Flooding is among the most prevalent natural hazards affecting people around the world. In the past three decades, the average number of climate and weather-related disasters has increased by nearly 35 per cent. Over the past decade alone, 83 per cent of all disasters were caused by extreme weather and climate-related events that killed 410,000 people and affected 1.7 billion people. The African continent alone experienced over 2,000 major disaster events during the last three decades with most of them being extreme weather, climate-induced disasters such as food insecurity, droughts, floods, flash floods, landslides, storms and cyclones.

Across Africa, at any given time, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies are responding to floods or cyclones with lifesaving actions. The network of 49 African National Societies—their 1.4 million volunteers and over 12,000 local branches—constitutes an unparalleled force for reaching and supporting the most vulnerable communities.
According to the World Bank, when considering poverty among the flood exposed population, the risks are largest in Sub-Saharan Africa. At least 71 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa are estimated to live in both extreme poverty (using a 1.9 US dollar a day definition) and significant flood risk – thus making them particularly vulnerable to prolonged adverse impacts on livelihoods and well-being. In the ten countries with the highest share of the population being poor and flood-exposed all of the top ten countries are in Africa: South Sudan, Congo Republic, Madagascar, CAR, Malawi, Guinea Bissau, DRC, Mozambique, Liberia and Mali.

The frequency, intensity and unpredictability of extreme weather and climate events are projected to further increase because of climate change, which will further worsen the situation in the region. Urbanization is also still advancing at a fast rate and this will likely exacerbate the vulnerabilities of the urban population. Africa is not only being affected by floods, but also multi-layered disasters and crises including COVID-19; Ebola Virus and other outbreaks; food insecurity; civil unrest; and population movement. The scale and scope of disaster risks, underlying vulnerabilities, and complex socio-political and economic factors are unparalleled. Climate change and environmental degradation are exacerbating risks many times over. While some countries in Africa are experiencing drought and famine, others are facing devastating floods from months of relentless rains.

In Africa, many of the disasters and crises are often under reported. Yet, cumulatively, millions of people are affected by small-scale reoccurring disasters. For instance, in September 2020, small and medium scale floods affected millions of people in 15 countries across the continent affecting nearly seven million people and caused 1,273 deaths, the highest figures since 2006.
Analysis of DREFs and Emergency Appeals (EA)

Since January 2019, in response to floods, flash floods, landslides and cyclones, the African National Societies launched 52 small scale response operations through IFRC’s Disaster Emergency Relief Fund (DREF) with budget funding of 80m Swiss francs, targeting 1.9 million people, and 11 larger responses through IFRC Emergency Appeals, with budget funding of 11 million Swiss francs, targeting 564,000 people.

**Disaster types in operations since 2018**
- 47 floods operations
- 14 population movement operations
- 11 Ebola operations
- 8 cyclone operations
- 5 tropical storm operations
- 5 drought operations
- 34 other operations

![Photo: As of March 2020 (one year after Cyclone Idai) the community of Muchenessa, Mozambique, Beira district, was still struggling to get back on their feet. Mozambique is prone to cyclones and tropical storms which can lead to flash flooding, hundreds of deaths, and massive destruction of property and crops. After Cyclone Idai in March 2019, there have been two more cyclones and two tropical storms. (Credit: Anette Selmer-Andresen/IFRC, March 2020.)](image)

**DREFs**
- 52 DREFs
- 28 countries
- 7.3 million people affected
- 564,000 people targetted
- 11 million Swiss francs: budget funding

**Appeals**
- 11 appeals
- 8 countries
- 7.6 million people affected
- 1.9 million people targetted
- 80 million Swiss francs: budgetted funding
Africa’s weather is affected by seasonal movement of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone, El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and monsoonal patterns. Central and Eastern Africa regions have two major rainfall seasons, namely March to May (long rain season) and October to December (short rain season). Some parts of Eastern Africa and Central Africa also receive rainfall in the June to July Season. Southern Africa region has two main seasons, namely wet season (September to March) and dry season (April to August).

