



# REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## 2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



12 January 2026

### In support of the Congolese Red Cross



**15**

National Society branches



**96**

National Society local units



**31**

National Society staff



**30,500**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



**150,000**

Climate and environment



**325,000**

Disasters and crises



**522,000**

Health and wellbeing



**15,000**

Migration and displacement



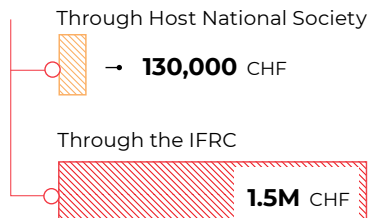
**120,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

**2026**

**Total 1.8M CHF**



**2027**

**Total 1.3M CHF**

**2028**

**Total 1.2M CHF**

*Projected funding requirements*

### IFRC Appeal code

Emergency Appeal:

**MDRS1003 (MDRCG023)**

African Regional Mpox Epidemic

Longer-term needs:

**MAACG002**

## Hazards



Disease outbreak



Floods



Strong winds



Drought



Food insecurity



Population movement

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Emergency response

- Disease outbreak

### Longer term needs

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

### Capacity development

- Human, material, and financial capacities
- Partnership development
- Digital transformation
  - Accountability
  - Regulatory texts

## Key country data links

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

**Human Development Index rank** **138**

**World Bank Population figure** **6.3M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **40.9%**



Red Cross volunteers identifying and supporting people who missed polio immunization (Photo: IFRC)

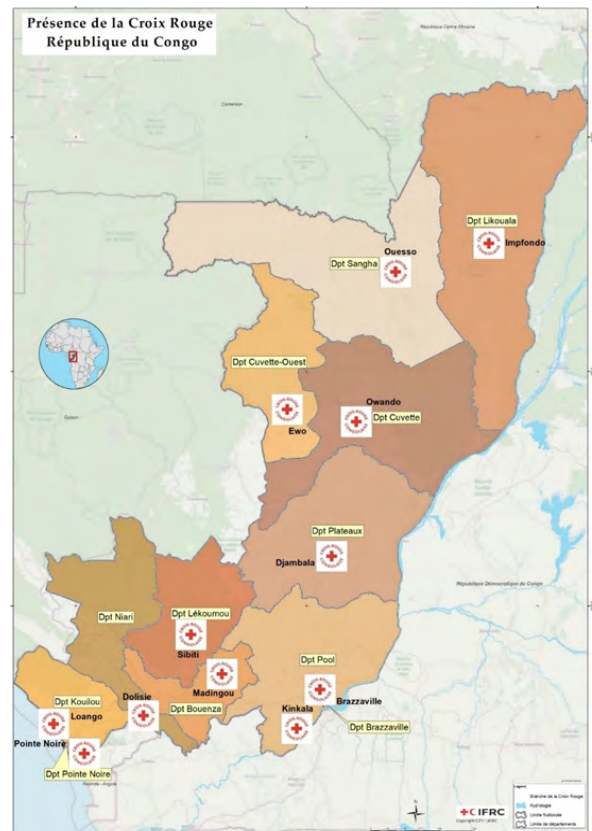
## Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027		2028	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
<b>Ongoing emergencies</b>		120,000				
<b>Longer-term needs</b>						
Climate and environment	25,000	20,000	25,000	20,000	25,000	20,000
Disasters & crises	20,000	600,000	30,000	500,000	30,000	400,000
Health & wellbeing	70,000	500,000	70,000	250,000	70,000	250,000
Migration & displacement	5,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	20,000
Values, power & inclusion	5,000	100,000	15,000	50,000	15,000	50,000
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	5,000		15,000	300,000	15,000	250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>1.5M</b>	<b>165,000</b>	<b>1.1M</b>	<b>165,000</b>	<b>990,000</b>

## NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Congolese Red Cross** was established in 1964 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1977. The National Society fulfils its mandate towards the population as an auxiliary of the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The National Society is present in all 12 of the country's Departments and has been very active in recent operations such as assistance to populations affected by flooding in the Departments of Cuvette and Plateaux in 2021 and 2022, and in Sangha and Likouala in 2023. The Congolese Red Cross has a network of 13,000 volunteers in the country's 12 departments and plans to mobilise around 1,500 volunteers in 2024 for its humanitarian operations in the country.

As part of its ongoing development, the Congolese Red Cross has established a five-year Strategic Plan for 2025-2029. This plan sets out the key priorities and strategies for the National Society's growth over the next five years. Areas addressed within the plan include international, sub-regional and national context analysis, as well as the organizational structure and support of its branches.



Map of the Congolese Red Cross 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*

The plan's content is structured to provide a situational analysis, details on the movement's context, and a framework for branch oversight and support.

