GAVI.

In times of emergencies, the National Society takes part in crisis meetings organized by national and local authorities in

the affected provinces. The DRC's Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Actions and National Solidarity ensures multi-sectoral coordination and the drawing of response plans. At national level, the IFRC takes part in meetings of the inter-agency humanitarian country team, and sectoral cluster meetings.

The DRC Red Cross also continues to develop partnerships with external actors. UNICEF supports the National Society in the DRC on assistance to victims of armed conflict in North Kivu and Tanganyika. Norwegian Church Aid gives support on water, sanitation, and hygiene, and sexual and gender-based violence in South Kivu, while Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance) funds routine immunization support activities in Kinshasa and Kwilu.



**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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