In 2021 Eastern Africa has seen a delayed March to May rainfall season in many parts according to Climate Prediction and Application Centre. However, from May to July, wetter than usual conditions are expected over Western Kenya, much of Ethiopia, parts of Central and Northern Somalia, Eastern and North-Western South Sudan, Rwanda, Northern and Coastal Tanzania and Southern Parts of Sudan. These areas are expected to experience heavy flooding in some cases flash flooding and urban flooding. The following areas have moderate potential for flooding: Central and Northern Ethiopia, South Sudan, Central Somalia, Southern parts of Uganda, much of Rwanda and Burundi and Southern areas of Sudan.

In West Africa, the southern half of the region is expected to begin its rainfall season this May. With the beginning of this season, most of the regions that are likely to be flooded include most states of Nigeria, Ghana (Accra Regions), Benin, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Sierra Leone. By June to Mid-October, most parts of West Africa and the Sahel regions will be in their full rainfall season which will see additional countries such as Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Chad being affected by cases of flooding which have in the past affected millions of people. Most countries over Central Africa have a high risk of flooding during May to July, including the DRC, Congo, Cameroon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Gabon and Central African Republic.

The Southern Africa region rainfall season is expected to start in October. This will continue until March 2022 with the peak season being between December and March. Most parts of the region are affected by flooding and strong winds including Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Indian Ocean Islands (Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros). The cyclone season begins towards the end of December with peaks in March and April affecting Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and the Indian Ocean Islands.

Proportion of poor people exposed to significant flood risk
According to the INFORM data set, countries with highest population at risk to floods are:
- **Very High**: Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, Liberia, Central Africa, Congo Republic, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Namibia, Madagascar
- **High**: Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Eq. Guinea, Gabon, DRC, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Eswatini
- **Moderate**: Senegal, Guiné-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Togo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Angola
The network of 49 African National Societies, their 1.4 million volunteers and over 12,000 local branches these constitutes an unparalleled force to deal with floods and cyclones.

Response: Across Africa, at any given time, National Societies are responding to floods or cyclones with lifesaving activities, such as pre-emptive evacuations, first aid, search and rescue, emergency shelter, livelihoods and basic needs, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, centred around protection, gender and inclusion.

Preparedness: The IFRC and Movement partners are working with National Societies in at-risk countries to ensure that emergency response efforts are timely, efficiently conducted, and that beneficiaries are effectively targeted. All Africa National Societies continuously train their staff and community-based volunteers on life-saving and relief activities. Floods and cyclone contingency plans are annually reviewed and updated, scenarios analysed, and simulation exercises carried out. Contingency planning includes both lifesaving activities and recovery issues, which are linked to risk reduction programmes, to build safer and more resilient communities that can adapt to the new climate environment. Early Action Protocols are supporting preparedness through pre-positioning and early interventions before the event. National Societies are prioritising cash and voucher assistance as being an effective and efficient methodology of response.

Coordination: As part of their auxiliary role to their Governments, Africa National Societies are often part of their national contingency and response plans which gives them a unique position and capacity to respond. National Societies coordinate with all Movement partners in their respective countries and other agencies to build partnerships and maximise their reach to the most vulnerable communities in both preparedness and response. The following pages show a snapshot of some of the work of just a few of our National Societies as examples of the readiness activities for the 2021 floods season.
The situation

Eastern Africa region has two major rainfall seasons, March to May (long rain season) and October to December (short rain season). The number of people hit by seasonal flooding in East Africa has increased more than fivefold in the past four years, from 1.1 million people in 2016 to four million in 2019, to close to six million in 2020. The 2020 March to May rainfall period was one of the wettest the region has seen since 1981, following an already record wet 2019 October to December rainfall period. Nearly 1.5 million people were forced from their homes and in Sudan, one of the worst affected countries, 860,000 people had their homes destroyed or damaged and more than 120 died. In Ethiopia, 1.1 million people were affected. Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda were also badly affected.