The strategic plan also outlines the foundation for development across critical domains such as governance, management and the strengthening of operational capacities at various levels. These efforts are designed to enhance the Congolese Red

Cross's ability to respond effectively to humanitarian challenges and build robust organizational systems for the future.

Key focus areas prioritized in the plan include branch development, resource mobilization, improved coordination and effective humanitarian diplomacy. These priorities reflect the National Society's commitment to reinforcing its presence and impact across the Republic of Congo for the period 2025–2029.

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## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Republic of Congo, located in Central Africa, covers a land area of 342,000 kilometres. The rainforests of the [Congo Basin](#) are sometimes called the second [lung](#) of the Earth because of their ability to store carbon. In addition to the trees of the forest, the basin is home to the [largest tropical peatlands in the world](#), discovered in 2017. Scientists estimate that these peatlands store carbon worth approximately 20 years' worth of US fossil fuel emissions. The Congo Basin is also rich in biodiversity and minerals.

The Republic of Congo's population of more than [six million](#) people. More than half of the population live in the country's two main cities, Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. The population of the Republic of the Congo has a relatively young age structure, with a significant portion of the population under the age of 25. Aside from Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire, there is a high concentration of people in towns including Dolisie and Nkayi. Most Congolese people depend on local radio for access to information because there is a relatively high illiteracy rate, especially among women. The country has made only marginal progress in the areas of health and education on the Human Development Index (HDI). Infant mortality remains high, with a rate of 32 deaths per 1000 live births.

Access to electricity concerns 67 per cent of the population in urban areas, compared to only 12.4 per cent in rural areas. Access to clean water is another area where potential improvements could be made; 74 per cent of the population has access to a source of drinking water, but this figure is significantly lower in rural areas (46 per cent), despite the country's considerable hydrological resources.

The dynamics of social exclusion and fragility in the Republic of Congo are multidimensional and exacerbated by poverty and inequality. These problems go beyond the spatial disparities

between urban and rural areas and are illustrated by the divide between the most vulnerable population groups, women, youth, persons with disabilities and indigenous populations. In the 2021 [International Gender Inequality Index](#), the Republic of Congo was ranked 147th out of 170 countries, highlighting the extent of gender-based inequality. Youth unemployment has also increased over the years to around 42 per cent, adding to the country's fragility and social challenges.

The Congolese economy is heavily reliant on the oil industry which constitutes more than 50 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and 80 per cent of its exports, making it the third-largest producer in sub-Saharan Africa. The Republic of Congo also has abundant mineral resources, most of which are still untapped. During periods of low oil prices, such as the [significant drop in oil prices](#) observed in 2014-2016, the Congolese government faced challenges in generating sufficient revenue to finance its budget and meet public expenditure needs. This led to budget deficits, reduced investment in public infrastructure and social services, and increased pressure on the country's external accounts. The decline in oil prices also impacted investment in the oil sector, as companies faced lower profitability, impacting employment opportunities. Economic recovery is a major priority for the Republic of Congo, including restoring growth and resuming negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and traders to settle its external debt. To achieve this, the Government has adopted a new [national development plan for 2022–2026](#), which will lead the structural and profound transformation and diversification of the Congolese economy.

From 1993 to 1999, the Republic of Congo witnessed several fratricidal conflicts that destroyed the political, economic, social and cultural fabric of the country. In the aftermath of the armed conflicts, the Republic of Congo integrated the issue of human rights into the remit of the Ministry of Justice. Concerted efforts by the Government, associations and NGOs have led to better coordination and coherence in the management of human rights promotion in the Republic of

Congo. Since 2015, human rights defenders and activists have been denouncing the consequences of the economic crisis and its impact on people's daily lives, particularly regarding access to health care. Measures taken by the Government to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the impact of the health

crisis on economic activity have increased the vulnerability of communities, rendering them unable to meet basic needs and cope with shocks. This has resulted in heightened social demands that have brought the country to the brink of crisis.

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Africa -Mpox Epidemic
<b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>	MDRS1003
<b>People to be assisted</b>	1,000,000 people
<b>Duration</b>	10 months (20 August 2024 - 30 June 2025)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	CHF 30 M IFRC CHF 40 M Federation-wide
<b>Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Latest operation update</b>	<a href="#">Operation Update No. 4</a>

In 2024, Africa has seen a sharp rise in Mpox cases and fatalities, with thousands of cases and hundreds of deaths reported across multiple countries. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is at the epicentre, accounting for 92 per cent of the cases, with all 26 of its provinces affected and multiple virus clades emerging. Cross-border transmission from eastern DRC, particularly from North and South Kivu, has spread the disease to non-endemic countries such as Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya, while outbreaks reappear in endemic nations including Nigeria, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo and Côte d'Ivoire. The Republic of Congo, which is a country bordering the DRC, is the most affected country with the highest number of cases.

