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**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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Annual Report 2019

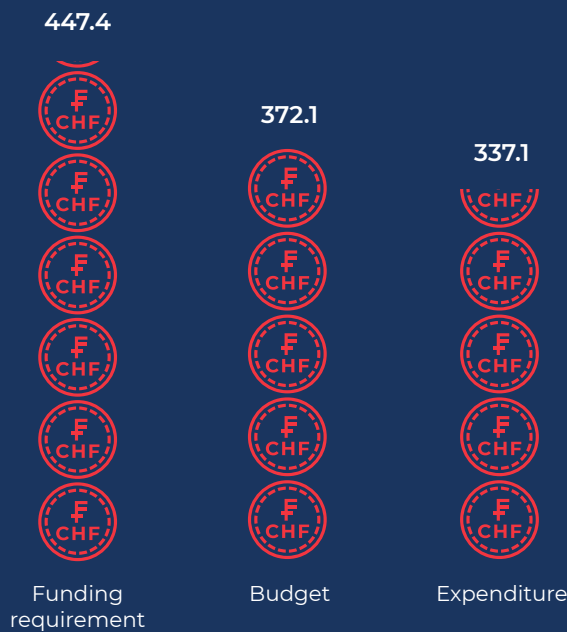
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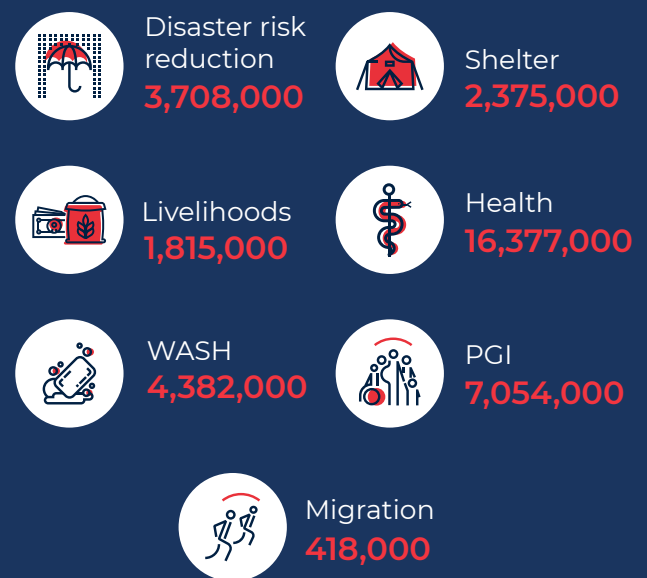
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2019 IN NUMBERS

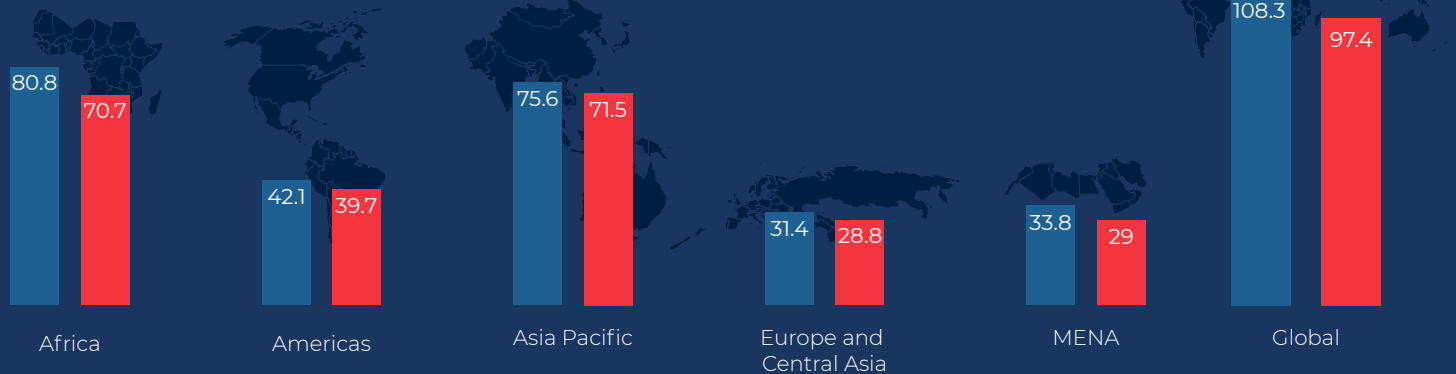
IFRC 2019 OVERVIEW



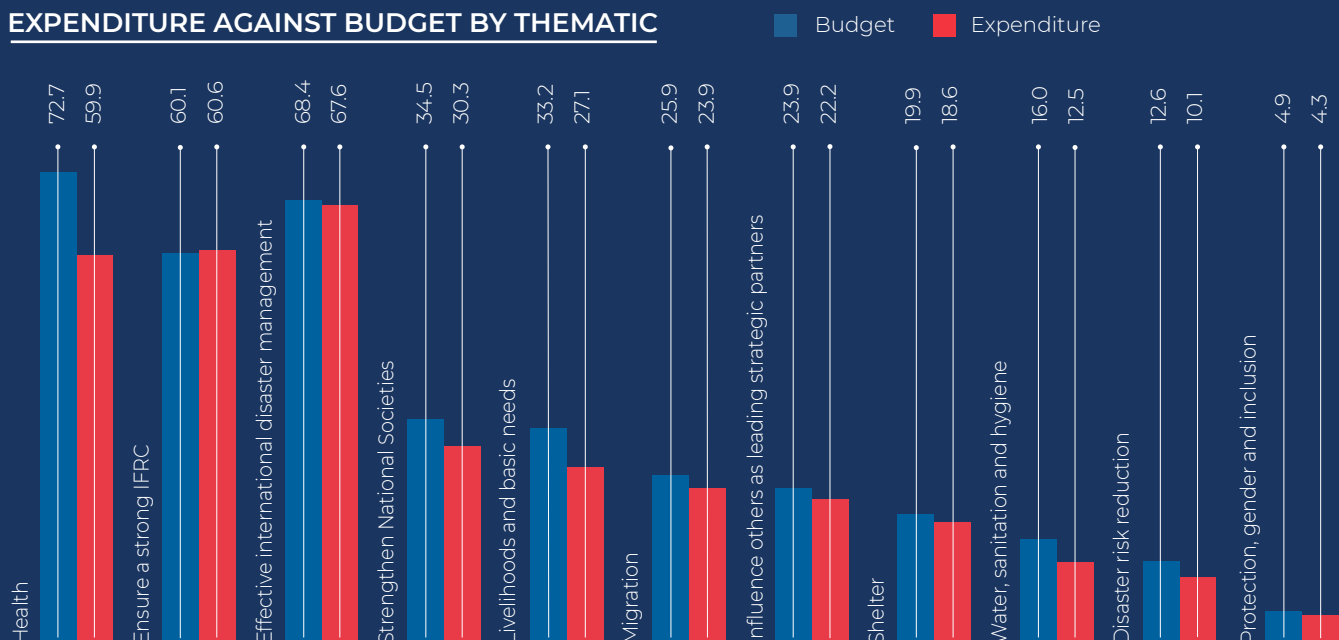
PEOPLE REACHED IN EACH AREA OF FOCUS



EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET BY REGION



EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET BY THEMATIC



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS LAUNCHED IN 2019

22
emergency
appeals

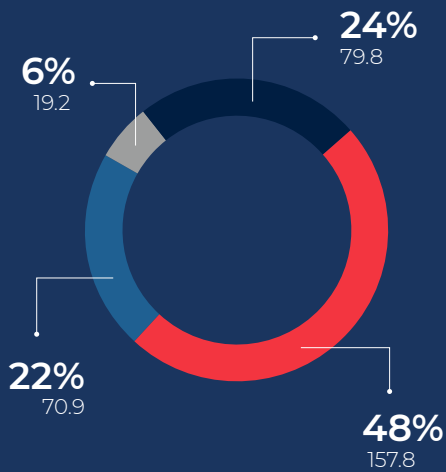
111
Emergency operations
supported by the DREF

205 million
Swiss francs required

16 million
people targeted



EARMARKING



■ Tightly earmarked
 ■ Softly earmarked
■ Earmarked
 ■ Unearmarked

LARGEST GRANT EVER RECEIVED

Emergency Social Safety Net programme


500 million Euro
 awarded by ECHO

PARTNERS PROVIDING UNEARMARKED FUNDING IN 2019



11.0
British government



0.6
Airbnb Inc.



7.1
Swedish government



0.6
Irish government



3.5
Swiss government



0.5
Italian government



1.3
Hungarian government



0.3
New Zealand government



0.7
The United Arab
Emirates government



0.1
Turkish government



0.7
Panama government



1.3
Unsolicited donations

All amounts in million Swiss francs

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

2019 was a year of extremes. We celebrated 100 years since the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), at a time when humanitarian needs have never been greater. Throughout 2019, the world faced interconnected and compounding emergencies, driven mostly by extreme climate related disasters and conflict, that resulted in highest number of internally displaced people on record. Little did we know the unprecedented and compounding crisis that awaited us in 2020.

Looking back at our history, it is important to remember that IFRC was founded in part as a response to the 1918 influenza pandemic that killed around 50 million people and infected at least 500 million worldwide. We knew then what we know now: Pandemics wreak devastating and long-lasting havoc across all aspects of people's lives.

As I began my mandate as IFRC Secretary General, at the dawn of our second centenary, a new pandemic – COVID-19 – has once again, created the most unprecedented health and humanitarian crisis in recent history.

Our experience in outbreak response over the past century has taught us not to wait for epidemics to happen. Instead, we prepare. In 2019 we trained over 3,000 National Society volunteers through our Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme to prepare them for the challenges in responding numerous outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Around the world, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, their volunteers, staff and front-line health workers have risen to help stop the spread of COVID-19. They are providing vital information to the public and breaking chains of misinformation. They are supporting their health authorities with protective equipment, testing and contact tracing, as well as psychosocial support to those whose lives have been devastated by this new virus. They are familiar and trusted in their communities, bringing a light of hope to all who see a Red Cross or Red Crescent emblem.

This report pays tribute to the Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers for their tireless efforts and sacrifice in responding to the needs of vulnerable people in multiple humanitarian contexts around the world, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, humanitarian actors with local reach, like Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers are needed more than ever. As I look to the future of our organization in these tumultuous times, I take a moment to reflect on the work that has brought us to where we are today.



In 2019, the General Assembly adopted Strategy 2030 which will guide the IFRC's work for the coming decade. We also welcomed two new National Societies further strengthening our Federation. In 2019, IFRC launched 22 International Emergency Appeals in support of National Societies for their in-country responses. Our Disaster Response Emergency Fund supported 111 emergency operations to provide immediate lifesaving support in times of crisis. We highlighted in many instances that the number of disasters caused by or made worse by climate change is growing. By 2050, the number of people affected by climate change and needing international humanitarian assistance could almost double if we do not take urgent action. More than 70% of our activities in 2019 were focused on disaster risk reduction and climate smart measures to address these challenges.

We have long supported and understood the important role of volunteers as community health workers. This year alone, IFRC supported our member National Societies to reach almost 16,400,000 people around the world with health and psychosocial services which have profound and positive impact in the communities that they serve.

Beyond the impact of our local action, the commitment and dedication of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers and staff help cultivate kindness, build trust and spearhead solidarity across generations within their communities. Sadly, this sometimes comes at the tragic cost of their own lives.

As part of my mandate as Secretary General, I will renew our efforts to improve National Societies' capacities to become self-reliant, sustainable, local organizations. Young people and women account for the vast majority of our Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers. I am committed to increase our gender equality and diversity across IFRC whilst reinforcing our transparency and accountability across all our operations so that we are fit for purpose and responding to the needs of our volunteers and the communities we serve.

I want to thank all our partners for their support and commitment without which nothing would have been made possible. The IFRC will always work hand in hand with communities and partners, to continue supporting the people that we serve.

When I look at what we are capable of doing when we work together, when I see the dedication and sacrifice one person is willing to make to help another, I know that we will surmount the challenges ahead.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The IFRC supported National Societies in 2019 to respond to crises, reduce vulnerability and work with communities so that they can live healthier and more dignified lives.

2019 saw people displaced by armed conflict, violence, and natural disasters. Food insecurity in East and Southern Africa and Central America affected almost 42 million people, and locusts in the East and Horn of Africa threatened the food security and livelihoods of an estimated 22 million people.

2019 was also a year of achievements. The ability of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to support local communities in the face of staggering need shows that their work is more needed and relevant than ever. This was also the year that the IFRC welcomed two new members – the Bhutan Red Cross Society and the Marshall Islands Red Cross Society – as part of the network.

The IFRC's goal is to support the humanitarian and development work of all 192 member National Societies. It works through five regional offices and 50 Country or Cluster offices around the world to support National Societies in their programming and organizational development. The IFRC supports National Societies to become more efficient, effective, trusted, and accountable, so that they can help local communities become more resilient.

The IFRC does this through four strategies for implementation and seven areas of focus. Strategies for implementation are critical functions that support National Societies to develop and implement effective programmes. Areas of focus are the agreed areas where the IFRC works with National Societies to deliver results for at-risk communities.

The IFRC's work in 2019 was outlined in its 2016–2020 plan and budget in support of the goals of its Strategy 2020. Looking to the future, in 2019, the IFRC developed Strategy 2030, which will guide the IFRC's objectives for the next decade and lead to systemic change in how the IFRC works. Strategy 2030 was adopted during the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2019 and centres on five global priorities:

- 1** **Climate and environmental crises**
- 2** **Evolving crisis and disasters**
- 3** **Growing gaps in health and well-being**
- 4** **Migration and identity**
- 5** **Values, power and inclusion.**

The work of the IFRC is funded through a mix of statutory contributions from member National Societies, donations, service fees, and cost recoveries. Flexible funding is extremely important for the IFRC to effectively support National Societies. It allows the IFRC to put funding where it is most needed and enables essential functions that support the programming and development of National Societies.

With the support of flexible funding, the IFRC is investing heavily in its field presence. This proximity makes a big difference during disasters. When cyclones Idai and Kenneth struck Mozambique within six weeks of one another, the IFRC Country Office in Mozambique was already on the ground to support, providing vital coordination.

Sustained proximity to National Societies also serves their development. The IFRC prioritizes the programming and organizational development of National Societies in its use of unrestricted funding. In the Caribbean, the IFRC Cluster office is supporting National Societies to prepare for hurricanes, from early warning systems to training Community Disaster Relief Teams. The IFRC's East African Cluster Office is supporting National Societies to strengthen oversight and risk management by providing critical expertise that is not available within the National Societies, for example in audit and legal. This type of support ensures that National Societies will be not only more effective, but more accountable to partners and those they serve.

Globally, flexible funding allows the IFRC to advance compliance and internal controls that ensure the IFRC's transparency and accountability. In 2019, flexible funding contributed to, for example, 17 internal audits; 45 donor, Emergency Appeal, and cash transfer audits; and 36 active investigations. It also contributed to the development of essential policies in National Societies, like prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2019, 15 National Societies were supported, bringing the total to 35. This is important not only for the National Society itself, but also to ensure appropriate integration into their programming.

For more detail on how the IFRC invested flexible funding in 2019, please see [page 34](#).



PROGRESS IN 2019

Strengthening National Societies To make a sustainable difference in communities, National Societies must be able to provide relevant services and have effective systems and leadership to carry them out. The IFRC's objective is to support National Societies to improve their capacity to carry out critical programming and to develop as strong, accountable organizations.

In 2019, the IFRC made a big step forward in how it does this, through the National Society Development Compact. The Compact maximises impact through quality, needs-based support and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of IFRC member National Societies and Movement partners when collaborating on the development of National Societies.

Operationally, this development includes important IFRC initiatives like Preparedness for Effective Response, which is helping National Societies to provide higher quality services to those in need. As of 2019, 48 National Societies have engaged in the process, while increased training has expanded capacities in Europe and the Americas regions.

Ensuring effective international disaster management The IFRC strives to ensure that a well-functioning, relevant global disaster management system is in place to address the needs of vulnerable people affected by disasters and crises. It provides support for operations with coordination, expertise, staff, finances, and emergency information management.

In 2019, protracted crises still demanded the greatest needs and attention of National Societies. The IFRC supported National Society responses to disasters through 22 emergency appeals and 111 emergency operations through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund, requiring more than 200 million Swiss francs, and supporting over 16 million people. The largest emergency appeals for 2019 included the complex emergency in Syria, population movement in Turkey, and population movement in Bangladesh.

In addition to funds, the IFRC also helps to coordinate the provision of personnel. When local capacities are exceeded during an emergency, the support of the IFRC's global network is essential. In 2019, the IFRC coordinated the rapid deployment of more than 400 experienced professionals to provide surge capacity support to National Societies, mostly in climate-related crises or epidemics. In 2019, 364 people participated in global surge training, and the skills acquired have a direct impact on the quality and effectiveness of IFRC and National Society programming.

To effectively use funds and personnel, it is important to have the right information at the right time and the IFRC works with National Societies to develop this capacity. When a disaster occurs, surge information management support is activated through the IFRC to provide either remote or field-based support to operations. In 2019, the IFRC delivered information management support to National Societies during the response and recovery from Cyclone Idai in Mozambique and during the Ebola outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo, enabling better analysis and decision-making.

Influencing others as a leading strategic partner The IFRC engages closely with partners to bring the highest quality responses to those in need. The IFRC's local to global presence also allows it to influence global decision-making, informed by local needs and priorities and ensuring that at-risk people have a voice.

IFRC advocates to ensure that no one is left behind. In 2019, the IFRC succeeded in including early action, community resilience-building and climate adaptation, and effective disaster laws in outcomes of events such as the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Global Climate Summit, and the Development and Climate Days of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Through them, the IFRC was able to promote a focus on community-level action centred on the most at-risk communities.

The IFRC has long recognized climate change as one of the most important areas where its global leadership is needed. In its new publication, *The Cost of Doing Nothing*, the IFRC set out the potential needs and the financial price of climate change if nothing is done to help communities adapt, and suggests that the international community help those most at risk to reduce their vulnerability and exposure. This was an essential step in the transition to the IFRC's Strategy 2030, where climate change will take a central role.

Ensuring a strong IFRC that is effective, credible, and accountable The IFRC can only assist National Societies, if it itself, is an effective and accountable organization.

The IFRC was strengthened during the 2019 Statutory Meetings of the Red Cross and Red Crescent when, for example, the 22nd General Assembly modernised the IFRC's Constitution, changing the way IFRC elects its Governing Board to achieve greater gender balance. The 2019 Council of Delegates reinforced a continuing objective of the IFRC with its recommendation that all National Societies review their Statutes in the next five years. The 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent explored how best to respond in the future as societal shifts create different challenges. The discussions, focusing on International Humanitarian law, shifting vulnerabilities and trust in humanitarian action will help shape IFRC action moving forward.

Trust was a major theme of the Statutory Meetings, and the IFRC has been working to strengthen the integrity and accountability of the network. In 2019, the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations introduced a new, fully risk-based audit approach and methodology. These more robust audit processes identified several areas for improvement, particularly at a country and programme level.

THE IFRC RESPONDED TO

DISASTERS THROUGH 22

EMERGENCY APPEALS AND

111 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.

Disaster risk reduction *The IFRC seeks to ensure that communities in high risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disasters and that communities in disaster and crisis affected areas adopt climate risk informed and environmentally responsible values and practices.*

The IFRC is demonstrating its commitment to the environment through its environmental policy and Green Response Strategy 2019–2023. Green Response is the way in which the IFRC, and the wider International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, approach our work that emphasizes stronger accountability towards affected populations by actively promoting alternative, more environmentally beneficial solutions in addressing needs.

Whether for climate or other kinds of risk, anticipation is key. The IFRC focuses on prevention and early action to avoid disasters. Forecast-based financing is one approach that enables funding for preparation of extreme weather events. The purpose is to anticipate disasters, prevent their impact if possible, and reduce human suffering and losses. In the Asia Pacific region, for example, there were seven forecast-based financing projects implemented by National Societies, including four approved Early Action Protocols for floods, cyclones, or typhoons, and dzud severe winters.