Red Cross Red Crescent actions

Response: East African National Societies currently have ongoing flood related operations in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda and Tanzania (Tropical Storm Jobo).

Preparedness: East African National Societies have National Disaster Response Teams of staff and volunteers trained in assessment, search and rescue, emergency WASH, health, psychosocial support, shelter, logistics, community engagement and accountability, protection, gender and inclusion, etc. Annual pre-disaster meetings are scheduled with local branches to review contingency and response plans.

Risk mapping is continuously updated, monitoring and early warning systems are in place. For example, coordinated through their Emergency Operation Centre, Kenya Red Cross can send early warning community alerts to 7.8 million people via SMS and send alerts through radio stations. Several National Societies have stocks of essential household items ready for immediate distribution. For example: Kenya Red Cross has emergency shelter kits for 8,000 families; Rwanda has essential non-food items available for 500 families; Tanzania for 400 families; South Sudan has 1,000; and Uganda for 1,000 families.

Through the Forecast-Based Financing approach, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Rwanda have floods Early Action Protocols ready or being approved that will be activated once trigger levels are reached. Then families will receive immediate targeted support before the disaster. Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan and Burundi have the capacity to use cash in emergency response. Both Ethiopia and Kenya have framework agreements in place with Financial Service Providers (FSPs), while other National Societies are working on establishing these. In Uganda 120 staff and volunteers are trained in cash assistance techniques; Ethiopia has 100 staff and volunteers trained and has an established a Cash and Voucher Assistance working group and is a member of the national working group. Tanzania Red Cross is also cash ready for floods and cyclones.
SAHEL

The situation
The Sahel’s main rainfall season is between May and August. Floods are a regular occurrence during the rainy season and Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Mali, and Senegal are among those worst-hit. In 2020, more than 1.7 million people were affected by severe seasonal floods resulting in destruction of houses, goods, crops and fields, and land degradation, threatening the livelihoods of communities whose majority rely on agriculture. With floods farmlands are often submerged, increasing food shortages and the vulnerability of farmers and their families who depend on harvests for their livelihoods. Health is also a major concern in the countries hit by the flooding when many people have to live in flooded houses in stifling heat and terrible sanitary conditions, exposed to the risks posed by waterborne diseases.

The Sahel and Savannah regions of Africa face nearly continuous threats to socio-economic resilience, food security and various violent conflicts, compounding existing challenges from the Covid-19 pandemic and locust outbreaks. Despite the long-lasting, widespread and regular drought in the Sahel, flood events are increasing. Some reports indicate floods in the Sahel are now becoming more frequent, widespread, and more devastating. Nowhere has resilience been more tested than in the Sahel. While the region is becoming more and more arid and must fight the advance of the desert, it must also deal periodically with devastating floods.

The floods bring new levels of hardship while hampering the efforts of humanitarian organisations to respond to one of the world’s worst and fastest-growing humanitarian crises.

Red Cross Red Crescent actions

Response: The National Societies currently have ongoing flood related operations in Chad, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal and Niger.

Preparedness: IFRC and Movement partners, have been accompanying the National Societies (of Burkina Faso, Senegal, Chad, Guinea, Niger and Mauritania) in developing plans for the 2021 floods season. Long term capacity development projects are supported to train staff and volunteers, build response capacity, risk mapping and developing early warning systems. Actions for preparedness include an evaluation of the available stocks and contingency plans to identify pre-positioning requirements: emergency shelter, essential household items and food supplies. There have also been flood contingency plan activation simulation exercises; the development of rapid data collection tools; the identification or updating of risk zone maps; dissemination of awareness messages to vulnerable communities; equipping local committees with relief equipment; training; as well the establishment of community response teams. Other actions include the training of volunteers (community-based first aid, WASH, shelter, rapid assessment, psychosocial first aid) and the coordination with stakeholders; mapping of suppliers; and capacity strengthening to mobilize financial resources.