In response, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization have declared the Mpox outbreak a public emergency of continental and international concern. The IFRC has activated its internal coordination mechanisms to enhance preparedness and scale up response efforts. Mpox, a viral illness related to smallpox but less severe, is primarily transmitted through close contact with infected individuals or contaminated materials, and the emergence of new clades underscores the increased risk of widespread transmission.

Since the outbreak was declared, the Government of the Congo has established a coordination unit—including the Congolese Red Cross—to manage the crisis. This unit faces several challenges:

- Securing funds for community meetings and managing local communication channels
- Procuring sampling kits for health facilities
- Organizing case isolation and restoring isolation sites
- Obtaining essential medicines and collection kits for case management
- Actively searching for Mpox cases in health facilities and communities
- Conducting preliminary investigations, contact tracing, and monitoring of suspected cases

Meanwhile, residents in the Cuvette region—particularly in the localities of Oyo, Mossaka and Loukoléla in Likouala at Liranga, where the first cases emerged—remain in a state of heightened anxiety due to the persistent presence of isolated cases that continue to be poorly addressed.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Under this Emergency Appeal, the National Society currently limits itself in the implementation of water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) activities to awareness-raising, social mobilization and hygiene promotion actions. The volunteers involved in this operation are working alongside qualified health workers to raise awareness among the population about the risks associated with this epidemic in the localities of Oyo, Mossaka and Loukoléla in the department of Cuvette and Liranga in Likouala off the Congo River.

In the long term, with the finalization of its national response plan for the Mpox epidemic, the Congolese Red Cross with support from the IFRC will focus on:

- Enhancing early detection and reporting mechanisms for Mpox cases
- Improving hygiene and sanitation in targeted communities by providing facilities, supplies and education on proper handwashing and sanitation practices
- Ensuring communities receive accurate information about the disease to prevent its spread and dispel rumours
- Boosting health awareness through community-level activities that deliver timely, reliable information on Mpox, addressing local fears and misconceptions
- Providing multi-purpose, timely cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to ensure that the basic needs of people affected by crises and disasters are met

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

The Republic of Congo has a tropical climate, with high temperatures and humidity throughout the year. The country experiences two main seasons: a wet season from October to May and a dry season from June to September. Rainfall is abundant, particularly in the coastal regions and the Congo Basin, which contributes to the country's lush vegetation and biodiversity. The country is heavily dependent on rain-fed agriculture, leaving it vulnerable to rising temperatures and extreme weather shocks as a result of climate change. Accelerated global warming is leading to an increase in rainfall anomalies, causing adverse effects on crop nutrient content, yields, livestock, fisheries, biodiversity and land use.

The rainforests of the Congo Basin are under serious threat from climate change and other man-made factors, including commercial logging, mining, extensive agriculture, infrastructure development, rapid urbanization, energy consumption and transnational wildlife poaching. According to the Rainforest Foundation UK, forests cover approximately 65 per cent of the Republic of Congo's land area and play a major ecological and socio-economic role. 74 per cent of the country's forest area is allocated to logging concessions, a major driver of forest degradation. Agro-industrial expansion, palm oil production and oil exploration and extraction are all affecting Congo's rainforest environments in the long-term.

Oil-related pollution is also a major concern in the Republic of Congo. The chain of activities in the oil sector consists of exploration and exploitation: exploration includes research activities and the production and marketing of crude oil, while exploitation covers refining activities, transport, storage and the distribution of petroleum products. These activities are sources of pollution, causing several issues that are negatively affecting the areas adjacent to Pointe-Noire.

The country is experiencing frequent and severe hydrometeorological events, including urban and river floods, droughts, storms, heavy rains, silting and erosion. In recent decades, a marked decline in annual rainfall often resulting in prolonged droughts and coupled with rising temperatures, has exacerbated water scarcity and heightened the risk of epidemics. A recent emergency meeting on 29 December 2023, was convened after the Congo River and its tributaries surged to nearly six metres above normal levels, an event described by humanitarian actors as an "unprecedented humanitarian crisis."

Armed with a strategic location in the Congo Basin and an area of approximately 520 million hectares, the Republic of the Congo possesses considerable economic and ecological potential, particularly in terms of biodiversity. However, persistent challenges, including latent failures in planning and risk management, pervasive poverty and regional socio-political tensions, have hindered sustainable development. The capital, Brazzaville, faces significant environmental degradation issues such as flooding, erosion, pollution, deforestation and resource depletion, further compounded by the effects of global warming.