Shelter *The IFRC seeks to ensure that communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions.*

The IFRC aims to ensure quality and appropriate shelter solutions for vulnerable people. Providing safe shelter saves lives during emergencies. In Africa, for example, the IFRC supported National Societies to provide more than 30,000 households with emergency shelter support in 26 operations. The IFRC was able to help reach around 88,000 people with safe shelter in the Americas. In Europe, nearly 2,300 women and 4,000 men were supported with shelter solutions in emergencies related to natural hazards.

Globally, the IFRC is a leader in shelter, as the convener of the Global Shelter Cluster in natural disasters. In 2019, Global Shelter Cluster partners supported 14.2 million people with shelter assistance and relief items. IFRC understands how the provision of shelter can have a lasting impact on the environment and climate. Through the Global Shelter Cluster, the IFRC is working to eliminate the use of all but essential plastic packaging in relief items by the end of 2020.

Livelihoods and basic needs *The IFRC seeks to ensure that communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods.*

The IFRC supports National Societies to protect livelihoods and basic needs by helping them develop high-quality programming. In doing so, the IFRC has become a leader in the use of cash, which ensures that vulnerable people are empowered to determine their own needs. In fact, most of the cash interventions made by IFRC are to secure immediate basic needs (40 per cent). Livelihoods support is focused on the replacement of financial and physical

THE IFRC IS COMMITTED

TO THE ENVIRONMENT

WITH THE GREEN RESPONSE

STRATEGY 2019–2023.

assets (through cash or in-kind) during emergencies and anticipatory actions by National Societies that increase resilience to emergencies.

The IFRC's support in livelihoods and basic needs is vital during emergencies and recovery. For example, the IFRC reached around 162,000 people with food assistance, basic relief items, income generation activities, agriculture tools, and seeds in Nigeria, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, and Kenya through multipurpose cash transfer.

Another part of the assistance to National Societies includes technical support. The IFRC mobilized Field Assessment Coordination Team Delegates for Livelihoods and Basic Needs during the response to Hurricane Dorian in The Bahamas, which helped the National Society to deliver life-saving programming.

Health *The IFRC seeks to improve vulnerable people's health and dignity through increased access to appropriate health services.*

At the heart of the IFRC's approach to health, are evidence-based interventions that are community-led, people-centred, locally appropriate but with global reach. The IFRC emphasizes health in times of emergencies and as a key element to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience.

Epidemics have been a growing area of IFRC engagement. In 2019, more than 100 IFRC and National Society staff and 3,000 volunteers participated in the Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme in coordination with public health authorities and partners. It is this kind of training that has readied National Societies to face COVID-19.

The IFRC continued to host and chair the Alliance for Malaria Prevention partnership. In 2019, the alliance worked in 23 countries, distributing more than 71 million long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, and saving nearly 100,000 lives.

Community health is a cornerstone of the IFRC's support to communities, not just in times of emergency. The flagship Community-Based Health and First Aid approach empowers volunteers and communities to create healthy and resilient communities. At least one aspect is being implemented in the health programming of 154 National Societies. This can include areas like first aid, maternal/new-born child health, non-communicable and communicable disease prevention.





Water, sanitation, and hygiene *The IFRC seeks to increase access of vulnerable people to appropriate and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services.*

The IFRC and its membership have a broad reach in providing water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) programming worldwide, having reached more than 35 million people between 2005 and 2019. The IFRC's approach to WASH includes the provision of safe water services, awareness raising activities on improved treatment and safe use of wastewater, and the promotion of personal and community hygiene. In 2019, the IFRC worked closely with the Islamic Development Bank on the launch of the Global One WASH Fund for longer-term funding for WASH and public health activities in the Middle East North Africa region.

The IFRC also uses WASH in preventing and responding to health crises such as cholera. The Global Task Force on Cholera Control appointed the IFRC, together with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CDC, UNICEF and WHO to form a new steering group. The IFRC also became a founding member, with WHO and UNICEF, of the Cholera Platform for Middle East and North Africa. This positions the IFRC and the network at the heart of global and regional partnerships for inter-agency coordination towards cholera elimination.

In the wake of disasters, supplying safe drinking water, sanitation, and ensuring hygiene are essential parts of the IFRC response. For instance, in 2019, in the Americas, the IFRC supported a safe water distribution site that provides 10,000 litres per day to 350 people in the host community and 1,000 migrants in Panama. In Asia Pacific the IFRC supported WASH interventions by National Societies for 35 emergency operations across 15 countries. This has almost doubled compared to 2018.

Protection, gender, and inclusion *The IFRC seeks to empower communities become more peaceful, safe, and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.*

The IFRC knows that change starts from within and has committed to achieving gender parity at all staffing levels by 2028.

Embracing diversity and ensuring equal opportunities for all is at the heart of the IFRC's work. Therefore, IFRC is increasing its support during emergencies, through the protection, gender, and inclusion rapid response roster. Emergencies can create high-risk environments and so, in 2019, delegates were deployed to support disaster

THE EMERGENCY

SOCIAL SAFETY NET

SUPPORTS 1.7 MILLION

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY.

response operations in Mozambique, the Bahamas and continuously to Cox's Bazar to ensure mainstreaming of protection, gender and inclusion in assessments, planning, design, and programs.

For programming to be successful, practice must be supported by policy. National Societies need appropriate frameworks to ensure they can effectively implement protection, gender, and inclusion in programmes. In 2019, the IFRC worked with 15 National Societies to develop prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse policies. Five National Societies finalized and adopted policies.

Migration *IFRC seeks to ensure that communities support the needs of migrants and their families and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit, and destination).*

There were millions of people on the move in 2019 for a myriad of reasons and the IFRC network was there to support them in their journey. 2019 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Policy on Internal Displacement and the IFRC Policy on Migration. The policies provide essential guidance to all components of the Movement on how to prevent, respond to and facilitate durable solutions to internal displacement caused by climate change disasters, armed conflict, and other situations of violence.

The IFRC puts special focus on services for those seeking safety and refuge. In 2019, the IFRC was awarded 500 million Euro to support Syrian refugees in Turkey by the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) to be implemented by the Turkish Red Crescent. The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme in Turkey is the largest programme ever implemented by the IFRC and the largest humanitarian programme in the history of the European Union. It supports 1.7 million Syrian refugees in Turkey with multi-purpose cash.

On the other side of the world, one of the largest mass displacements in the history of South America took place in 2019. The crisis in Venezuela echoed the challenges faced by people on the move around the world and was an example of the essential collaboration and response work of the IFRC network. The IFRC provided support to the National Society in Venezuela and those in bordering countries with financing, emergency response capacity, and by fostering cooperation and innovation and leveraging partnerships to respond more effectively.

Conclusion Despite increasing needs, the IFRC continues to make significant progress in saving and improving lives of the world's most at-risk people. Reducing risk and increasing resilience remain the best ways to avoid the worst effects of disasters and to protect development gains. The IFRC remains committed to ensuring that vulnerable communities not only participate in programmes that affect them, but that they are vital partners and owners of solutions.

The work of our member National Societies is needed more than ever as we face unprecedented challenges. The IFRC will continue to support them to develop as effective local organizations and provide support to communities wherever and whenever they are need

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The context within which the IFRC supported National Societies in 2019 was again dominated by protracted crises and complex emergencies. They continued to have a major impact worldwide and remained the primary cause of humanitarian needs affecting the food security of millions of people in East and Southern Africa and Central America.

In 2019, more than 90 million people were forcibly displaced due to conflict, violence, human rights violations, or natural disasters. At the start of 2019, there were 41.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), the highest number on record. Large population movements persistently forced people into vulnerable situations and stretched already fragile infrastructures of the communities receiving and hosting them.

The dire situation people faced in Venezuela during the economic and political crisis was common to many millions of others in Europe, Africa, Asia, and other parts of the Americas. Essential services in Venezuela collapsed and living conditions deteriorated dramatically resulting in one of the largest mass displacements in the history of South America. Hyperinflation reduced access to essential medicines and food, while the availability of goods was hampered by import restrictions. Malnutrition reached a critical thresholds for children under five years old and increased maternal and infant mortality. The health system was severely undermined and there were shortages of medical supplies, medicines, and skilled personnel as they also became displaced. This created weak foundations for the immediate emergency. The incidence of vector-borne diseases rose and preventable diseases such as measles re-emerged. The collapse of basic services caused serious water and sanitation problems. Access to essential services was hindered by a volatile security situation, frequent electricity blackouts and a lack of fuel. The dire situation has had a serious effect on regional stability and has almost overwhelmed public services of Colombia and other neighbouring countries.

There were epidemic outbreaks of dengue fever in Central and South America and measles in several other countries, like the Philippines and Ukraine. The IFRC, National Societies and dedicated volunteers responded impressively to the Ebola Virus Disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they contributed to the reduction in the number of cases and helped maintain a high level of preparedness and vigilance in the neighbouring countries of Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and South Sudan.

The impact of climate change continued to increase demands on the IFRC and National Societies. 2019 was the second hottest year on record according to the World Meteorological Organization, and the severe impacts of the climate crisis were witnessed globally. In India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar, higher than normal rainfall led to



the flooding and the devastation of many people's lives and livelihoods. There was a higher than average number of tropical cyclones globally, two destructive ones within a couple of months of each other in Mozambique and there was a devastating hurricane in the Bahamas. The IFRC network responded to disasters caused by floods in nine countries in Africa, four in the Americas, three in the Middle East, seven in the Asia Pacific and three in Europe. The IFRC also supported National Societies to help people affected by serious droughts in Pakistan, DPRK, Kenya, Somalia, and Afghanistan.

Unusual heavy rain, and late and poor rainfall in 2018 caused by El Nino resulted in extensive food insecurity in several parts of Africa in 2019. The situation was made worse by political unrest, economic challenges, and a rapid rise in the displacement of people. These factors have eroded the ability of the most vulnerable people and communities to cope. In addition, in December, locusts in the East and Horn of Africa created an alarming and unprecedented threat to the livelihoods of around 18 to 22 million people.

While people living in vulnerable communities around the world faced severe crises, the IFRC and National Societies continued to dedicate themselves to addressing their needs in the most effective way. They invested in building capacities to respond, to develop, and to collaborate within the network, and to advocate for action based on direct experience and the principles of the Movement.

ABOUT THE IFRC

The IFRC supports 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world - each of which is an independent organization, carrying out humanitarian activities guided by the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and working as auxiliary to their public authorities in the humanitarian field.

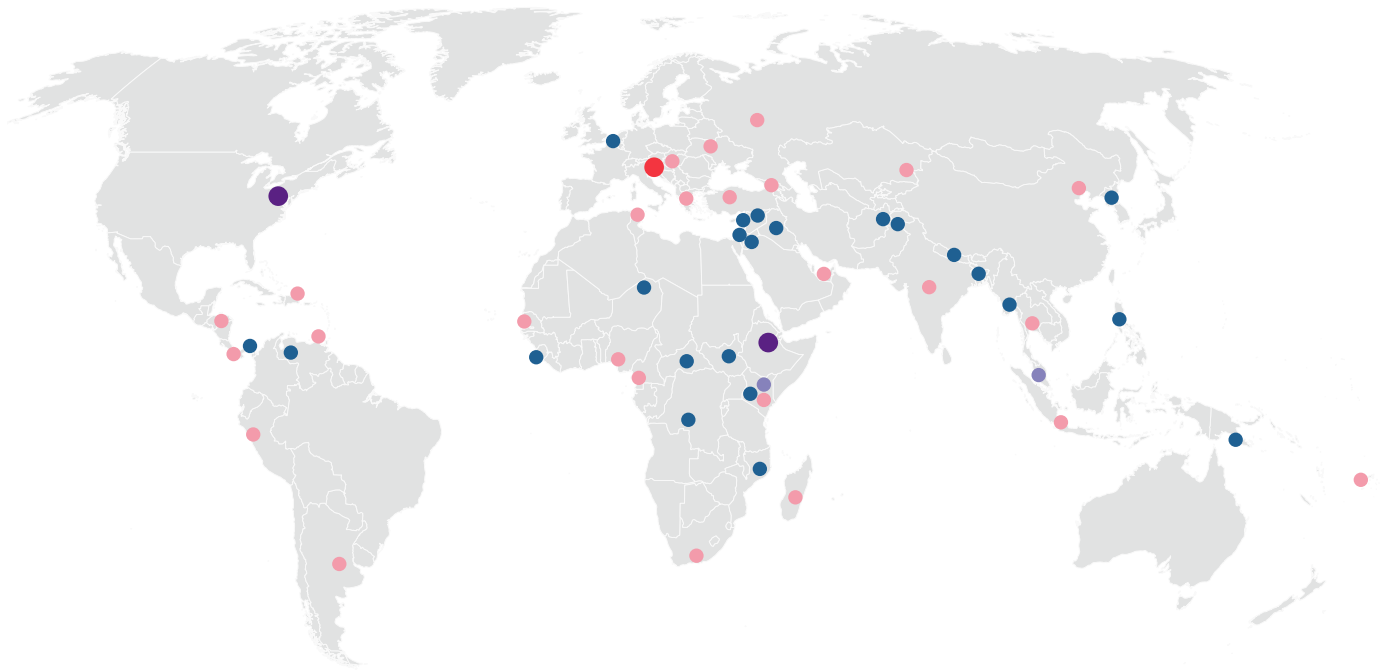
The goal of the IFRC is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

While the Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day running of the IFRC, decisions on the direction and policy of the IFRC are made by its governing bodies that also provide a mechanism for accountability and compliance. The [General Assembly](#) is the highest decision-making body of the IFRC. It meets every two years and comprises representatives from all member National Societies. It approves a two-year Plan and Budget for the IFRC.

The [Governing Board](#) 'governs' the IFRC between two general assemblies, meeting twice a year. The board comprises the IFRC's President and Vice Presidents, representatives from elected member Societies, the Chair of the Finance Commission, the Chair of the Audit and Risk Commission, and the Chair of the Youth Commission. The Finance Commission, which is responsible for providing financial advice and oversight to IFRC, is comprised of a chair and representatives from five National Societies. The members are required to be collectively knowledgeable in the following areas of expertise: financial management including budgeting and reporting; investment management; fundraising; compensation; understanding of legal issues relevant to the IFRC; understanding of humanitarian operations; not-for-profit sector; and information technology. One member of the Finance Commission is required to be independent of the Movement.

The Secretary General leads the IFRC's Secretariat support to the National Societies. The IFRC does this through more than 50 country/cluster offices, five regional offices, and from our Headquarters in Geneva. Our presence at the country level especially, allows the IFRC to support National Societies in their development and long-term work and to be present from the beginning when emergencies strike. Most National Societies' work is focused on building resilience in at risk communities. When disasters do strike, they are often the first to respond. Therefore, it is essential that National Societies are supported year-round and not just during emergencies.

Map of IFRC offices



● Country Cluster Support Team ● Country Office ● Regional Office ● Representative Office ● IFRC Headquarters



IFRC'S PROGRAMME AND SUPPORT TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES

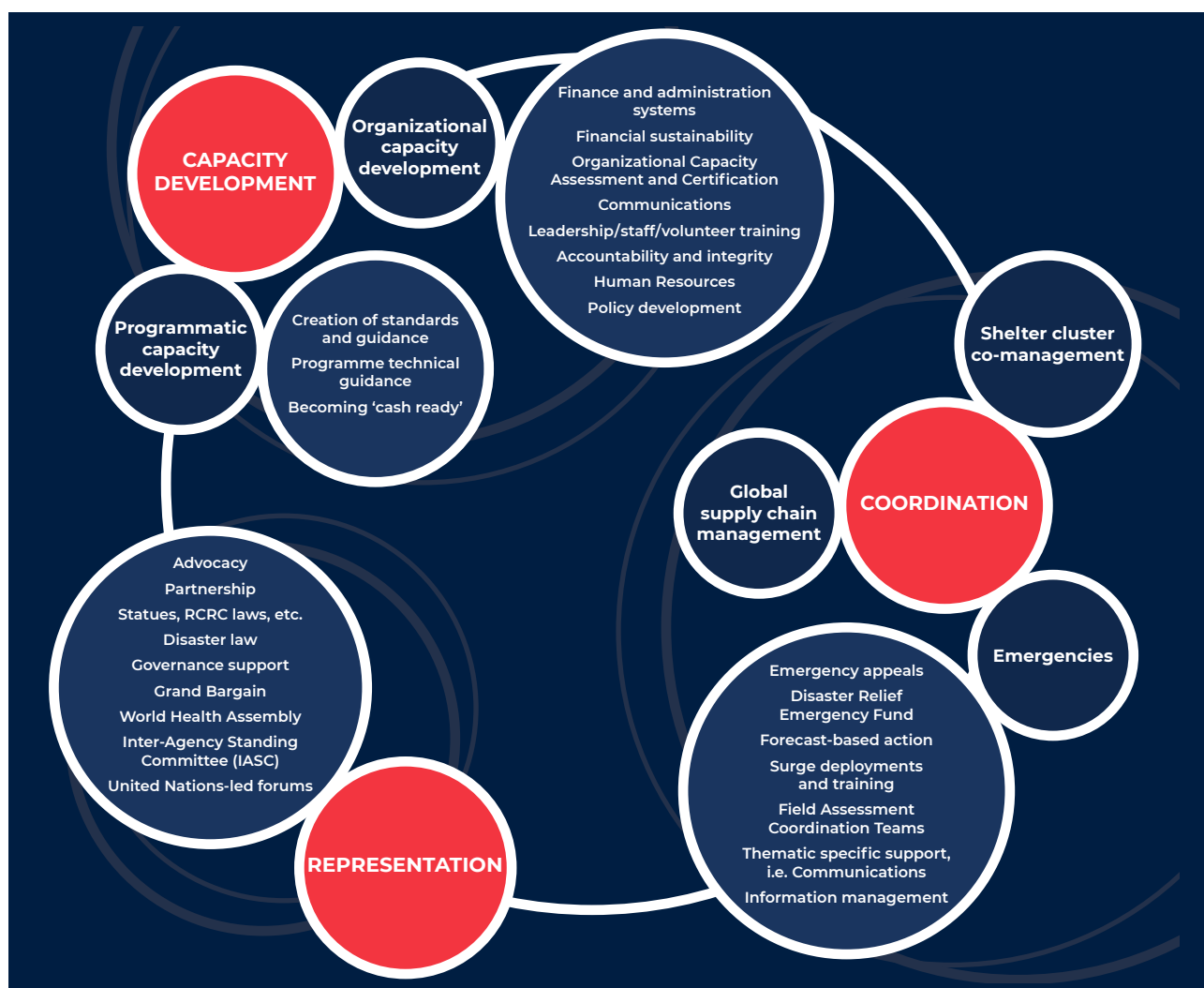
The IFRC's 2019 programme priorities were outlined in the [Plan and Budget 2016–2020](#) adopted by the IFRC General Assembly in 2015, supporting the implementation of the goals and objectives of [Strategy 2020](#). Strategy 2030 was drafted in 2019 and will guide the work of the IFRC in the next decade, along with a 5-year strategic plan. The IFRC supports its members through four Strategies for Implementation and seven Areas of Focus. Strategies for Implementation are critical functions that support National Societies to develop and implement effective programmes. Areas of Focus are the agreed areas where the IFRC works with National Societies to deliver results for at-risk communities.

The IFRC's goal is to support the humanitarian activities of member National Societies. Support is provided in three main areas:

- National Society development (organizational and programmatic)
- Coordination services to National Societies during international response to emergencies
- International representation of National Societies in global policy and partnership dialogues.

Types of support provided to National Societies

This report will detail how the IFRC supports National Societies across many areas. The below list, while not exhaustive, gives an idea of the wide-ranging types of support that the IFRC provides to National Societies to accompany them in their development, whether programmatic or organizational.