Through the Forecast-Based Financing approach, Mali and Niger have Early Action Protocols in place. Guinea, Mauretania, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger all have framework agreements with financial service providers, while Chad is preparing theirs. Furthermore, fast track cash preparedness assessments are planned with Gambia, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, and Guinea Conakry to help prepare Plans of Action for cash and voucher assistance.
Ibrahim Adam holds his son, standing in front of the only home remaining in his family following floods that devastated many parts of this cut off community in Kogi State, Nigeria, in 2018. On either side, is destruction. The only reason this house is still standing is thanks to the Red Cross who supported his family in building a flood-resistant home following floods in 2012. He lives in this community with his wife, four children and extended family, including his grandfather who owns the flood-resistant home. They are all now staying in this two bedroom building until they begin to face reconstruction of their home.

“Our house next door collapsed. This house is all that remains so we are all living in this home now. We haven't had floods like this that have affected us so badly since 2012.”

Ibrahim, like many others in the community, evacuated to another island when the water began to rise. They took everything they could take in their small canoe boat. “I lost many things – I have 15 hectares of farm land but the water has made me lose everything.” As a farmer and fisherman, he hopes he can at least fish so he can support his family.

“We are grateful that Red Cross built us this house,” said Ibrahim. (Credit: Corrie Butler/IFRC.)

WEST AFRICA

The situation
West Africa region main rainfall season is between May and August. Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire are among those worst-hit. The impact in 2020 was particularly severe with the number of people affected almost doubled from 2019. The flooding in this region causes destruction of houses, goods, crops and fields, and land degradation regularly threatening the livelihoods of thousands of communities. West Africa’s urbanization and population growth trends indicate that more and more people are likely to be affected by floods in the coming years. Many of the affected regions are already struggling with insecurity, high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, as well as climate change. Floods also risk increasing the incidence of water-borne diseases; impact hygiene and sanitation; and reduce the capacity to put in place effective preventative measures against COVID-19. The impact of additional shocks of extreme weather events pushes already vulnerable families deeper into crisis.

Red Cross Red Crescent actions
Response: The National Societies currently have ongoing flood related operations in Côte d’Ivoire and Nigeria.

Preparedness: Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Togo are carrying out preparedness activities, such as flood contingency planning, needs assessment, early warning and early action, as well as cash and voucher assistance preparedness. These activities are scheduled to take place over the next three months in preparation for the upcoming floods season.
CENTRAL AFRICA

The situation
The Central Africa region has two major rainfall seasons, namely March to June and August to December. Floods are common during the rainy season, but in recent years climate change, land degradation and poor urban planning have led to more frequent disasters as rapidly growing cities struggle with heavier-than-normal rainfall. Often communities’ ability to cope with natural disasters has been eroded by instability, food shortages and mass displacement in some areas. With many of those population living in flood-prone areas, diseases can spread quickly once floods wipe out access to clean water and sanitation.

Red Cross Red Crescent actions
Response: The National Societies currently have ongoing flood related operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon. In recent years, Congo Brazzaville and Gabon were also impacted by floods.

Preparedness
Preparedness activities supported by IFRC, and Movement partners are underway across the Central Africa region. For example National and Branch Disaster Response Team trainings, floods contingency plans, preparing draft floods response plans of action ahead of the coming floods. Cameroon National Society is preparing a financial service provider framework agreement to support their cash readiness and have standard operating procedures in place to use cash in emergency response.

Photos: From 16 to 17 April 2020, torrential rain in the city of Uvira and surrounding areas in South Kivu, DRC, killed 36 people, left over 70,000 people homeless and destroyed about 15,000 homes. Red Cross volunteers helped the victims of these severe floods in Uvira. They conducted search and rescue operations, first aid, transported the injured to the hospital and sanitized accommodation sites to prevent the outbreak of diseases.
The situation
The Southern Africa region has two main seasons, the wet season (September to March) and the dry season (April to August). Southern Africa region has a population of over 184 million, with 60 per cent of the population living in urban areas. Every year, countries in Southern Africa are adversely affected by both human-induced and natural disasters such as drought and floods, as well as transboundary and socio-economic crises. These hazardous events result in loss of lives, assets, livelihoods and damage to the environment, leading to weakened food and nutrition security, fragile environments, forced migration, health risks, increased vulnerability and poverty. These crises are further aggravated by the impact of climate change.