In response, the government has implemented adaptation measures, including the establishment of the Congo Industrial Afforestation Unit (UAIC) and intensified tree-planting efforts to reduce reliance on firewood. The creation of a national Green Climate Fund aims to finance further initiatives to combat and adapt to climate change. Targeted interventions focus on key departments, including Pointe-Noire, Likouala, Sangha, Cuvette, Cuvette-Ouest and Brazzaville, to strengthen resilience and mitigate the escalating environmental risks.

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

The Congolese 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.

### Planned activities in 2026

- Implement [early warning systems](#) on the river corridor and in other identified risk departments (Pointe-Noire, Brazzaville, Likouala)
- Develop an action plan on the Congo Basin (Cuvette, Sangha Likouala, Cuvette-Ouest)
- Popularize scientific information in the community using the communities trusted sources of information
- Strengthen community preparedness and resilience to climate and environmental hazards by building prevention, early-warning, response, and early-recovery capacities in high-risk areas
- Strengthen community health actions, the fight against vector-borne diseases (including malaria) and the

promotion of access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

- Produce and disseminate educational materials on the prevention of climate and environmental crises based on trusted sources of information and local languages
- Train trainers in climate change (in collaboration with the Meteorological Service and the IFRC for harmonization of documentation on training curricula)
- Train National Society staff in enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment ([EVCA](#))
- Train volunteers/members of target communities/civil society actors/media in environmental protection/[green response](#) topics
- Continue reforestation campaigns (Pan-African Tree Planting initiative), the fight against deforestation and community awareness of sustainable management of natural resources

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides support to the Congolese Red Cross on components such as training of trainers in climate change, developing appropriate tools for managers, volunteers and community members on the prevention of climate and environmental crises, popularizing scientific weather information within communities in Pointe-Noire, Brazzaville, Likouala, Cuvette, Plateaux and Sangha, and other initiatives aimed at promoting coordination and consultation on preservation and protection of the Congolese environment. The IFRC will also support the Congolese Red Cross in resource mobilization for the fight against climate change.



## Disasters and crises

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

The Republic of the Congo faces a complex and multifaceted [disaster risk landscape](#) characterized by a combination of natural and anthropogenic hazards. The country experiences frequent hydrometeorological events, including heavy rains, floods, droughts, high winds and landslides, which are exacerbated by climate variability and change. In recent years, unprecedented flooding events—such as those that led to a state of emergency in [December 2023](#) have severely disrupted lives, damaged infrastructure and strained humanitarian response capacities. Between 2021 and 2024, strong winds alone affected more than 50,000 people annually across multiple departments, and torrential rains and floods continued to impact over 164,000 people, with severe episodes recorded again in 2025.

Access to food has been deteriorating over the past 10 years in the Republic of Congo, while floods have also become more regular, exacerbating food insecurity caused by a lack of local food production and rising prices. Floods also cause material damage to drinking water infrastructure, leading to water contamination risks and increasing disease epidemics. Chronic malnutrition affects 21.2 per cent of children between six months and four years of age, while only 20 per cent of households have access to basic sanitation facilities. In 2025, heavy rains and rising waters in Cuvette and Congo-Oubangui severely damaged agricultural production and contributed to renewed displacement and loss of livelihoods.

In addition to natural hazards, the Republic of the Congo grapples with significant challenges in disaster risk

management. The country's dense hydrographic network, combined with widespread settlement along riverbanks, leaves many communities vulnerable to recurrent flooding and water scarcity. Inadequate coordination mechanisms, weak capacities at both local and central levels, and insufficient technical and financial resources further undermine the nation's ability to mitigate and respond to disasters effectively. These systemic shortcomings are compounded by internal socio-political crises, such as post-election conflicts and civil unrest, which have led to population displacements and further stressed local resources. The 2024 Cloud to Street and INFORM assessments continue to classify the country's flood risk as very high, with Congo ranking among the world's highest-risk flood-exposed areas.

The interplay of intense natural hazards, the impacts of climate change and persistent governance challenges places the Republic of the Congo at high risk for disasters and humanitarian crises. Strengthening disaster risk management through improved coordination, capacity building, and targeted investments in infrastructure and emergency response is essential to safeguard vulnerable populations and promote long-term resilience.

The country's [National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2023](#) provided a framework for national consultation. However, the disaster risk management situation is marked by the absence of a clear and permanent mechanism for coordination, both nationally and institutionally. Factors contributing to the challenges include a period of decentralization of local authorities, weak capacities at both local and central levels, and insufficient knowledge of disaster risk management at all levels. Despite the existence of this strategy, its operationalization remains limited due to unclear institutional mandates, inadequate resources and persistent technical gaps.