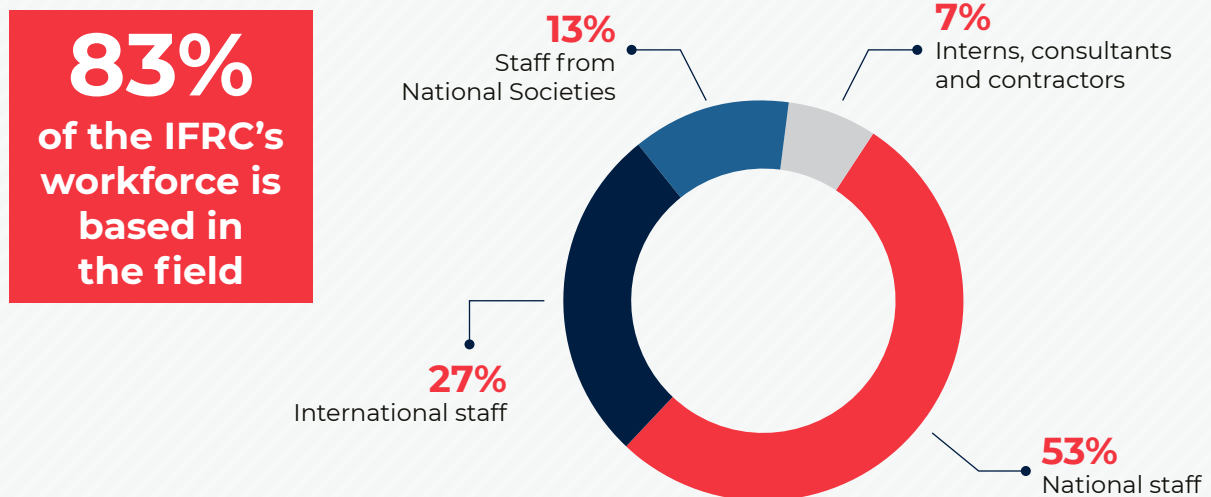


STAFF

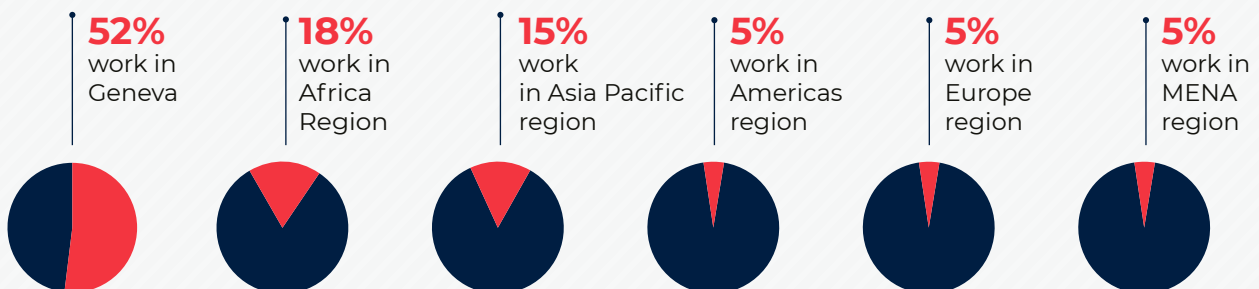
The IFRC Secretariat is decentralized. The IFRC's workforce is comprised of both national and international personnel in our headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland and in our regional and country/cluster offices globally.

2114 staff members

(end 2019)



About half of the 604 international staff are working in departments based in Geneva.





SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGY 2030

STRATEGY 2030 – A PLATFORM FOR CHANGE

The IFRC network is planning for the future, using foresight and innovation to ensure that it will remain fit for purpose in increasingly uncertain times.

Strategy 2030 was finalized after an extensive two-year consultation and unanimously endorsed in 2019 by the General Assembly, which is made up of representatives from all member National Societies and is the highest decision-making body of the IFRC.

NETWORK CONSULTATIONS

The development of the IFRC strategy involved consultations with around 10,000 stakeholders including partners within the network and the communities it works alongside, through workshops, online polls and surveys, and written feedback.

Around 4,000 young people from more than 80 countries made their contributions in an online game called [*What Futures*](#) via WhatsApp. The game challenged them to identify key trends of concern and how the organization could adapt to be more effective – providing insights to the views and opinions of young people about Strategy 2030. More than 130,000 messages were received from young people during the game.

STRATEGY 2030 is a strategy
of hope in the power of
humanity to drive positive
global change.

CHALLENGES

Strategy 2030 provides high-level guidance and a roadmap for the network to address five global priorities in the coming decade:

- **Climate and environmental crises**
- **Evolving crisis and disasters**
- **Growing gaps in health and well-being**
- **Migration and identity**
- **Values, power and inclusion.**

IFRC TRANSFORMATION

Strategy 2030 identifies seven transformations required of the IFRC for it to become more effective in addressing the challenges:

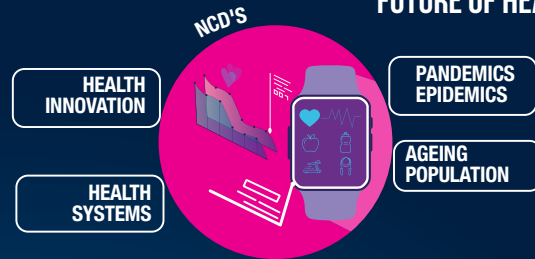
- 1** Supporting and developing National Societies as strong and effective local actors
- 2** Inspiring and mobilising volunteerism
- 3** Ensuring trust and accountability
- 4** Working effectively as a distributed network
- 5** Influencing humanitarian action
- 6** Undergoing a digital transformation
- 7** Financing the future.

Strategy 2030 advances a vision of the IFRC and its National Society members. It ensures that the IFRC remains as fit for purpose today and tomorrow as it has been in the past.

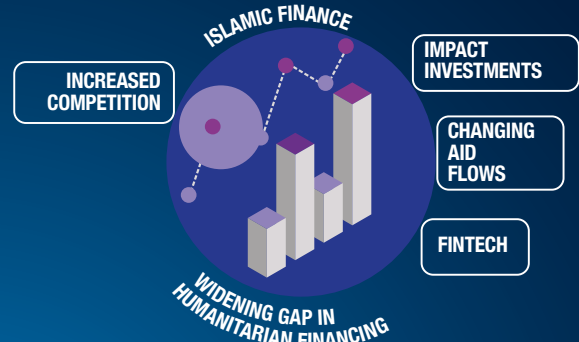
CONFLICT AND POVERTY



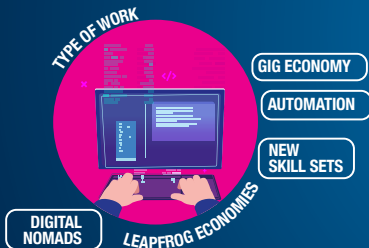
FUTURE OF HEALTH



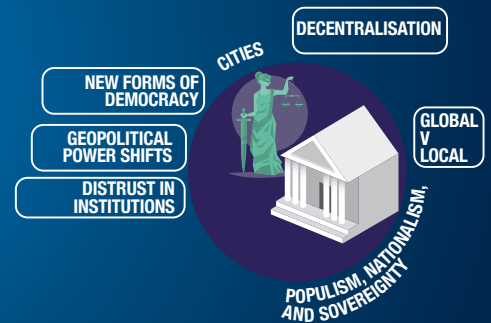
CLIMATE AND DISASTERS



FUTURE OF WORK



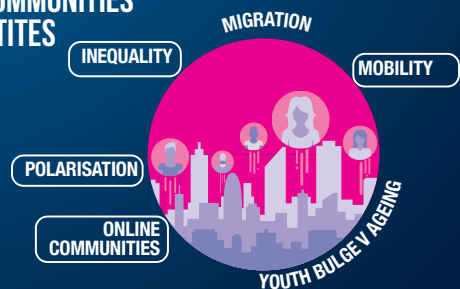
POWER AND GOVERNANCE



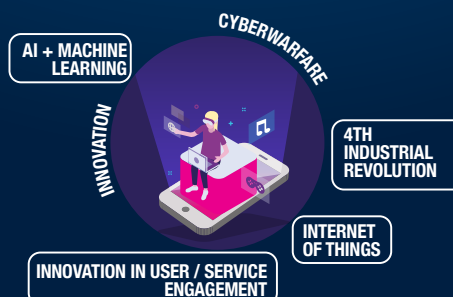
PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT



NEW COMMUNITIES AND CITIES



EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES



PHASE 1 THEMES AND TENSIONS



HOW WE SUPPORT: AREAS OF FOCUS AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The IFRC's programme priorities in 2019 were driven by the Plan and Budget 2016–2020 adopted by the IFRC General Assembly in 2015. This determines how the IFRC works in support of its members through four distinct **strategies for implementation** and seven **areas of focus**. The strategies for implementation are the critical functions of the IFRC that are designed to support National Societies to implement their effective programmes. The areas of focus are the areas where IFRC works with National Societies to deliver results for vulnerable communities.

Both areas of focus and strategies for implementation support IFRC strategic aims and significantly contribute to international initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.



AREAS OF FOCUS

Disaster risk reduction To reduce disaster risk, the IFRC has three main strategies: to strengthen the preparedness and capacities of communities so that they are in a better position to respond when a disaster occurs; to promote activities and actions that mitigate the adverse effects of hazards; and to protect development projects such as health facilities from the impact of disasters.

Shelter For the IFRC, shelter is not just a 'product' – but a 'process' whereby people can create a safe and secure environment. It is a continuum between humanitarian action and long-term development and must include essential facilities such as social and education services, access to market and responsible use of natural resources.

Livelihoods and basic needs The Red Cross and Red Crescent food, nutrition and livelihoods activities vary greatly depending on the context. Spanning from relief, recovery, and rehabilitation to development the activities intend to combat both transient and chronic food and nutrition insecurity.

Health Health and care activities in the IFRC include first aid and emergency response as well as epidemic control, programmes in health promotion and prevention, addressing stigma, providing psychosocial care, and enabling community empowerment.

Water, sanitation and hygiene(WASH) Currently an estimated 2.5 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation, and 15 per cent of the world's population still practice open defecation. The IFRC works to ensure that vulnerable people have increased access to appropriate and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

Protection, gender and inclusion IFRC works to ensure that our services in emergency and non-emergency contexts reach everyone who needs them, especially the most at-risk people. The IFRC also ensures that we continue, through our words and actions, to break down barriers of exclusion and marginalization.

Migration IFRC's work and support for migrants and displaced people, whatever their legal status, focuses on saving lives, preventing suffering, reducing vulnerability and risk, restoring dignity, and enhancing resilience in countries of origin, transit and destination.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Strengthening National Societies National Society effectiveness and performance are critical to achieving humanitarian impact. The IFRC supports National Societies in their efforts to develop their organizational capacity and effectiveness.

Ensure effective international disaster management IFRC ensures effective coordination of the work of National Societies in emergency preparedness, disaster response and recovery through a global disaster management system that addresses the needs of vulnerable people affected by disasters and crises.

Influence others as a leading strategic partner The global presence of the IFRC network allows it to convey community perspectives and needs to influence local, national, and international decision making that affects the lives of the most vulnerable people. The IFRC works with partners in programming and to change and affect policy.

Ensure a strong IFRC that is effective, credible and accountable The IFRC works within a "One Secretariat" approach, improving transparency and accountability, mitigating risks of fraud and corruption, and enhancing quality of service and value for money for itself and its members.

HOW WE PROGRAMME

The IFRC has implemented a robust approach to programming that is **inclusive of the communities we work with, and seeking measurable results**.

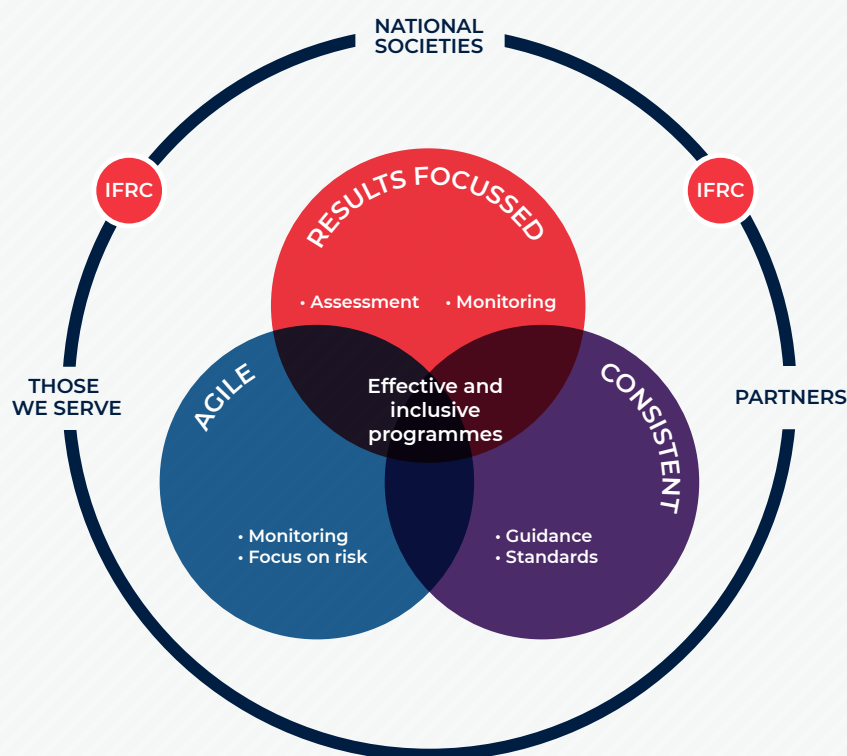
Each phase of programme/project cycle from design to project closure has been explored to create clear standards and guidance materials. These materials are used by IFRC staff around the world and are available to National Societies, to ensure quality and consistent programming that serves the needs of and directly involves vulnerable communities, while addressing the root causes of challenges.

Focus on people: IFRC serves the most vulnerable people with an ethical responsibility to address their needs with equity and dignity. Vulnerable communities are not just consulted but are an integral part of the design and implementation of programming – ensuring understanding of needs and strengthening resilience.

Results-Based Management supports better performance by applying a clear logic: plan, manage and measure an intervention with a focus on the results you want to achieve. Intended positive results are used as the basis of planning, while anticipating and managing internal and external risks in every stage of a project. This approach enables greater agility, transparency, and accountability to the communities we work alongside and the partners we engage with.

To implement the IFRC's approach to results-based management, a project/programme cycle is used, containing four main areas – assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

An **initial assessment** helps to understand the current situation and if an intervention is required. This is done by identifying key factors influencing the situation, including problems and root causes, as well as the needs, interests, capacities, and constraints of different stakeholders. Initial assessments can be conducted in many ways, either solely or with partners. IFRC uses **Vulnerability Capacity Assessment Guidelines** for assessment in emergencies, while some sectors have specifically tailored guidelines. These assessments allow us to identify real needs and work more effectively with partners whether implementing programmes together, or identifying the right resources needed- financial, in-kind or expertise. Engaging with partners early is also key to ensuring effective programmes.





IFRC's **planning** is used to define intended results and the steps to achieve them. Indicators that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and targeted (SMART) are critical to assess progress towards objectives. **Budgeting** is an integral part of planning. Project budgets are developed following a comprehensive assessment of the activities required to implement the project and gain a positive outcome to a pressing challenge in the community. Depending on the situation, costs can be based on previous year's information, estimates from suppliers, or standard prices found in the [Emergency Items Catalogue](#).

Implementation and monitoring put the plan into action and provide follow-up to ensure that plan is achieving expected results. Detailed guidance is available in manuals for each area of intervention (i.e. emergency response). During **monitoring**, information is collected and analysed to track progress, check compliance, and make informed decisions. Ongoing attention to risk allows any necessary adjustments to be made and facilitates continuing active engagement with partners. The [IFRC Project/Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Guide](#) supports teams to carry out this work. An indicator tracking table is used to monitor actual indicator performance and is an important tool for evidence-based reporting.

Indicator tracking table (ITT)											
Indicator	Life of project	Life of project to date	%of life of project	Annual project target	Year to date	% of annual target to date	Project baseline		QI reporting period		
							Date	Value	Target	Actual	Actual % Target

The **evaluation** phase assesses an ongoing or completed project/programme to determine the relevance and fulfilment of objectives, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. The [IFRC Framework for Evaluation](#) provides detailed guidance for how evaluations are planned, managed, conducted, and utilized in the IFRC.

One result of our evaluation process is our **reporting** to partners, a key aspect of accountability. Each report is prepared for a specific purpose/audience, informing appropriate content, format, and timing. Generally, reports will contain project/programme information capturing the project status and highlighting key accomplishments, challenges, and planned actions; overview of the project/programme's financial status; situation/context analysis; critical analysis of implementation based on the objectives, partnership information; exit strategy; and key lessons.

Note: the general project cycle is useful to understand IFRC's programme approach, but it is important to acknowledge that each project (and programme) ultimately varies according to the local context and needs.

HOW WE ARE FUNDED

Carrying out the IFRC's work to support vulnerable communities is largely dependent on financial support from partners. The IFRC seeks to secure income that is as predictable and as flexible as possible to ensure that it can best serve its network of National Societies and vulnerable communities. It seeks to strengthen existing partnerships and engage with new partners.

In 2012, the IFRC established a Donor Advisory Group, which is composed of representatives of donor governments, member National Societies of those same countries, and the European Union. Group members are organizations that contribute more than 10 million Swiss francs multilaterally to the IFRC annually for at least two consecutive years. There are currently eight members and three observers.

The goal of the group is to:

- Provide a forum for high-level strategic and policy dialogue on global issues that include both humanitarian and development assistance, and donor trends.
- Contribute to strengthening our partnerships, for the benefit of all members of the Donor Advisory Group, and ultimately for the benefit of all member National Societies of the IFRC.
- Provide high-level strategic inputs to the IFRC as to how it can strengthen partnership opportunities.

Donor Advisory Group member contributions in 2019

DONOR COUNTRY	TOTAL VALUE OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS 2019	
	(includes regular resources and funds for emergencies and thematic programming in million Swiss francs)	
United States		60.8
United Kingdom		40.3
European Union*		24.0
Sweden		20.3
Netherlands		16.9
Norway		16.4
Switzerland		16.3
Canada		10.0
TOTAL DAG MEMBERS		205

**This figure does not include the ESSN project which amounts to 500 million Swiss francs.*

The IFRC receives funds through:

1

Statutory Contributions: Each National Society provides an annual contribution to the IFRC determined by a formula approved by the General Assembly. The contribution of each National Society varies, depending on its income and the UN quota for that country. In 2019, a total of 40 million Swiss francs were contributed in Statutory Contributions by 136 National Societies.

2

Voluntary Contributions and Donations: Voluntary Contributions and Donations represent the largest source of income to the IFRC, although the amount varies annually. In 2019, 291 million Swiss francs was received from 153 donors, of which 45 are National Societies and 108 others, including 33 governments, 9 multilateral agencies and 37 corporations. Of this 28 million Swiss francs was unrestricted, which allows the IFRC the greatest flexibility to pursue its objectives. The remaining 263 million Swiss francs went to finance thematic programmes and humanitarian response operations.

3

Supplementary Service Fees: The IFRC provides services to some National Societies and other partners, such as procurement and logistics support, the provision of fleet vehicles and rental of shared office space. Income from Supplementary Service Fees was 32 million Swiss francs in 2019.