Disasters arising from hydro-meteorological hazards such as drought, floods and cyclones have become more intense and more frequent. Since 2016, the region has experienced variability in rainfall patterns and distribution, resulting in serious recurrent drought and destructive floods and cyclones that disproportionately affect those whose livelihoods rely on agricultural practices. This was witnessed in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe in 2019 with the devastating floods and Tropical Cyclone Idai in 2019. Madagascar and the Union of the Comoros Islands are more often on the front line as cyclones head west towards the Africa coastline. Forecasting and early warning are of paramount importance here.

Red Cross and Red Crescent actions
Response: The National Societies currently have ongoing flood related operations in South Africa, Angola, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Madagascar and Comoros Islands.

Preparedness: Preparedness activities supported by IFRC and Movement partners are underway in Malawi, Eswatini, Botswana National Societies with National Disaster Response Team training, focusing on cash preparedness in Namibia, Zambia, Botswana and Eswatini. All National Societies continue to update contingency plans based on the latest assessment and capacities. Mozambique National Society is carrying out a District Level Risk Ranking exercise for priority hazards including floods and cyclones, mapping of disaster management capacities and needs with Provincial Branches in terms of HR (staff, volunteer, competencies acquired), materials (early warning early action, response, search and rescue), disaster preparedness stocks, and transport. Support is also underway to train and equip local branches on Flood Search and Rescue in coordination with the National Disaster Management Institute (INGD) and National Civil Protection Unit (UNAPROC).

Malawi, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique National Societies have disaster stocks of essential household and WASH items ready for immediate distribution. Through the Forecast Based Finance approach Zambia and Mozambique National Societies have flood Early Action Protocols in place and Malawi are being developed. Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, Lesotho, and Malagasy National Societies have completed financial service provider framework agreements to enable a faster cash response, while Botswana and Zimbabwe are planning to develop contracts.

April, 2019 - Buzi Mozambique: More than 2,300 people isolated since Cycone Idai struck Mozambique received a major delivery of Red Cross emergency supplies. The community of Buzi, which lies to the south of the city of Beira had been almost entirely cut off from large-scale assistance as a result of the flooding and damage caused by the unprecedented storm. This distribution targeted 20,000 people in Buzi.

The Mozambique Red Cross delivery, supported by the French Red Cross and IFRC, included basic but essential relief items such as jerrycans, kitchen sets, tarpaulins, buckets and tools. They also received supplies that helped stave off the threat of disease that many communities were facing: They received clean water and mosquito nets.

The Mozambique Red Cross had been on the ground even before Cyclone Idai hit and continues to support families that were affected by Idai and subsequent storms. Cyclone Idai is the worst humanitarian crisis in Mozambique’s recent history. (Credit: Corrie Butler/IFRC.)
The IFRC Africa Regional Office supports 49 National Societies in Sub Saharan Africa through six Cluster Delegations and eight Country Delegations. The network of 49 African National Societies, their 1.4 million volunteers and over 12,000 local branches are on the frontline, supporting the most vulnerable communities to prepare for and respond to all disasters including floods, flash floods, landslides and cyclones, taking early actions that save lives and protects livelihoods.

Before each flood season, IFRC and Movement partners support National Societies in their preparedness activities with coordination through pre-disaster meetings, development of contingency plans, the infrastructure needed through emergency operations centres, logistics capacity, prepositioning relief stocks, fleet management, etc.