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

In the coming years, the Congolese Red Cross will contribute to the scaling up of humanitarian action and risk reduction and focus on its preparedness and response capacities during various emergencies. This includes [early action and anticipation activities](#) to mitigate disaster risks that affect the lives, livelihoods, homes and living conditions of vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities.

The National Society has also developed its capacity to provide cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to people affected by disasters or crises as a dignified means of assistance. To this end, money transfers will be systematically integrated into emergency operations.

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Develop a disaster risk reduction strategy (preparedness and readiness)
- Improve community knowledge of disaster risks
- Develop and strengthen the partnership with local media to promote key messages on disaster risk in urban and rural areas
- Participate alongside the public authorities in addressing the specific needs of affected communities in terms of accommodation
- Contribute to the resilience of affected communities in the distribution of cash transfers
- Contribute to the implementation of priority activities of the National Strategy for Risk and Disaster Reduction/ Humanitarian Action Management Mechanism (MASAH)
- Implement a food security plan ([Zero Hunger](#))
- Participate in the development of national contingency plans on risks and multi-hazards
- Translate useful tools on disaster risk reduction such as training manuals and guides into local languages

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides technical and financial assistance to the Congolese Red Cross, with a particular focus on the IFRC's [Pan-Africa Red Ready and Zero Hunger initiatives](#). The IFRC also provides technical and financial support to the National Society for the implementation of cash transfer assistance and to develop the use of mobile money to pay for volunteers' expenses. Additional support also includes the usage of innovative risk communication approaches to share vital information with at-risk communities.

The IFRC will provide support to the National Society by mobilizing technical and financial resources for climate, disaster risk reduction and emergency response initiatives; developing resilience-focused projects, including the use of cash assistance; and strengthening institutional capacities through training in risk management, contingency planning, monitoring and evaluation and cash management. This support will also include assisting the National Society in establishing a national coordination mechanism, conducting the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) evaluation, developing community-based early warning systems using new technologies, promoting [nature-based solutions](#), and fostering partnerships with government, donors, UN agencies and NGOs for integrated, sustainable resilience building.



The health status of the Congolese population is characterized by a [high disease burden](#) stemming from communicable, infectious and parasitic diseases. Malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and neglected tropical disease pose significant public health challenges and contribute to morbidity, mortality and healthcare expenditure.

The country faces serious health challenges, including endemic malnutrition, compounded by a very weak health system, and outbreaks such as Ebola Virus Disease and Mpox. According to the National Development Plan (NDP 2022-2026), malaria remains a real public health problem. Its epidemiological burden is very high for the health system, since it is the leading cause of consultations (54 per cent), hospitalization (40 per cent) and mortality (42 per cent). In addition, HIV/AIDS is already having a serious impact on the country with a prevalence rate of 4.1 per cent.

The [neonatal mortality rate](#) in the country stands at 18.41 per 1000 live births, infant mortality rate at 31.98 per 1000 live births, and under-five mortality rate at 42.97 per 1000 live births in the country. Limited access to maternal healthcare services, skilled birth attendants and essential obstetric care contributes to maternal deaths and complications during childbirth.

Malnutrition is a persistent challenge in the Republic of Congo, particularly among children under five years of age. Chronic malnutrition, stunting and micronutrient deficiencies undermine child growth and development, leading to long-term health consequences. Malnutrition rates are exacerbated by poverty, food insecurity, inadequate healthcare and limited access to clean water and sanitation.

Approximately [74 per cent of the population](#) have access to improved drinking water sources. Improved water sources include piped water, boreholes, protected wells and springs, which are designed to provide safe and clean drinking water. However, access to improved water sources remains uneven, with disparities between urban and rural areas. The quality of domestic drinking water is not satisfactory. The percentage of household members using non-shared improved sanitation facilities is only 23.7 per cent.

Since 2016, Congo has dedicated its efforts at fulfilling the third Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) by 2030.

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

The Congolese Red Cross has prioritized interventions in reproductive health, including maternal and childcare and family planning, sexual and gender-based violence, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, community-based surveillance (CBS) of epidemics and HIV/AIDS activities, and social mobilization for immunization. The National Society seeks to increase the scale and quality of its health and WASH services at the

community level, in emergency and non-emergency situations. This will involve:

- Increasing the number of people reached with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services
- Training at least 800 people per year in [first aid](#)
- Contributing to increasing community access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally friendly water and hygiene services, with the aim of reaching 250,000 people per year with WASH services adapted to the emergency context
- Contributing to a 50 per cent reduction in deaths related to cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases by promoting access to and use of WASH infrastructures