4

Cost Recoveries: Some donors have specific reporting requirements that incur additional administrative expenses. The IFRC recovers those costs in three ways:

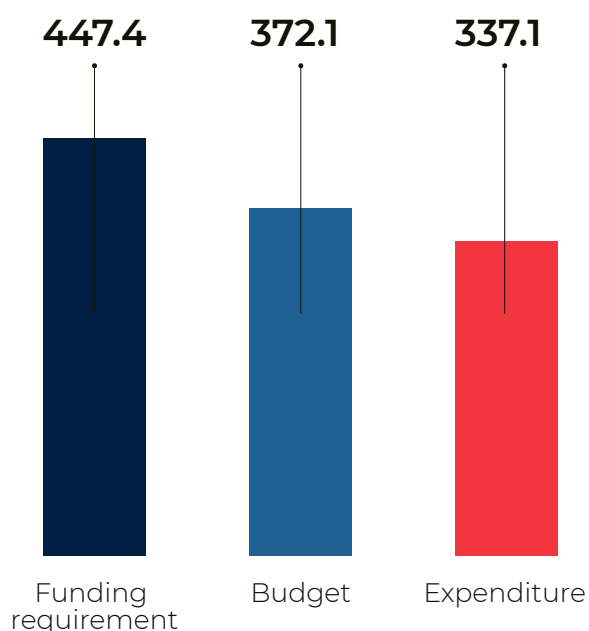
- Indirect expenses, such as administrative and other costs are recovered at a rate of 6.5 per cent. This programme and service support recovery rate is lower than the average 7 per cent for United Nations and other international development agencies and is frequently capped to actual costs to ensure no profit is made.
- The rates of cost recovery for the provision of fleet vehicles and other logistics services are reviewed annually and apply equally to humanitarian response operations, thematic programmes, and Supplementary Service agreements.
- Additional costs are associated with earmarking and donor specific reporting requirements. These costs are separately recovered through Donor-Specific Cost Recoveries to ensure that donors who direct funds and/or who have specific reporting requirements are not subsidized by those donors who accept standard IFRC reports..

2019 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

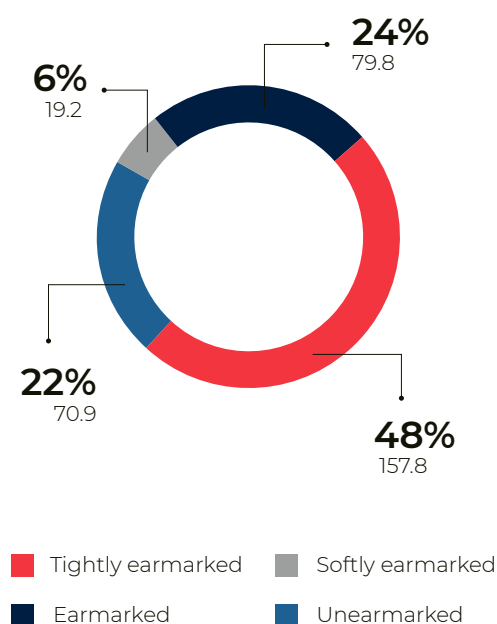
To view the IFRC's audited financial statements for 2019, please visit:

media.ifrc.org/ifrc/document/independent-auditors-report-president-international-federation-red-cross-red-crescent-societies-consolidated-financial-statements-2019/

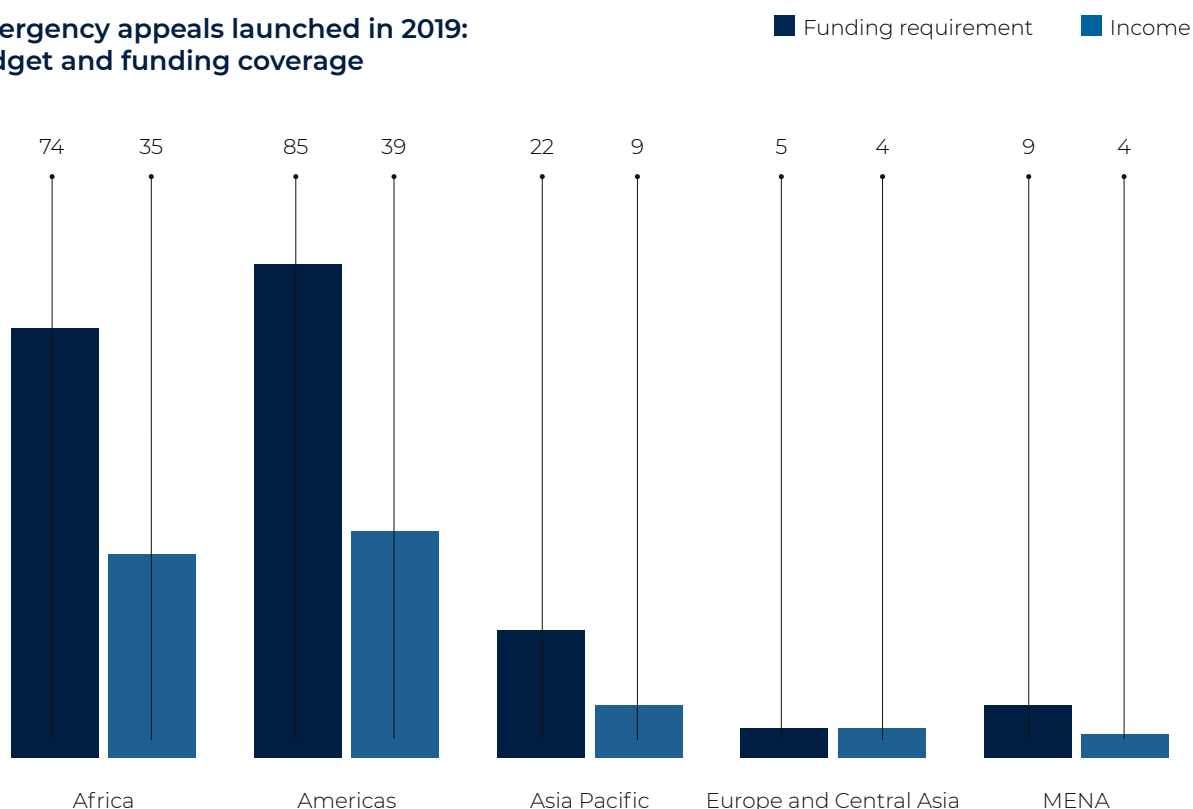
IFRC 2019 Overview



Earmarking 2019

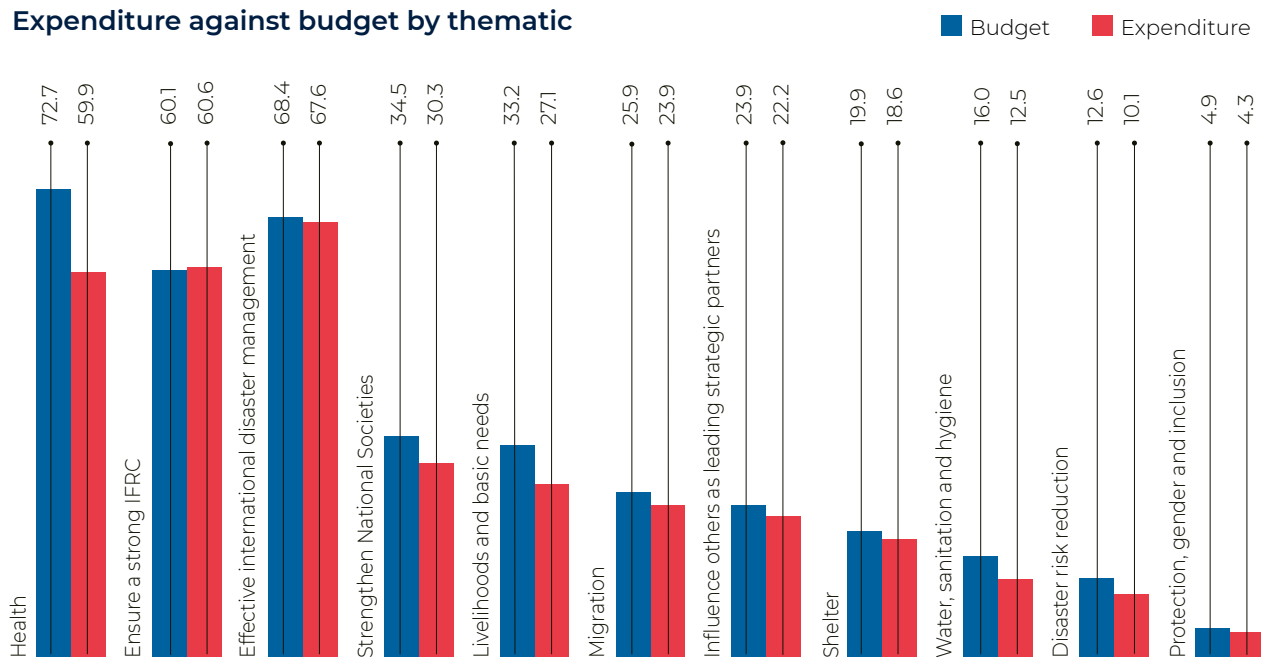


Emergency appeals launched in 2019: budget and funding coverage



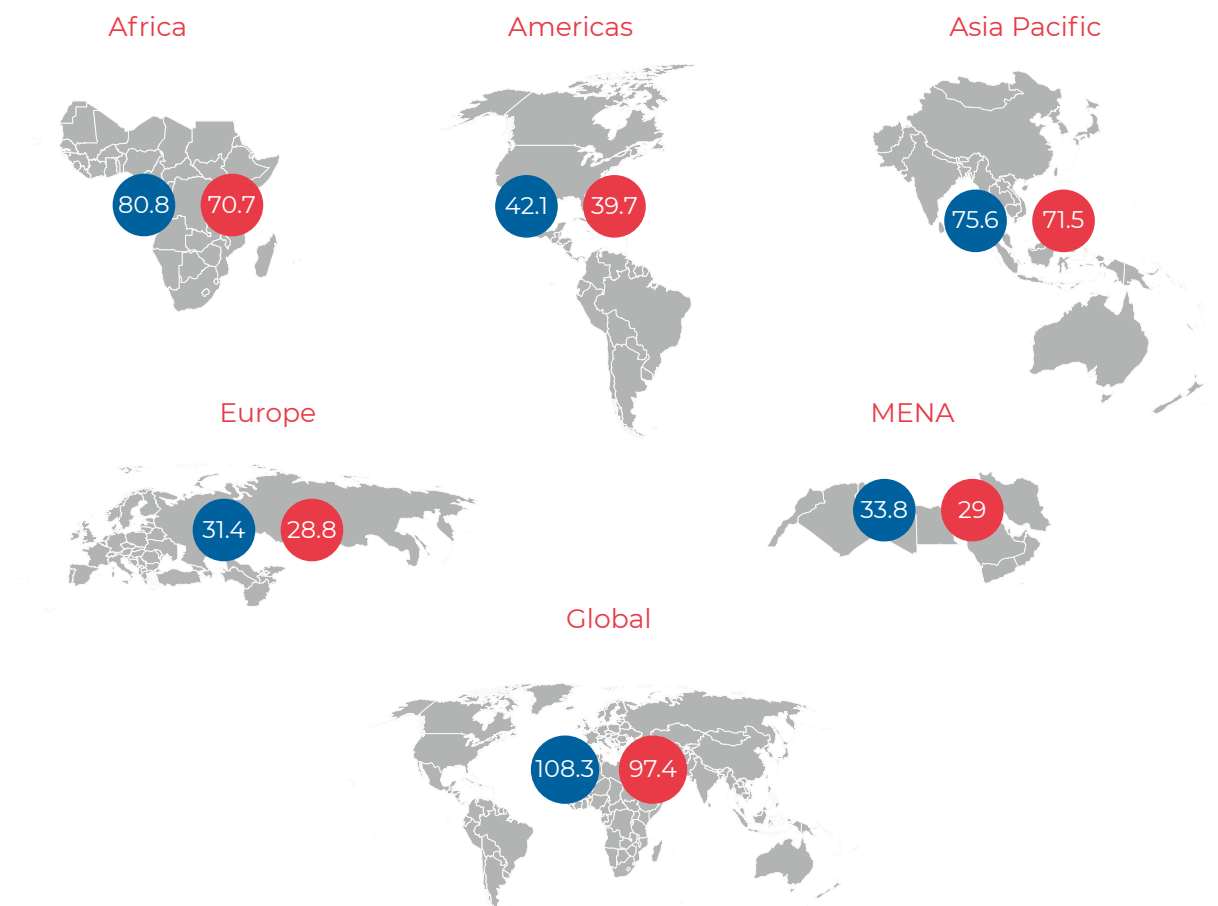
All amounts in million Swiss francs

Expenditure against budget by thematic



Expenditure against budget by region

■ Budget ■ Expenditure



The amounts stated in this report are based on management accounts and do not include all adjustments necessary for International Financial Reporting Standards.

REGULAR RESOURCES – UNEARMARKED FUNDING

Unearmarked funding is crucial to ensuring that the IFRC is agile, effective, and accountable. It is essential to the IFRC's ability to provide sustainable support to its member National Societies. As a membership organization, this is the primary goal of the IFRC and drives the use of unearmarked funding. Unearmarked funding provides flexibility to put money where it is needed for more effective programming. For the IFRC, it ensures the necessary investment to support achievements in Areas of Focus and Strategies for Implementation. As such it includes, leadership management, internal control, and support functions, as well as direct investment in strengthening the capacities of National Societies and investment in critical countries of operation. In the IFRC, unearmarked funding is referred to as **regular resources**.

2019 Regular Resources Total Income

In 2019, IFRC saw a 3.4 million Swiss franc increase in unearmarked funding, meaning that unearmarked funding made up 20 per cent of all funding received in 2019. Unearmarked voluntary **contributions from partners** make up approximately 8.75 per cent of the IFRC's overall funding.

INCOME	2019 (CHF million)	2018 (CHF million)
Statutory contributions	39.8	34.1
Voluntary contributions (from National Societies)	0.0	.2
Voluntary contributions	27.8	27.8
Cost recoveries	25.7	26.3
Other income	3.3	5.0
Total	96.6	93.2

Note on statutory contributions: While there was an increase in statutory contributions in 2019, this does not reflect additional real income as the increase came from late payment of several National Societies' statutory contributions. The additional amount was applied to previous years' deficit and did not result in additional funds for IFRC to spend in 2019.

Regular Resource Voluntary Income Donors

NAME OF DONOR	VALUE OF CONTRIBUTION (CHF million)
British Government	11.0
Swedish Government	7.1
Swiss Government	3.5
Hungarian Government	1.3
The United Arab Emirates Government	0.7
Panama Government	0.7
Airbnb Inc	0.6
Irish Government	0.6
Italian Government	0.5
New Zealand Government	0.3
Turkish Government	0.1
Other unsolicited donations	1.3
Total	27.8

INVESTMENT OF REGULAR RESOURCES

Regular Resource Expenditure

EXPENDITURE	2019 (CHF million)	2018 (CHF million)
AOF1 – Disaster risk reduction	0.8	0.9
AOF2 – Shelter	0.9	0.9
AOF3 – Livelihoods and basic needs	0.5	0.4
AOF4 – Health	2.9	2.7
AOF5 – Water, sanitation, and hygiene	0.8	0.8
AOF6 – Protection, gender, and inclusion	1.0	1.0
AOF7 – Migration	0.5	0.5
SFI1 – Strengthen National Societies	5.0	5.2
SFI2 – Effective international disaster management	15.3	14.7
SFI3 – Influence others as leading strategic partners	13.5	14.2
SFI4 – Ensure a strong IFRC	50.6	53.2
Total	91.8	94.4

HOW REGULAR RESOURCES ARE CONTRIBUTING TO OUR WORK LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

The below includes some of the many examples of how regular resources are contributing to the IFRC's work.

Strengthening localization

As a membership organization, the IFRC invests regular resources to ensure that National Societies are strong, capable, and accountable organizations that can deliver effective services to the most vulnerable communities and individuals.

Supporting National Societies effectively, requires understanding the local context and needs. The IFRC engages with National Societies globally and locally through **50 country and cluster delegations (22 Cluster offices and 28 Country offices) and five regional offices**. Their presence year-round, ensures that they understand needs and have developed effective working relationships with National Societies. They provide vital support and coordination during emergencies, help National Societies to improve capacities in programming, and support their institutional development. Thirty-eight IFRC country/cluster delegations currently receive funding from regular resources. Without flexible funding, the IFRC would not be able to maintain these offices. While flexible funding does not cover the totality of the budget in most country/cluster delegations, they do support them to leverage additional funding for programmes and support.

Localization of humanitarian assistance is not *only* about providing funds to local organizations, but also ensuring that they are equipped to receive and use them, and that they have the systems in place to support services and accountability. Therefore, the IFRC's country/cluster delegations support National Societies in their organizational development so that they can become stronger and more effective local organizations.

For example, the Ukrainian Red Cross is currently preparing the development of its next five-year strategy in 2020. The presence of the IFRC delegation in 2019, was crucial in supporting the Ukrainian Red Cross in this transitional period and making sure that strong systems were established to face new humanitarian and development challenges,

including supporting volunteer structures, branch development, resource mobilization, new models of service delivery and institutional development.

The South Caucasus in Europe are facing the impacts of climate change, particularly on access to water and livelihoods. The presence of the IFRC delegation has, for example, enabled support to Georgia Red Cross to strengthen their branch operations and services for communities living on the administrative border lines with Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Strengthening accountability

Compliance and internal controls such as legal; internal audit and investigations; finance; IT; human resources; planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; partnerships and resource development; and security are essential functions to ensure accountability both to our partners and the communities we work alongside.

Regular resources support the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI) to meet the IFRC's obligations for good governance and accountability. In 2019, the OIAI introduced a new fully risk-based audit approach and methodology. These stronger audit processes are identifying control and risk weaknesses, particularly at a country and programme level. Regular resources contributed to, for example, 17 internal audits; 45 donor, Emergency Appeal, and cash transfer audits; and 36 active investigations. For more detail on the work of the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations, please see [page 77](#).

Within the East African Cluster, unrestricted funding has enabled IFRC to support National Societies in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi to address critical technical and human resource gaps. It has been utilized to strengthen oversight and risk management by providing critical expertise that is not available within the National Societies, for example in audit, legal, etc.

The Hellenic Red Cross has long been an important actor in providing humanitarian services in Greece. However, following some concerns about its governance, it was formally suspended as a member of the IFRC from 1st Jan 2019. Thanks to regular resources, throughout the year, the IFRC supported the National Society in key aspects of its institutional recovery process, including the roll out of newly adopted statutes, a membership drive, a general assembly and elections, and the adoption of both a new 5-year strategic plan and a recovery plan. Based on the progress made, the suspension was formally lifted in December 2019. The Compliance and Mediation Committee will continue its monitoring role to ensure the recovery plan is fully implemented. Meanwhile, the IFRC country delegation also ensured the continuation of vital humanitarian services for vulnerable migrants, including a cash transfer programme in Northern Greece.

Strengthening strategic coordination

There is a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in almost every country in the world. While each works to provide effective country-wide services, the IFRC network is there to ensure support to each when needed.

To ensure that funds are available to support National Societies in agreed areas, the IFRC provides its delegations with **seed money** in each Area of Focus and Strategy for Implementation. This enables longer-term support and focus on National Societies' resilience building work.

When emergencies do happen, and needs surpass local capacities to respond, the IFRC global network can be called upon. In these instances, the IFRC provides essential coordination to ensure complementarity.

For example, when cyclones Idai and Kenneth struck Mozambique within six weeks of one another, the IFRC country delegation in Mozambique was already on the ground to support. With five National Societies and the ICRC present in-country, plus more than 20 National Societies providing financial or in-kind support, coordination was extremely important to ensure that each could contribute as needed by the National Society. The IFRC also supported with surge capacity and programming in areas like shelter, livelihoods, health, and water and sanitation.

In 2019, the Country Cluster Support Team for the Andean region provided comprehensive support to the National Societies of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. With border closings between Colombia and Venezuela, combined with new migratory regulations in Peru, Chile and Ecuador, humanitarian needs related to population

movement from Venezuela were amplified in border regions. Health and protection, gender and inclusion activities were rolled out to promote integration, as well as provide services. The IFRC worked closely with all National Societies responding to ensure complementary of their actions.

In the Bahamas, hurricane Dorian caused extensive damage in 2019. Thanks, in part, to regular resources, the IFRC was there from the beginning to support the National Society to bring life-saving assistance to those affected. The deployment of an Operations Manager ahead of Hurricane Dorian making landfall was critical to supporting the National Society as well as laying groundwork with government agencies and co-ordinating incoming deployments. The IFRC worked closely with Movement partners to coordinate surge response, which included a 69-person field team covering shelter; WASH; health; livelihoods; cash and voucher assistance; restoring family links; basecamp management; communications; administration; finance; planning, monitoring, evaluation and Reporting; information management; and logistics.