Training and equipping staff and volunteers to be the front liners supporting their communities in early warning, preemptive evacuations, live-saving water search and rescue, first aid, relief distribution of essential household items, provision and clean water and sanitation, psychosocial first aid, community-based disease control and health promotion, to name a few. All coupled with, and centered around, community engagement and accountability and protection, gender and inclusion. IFRC Regional Office supports National Societies to launch, coordinate and implement all operations through DREFs and Emergency Appeals.
Ongoing community level preparedness and DRR for floods and cyclones

Communities are the first to be impacted and the first to respond against floods, flash floods, landslides and cyclones.

IFRC and Movement partners support National Societies to build capacity in communities through training and equipping on early warning early actions, school-based and community-based disaster risk reduction especially on floods. Community risk analysis and vulnerability assessments.

Supporting early warning actions – prepositioning relief items, simulations, establishment of community centres, establishing community early warning systems. Capacity strengthening of stakeholders – governments, private sector, etc.

Forecast Based Financing – Early Action Protocols for floods and cyclones

While the frequency and intensity of climate-related events are expected to increase, innovative technologies, data and weather forecasts have made it possible to anticipate such disasters. IFRC and Movement partners are supporting 14 African National Societies to implement the Forecast-Based Financing (FbF) approach.

FbF aims to reduce the impacts of severe weather events, safeguarding lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable by using innovative technologies, data and weather forecasts and working in a global network. Based on the forecast information and risk analysis, FbF releases funding for pre-agreed activities (readiness, pre-positioning and early action) before disaster strikes.
Forecast Based Financing – Early Action Protocols for floods and cyclones

Currently, 6 National Societies have approved flood Early Action Protocols, 3 National Societies are working on flood Early Action Protocols. With support from the Global Preparedness Centre, we are working to roll out the What Now services in several Eastern and Southern Africa Countries to support with Early Warning Early Action in communities following alerts provided by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

Logistics preparedness

A well-resourced logistics structure is central to National Societies floods and cyclone emergency response operations. The greatest focus is on health, shelter and essential household items distribution. Operations in Africa are supplied by local purchases or from prepositioned stock in Dubai, Kuala Lumpur and Las Palmas.

The IFRC Africa region have some prepositioned basic essential household, in Harare promoting a system of National Society ownership and replenishment via the DREF tool. Unless IFRC is responding to a large-scale disaster, air transport is not economically viable, so 98 per cent of the transport is handled by sea.

But the needs and challenges are increasing and IFRC aims to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the early phases of response by increasing stockpiles of basic essential household items at regional, cluster or country level with the objective to decrease cost and speed up delivery time. Along with continued engagement in GREEN supply chain alliance working group and increased use of new technology.

IFRC aims to enhance HR capacities in our National Societies through workshops, simulations, and on-job training, continued operations design and support in fleet, transport, warehousing, and procurement.

Cash ready for floods and cyclones

More of our National Societies have seen Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) as strong and flexible modalities to provide effective assistance in both sudden-onset and protracted crisis situations. 22 National Societies integrated CVA into their COVID-19 responses. Even in areas affected by flooding or cyclones, markets often remain functional to some degree and traders are often quick to resume activities and even faster at supplying items than humanitarian actors. CVA is often the preferred modality by people affected by crisis, who have differing priorities and needs.

While always based on an updated situation analysis considering market functionality and people's access to markets, CVA is often considered appropriate and likewise feasible in responding to floods and cyclones. Furthermore, CVA provides a smooth transition from relief to recovery efforts. Where possible and relevant, CVA is aligned to national social protection systems as well as other actors' CVA efforts in the contexts.

In Africa, 27 of 49 National Societies are delivering humanitarian support through cash or voucher assistance in response to floods, drought, other natural disasters, food insecurity and COVID-19. Out of these, 19 have pre-arranged framework agreements in place with Financial Service Providers (FSP), and it remains priority to establish FSP framework agreements for more National Societies to enable more rapid roll-out of implementation of cash responses. Efforts to contract FSPs will furthermore support a shift towards more multipurpose cash assistance.