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Conduct advocacy for funding the implementation of the epidemics contingency plan
  - Participate in central, intermediate and peripheral sub-regional technical coordination platforms on pandemic response
  - Target four departments with a high rate of marginalized indigenous populations to improve access to primary health care/reproductive health/WASH awareness
  - Develop a mapping of relevant national plans, strategies and policies
  - Conduct awareness campaigns on tuberculosis, malaria, proper use and placement of long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets and intramural spraying
  - Develop a comprehensive Health and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) strategy
  - Create and operationalize Red Cross health posts
  - Support the establishment of community mobilization and animation platforms in health districts to develop and strengthen community-based health education, hygiene and basic sanitation initiatives
  - Train volunteers on the [EPIC](#) level 1 module with a focus on infectious diseases
  - Organize training and retraining of volunteers on TB prevention and treatment monitoring
  - Organize regular sessions in the Mpoumako area of Ignié Ngabé health district to educate parents on balanced nutrition through health gardens and community childcare clubs
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Congolese Red Cross to regularly participate in the meetings of the humanitarian coordination platforms and in developing and implementing the community-based health projects and programmes.

Components such as the National Society's efforts towards developing and implementing new WASH/health programmes, epidemic interventions and epidemic preparedness.

The IFRC will also provide technical and financial assistance to the National Society in the development of its Health and WASH strategies.



## Migration and displacement

The Republic of Congo has a long history of hosting refugees from neighbouring countries, with large influxes from Angola and Rwanda in the 1990s, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR) in the past two decades. According to the [UNHCR](#), there are currently more than 120,000 refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people in the country. Most of the refugees come from the CAR, and asylum seekers from the DRC, and are settled in the departments of Likouala and Plateaux, where they are exposed to the potential risk of floods, which exacerbates their vulnerability due to poor livelihoods. Of the total figure, refugees consist of 44 per cent, 11 per cent asylum seekers and 45 per cent stateless people.

The free movement of people and goods between the states of Central Africa has been difficult to implement mainly due to failures in putting into practice the border opening treaties signed between the states. The proposed model for opening borders, which describes the transition from alienated borders to integrated borders, seems to apply to the cross-border area formed by North Congo and the continental part of the CAR and Equatorial DRC. This region serves as an example of socio-spatial integration to the transnationality of the Moyi, Katangese and Mbondzo ethnic groups, the establishment of border markets, and the decentralized cooperation initiated by local authorities.

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

The Congolese Red Cross supports displaced people, refugees and asylum seekers as part of its humanitarian work. In the coming years, the National Society seeks to take advantage of its status as an [auxiliary](#) to the public authorities in the humanitarian field in the Republic of Congo to carry out community integration activities for the wellbeing of vulnerable people. It will also lobby public authorities to improve the living conditions of vulnerable migrant populations.

## Planned activities in 2026

- Participate in relevant cluster and partner meetings on [shelter](#), health, disaster management and livelihoods
- Conduct advocacy to seek funding for the implementation of the multi-risk contingency plan
- Support youth camps to promote a culture of equality and access to education in transit sites

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts in strengthening its capacity in migration and displacement, including needs assessment, development of migration policies and strategies, training, workshops and peer-to-peer support. It supports the revision of tools and methodologies around emergency preparedness, response and recovery to integrate migration and displacement principles, practices and policies. The IFRC will continue to provide support for protection services for migrants, in line with the [PGI](#) guidelines and minimum protection approach, including legal assistance, safe referrals, border and detention surveillance, child protection and anti-trafficking initiatives.

Under Wider Movement support, **the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** supports the Congolese Red Cross in restoring family links ([RFL](#)) services in Brazzaville, Plateaux, Pool, Bouenza, Likouala and Pointe-Noire.



## Values, power and inclusion

The population of the Republic of the Congo is predominantly Bantu, comprising around sixty ethnic groups, with the Kongos (32.4 per cent), Tékés (12.4 per cent) and Yombés (11.2 per cent) being the largest, and minorities such as pygmies constituting about 1.4 per cent. The main languages spoken are Kituba, Téké and Yombé, while Kituba and Lingala serve as the national vehicular languages, and French is the official language. Urbanization is high, with approximately three-quarters of the population living in cities; over 55 per cent are concentrated in the major urban centers of Brazzaville (1.4 million) and Pointe Noire (829,134), with other important cities including Dolisie and Nkayi. Due to a relatively high rate of illiteracy, particularly among women, most Congolese rely on radio for access to information.