In Indonesia, there were several substantial earthquakes in 2019, including a 7.4 magnitude earthquake felt in Greater Jakarta area, Central Java, Bengkulu, and Yogyakarta and an earthquake in Maluku which displaced 170,000 people. The longstanding presence of the IFRC Cluster delegation for Indonesia and Timor-Leste (based in Jakarta) meant that the IFRC could accompany the Indonesian Red Cross in their response operations from day one. The IFRC supported them with the launching of an emergency appeal, planning for the response as well as reporting. Additionally, the presence of a shelter cluster in Indonesia has been important in the response. The IFRC Cluster delegation supports coordination between the shelter cluster and other agencies present in the response to ensure efficient emergency support during the operation.

In Afghanistan, the IFRC country delegation provides technical support, partnership, and coordination to optimize humanitarian and resilience building outcomes at country level. In 2019, this included support for the development of a nation-wide role in immunization for children under 5-years old, and the strengthening of a nation-wide network of mobile health teams and primary health clinics.

In 2019, the IFRC continued to support the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to provide life-saving assistance to conflict-affected people in Syria, while supporting the longer-term organizational needs of the National Society to ensure effective service delivery and sustainability. IFRC support included shelter; livelihoods and basic needs; health; and water, sanitation, and hygiene. Regular resources contributed to progress in 2019 including:

Syrian Arab Red Crescent		
FOCUS AREA	OUTCOME	PEOPLE REACHED
Shelter	Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety through emergency relief item provision	148,092
Livelihoods and basic needs	Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods	553,163
Health	The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced	211,829
WASH	Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	227,735
Total number of people reached		1,140, 819

Other examples of IFRC country/cluster delegation support to National Societies, enabled by regular resources, during emergency operations in 2019, include:

- **responses to locust swarms** that devastated crops in Eastern Africa
- **the continuing Ebola Crisis** in the Democratic Republic of Congo,
- **population movement** in Cameroon
- **drought and food insecurity** in Southern Africa and Zambia
- **response to a measles** outbreak in the Philippines
- **response to monsoon floods** and continuing humanitarian needs in Cox's Bazar.
- **drought and flash floods** in Afghanistan
- **flash floods** in Iran
- **earthquake response** in Albania.

The IFRC's country/cluster delegations also work to help National Societies prepare by **focusing on resilience and increasing programming capacities**.

In the Caribbean, IFRC Port of Spain Cluster delegation supports National Societies to prepare for hurricanes beforehand, so that they can work with communities to reduce risk, prepare for storms as they approach and respond immediately when they strike. The IFRC works to facilitate local action such as the implementation of early warning systems, including rain gauges, flood staff gauges and warning signs. This includes the training of Community Disaster Relief Teams and the updating of disaster response plans which are tested through simulation exercises. Training of staff and volunteers is vital.

The IFRC country delegation in Myanmar continued to make **significant investment in the Myanmar Red Cross for cash-based programming** for both resilience and humanitarian response programmes. The National Society is able to operate in areas where access is not easily available to other humanitarian organizations, as shown by its provision of livelihoods and basic needs assistance using cash grants to vulnerable and fragile communities living in complex contexts such as Rakhine.

In Yemen, working together as a Movement is essential to optimize the resources needed to respond to what sadly remains the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. Both ICRC and IFRC have a key role in accompanying the Yemen Red Crescent Society- combining resources and putting them at the service of the National Society. The IFRC Country Delegation provides technical capacities in key areas such as health, WASH, disaster management and National Society Development, as well as support services including human resources, logistics and finance, which would not be possible without the support of unearmarked funding.

In 2019, regular resources allowed the IFRC country delegation to support a health management information system in Al Quds Hospital in Gaza, complemented by financial support from the Japanese Red Cross. The project aims to improve access to quality healthcare for the inhabitants of Gaza, increase efficiency of the limited resources of Al-Quds hospital, and integrate Al-Quds hospital in the national hospital system.

Strengthening governance and leadership

Strong **leadership and Governance** are essential to effective, functioning National Societies and the IFRC helps National Society leaders to develop needed skills and competencies. The IFRC provides support so that National Societies can develop and implement effective policies that are relevant to their contexts and in line with international standards. Globally, regular resources support essential policy development and technical guidance that support National Societies to increase their capacities and improve their delivery of services to the most vulnerable.

For example, regular resources enable the IFRC to support National Societies in the development of Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policies. In 2019, 15 National Societies were supported, bringing

the total to 35 during 2018–2019. Of these, five have already developed and adopted a PSEA policy for their National Societies. This direct accompaniment is supporting National Societies in meeting their commitments towards the ***Federation-wide Accountability and Integrity Framework***.

Other examples of specialized guidance include:

- **working** with older people
- **supporting** child protection concerns
- **preventing and responding** to sexual and gender-based violence
- **preventing and responding** to trafficking in persons
- and **ensuring** continuity of education.

Regular resources are also contributing to the **financial sustainability** of National Societies. Many National Societies are confronted with increasing demands and rising conditions to access funds for their ongoing activities and their own structure and functioning. This remains a barrier to National Societies' strategic, long-term humanitarian action in many contexts. The IFRC supported a consultation process with member National Societies and external organizations to frame the approach on financial sustainability- setting the ground for future action and ensuring that approaches respond to the real needs of our membership.

Thanks to the funding support received from regular resources, the IFRC **Strategy 2030** was finalized and unanimously endorsed by the General Assembly in December 2019. This was the culmination of a two-year consultation and drafting process led by the IFRC and involving some 10,000 people who participated in consultations, which would not have been possible without the regular resources funding support.

Strengthening collective representation and humanitarian diplomacy

As the world's largest humanitarian network, the IFRC has an important role to play in influencing global decision making on humanitarian issues globally and supporting National Societies' efforts to influence decision making nationally.

The IFRC is using data to provide a global picture of National Societies' work. To do this, regular resources support the Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System, which uses a standard set of the most important indicators that demonstrate the activities of National Societies. The data collected culminates in the **Everyone Counts** report, which provides evidence of the achievements of National Societies as well as the challenges they face. While the production of the report itself is funded separately, it would not be possible without the data gathered with the support of regular resources.

In 2019, the IFRC further strengthened its efforts to support the Myanmar Red Cross Society by developing and disseminating position papers on key humanitarian issues such as 'Finding durable solutions for Internally Displaced Persons'. The IFRC country delegation also provided inputs to the Government of Myanmar on the revision of its National Disaster Management Law and contributed to the drafting of an IFRC position paper on strategic issues for the Rakhine displacement crisis covering Bangladesh and Myanmar.

In the Seychelles, the National Society was facing the financial impact of a government decision to label it as an NGO, meaning it would no longer benefit from government subsidy as in previous years. The IFRC office supported National Society leadership in discussions with members of parliament and relevant ministries, including a meeting with the Head of State to **advocate for the auxiliary role of Seychelles Red Cross** and the related responsibility of the government. A new government decision was taken and shared with Seychelles Red Cross in January 2020 which re-establishes regular annual financial support to Seychelles Red Cross.



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Relief supplies being
unloaded at the IFRC
/ Philippine Red Cross
warehouse in Palo.

International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

FUNDS

DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND

The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a flexible emergency funding source that can provide financial support rapidly and in appropriate amounts for small, or medium-scale operations. It provides funding to National Societies for pre-agreed early actions through the approval of early action protocols, loans for immediate response to major disasters, grants for the mobilization of resources and preparations for imminent crisis, and for the costs of small-scale relief operations.

In 2019, the DREF – including its forecast-based action mechanism – allocated its highest amount to date: almost 32 million Swiss francs to allow National Societies to support 7.6 million people to anticipate and respond to small and medium scale disasters.

The Forecast-based Action by the DREF is a financial mechanism provided by the IFRC to National Societies that releases humanitarian funding for pre-agreed early actions based on forecast and risk data to reduce the impact of severe weather events. Financial allocations are then made automatically according to a pre-defined forecast trigger that indicates the potential for severe negative impact on the most at-risk people.

In 2019, the DREF scaled up its efforts to support National Societies to increase their knowledge about the fund, and their ability to submit timely requests. The DREF Capacity Strengthening initiative had three objectives:

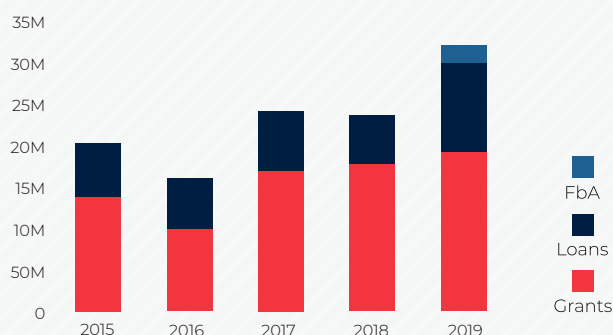
1. a more accessible DREF for National Societies
2. an enhanced culture of learning from small and medium scale operations, and
3. the use of operational learning for long-term approaches.

In 2019, the IFRC trained 170 people from 35 National Societies, and supported five National Societies with DREF lessons learned exercises.

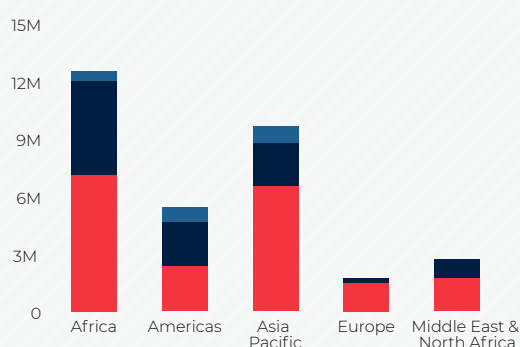
The DREF disbursed 29.9 million Swiss francs in 2019 to National Societies through 111 operations in 78 countries. This amount represents a 26 per cent increase compared to the funds disbursed in 2018. The amount allocated in the form of loans to Emergency Appeals was 11.2 million Swiss francs, while 18.6 million Swiss francs was allocated in the form of grants. The main types of disasters addressed through the supported operations were floods, epidemics, cyclones, civil unrest, and population movement.

Forecast-based Action by the DREF allocated 1,900,000 Swiss francs to National Societies to implement Early Action Protocols in Peru (cold wave and floods), Bangladesh (cyclone and floods), Mozambique (cyclone), Ecuador (volcanic ash), Mongolia (dzud), and the Philippines (typhoon). From that amount, 735,000 Swiss francs was released for readiness and pre-positioning activities and a further 1,165,000 Swiss francs was committed for the early action phase of the protocols in these locations.

DREF Loans, grants and FbA allocated 2015–2019



DREF Loans, grants and FbA allocated by region, 2019



EMPRESS SHOKEN FUND

The Empress Shoken Fund supported 14 National Society projects in Bolivia, Cyprus, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Lebanon, Mexico, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore, Slovenia, Suriname, Thailand, Ukraine, and Vanuatu. The projects addressed themes including displaced people, disaster preparedness in vulnerable communities, and social cohesion and inclusion. Nearly all sought to strengthen the volunteer base of National Societies, building on the unique role played by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in communities.

The Fund supports projects of a limited scale and duration, making it ideally suited to encourage innovation and capture learning and positioning the Fund to contribute to the adaptability and strength of National Societies in a rapidly changing world.

CAPACITY BUILDING FUND

The Capacity Building Fund (CBF) has set-up two main streams of funding to support to the development of National Societies since 2007: one for Africa, and another for the rest of the world. At the beginning of 2019, funds were only available for Africa. The fund supported the National Societies of Congo, Benin and Cote d'Ivoire which were facing urgent issues in 2019. In those National Societies, the fund was instrumental in supporting their leadership to take early action on potential integrity risks and to successfully address them.

Empress Shoken Fund 2019

98th

Yearly allocation
of grants

47

2019 applications

CHF
396,000

Total disbursed

14

Successful National
Societies



NATIONAL SOCIETY INVESTMENT ALLIANCE

The National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) is a joint initiative of the IFRC and the ICRC, that receives support from across the Movement. It provides flexible multi-year funding to National Societies to support their organizational development and to efforts to strengthen capacity, so they are better able to scale up in times of emergency and to deliver essential services to communities at risk. The fund helps National Societies to become sustainable, independent humanitarian organizations that are recognized and credible in their communities, and trusted partners for the delivery of principled and effective humanitarian action.

In 2019, the NSIA Steering Committee selected ten National Societies applications from 48 applications for funding after the first ever call for proposals. The funding they receive from the NSIA will help them boost their impact by ensuring they can sustainably increase their income. In addition, eight Bridge Grants were disbursed to National Societies for a range of organizational development initiatives that create a basis for potential future investment.

The NSIA also expanded its outreach and engagement by establishing a Stakeholder Advisory Group of senior National Society representatives.

National Society Investment Alliance 2019

First-ever
awards granted

48
applications

10
National Societies
selected for funding

CHF
1.5M
Funds committed to
National Societies

Donor support from Switzerland, Canada, and the United States



SPOTLIGHT ON 2019 STATUTORY MEETINGS

THE STATUTORY MEETINGS OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

The Statutory Meetings of the Red Cross and Red Crescent are a unique platform to influence the global humanitarian agenda, explore current and future challenges affecting people, and ensure greater coordination in humanitarian and development work. The meetings allow for discussions and agreements on policy, strategic directions, and other housekeeping decisions and for reinforcing a feeling of membership and belonging. They result in resolutions - binding commitments for change and future work, while participants can also make pledges on individual or joint work that will be carried out to further humanitarian and development goals.

Detailed information and the text of the resolutions may be found on the Conference website at <https://rcrcconference.org/>.

The **General Assembly** of the IFRC convenes every two years and is the highest decision-making body which approves its plans and budget and sets its direction. The **Council of Delegates**, which also meets every two years, allows the Movement to come together and to take Movement-wide decisions. **The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**, occurring every four years, is a forum of debate and discussion as well of taking decisions. Its unique composition of National Societies, IFRC and ICRC as well state parties of the Geneva Conventions, it is the highest expression of the privileged partnership of the components of the Movement and States.

HOW DOES THE RED CROSS

RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

ENSURE COORDINATION

AND DECIDE ON PRIORITIES?



Focus on Trust

Trust in key societal institutions has steadily declined in recent years. Distrust can be catastrophic when it leads people to avoid critical health care or vaccination, as has happened with the Ebola crisis. If we hope to help people when they are most at risk, we must ensure they trust that our intentions are only humanitarian and our emblem is not linked to any other objective. Trust, community engagement, accountability and integrity were a common thread in the 2019 Statutory Meetings.

General Assembly (Geneva 5–7 Dec 2019)

The IFRC's 22nd General Assembly was a milestone in the future of our Federation. The IFRC governance reviewed and **modernized the Constitution** to make it fit for the future. Among other amendments in the Constitution, were the changes in the way IFRC elects its Governing Board to achieve greater gender balance.

The General Assembly also adopted Strategy 2030, that will guide the organization for the next decade to address emerging humanitarian needs. To strengthen integrity and accountability the IFRC Governance endorsed the Federation-wide Integrity and accountability framework.

Council of Delegates (8 December 2019)

Delegates discussed elements of the Movement's work today which require action and have a significant impact for people and communities on the ground, focused on **accountability and Integrity** and **addressing needs and vulnerabilities**. Nine *resolutions* were adopted.

33rd International Conference (9–12 December 2019)

"Act Today, Shape Tomorrow" – The 33rd International Conference brought together more than 2,300 people – 170 states, 187 National Societies and 77 observers – to discuss some of the most complex challenges our world faces. Participants explored how best to respond in the future as societal shifts create different challenges. Discussions were focused on three main areas – International Humanitarian Law, shifting vulnerabilities and trust in humanitarian action. The Conference adopted eight *resolutions*.



STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION





Strengthen National Society capacities and ensure sustained and relevant Red Cross and Red Crescent presence in communities.

The IFRC's priority is to support National Societies with their organizational and programmatic development. The IFRC is dedicated to helping National Societies be as strong, relevant, sustainable, and effective as they can be for their local communities. It supports them to raise funds for their critical work, absorb those funds efficiently and use them effectively. These efforts are directly aligned with the Grand Bargain commitment to localization. IFRC supports National Societies to prepare for, carry out and scale up effective and timely services for the most vulnerable people.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SOCIETIES

NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT COMPACT

After an extensive membership-wide consultation, a National Society Development Compact was approved by the General Assembly in 2019 and received a public declaration of support from the ICRC.

The National Society Development Compact is a new and significant development that frames the IFRC's approach to National Society development support.

The National Society Development Compact maximises impact through quality, needs-based and harmonised support and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of IFRC members and Movement partners when collaborating on the development of National Societies. It also emphasises the central role a National Society has and its responsibility as the owner of its development, the necessity of all partners to develop relevant skills, and the role of the IFRC in quality assurance and support for a common approach.

It provides a unique opportunity to capture and share learning across the network, providing a more conducive environment for quality and needs based peer support across the IFRC membership.



The final stages of the Learn to Change journey captured by graphic recorder Benjamin Felis

LEARN TO CHANGE

The IFRC Learn to Change initiative was launched in 2019 to strengthen the capacity of National Societies and the wider Movement to support understanding of complexity and disruption and the action needed to meet the transformational changes in Strategy 2030.

320 Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers and staff from more than 80 National Societies participated in a two and a half month online innovative “learning journey” during the first pilot phase. Participants tested tools and approaches including deep listening, journaling, sensing into systems and prototyping.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION

The Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) is a broad yet comprehensive assessment of the performance and capacity of National Societies. It helps them assess strengths and weaknesses, and inform, prioritize, and strengthen development efforts. Phase I includes a capacity self-assessment. Phase II focuses on the operational impact of a National Society. A National Society that meets all the benchmarks receives a certification valid for a period of five years.

Phase 1

completed in 2019

Cameroon, Haiti, Nicaragua,
Somalia, Turkey, Dominican
Republic, Jamaica, Honduras,
and Niger

122

National Societies since the start

Phase 2

completed in 2019

Mongolian Red Cross Society

4

National Societies since the start





YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The IFRC created opportunities for young people in 2019 through, for example the first edition of 'Your Voice' in collaboration with Project Syndicate, WFP and UN-OCHA. 'Your Voice' is intended to help young professionals explore themes such as climate change, migration and to comment and discuss these issues in media outlets around the world.

The IFRC is working towards inclusion of a youth engagement programme in the FIFA World Cup 2022, and developed, piloted, and evaluated an IFRC Leadership Identity Development Online Curriculum (LIDOC) with a cohort of young leaders.

Everyone Counts 2019

The *Everyone Counts 2019* report was launched in all four working languages of the IFRC. The report presents the work of the global network of National Societies and demonstrates the scale of the contribution they make as givers and receivers of international aid. For the first time, *Everyone Counts 2019* examined how well the global network is performing in terms of its commitments to **gender equality, both within the network and with the number of women reached by International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement programmes.**



Welcome to the New National Societies of Bhutan and the Marshall Islands

The Bhutan Red Cross Society and the Marshall Islands Red Cross Society became the two newest members of the IFRC, on recommendation of the Joint ICRC/IFRC Commission for National Society Statutes. The Commission also provided recommendations on Statute revisions to 36 National Societies and to 15 National Societies related to their amended laws.

VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING HUB

The Virtual Fundraising Hub is a joint collaboration between National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC. It helps National Societies to raise money from local sources so they can diversify their funding sources and to become more financially independent and sustainable. It provides them with access to fundraising tools and resources through the IFRC Learning Platform to develop their fundraising skills and to take evidence-based fundraising decisions.

In 2019, the Hub increased participation in National Society peer review fundraising benchmarking from 37 to 46. This allows greater understanding of trends and potential within income streams, regions, and countries.

The Hub hosted its first International Fundraising Skillshare in 2019 to support National Societies in the development of their fundraising skills, with over 200 participants from 42 National Societies.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES PREPAREDNESS FOR EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

Preparedness for Effective Response empowers National Societies to become more innovative in their disaster management actions and to systematically assess, measure and analyse strengths and weaknesses to take effective actions. The Preparedness for Effective Response approach helps staff and volunteers identify areas of their response system that need improvement and to create an action plan.