During 2021, priority will be given to continue the cash preparedness efforts in collaboration with Movement partners to support National Societies in the region in strengthening their CVA technical capacities. Additionally, IFRC aims to focus on strengthening the quality of CVA, working with markets, and engage in collaborative efforts for CVA at the Cluster and country levels. A regional cash strategy will be prepared in collaboration with National Societies and Movement Partners, including focus on, for example, CVA preparedness, CVA and the environment, scaling of quality multipurpose cash programmes, CVA data and information management, FSP procurement, data protection, and protection and gender equality in CVA.

Gaps have been identified especially around information and data management in cash as well as cash preparedness including quality CVA and alignment to global trends and standards on CVA for National Societies to be “cash ready”.

More of our National Societies have seen Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) as strong and flexible modalities to provide effective assistance in both sudden-onset and protracted crisis situations. 22 National Societies integrated CVA into their COVID-19 responses. Even in areas affected by flooding or cyclones, markets often remain functional to some degree and traders are often quick to resume activities and even faster at supplying items than humanitarian actors. CVA is often the preferred modality by people affected by crisis, who have differing priorities and needs.
Surge preparedness and deployments for floods and cyclones

The regional surge roster for Rapid Response has more than 782 members trained ready for deployment. In 2020, 37 members were deployed to respond to various emergencies involving floods and cyclones in the region. As part of our readiness for 2021 floods season, an alert was issued to check availability of Rapid Response profiles within the region for possible deployments. Currently we have the following disciplines on alert for deployment: Field Operations Coordinators, WASH, Health, Logistics, Security, CEA and Communications.

Surge readiness for deployment March and April

- PMER 1
- WASH 12
- Logistics 14
- Health 5
- Finance 1
- Communications 2
- Cash and vouchers 1
- CEA 10
- Field Operations Coordinator 15
The frequency, intensity and unpredictability of extreme weather and climate events are projected to further increase because of climate change, which will further worsen the situation in the region.

As a result of these challenges, the operating environment of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies remain complex, under-resourced, and with its services and mandate increasingly facing demand from local governments, communities, and individuals. National Societies are under tremendous pressure to meet the needs of millions of vulnerable people. The need for action by the IFRC and its members is imperative, immediate, substantial, constant, and growing.

There is much more to be done to keep up with the current and projected challenges for the 2021 floods and cyclone season and beyond. That’s why the IFRC and Movement partners continue to support Africa National Societies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people before, during and after disasters and crises.

Our key and immediate interventions focus on readiness to respond to disasters and crises. To be ready to respond to floods and cyclone the Africa National Societies, their branches, staff and volunteers must have appropriate systems, assets and infrastructure in place to rapidly scale up in response of the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and hard to reach communities.

Our Goal is to ensure focused, speedy, needs and demand-driven support, to African National Societies to save lives, reduce suffering and enhance community resilience in Africa.

Our Objective is to ensure readiness of African NSs for responding floods and cyclone by increasing speed and agility.

Our key and immediate interventions to support National Societies to be ready to respond are:

- Pre-disaster meetings, orientation and training
- Contingency planning
- Upgrade or support emergency operations center (EOC) of NSs
- Logistics capacity and prepositioning relief stocks (nonfood items)
- Cash and Voucher Interventions Readiness
- Training and equipping National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) and Branch Response Team (BDRTs)
- Surge Personnel Deployment Response Readiness
- Early Waring-Early Actions
- Ready for Assessments
- Information Management
- Coordination

The cost of the plan
The cost for this plan for 2021 is 4.5 million Swiss francs. A breakdown appears below:

- Seasonal outlook and risk watch: 50,000
- NSs preparedness for response: 450,000
- Cash readiness: 150,000
- Prepositioned cash: 1,100,000
- Disaster preparedness stocks: 2,025,000
- Surge readiness and deployments: 75,000
- Assessments and IM: 75,000
- Support services: 575,000
- TOTAL: 4,500,000
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**How we work**

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC’s vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.