Despite the formal recognition of the principle of equality between men and women in national legislation, discrimination persists in the Republic of Congo, often leading to moral and physical gender-based violence. A study carried out in 2020 by the [Association Avenir NEPAD Congo](#) explored the impacts of COVID-19 on gender-based violence in the Republic of Congo. The study showed how measures that were implemented to contain the virus have had an impact on women, leading to home confinement, curfews, regulation of state markets, closure of schools and cessation of economic activities, among others. The pandemic led to the closure of multiple educational institutions, causing number of problems for communities in the Republic of Congo, including a lack of access to vital education, rising school drop-out rates and incidences of gender-based violence, lack of support for survivors in psycho-medical care centres and increased vulnerability of children and women.

The Republic of Congo has committed to eradicating gender-based violence by signing the [United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) and the [African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights](#). The country also upholds various laws and regulations, including the Penal Code of 1810, the Family Code of 1918 and the Child Protection Act of 2010. These laws protect women and girls, including victims of violence. However, access to justice for women and girls is limited, and the laws and regulations are outdated, no longer fit for purpose and not implemented in many cases. As is the case in other countries, there is no specific law to criminalize violence against women and children.

Despite Republic of Congo's establishment of legal bases stipulating the recognition of the status of [indigenous people](#) in the country's constitution in 2010 and 2015, indigenous communities still face marginalization and discrimination. There are notable educational inequalities for children of primary school age in indigenous communities. In some areas, it is estimated that 65 per cent of indigenous children are not

attending school, mainly due to extreme poverty, exclusion, lack of birth registration and ethnic and cultural discrimination.

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

The Congolese Red Cross seeks to be a safe and inclusive organization where the dignity, access, participation and safety of people of all identities are ensured. This will involve actively implementing the [gender and diversity policy](#) and demonstrating tangible progress agreed institutional and programming objectives, including equal gender representation at all levels of leadership and the systematic integration of PGI principles, including safeguarding (PSEA and child safeguarding), into all programmes.

The National Society will utilize the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approaches and tools to improve [youth commitment](#) and leadership in promoting humanitarian standards and values and to empower vulnerable and crisis-affected individuals and communities to influence decisions that affect them and trust the National Society to serve their best interests. It will also disseminate the youth policy and internal rules to volunteers and organize training for young people and volunteers on GBV prevention, PGI, social inclusion and peacebuilding, as well as strengthen youth entrepreneurship and professional skills. Through these actions, the National Society aims to contribute to positive change in communities through a broader understanding, ownership and practical application of humanitarian values and [fundamental principles](#).

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Implement the youth as agents behavioural change (YABC) programme
- Organize training sessions for young people in schools and universities on gender-based violence prevention, social inclusion and peacebuilding, among others
- Establish youth competitions for the promotion of humanitarian norms and values
- Sensitize affected communities to promote equitable access for girls and boys to information literacy by relying on trusted sources of information
- Develop information, education and communication (IEC) materials to engage young people on themes promoting equitable access to education
- Develop guidelines on PGI, sexual abuse and gender-based violence

- Advocate for the adoption and implementation of a national gender policy in the Republic of the Congo
- Establish community feedback mechanisms to inform changes based on the perceptions and concerns of target groups
- Train and sensitize population in Likouala, Sangha and Lekoumou on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)
- Train leaders and project/programme managers on [PGI minimum standards in emergencies](#)
- update the CEA strategy and roll it out across all 15 departments, institutionalizing it in all National Society operations.
- Train staff and volunteers in CEA principles, feedback mechanisms, two-way communication, listening skills and accountability best practices.
- Facilitate exchanges with other National Societies to learn from their methodologies, successes, and challenges.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Congolese Red Cross to reach more local branches and to develop an equal partnership with communities in projects and programmes implemented by the National Society. It supports the National Society to actively implement the IFRC's gender and diversity policy, developing protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy, and an action plan to implement prevention and support to survivors. The IFRC will continue support the National Society to integrate and institutionalize PGI and CEA into its policies, operations and procedures.



Volunteers undertake a debriefing following the first phase of polio vaccinations (Photo: IFRC)

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Congolese Red Cross is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2022. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.



### 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



## Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Strengthen its auxiliary role to become the partner of choice for public authorities
- Strengthen cooperation with government agencies and implementing partners
- Participate in coordination meetings of the shelter cluster and share Red Cross experience
- Develop a resource mobilization strategy
- Monitor programmatic activities through regular coordination meetings and annual reporting to inform adjustments for the following year.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Congolese Red Cross in its efforts to increase its cooperation and coordination with external partners. This includes organizing in-country events on Pan-African initiatives. It facilitates the National Society's engagement with peer National Societies in the sharing of experience and good practices. It supports the National Society in resource mobilization. The IFRC also supports the National Society to strengthen its auxiliary role by facilitating meetings with key stakeholders at the government level on a regular basis.