In 2019, the IFRC strengthened regional and country-level capacity to support National Societies with their response preparedness work. The Asia Pacific region launched a three-year strategic Preparedness for Effective Response plan, and the East Africa and Americas regions launched National Society Preparedness roadmaps. A network of 59 individuals from National Societies, the IFRC, and the ICRC were trained on Preparedness for Effective Response during 2019, expanding the capacities in Europe and America regions to support National Societies engaged in the process.

As of 2019, 48 National Societies have engaged in Preparedness for Effective Response.

National Societies Preparedness for Effective Response status



■ 48 have started or accomplished PER

■ 8 have planned to undertake PER

* epidemics focus



Cash Voucher Assistance in Lombok is in its third phase, and Indonesia Red Cross is using a digitalization data collection system.



NATIONAL SOCIETIES' SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY BASED DRR AND RESILIENCE

The IFRC, the German Red Cross and the Climate Centre worked together in 2019 to improve Forecast-based Financing learning and guidance. By the end of 2019, 24 National Societies were designing early action with the forecast-based financing approach.

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CASH PREPAREDNESS AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION

In 2019, the IFRC developed strategic roadmaps for cash and voucher assistance for East Africa and Middle East and North Africa regions to ensure National Society efforts are coordinated and connected to the IFRC global roadmap. All five IFRC regions developed strategic roadmaps tailored to their contexts.

An additional nine National Societies began building national and local capacity to deliver timely and accountable cash responses in 2019, bringing the total to 40. This is on track to meet the target of 50 National Societies by the end of 2020.

Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment

Enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment is a process developed for communities to become more resilient by understanding risks through the self-assessment and analysis of:

- Hazards
- Exposure
- Vulnerabilities
- Capacities

A toolkit and guidance were finalized and shared within the IFRC network to their use of the approach. A research project was undertaken by the IFRC with Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne on the use of machine learning to extract and visualize key information from vulnerability and capacity assessments.

595

Number of new Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments shared

7

Training of EVCA Trainers for National Societies Caribbean (3), Indian Ocean (Mauritius) and Bangladesh, Indonesia and Nairobi

25

Total number of National Societies reached





The IFRC leads the network's engagement in international humanitarian coordination – collaborating with National Societies on their emergency preparedness, response, and recovery work. It provides support for operations with expertise, staff, and finances. The IFRC also supports National Societies with emergency information management and to build emergency response capacities.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

In 2019, protracted crises still demanded the greatest needs and attention of National Societies, made more complex by armed conflict, food insecurity, population movement and epidemic outbreaks affecting millions of people around the world. Locust outbreaks and disasters caused by extreme weather also defined 2019.

MOVEMENT COORDINATION

IFRC and ICRC are working jointly on the provision of Movement Coordination Officers, whose task is to strengthen coordination mechanisms in an operational response. In 2019, the ICRC and the IFRC jointly arranged deployment mechanisms and identified a pool of potential candidates from within the Movement. Successful candidates will be deployed at the onset of large-scale emergencies and will be managed in close cooperation with the IFRC and ICRC surge teams to help build the capacity of National Societies to coordinate in future crises.

The first Movement Coordination Officer was deployed in 2019 to Mozambique to support the humanitarian response to Cyclone Idai. The role of the Movement Coordination Officer in Mozambique was to advise and support the Movement's humanitarian response and ensure that a Movement Coordination Framework was in place from the capital to the ground. The role contributed in having smooth information-sharing between Movement partners, particularly at the strategic level, which increased effectiveness in addressing interorganizational challenges and "trouble-shooting. The information-sharing between partners thanks to this deployment helped to identify challenges and potential solutions to improve the response.

The Movement Coordination Officer in Mozambique was a first pilot deployment and will serve as a model for further operations to ensure increased coordination and more effective programming.

Surge Deployments – 2019 Key Figures



404

Surge deployments

12

Emergency Response Units



67%

Weather related hazards



11%

Epidemics



8%

Population movement



8%

Earthquake



4%

Complex emergency



2%

Civil unrest

162

FACT members

200

RDRT / RT members

3

HEOps

39

Shelter Cluster roles

from
73
National Societies

Global Surge Training

In 2019, **364 people** participated in global surge training. The skills acquired in these trainings have a direct impact and the quality and effectiveness of IFRC and National Society programming. This learning supports **better planning, implementation, and learning.**

35

Coordination, Assessment and Planning

83

Humanitarian Information Analysis Course

84

Emergency Needs Assessment and Planning

49

Mobile Data Collection / Survey Design

68

Emergency Team Leader

27

Operations Management Training

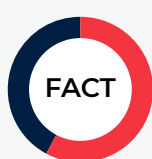
18

Training for Trainers

Surge capacity by gender



42%



58%



34%



66%



29%



71%

SURGE RESPONSE

The IFRC coordinated the **rapid deployment of 404 experienced professionals** to support National Societies in 2019. Surge support is essential when disaster surpass the capacity of National Societies to respond locally.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

When a disaster occurs, *surge information management support* is activated through the IFRC to provide either remote or field-based support to operations, according to disaster scale, complexity and impact of the event. In addition to direct operational support, IFRC also provides information management coordination and capacity building for the network, helping improve information management standards, tools, and expertise across response operations.

In 2019, the IFRC delivered training and information management support to National Societies during the response and recovery from Cyclone Idai in Mozambique and helped National Societies with the analysis of decision making for the Ebola outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The support it provided to the evaluation of operations in Syria has led to changes that are helping focus on long-term development and National Society capacity.

The IFRC also rolled out new information management training to help optimise surge response in 2019. It provided training on humanitarian information analysis, emergency needs assessment and planning and on mobile data collection.

Go Platform

<https://go.ifrc.org/>

The *GO platform* makes disaster information accessible and useful to Movement responders so they can make quick and effective decisions for disaster management.

During the 2019, the IFRC added features to help National Societies collect and visualise data for more effective preparedness, response, and field reporting. They can now access tailored information based on their regional or technical interests.

The *Go Platform* is supported by Ericsson and the National Societies of America, Australia, Britain, Canada, The Netherlands, Spain, and Japan.



DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF)

DREF provides immediate financial support to National Societies, enabling them to carry out their unique role as first responders after a disaster. DREF has two main purposes:

- Start-up funding to respond to large scale disasters – the “**loan facility**”
- Funding for small- and medium-scale disasters and health emergencies for which no international appeal will be launched or when support from other actors is not foreseen – the “**grant facility**”

DREF progress in 2019

7 National Society DREF sessions attended by **121** persons from **7** National Societies

DREF mentors training for Sahel region



DREF/CASH workshop for South African National Societies



1 National Disaster Response Team for Caribbean National Societies



2

Regional sessions

3

DREF reviews in Tunisia, Tanzania and Lebanon

5

National Societies used the Lessons Learned Discussion Points Document

RELIEF AND RECOVERY

The IFRC strengthened linkages between relief and recovery in its 2019 operations through the creation of a global Recovery Peer Group involving 15 National Societies. It undertook consultations to create a Road Map and a Recovery Framework that sets out the principles of recovery for National Societies for the first time, accompanied by an advocacy and communications strategy.

THE IFRC'S LARGEST EVER PROGRAMME – SCALING CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMING

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was responsible for between 21–25 per cent of global humanitarian cash assistance and the IFRC received funding for its largest ever programme. More than 800 million Swiss francs of cash has been delivered. The European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) agreed to provide a 500 million Euro grant for the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme that supports 1.7 million Syrian refugees in Turkey with [multi-purpose cash](#).

The IFRC also helped to enhance the capacity of National Societies through training in Africa and Europe and launched the new Procurement of Financial Services for Cash online training.

The use of cash in the implementation of DREFs and Emergency Appeals increased from 26 per cent in 2018, to 37 per cent in 2019.

The IFRC is working to ensure that everyone in need can access cash assistance when appropriate. The IFRC and the Norwegian Red Cross led a consortium of NGOs to initiate the [Dignified Identities for Cash Assistance](#) project to help address challenges faced by vulnerable people that have no recognized personal identification needed to receive cash assistance. The project aims to develop innovative digital solutions to ensure that people without traditional identification will be able to receive cash assistance.



RedRose

RedRose is a data management platform that enables comprehensive management of cash programmes. It has built in financial controls, integrates with various financial services (e.g. mobile money), and offers an e-voucher solution for timely delivery and reconciliation of cash and voucher as well as in-kind assistance. RedRose also provides real-time monitoring and analytics to ensure quality programming, while keeping data secured and auditable.

In 2019, the Burundi Red Cross and Belgian Red Cross joined the IFRC's RedRose Global Framework Agreement. **RedRose has been used by National Societies** in Vietnam (direct cash), Lebanon (e-voucher), Pakistan and Kenya (in-kind donations and mobile money), the Philippines (remittance), Mozambique (in-kind donations), and the Democratic Republic of Congo (volunteer management).

The IFRC conducted an introductory RedRose workshop in West Africa with six French speaking National Societies and supported an in-country workshop in Bangladesh facilitated by the British Red Cross. The IFRC is also collaborating with the ICRC on their rollout of RedRose to their delegations.

SHELTER

Providing adequate and dignified shelter during emergencies is paramount not only to save lives, but to facilitate recovery. The following details the IFRC's shelter response in emergencies in 2019. For more information on other IFRC shelter activities, see the Shelter section on [page 95](#).

Shelter cluster response operations led by the IFRC

Indonesia

in response to the earthquakes that occurred in late 2018

Mozambique

in response to Tropical Cyclone Idai, the IFRC deployed 16 people to provide shelter cluster coordination services

Bangladesh

in response to floods, the IFRC deployed two shelter cluster coordinators

Bahamas

in response to hurricane Dorian, the IFRC deployed a total of five shelter coordination team members

Philippines

in response to the Mindanao earthquakes in October 2019, and typhoons Kammuri and Phanfone the IFRC provided shelter cluster coordination services.

IFRC country level preparedness and contingency planning support:

Vanuatu

preparedness and capacity building for future responses at the request of the Government of Vanuatu.

Mongolia

support for a nation-wide contingency planning and earthquake simulation exercise

Azerbaijan

support to the Government and the National Society for earthquake contingency planning and simulation exercise

Rwanda

support to the government in the development of a National Shelter Preparedness Plan, contingency planning, and shelter preparedness exercise

Philippines

contributed to the Inter Agency Coordination Group test of the Minimum Operations Protocol for typhoon responses, clusters' response plans and Humanitarian Country Team protocols

Vietnam

organized Shelter Coordination and Technical Training

South Caucasus

organized a Regional Shelter Coordination Workshop to help build the capacity of the National Societies in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Tajikistan

provided remote support for contingency planning

Americas

provided shelter cluster coordination leadership to the Americas REDLAC Shelter Working Group (the regional Shelter Cluster) with the support of the Canadian Red Cross.

The Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) built shelters and latrines for people affected by earthquakes in Sigi district, Indonesia.



SPOTLIGHT ON 2019 RESPONSE IN MOZAMBIQUE



THE STORY OF JULIA FRANCISCO, RED CROSS VOLUNTEER

Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique

When Idai hit, Julia was at home with her family. Julia recalls the roof of her house being violently ripped off and blown away, while the windows of the house shook with the lashing of the rain:

"We ran and walked as fast as we could to reach the school, but many pieces of broken iron sheets lay on the floor so we had very bad cuts on our feet and legs when we got to the school. At the school everyone was very distressed. They had lost family members; they had lost loved ones."

At least 648 people died, and around 1,700 people were injured because of cyclones Idai and Kenneth. More than 277,700 homes were damaged, and 4,200 classrooms were fully or partially destroyed. The damage to health facilities severely affected the delivery of health care services to people in need and disrupted around 50 per cent of the vaccine cold chain capacity. The effect of the cyclones also delayed the improvement and dissemination of much-needed health information and education on good hygiene practices.

The following morning Julia arrived at the airport as a volunteer to help survivors from the Buzi region. "What shocked me the most was seeing all these people with such severe injuries, screaming from pain," Julia said, adding that "the arrivals of injured people lasted for almost a week."

The cyclone caused flooding which contaminated many water sources and worsened the already poor sanitation situation and access to fresh water. In the aftermath, more than 145,000 cases of malaria were reported in Sofala province alone.

The National Society and the IFRC immediately worked to provide urgent life-saving assistance and to reduce the long-term effects of the crises and the vulnerability of people in affected communities.

**TWO MAJOR CYCLONES
WITHIN SIX WEEKS OF
EACH OTHER DEVASTATED
THE LIVES OF PEOPLE
IN MOZAMBIQUE.**

The Mozambique National Society mobilized 1,286 volunteers and trained 1,186 volunteers on topics like child protection, responding to cholera, community-based health and first aid, and the prevention of malaria and malnutrition.

“Before I was a volunteer, I didn’t help people, but after I started volunteering, I began to understand people and wanted to help. It’s much stronger what I feel now about volunteering. I feel love for people’s feelings and their needs. I feel much more love for them now.”

With the assistance of an Emergency Appeal, the National Society and the IFRC were able to reach over 310,000 people affected by the disaster with relief items, food and productive livelihoods assets, hygiene promotion activities, health services, clean water and sanitation, community-based protection, gender awareness and inclusion.

The IFRC worked closely with the Mozambique National Society to strengthen coordination and support the actions of network partners to ensure a strong presence in affected areas and expanded operations to address the large-scale needs. They also collaborated on initiatives in support of the National Society development. The IFRC worked closely with the *PIROI- Plateforme d'Intervention Régionale de l'Océan Indien*, a sub-regional grouping of Indian Ocean National Societies in providing targeted support during the response.

The IFRC network was able to reach more than 310,000 people with its support since the start of the response. Around 42,855 people received food parcels, seeds, agricultural tools, and participated in farming schools intended to help communities recover quickly and protect their livelihoods. It provided more than 250,000 people, including volunteers, with health services and psychosocial support.

“I didn’t understand what had happened. Before the stress management training I would be asking myself ‘what happened to those people at the airport? Why was there so much suffering? Through the training I was able to understand what happened and feel calmer,” says Julia.

Over 25,500 people were reached through hygiene promotion activities, almost 38,000 people with the restoration of hand pumps, and almost 15,000 people with improved sanitation facilities. Menstrual hygiene and sexual and reproductive health awareness sessions were delivered to almost 20,000 people, and another also 1,600 through the life-skills programme. The IFRC supported more than 8,000 households with shelter kits, built 72 houses and trained almost 6,000 people in build-back safer reconstruction.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6j3qqh8Ntw>

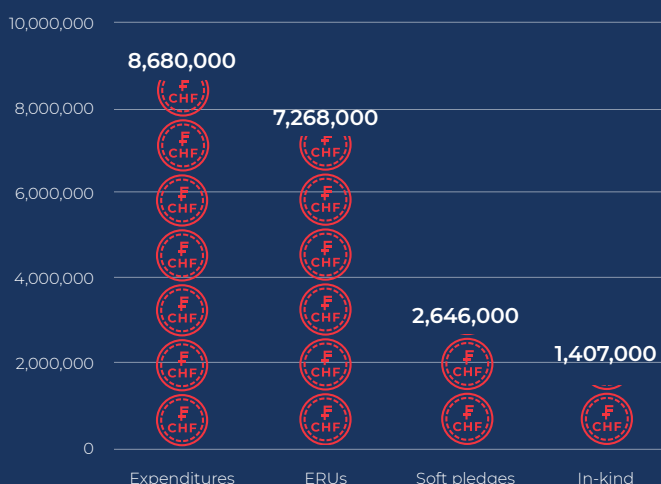
MOZAMBIQUE

CYCLONES IDAI AND KENNETH

310,000
people reached

IFRC BUDGET

86.2% Appeal coverage



TOTAL PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR

Health



252,400

Shelter



128,300

WASH



87,400

Livelihoods



42,900

PGI



44,900

Volunteers trained



1,200

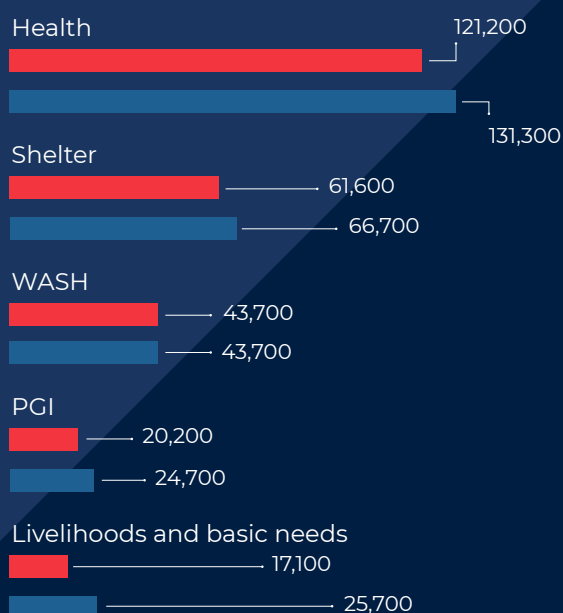
MAP DISTRIBUTION OF TARGETED COUNTRY AND IMPLEMENTATION AREA

Implementation Area Target Country



PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTORS AND GENDERS

Male Female



All amounts in Swiss francs



The IFRC is in a unique position to convey local community perspectives, experiences, and needs. The credibility derived from the network of 192 National Societies allows it to influence local, national, and international decision making that affects the lives of the most at-risk people and to partner with other influential organizations to change and affect policy. The IFRC promotes understanding and engagement on those issues by governments, UN agencies, international and regional organizations, local and international NGOs, and the private sector.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS A LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNER

In 2019, the IFRC advocated for early action, community resilience-building and climate adaptation, effective disaster laws, and ensuring that no one is left behind. It succeeded in including these issues in outcomes of events such as the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, ECOSOC Humanitarian Assistance Segment, the Global Climate Summit, and the Development and Climate Days of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was the first simultaneous shared high-level event with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties, and featured the adoption of a new resolution on “disaster laws that leave no one behind,” in which States made substantial commitments to integrate a climate smart approach in disaster risk management laws and to ensuring that climate change adaptation plans, policies and contributions focus on particularly vulnerable populations.

The IFRC played a leading role in the Global Commission on Adaptation, ensuring a focus on disasters in the Commission’s flagship report and developed a new action track on extreme weather events in collaboration with the World Bank and the World Meteorological Organization. It also served as one of the founding members of the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) alongside governments and international agencies. The Partnership was one of the few initiatives profiled at the UN’s Global Climate Summit. The IFRC also helped to lead the conversation, both through its *The Cost of Doing Nothing* report and through shared leadership of a dedicated working group on climate advocacy under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

During the World Health Assembly, the IFRC promoted the role of community-based health workers and volunteers, its Ebola response and cholera eradication efforts, and the relationship between health and climate change based on the lessons learned from its responses.

The IFRC also called for universal health coverage, increased mental health and psychosocial support during emergencies, and investment in public health in local communities during events such as the UN's High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage. At the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, states adopted resolutions on the need to integrate mental health and psychosocial support into humanitarian emergency response and on how the Movement and governments can cooperate in responding to epidemics and pandemics.

The IFRC continued to engage with partners in the Grand Bargain in 2019 as a member of the governing body, the Facilitation Group, and as co-convenor of the Localization Workstream with the Government of Switzerland.

A cultural shift on localization

The IFRC continued its advocacy for the localization of the international humanitarian system, through greater investment in the leadership, delivery, and capacity of local responders in response to humanitarian crises.

As co-convenor of the Grand Bargain's Localization Workstream with the Government of Switzerland, the IFRC supported efforts to assist signatories to deliver on their commitments. Through an inter-agency mission to Nigeria and regional conferences it encouraged governments and international and local humanitarian organizations in Africa, Asia Pacific, and the Middle East to bring discussions out of capitals and into the field. Localization Workstream field missions, like the one in Nigeria, support better understanding of what localization means in that country and to help identify good practices and barriers on delivering the Grand Bargain localization commitments.

Progress toward the Grand Bargain's goal of 25 per cent of humanitarian funding being channelled directly to local actors remained slow. However, there were other positive achievements. Several agencies and donors made important policy changes that will, for example, encourage more inclusion of local actors in humanitarian coordination mechanisms.

Surveys carried out by Ground Truth also reported positive findings about respectful partnerships.

The annual independent report found localization to be "an area of substantial progress" within the Grand Bargain structure, in particular in the quality of partnerships, though it also found that gaps remain, particularly in funding for the capacity development of local responders.





IFRC Cash Transfer Programme Delegate, Bari Dennis, engages in a focus group discussion with men in a displacement camp in Kogi State, Nigeria as part of a FACT mission.

Migration

The IFRC raised the concerns of the network in 2019 regarding the increasingly hostile public attitudes and repressive state measures towards vulnerable migrants, IDPs and refugees through a “Movement Statement on Migrants and our Common Humanity” adopted unanimously at the Council of Delegates. The IFRC network was an active participant in the first-ever Global Refugee Forum with several National Societies. It also contributed to the draft of a joint pledge on improved support to capacities of local and national humanitarian actors, including refugee and host-community led organizations which garnered a number of signatories.



The Cost of Doing Nothing

The Cost of Doing Nothing sets out the potential needs and the financial price of climate change if nothing is done.

It encourages urgent action, while there is still time. It suggests that the solution is for the international community to help those most at risk to reduce their vulnerability and exposure, and to create new, climate-adapted ways of living by investing in better, more resilient, development, disaster risk reduction and in climate adaptation measures. This action will reduce the number of people at risk of climate-related disasters, protects lives and livelihoods and reduces the need for emergency humanitarian aid.

The report proposes actions in three areas:

- **Reduce** long-term vulnerability and exposure
- **Anticipate** disasters, improve early warning, and strengthen emergency response
- **Rebuild and repair** with the next emergency in mind.

Building legal preparedness for disasters

The IFRC's Disaster Law Programme seeks to build the resilience of communities by promoting legal preparedness for disasters and by addressing legal issues related to disaster risk reduction and recovery. In 2019, the disaster law programme supported National Societies to advocate locally in several dozen countries. It produced a checklist on good practice on legislation for domestic preparedness and response that was endorsed at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. It also conducted ground-breaking research on the integration of climate change adaptation and child protection in disaster legislation.



IFRC in the media

The number of media mentions during the first two weeks of the Cyclone Idai crisis in Mozambique was three times higher than that of any other humanitarian agency. There were more than 12,000 media and social mentions of the Red Cross between 14–29 March 2019, including international TV and radio interviews from global media outlets such as BBC News, Al Jazeera, CNN International, BBC World Service Radio, ABC News, TRT, France 24, Rai News, CBC News.

More than 40 National Societies used IFRC communications assets for the “Will you be my volunteer?” campaign on Valentine’s Day, helping to spread positive messaging about volunteering. One Twitter thread generated more than 400,000 impressions compared to 89,000 impressions in 2018. The video on Twitter generated 165,000 impressions. Four IFRC Facebook posts reached more than 350,000 people and were shared 2,500 times. The most popular post on Facebook received 8,165 reactions, comments, and shares.

A campaign was launched on International Women’s Day, 8 March, calling for examples of inspiring, innovative women leaders from across National Societies. Ten winners were identified, with their stories exhibited in the Solferino Museum.



Trust, community engagement, accountability and integrity were common threads connecting the IFRC's General Assembly, the Council of Delegates, the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (highlighted on [page 48](#)). These issues are fundamental to the effective and principled humanitarian work of the IFRC and National Societies.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

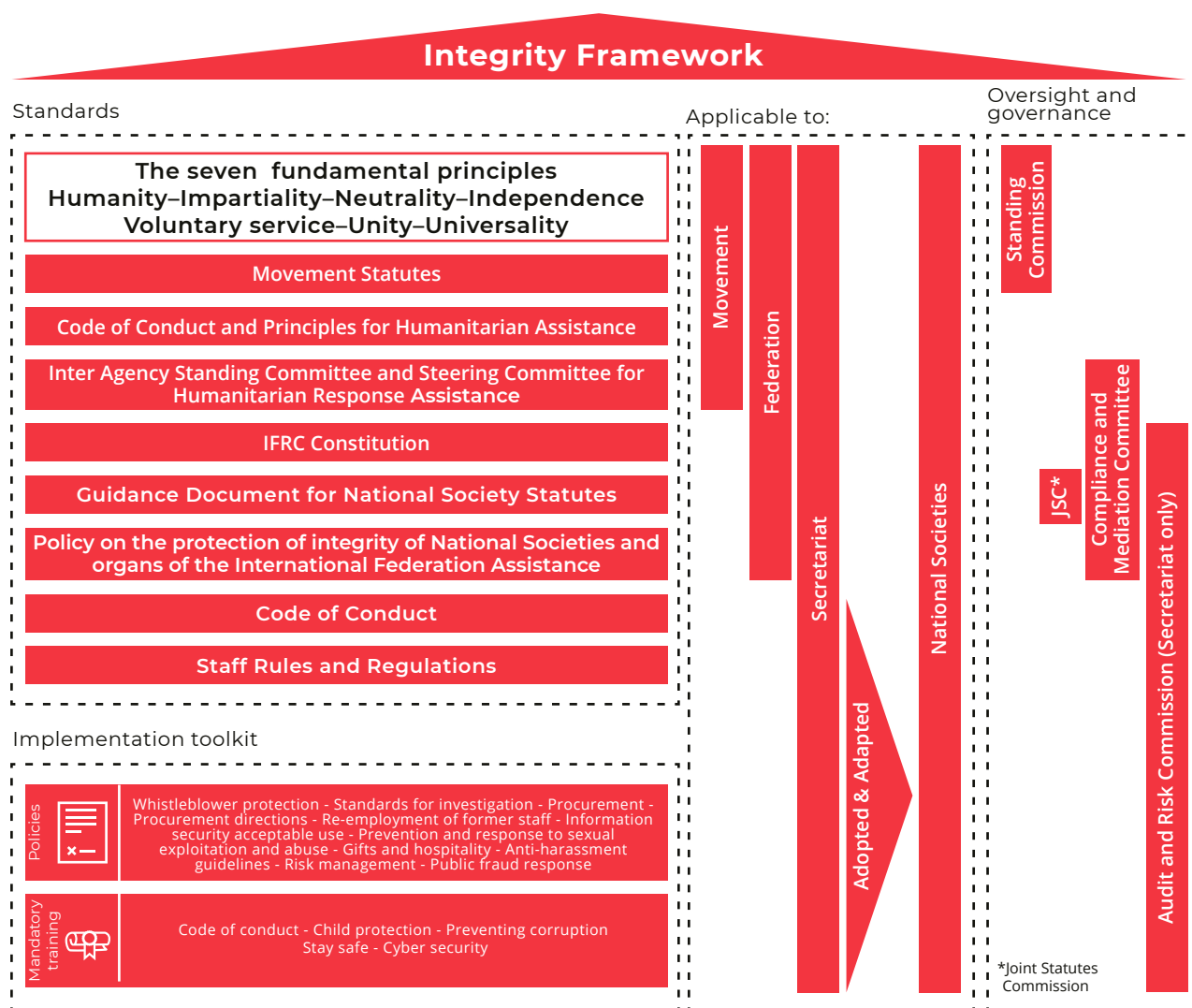
ENSURE A STRONG IFRC THAT IS EFFECTIVE, CREDIBLE, AND ACCOUNTABLE

INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IFRC has been working to strengthen the integrity and accountability of the network. Based on experience accumulated in recent years, the General Assembly adopted the revised Policy on the protection of the Integrity of National Societies and organs of the International Federation that is also part of the Federation-wide Integrity and accountability framework.

The General Assembly adopted a revised integrity policy to:

- 1** **strengthen the definition of integrity** with more emphasis on the obligation of National Societies to act in pursuit of their respective declared objectives in full accordance with the Fundamental Principles
- 2** **reinforce and clarify** the types of integrity challenges that National Societies face today
- 3** **align the policy** to the revisions of the Constitution of 2015 and 2017 by reviewing the roles and responsibilities of National Societies, the IFRC Secretary General, the Compliance and Mediation Committee, the Vice Presidents, the Governing Board, and the IFRC Commissions and Committees.



The Constitution was also revised to adopt interim measures to strengthen accountability and transparency and make the work of the Compliance and Mediation Committee more efficient. Those measures target individuals rather than the National Society itself.

Following the adoption of Guidance for National Society Statutes in 2018, the 2019 Council of Delegates endorsed the Guidance through its Resolution 3, with the recommendation for all National Societies to review their Statutes in the next 5 years. The Joint ICRC/IFRC Commission for National Society Statutes issued letters with recommendations related to their draft/revised/amended Statutes to 36 National Societies, and letters with recommendations related to the National Societies' revised/amended Red Cross/Red Crescent laws to 15 National Societies. The Commission works closely with National Societies to support them with the revision of their statutory and legal base through an assessment of compliance with the IFRC and the Movement standards. It also assesses the readiness of new National Societies for recognition by the ICRC and admission to the IFRC. Based on the Commission's recommendations the IFRC expended its membership in 2019 by admitting the Bhutan Red Cross Society and Marshall Islands Red Cross Society.

INTERNAL OVERSIGHT

The Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI) is in place to meet the IFRC's obligations for good governance, accountability, and probity to its stakeholders.

The OIAI provides the Secretary-General with necessary assurance to discharge his accountability responsibilities to the Governing Board and more widely the IFRC's stakeholders, including donors. It is the IFRC's third line of defence after management and risk management activities. The OIAI also supports the IFRC's Audit and Risk Commission to undertake its work on behalf of the Governing Board.

The OIAI delivers on its remit through the following activities:

- **Audit**
- **Investigations**
- **Consultancy**
- **Governance support.**

IFRC control framework

The IFRC's control environment consists of a complex web and number of assurance providers of which the OIAI is one. The OIAI also commissions a programme of external audit assurance to supplement its work.

The IFRC has a comprehensive and unique control framework that includes donors and National Societies. This framework utilises each National Society's own three lines of defence. This is supplemented by legal oversight through contracts, flowing from donors through to the National Society ultimately delivering services and support to local communities.

This standard supply chain control framework is supplemented by several significant elements that are unique to the IFRC network, such as aid modalities, the requirement to deliver programmes only through National Societies, and governance controls.

OIAI 2019

In 2019, the OIAI introduced a new, fully risk-based audit approach and methodology. These more robust audit processes identified several control and risk weaknesses, particularly at a country and programme level.

The OIAI restructure was completed in 2019 by improving the underlying OIAI staffing and delivery structures. A new head of investigations and new head of audit were appointed to continue the OIAI's professionalization and enhancement of work.

In 2019, the OIAI completed internal audits, external OIAI-commissioned assurance audits, investigations, and provided consultancy support. This comprised:

- 17 internal audits that provided suggestions to address risks and issues identified across the strategic, operational, and programmatic space.
- Follow-up of previously reported issues and risks noting good progress made in addressing these by the management team.
- 45 donor, Emergency Appeal, and cash transfer audits.
- A full programme of consultancy support covering due diligence advice, policy advice, risk management support, assurance mapping and contract reviews.

- A full and enhanced investigations response. As of 31 December 2019, we have 223 allegations opened, of which 22 are under investigation, 79 are under assessment, 87 are pending and 35 were referred to other departments. As of 31 December 2019, we had 36 active investigations, at different stages, from predication to reporting. The IFRC:
 - Introduced an in-house digital forensic laboratory for an investigation 'digital by default' approach
 - Handled international cases using in-house, co-sourced and outsourced methods
 - Hosted the Syria Investigation Working Group, a knowledge sharing and information exchange forum to prevent and detect fraud, corruption and abuse and coordinate investigative response in Syria humanitarian operations
 - Translated and integrated the leading corruption prevention courses in humanitarian operations into IFRC's online training hub.

The IFRC and its members became members of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education.

Digitization

- System selection, scoping and planning was conducted for Project READY (Enterprise Resource Planning system)
- Key approval processes were digitized to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Working with project partners

- The new risk-based partnership framework with National Societies was digitized and rolled-out globally. This includes an on-line platform to submit information and manage key risks while tailoring project funding methods and related financial modalities.

Local Office Costs

- Improvements were made in the cost-effectiveness of local office and administration globally, resulting in a **6% decrease in costs per person**.

New Headquarters

- The reconstruction of the IFRC headquarters was completed at the cost of 55 million Swiss francs creating an enabling environment for work and hosting of meetings of National Societies and partners.

OIAI annual opinion 2019

The OIAI forms an annual assurance opinion to support the Secretary-General and regular governance oversight and approval. The OIAI considers the IFRC control frameworks to be:

“...well developed in a number of areas, in particular around finance, procurement, security and HR. Outside of these core financial and administrative areas, the control framework is less developed. In particular, the control frameworks over programming, programmatic oversight, and programme delivery require further enhancement, given the challenge of working with a diverse population of National Societies with varying capacity. Risk management, the core system for the IFRC, requires particular focus to bring IFRC in line with comparator organizations and best practice.”

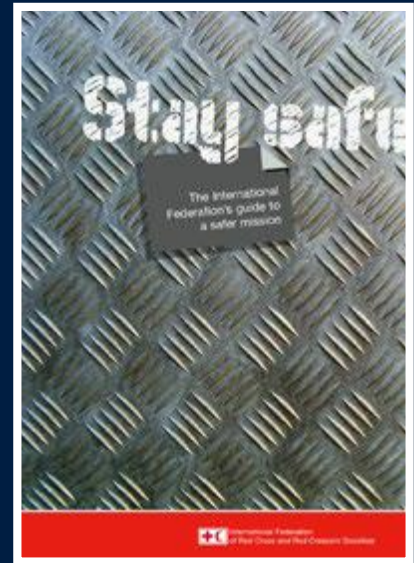
”

Security

The IFRC has been developing a culture of security with National Societies that enables personnel to engage with communities in capacity building, resilience strengthening or emergency response in the most secure and effective way possible.

The IFRC has developed several, easily accessible security training and tools in several languages promoting the “Stay Safe” concept. The IFRC also promotes security best practices, conducts security assessments, and provides uninterrupted security support to National Society and IFRC staff seeking advice and guidance.

In 2019, the IFRC worked with National Societies to further developed the Stay Safe e-learning course for National Society and IFRC personnel. The course is intended to help improve the security culture by raising awareness around security issues, and to heighten the security management capacity within the network by providing National Societies with the appropriate security training tools.







AREAS OF
FOCUS



Disaster risk reduction has been a commitment of all members of the IFRC network since 2003. The IFRC works in partnership with its member National Societies, the UN, governments, and civil society organizations to meet the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster risk reduction 2015–2030 and significantly increased its efforts to address the global climate crisis in 2019.

AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The Movement recognizes that it must limit its climate and environmental footprint and work proactively to establish more environmentally sustainable solutions to address humanitarian needs.

2019 was the first year of the [Green Response](#) Strategy 2019–2023, working towards three outcomes:

- 1** **Green Response is mainstreamed** across Red Cross Red Crescent Movement policies, systems, tools, and operations
- 2** **Green Response is embedded** in National Society institutional strengthening initiatives
- 3** **The Movement is influencing** policy and practice that enhances the environmental sustainability of humanitarian action internally within the Movement and among external actors

The IFRC Secretariat Environmental Policy was adopted in July 2019. The policy includes commitments to the practical applications such as environmental screening for programming, improved waste management and energy solutions as well as improved tracking of environmental performance across the organization.

IFRC is greening its procurement and logistics by forming the ICRC–IFRC Sustainable Supply Chain Alliance to share knowledge and implement common activities. IFRC is also piloting Green Fleet to improve IFRC's fleet management system regarding fuel consumption through carbon emission calculations. In 2020, IFRC will integrate Green Fleet into its existing fleet management system globally.

IFRC working towards results

Outcome sought: Communities in high risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disasters

Some of the ways we do this include:

- **Supporting** the creation of community contingency plans
- **Supporting** communities to establish or improve community early warning systems that are linked with local or national meteorological systems
- **Reaching** communities with public awareness and education campaigns to reduce, mitigate and respond to identified risks.

Outcome sought: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas adopt climate risk informed and environmentally responsible values and practices.

Some of the ways we do this include:

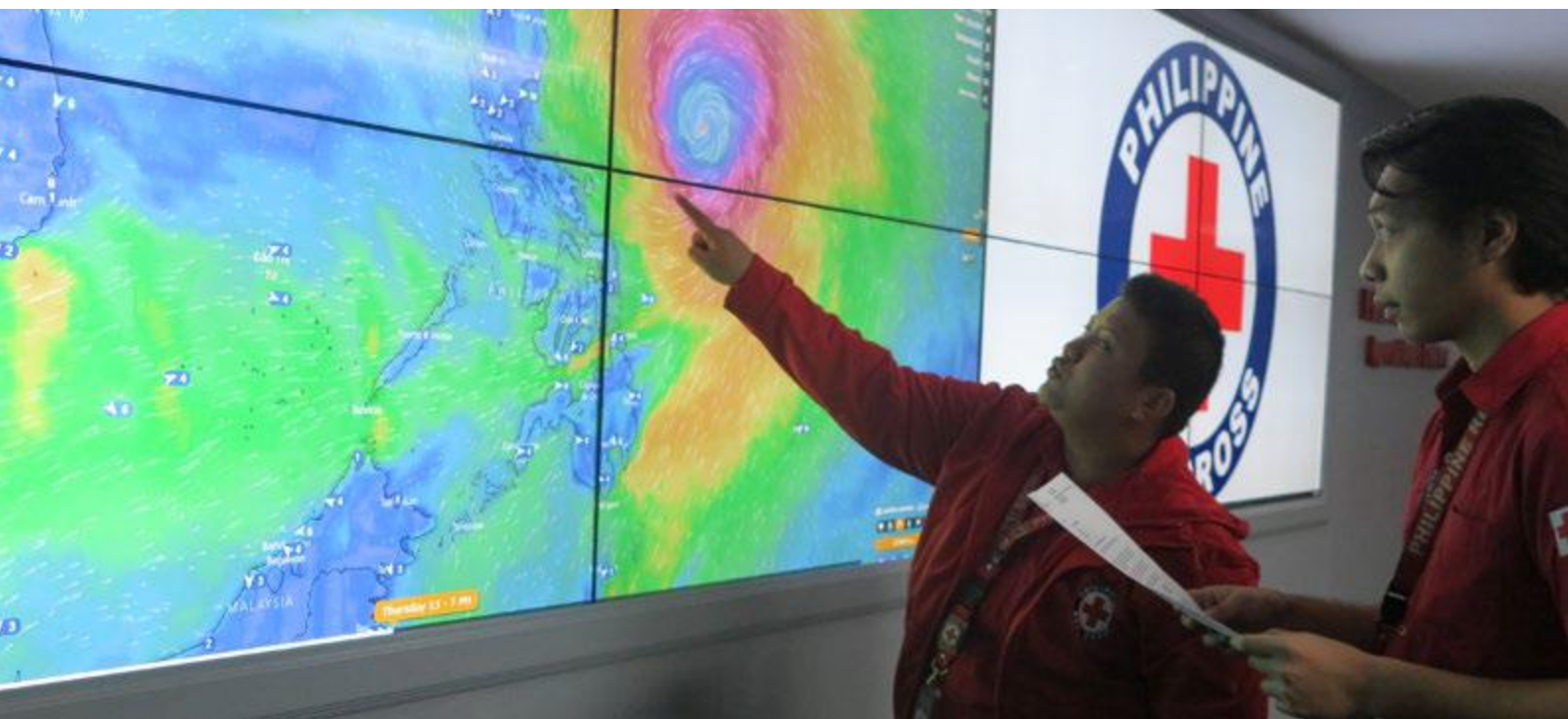
- **Supporting** National Societies to implement activities that contribute to climate change mitigation
- **Reaching** communities climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability awareness raising campaigns.