## National Society development

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

- Establish a quadripartite commission (MASAH-SN-IFRC-ICRC) to draft a decree on the recognition of the Congolese Red Cross
- Focus on branch development
- Provide insurance to cover health, accident and death compensation for all its volunteers
- Prioritize the development of volunteering and youth action as key catalysts for behavioural change and local action
- Develop a [youth engagement](#) strategy
- Help cover health, accident and death compensation for all its Volunteers
- Utilize the IFRC Capacity Building Fund ([CBF](#)) to revitalize branches with a focus on branch animation, volunteer development, enterprise resource planning (ERP) and youth and policy development

- Work on National Society development in line with the principles of the [NSD compact](#)
- Participate in the various statutory meetings of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement
- Develop a volunteer management and retention policy
- Train leaders at the central and departmental levels on good governance

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in financial sustainability and branch development. It will continue to follow up with the National Society on the implementation of the OCAC recommendations and organize branch organizational capacity assessments ([BOCA](#)) in several National Society branches. The IFRC has in the past supported the National Society in receiving the IFRC [CBF](#) support for a consultation on the implementation of the 2022 OCAC recommendations.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Promote its work to influence the national humanitarian agenda and maintain the trust of key stakeholders including the government, donors, the media and vulnerable communities
- Adopt a strategic and evidence-based approach towards [humanitarian diplomacy](#)
- Regularly evaluate its communications strategy to meet changing needs and trends
- Conduct a multimedia campaigns on [IHL](#) and the [fundamental principles](#)

- Organize a round tables on the Red Cross Movement's modus operandi for opinion leaders and reference frameworks
- Maintain the trust of its key stakeholders, including governments; donors, media and communities

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts to engage with public authorities and opinion leaders. The IFRC will also continue to support the National Society in enhancing its presence within the national emergency response coordination, alongside other humanitarian partners and the government.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Demonstrate accountability for gender, diversity and inclusion in its management and institutional culture, with monitoring and improvement mechanisms in place
- Publicize a policy and action plan on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse ([PSEA](#))
- Develop and implement a risk management framework
- Submit an externally audited financial statement
- Train staff and volunteers in prevention of fraud and corruption
- Put in place a functional data management system that informs decision-making and supports monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the National Society's contributions
- Make progress in [digital transformation](#) in alignment with the [IFRC's digital transformation strategy](#)
- Innovate, embrace and fully deploy digital technologies

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the efforts of the Congolese Red Cross to strengthen its accountability through annual external audits and financial training for staff and volunteers. It also supports the National Society in its initiatives in digital transformation, including the development of a strategy and roadmap.

The IFRC supports the National Society in acquiring and developing financial management and human resources systems and supports the National Society in developing a functional data management system that informs decision-making and enables monitoring and reporting on reach and impact. The IFRC supports the National Society by monitoring and strengthening its compliance with donor requirements.

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## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

The IFRC country cluster delegation in Kinshasa supports the Congolese Red Cross to implement strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Congolese Red Cross through a number of [DREF operations](#) in relation to floods, population movement, disease outbreaks and preparedness for the Ebola virus which affected neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## IFRC membership coordination

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

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

In addition, the Congolese Red Cross is a stakeholder and beneficiary of the CVC/CREC-SLL Africa CDC phase 2 program within the Central Africa consortium. These two projects aim to develop the skills of the operational teams/ local branches in the use of the tools and approaches of the CREC/CEA while facilitating the continuation of the process of institutionalization of the CEA within the National Society.

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## Movement coordination

The Congolese Red Cross ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) 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** supports the Congolese Red Cross under a three-year cooperation agreement, implemented through an annual cooperation action plan focusing on crisis management preparedness, restoring family links ([RFL](#)) and capacity building. The activities within the partnership are focused on six priority areas: Brazzaville, Plateaux, Pool, Bouenza, Likouala and Pointe-Noire.

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## Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Congolese Red Cross works closely with various governmental bodies to deliver its emergency and longer-term work. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action leads humanitarian coordination in the country. The National Society participates in crisis meetings with humanitarian actors under the coordination of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action in Brazzaville and in the affected departments. Crisis committees, in which the National Society also participates, are set up by local authorities when required.

In each of the targeted localities, the National Society consults with the administrative and traditional authorities as well as

the government's decentralized services. In particular, the National Society coordinates with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action to contextualize the targeting criteria and review the beneficiaries selected to ensure that there is no duplication of assistance with other projects. Regular meetings are held with the sub-prefects, mayors, traditional chiefs and the heads of social action districts.

For epidemics and in the context of the Mpox epidemic and COVID-19 pandemic response, the Congolese Red Cross works closely with the Ministry of Health and has developed partnerships with the Africa CDC, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA.



**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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