IFRC's work contributes to SDG indicators 11.5.1 and 11.5.2

Meanwhile, IFRC supported National Societies to strengthen preparedness activities and capacities of vulnerable communities, especially those in high-risk areas. They were supported to reduce their vulnerabilities to the risks and impact of natural disasters, mitigate the effects, and protect development projects. It also promoted anticipatory action, implemented green solutions, and encouraged environmentally responsible community practices.

The IFRC, working with The Nature Conservancy, launched a project in collaboration with National Societies in the Dominican Republic, Grenada, and Jamaica to protect local communities from climate-related disasters through nature-based solutions and published a tool for examining Jamaica's flood risks.

The IFRC's support for mangrove conservation for the past 20 years led to it being accepted as a member by The Global Mangrove Alliance. The alliance aims to reverse the loss of critically important mangrove habitats worldwide by expanding the global extent of mangrove habitat by 20 per cent before 2030.



Global climate initiatives launched in 2019



GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION

The Global Commission on Adaptation Action Track on Preventing Extreme Weather Events from Becoming Disasters – in collaboration with the World Bank and the World Meteorological Organization.



Risk-informed
Early Action
Partnership

Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) – at the UN Climate Action Summit.

[Heatwave Guide for Cities](#) – for urban planners and city authorities.



Climate Action Taskforce (CATF) – consisting of National Societies demonstrating climate leadership to help increase climate action across the network.

[Faces of Climate Change](#) campaign – to bring attention to the humanitarian impacts of climate change and to help attract more volunteers into the network.

[The Cost of Doing Nothing](#) – an analysis showing the consequences on the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance if no urgent action is taken now.



Climate Training Kit – updated and expanded training for National Societies, developed with Partners for Resilience.



Collaborating with national climate and weather agencies: a guide to getting started – to enhance the use of information for preparedness and 'early action plans'.



Climate-smart programming – guidance for National Societies and IFRC staff.

After years of drought in Afghanistan, flash floods in March 2019 caused deaths and damage across many provinces.



Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance

The IFRC is part of the [Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance](#), a five-year partnership with Zurich Insurance and non-governmental and research organizations. Its long-term vision is that floods will have no negative impact on the ability of people and businesses to thrive.

Objectives:

- **To improve** flood resilience practice
- **To increase** funding for flood resilience
- **To strengthen** policy at global and country-level to support flood resilience.

With the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, they have developed a climate-smart risk-informed development framework to integrate climate-smart practices on adaptation and mitigation into resilience programming.



18 countries where the alliance works in flood-prone communities



2 million people the alliance aims to reach with **community-based resilience** programmes



USD1 billion sought by the alliance to leverage for **flood resilience**



8 new programmes started in 2019



4 National Society Disaster Law programmes incorporated in 2019 (Costa Rica, Honduras, Nepal, and New Zealand)

Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

The Climate Centre was established by the Netherlands Red Cross and the IFRC in 2002 to support the Movement and its partners reduce the impact of climate change and extreme weather events on people at risk by:

- **supporting** National Societies to implement the IFRC Framework for Climate Action Towards 2020
- **providing** knowledge and advice on climate action and climate-smart programming
- **researching** climate science and humanitarian action
- **brokering** access to climate information science, policy, practice, and innovation
- **providing** training and capacity building sessions and policy dialogue events that help make National Societies' programming 'climate-smart'
- **supporting** National Societies with their awareness-raising efforts
- **encouraging** climate policy reform on behalf of the most at-risk people.

Global Disaster Preparedness Center

The Global Disaster Preparedness Centre is hosted by the American Red Cross and the IFRC helping the network to safeguard communities from future disasters by:

- **developing** tools and services that enable communities at risk to act
- **delivering** virtual and in-person training on disaster preparedness
- **providing** National Societies with access to an online practitioners' network for advice, technical assistance, and information exchange on disaster preparedness
- **supporting** evaluations and preparedness learning that can inform the development of tools and strengthen National Societies' preparedness work
- **researching** strategies and evidence for scaling up and increasing the impact of disaster preparedness programming
- **partnering** with other humanitarian organizations with recognised competence in disaster preparedness research and programming.

ANTICIPATORY ACTION

Forecast-based financing is an approach that enables funding for early preparation for extreme weather events. The purpose of the forecast-based financing is to anticipate disasters, prevent their impact if possible, and reduce human suffering and losses.



Forecast-based financing consists of three components:

1. **Triggers** – A trigger based on risk analysis, impact assessments and vulnerability data gives notice before the danger level is reached.
2. **Selection of actions** – pre-defined actions that will be implemented by the trigger
3. **Financing mechanism** – automatic allocation of funding.

Early Action Advocacy

The IFRC reinforced the position of National Societies as critical players and advocates for early action at major events throughout the year, such as the Global Platform for disaster risk reduction, Multi-hazard Early Warning Conference, and the 7th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action organised in collaboration with the German Red Cross and the World Food Programme. At this event, the IFRC proposal to create a Hub for Anticipatory Humanitarian Action was agreed. The Hub hosts experts and provides an online platform for the network and the wider humanitarian sector.



The IFRC co-led / chaired consultation and working groups on humanitarian and hydrometeorological service collaboration as an active member of the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning System. This work contributed directly to World Meteorological Organization Congress Resolutions on strengthening cooperation and services for humanitarian operations, including on impact-based forecasting.

The IFRC collaborated with OCHA, WFP, Start Network and FAO to form the Early Action Focus Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to:

1. promote a coherent and coordinated approach to early action
2. provide technical expertise to inform new pilot projects, policies, processes, and standards/quality assurance
3. promote learning and partnerships
4. jointly advocate for an enabling environment for anticipatory action
5. guide regional coordination and country-level implementation.

The IFRC also developed its relationship with the World Bank to advance anticipatory action in 2019. It facilitated a feasibility study for the Philippines and Myanmar Red Cross, commissioned by the World Bank, on the development of new disaster risk financing instruments for early action and rapid response as part of the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility, a sovereign catastrophe risk pool. As a result, the World Bank offered to develop a joint proposal with the National Society of the Philippines and the IFRC for forecast-based insurance in the Philippines to be submitted for funding by the Global Risk Financing Facility. The two organizations co-organized courses on the “Fundamentals of Disaster Risk Finance and how it applies to the humanitarian sector” for National Societies, UN agencies, international NGOs and governments. Using lessons from the Forecast-Based Action by the DREF, these courses helped raised awareness of the elements and core principles of disaster risk financing in the context of humanitarian operations.



The IFRC network has been providing significant lifesaving shelter to disaster-affected people for decades, tailoring solutions to the local contexts, disasters, capacities, scale, and resources. It exerts its substantial influence to ensure people's needs and preferences inform the building of safer and more resilient communities.

AREA OF FOCUS

SHELTER

The network's rapid humanitarian shelter solutions also encourage sustainable reconstruction.

The IFRC's main areas of shelter work in 2019 were: supporting shelter and settlements programmes of National Societies, building global and regional capacity to deliver shelter assistance, co-leading the Global Shelter Cluster, promoting environmental policies, increasing attention of urban issues, and facilitating the sharing knowledge. For information on the IFRC's progress on shelter in emergencies, please see [page 64](#).

The IFRC held two [Master level short courses](#) with the support of the National Society of Finland and The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency on "Shelter & Settlements in Emergencies, Natural Disasters". These courses help to professionalize approaches to shelter in the humanitarian sector. The 32 people who completed the course in 2019 (19 men and 13 women) are now included in the IFRC shelter surge capacity roster.

The IFRC has continued to localize technical training for shelter operations and coordination by adapting them to regional and country contexts. After adapting global training to the context of the Americas, a pilot in Ecuador was used as reference for the adaptation into the context of the other regions in 2019. The curriculum has been finalized and will be piloted in 2020 with support of the Australian Red Cross.

The IFRC delivered two new Humanitarian Shelter Coordination Training courses to increase the capacity of National Societies and the shelter cluster roster for emergency response and preparedness activities. The courses were attended by 45 participants from National Societies, the IFRC, UNHCR, the Swiss Development Corporation and other partner organizations. It developed training for country-level shelter coordination with the support of the National Society of Australia, which it piloted in a Regional Shelter Coordination training in the South Caucasus and in National Shelter Coordination Training in Vietnam. The IFRC also updated the Shelter Coordination Manual to include the conflict dimension of cluster work.

The IFRC worked closely with the ICRC to align Standard Operating Procedures. A 5-year cooperation agreement was signed between the IFRC and the National Society of Australia to enhance shelter coordination capacity in the Asia Pacific region through shared leadership. A three-year Road Map was also adopted in 2019 to ensure a clear and common understanding of operational civil-military relations across the Movement.

IFRC working towards results

Outcome sought: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions.

Some of the ways we do this include:

- **provision** of emergency shelter and settlement assistance
- **provision** of longer-term shelter and settlement assistance
- **provision** of provided with household items assistance.

IFRC's work contributes to SDG indicators 11.1.1

IFRC Shelter Research Unit

The [*IFRC Shelter Research Unit*](#) is an important resource hosted by the Luxembourg Red Cross for National Societies across the network. It addresses humanitarian shelter and settlement operational needs by:

- **strengthening** the technical capacity of National Societies and the IFRC with guidance and tailored shelter capacity building
- **supporting** operations with technical assistance, assessments, remote monitoring, and evaluations
- **developing** testing, and sharing shelter and settlement solutions.



PASSA Youth

PASSA Youth is a variation of the original IFRC Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA).

In 2019, PASSA Youth received the Facebook Community Leadership Award grant. A multi-phased proposal was defined by the IFRC, in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, to develop a user-friendly platform for PASSA Youth facilitators. A co-creation process was launched by the company Butterfly Works to ensure that end users can

- **interact effectively**
- **contribute to learning and management of knowledge**
- **streamline data**
- **enable mentoring and peer-to-peer support.**

A new Strategy 2020–23 was developed for ten countries in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, to test, roll out and implement more than 300 micro-community projects.



Global Shelter Cluster

The IFRC demonstrates its leadership on shelter issues through the Global Shelter Cluster. The Global Shelter Cluster is an Inter-Agency Standing Committee coordination mechanism co-chaired by the IFRC and UNHCR. The IFRC is the convener of the Global Shelter Cluster in natural disasters, ensuring people receive the right kind of fast support to live in safe, dignified, and appropriate shelter. UNHCR leads the cluster in conflict situations.

In 2019, Global Shelter Cluster partners supported 14.2 million people with shelter assistance and relief items.

In 2019, the Global Shelter Cluster issued a public statement on the reduction of single-use plastic in humanitarian shelter operations.

IFRC 2019 Country-level Cluster Leadership and Support



“Acknowledging the growing body of evidence around the damaging environmental impacts of plastic waste and increasing government-led plastics bans, the Global Shelter Cluster calls on organisations involved in providing shelter in humanitarian settings to take all necessary steps to eliminate the use of all but essential plastic packaging in relief items by the end of 2020. Whilst acknowledging the significant advances already being made on this topic, the CSC advocates that changes be urgently made to specification and procurement practices to formalise principles of ‘reduce or reuse’ and ensure plastics are only used when absolutely essential. The Global Shelter Cluster will consolidate and share examples and practices from partners on achieving this initiative.”



Urban settlements

The IFRC, with the support of the American Red Cross, is increasing its capacity to tackle the **urban agenda**.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent [*Urban Collaboration Platform*](#) grew to include more than 180 members from around 30 National Societies, the ICRC and external partners.

A focus on urban contexts was included in IFRC policy, strategy and operational documents such as the Preparedness for Effective Response Framework, Resilient Dashboard, IFRC disaster law report, disaster management and environment policy papers, Recovery Framework and IFRC Climate Policy and Ambition, urban WASH, migration and displacement, and disaster risk management.

The fourth Urban Collaboration Platform Workshop hosted by the Lebanese Red Cross was organized on June 11–13 in Beirut. More than 40 representatives from National Societies participated in the workshop as well as five external partners such as UN Habitat, ALNAP, CARE and Mercy Corps and academia.

IFRC engaged in shelter discussions at global events such as the Global Migration and Development Forum, Geneva Cities Hub, Global Disaster Risk Reduction Platform, Geneva Peace Centre, and Global Alliance for Urban Crises.

The development of [*Urban Community Resilience Toolkit*](#) was completed with the addition of Design Solutions for Community Resilience Tools. The toolkit was developed under the Coastal Cities Project implementation in Myanmar with technical support from Global Disaster Preparedness Centre and funded by USAID.

Collaboration with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre continued in 2019, with the organization of urban webinars and updating the Climate Training Kit to include urban considerations, developing an Urban Starter Kit for branches and contributing the development of Heatwave Guide for Cities,

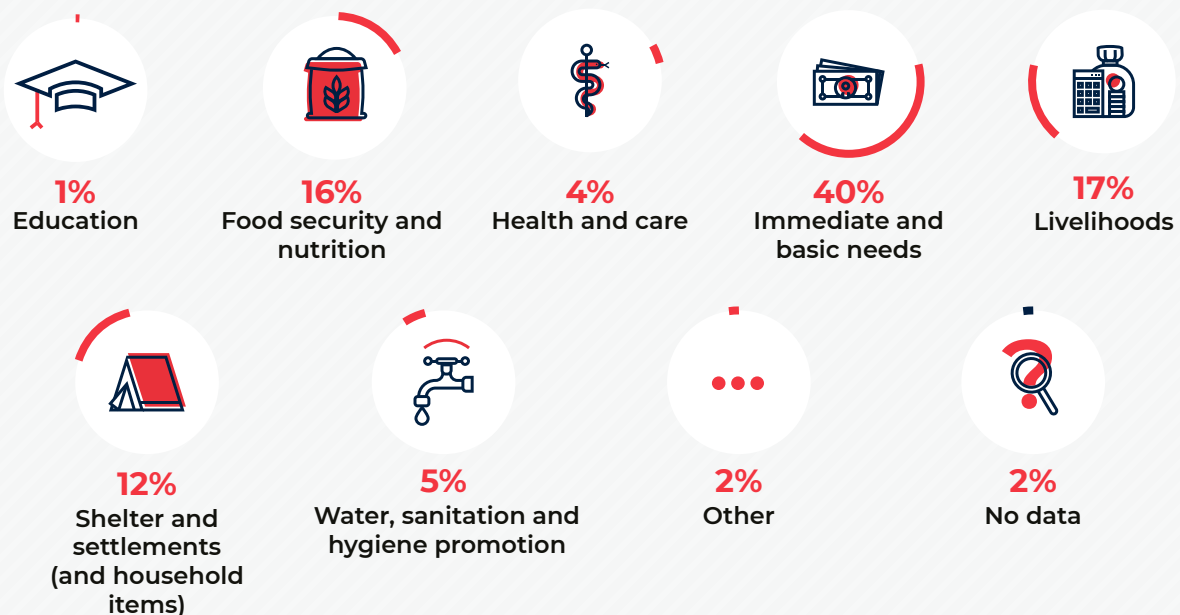


The IFRC supports National Societies to protect livelihoods and basic needs by helping them develop high-quality programming. Most of the cash interventions made by IFRC are to secure immediate basic needs. Livelihoods support is focussed on the replacement of financial and physical assets (through cash or in-kind) during emergencies and anticipatory actions by National Societies that increase resilience to emergencies.

AREA OF FOCUS

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

Breakdown of cash interventions – 2019



IFRC working towards results

Outcome sought: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods

Some of the ways we do this include:

- **supporting** knowledge and skills development to strengthen, diversify, and protect livelihoods
- **provision** of in-kind assets or cash or vouchers for recovering or starting/strengthening economic activities
- **provision** of food assistance or cash for basic needs
- **supporting** households to supported to increase/improve household food production.
- **reaching** communities with reached by public awareness and education on sustainable livelihoods.

IFRC's work contributes to SDG indicators 2.1.1

LIVELIHOODS RESOURCE CENTRE

The [*Livelihoods Resource Centre*](#), hosted by the Spanish Red Cross, provides technical support to operations carried out by the IFRC network. It helps National Societies build their capacity and helps raise awareness for safe and secure livelihoods.

In 2019, The Livelihoods Resource Centre published an important position paper called "[*The Future of Livelihoods*](#)". It also provided technical assistance to more than **60 projects** in partnership with the National Societies of Britain, Denmark, France, and Syria and set-up a Fund for Women Economic Empowerment, to strengthen the economic and financial inclusion of women in the Asia-Pacific region with pilot projects in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Vietnam.

The Livelihoods Resource Centre collaborated with IFRC regional offices in Latin America and the Asia Pacific region to develop their regional livelihoods strategies and deployed delegates to Mozambique for the response to Cyclone Idai and The Bahamas to support the response to Hurricane Dorian.

The Livelihoods Resource Centre trained 314 National Society staff and volunteers via courses online and workshops on cash transfers programming, livelihoods programming, and emergency and recovery livelihoods assessment. A new training module on climate change and livelihoods was developed and delivered in Sudan with the collaboration of the National Society of Syria. New tools for market assessments and designing income-generating activities began being developed in 2019 and should be available in 2020.

Training courses delivered by LRC in 2019



Online

CTP (Cash Transfer Programming) **7**



6

1

LPC (Livelihoods Programming Course) **8**



5

3

ERLA (Emergency and Recovery Livelihoods Assessment) **5**



3

2

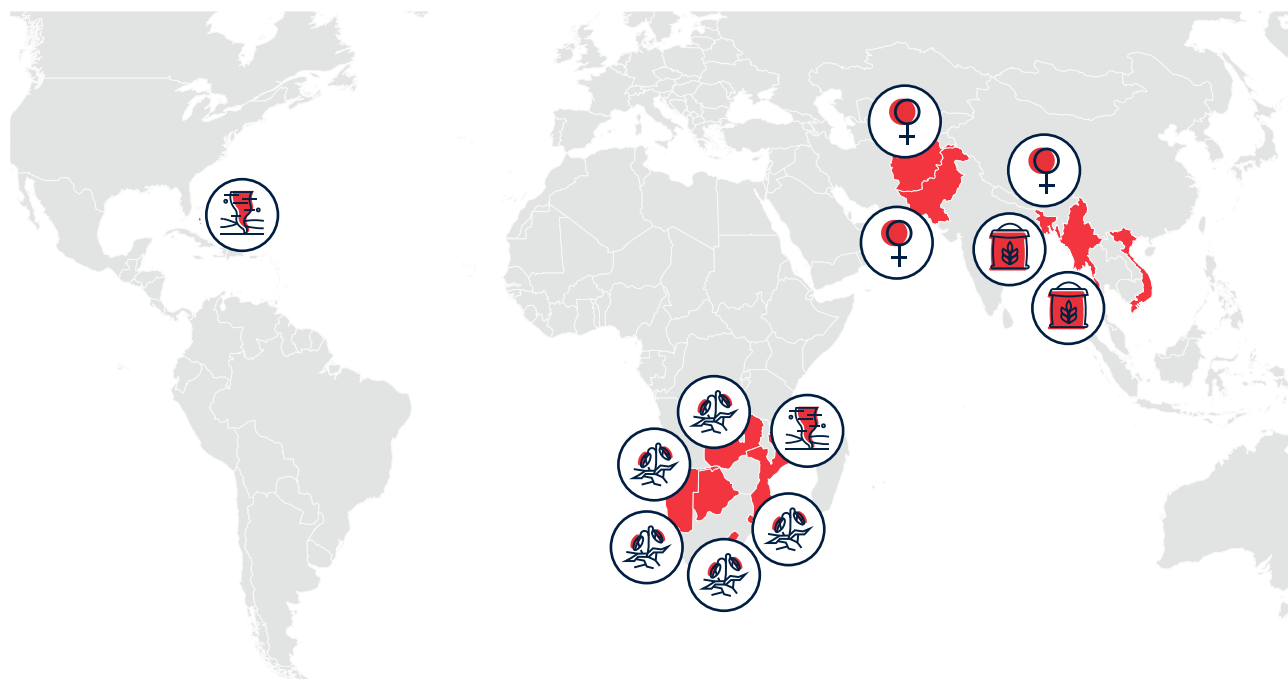


Face to Face

The Belgian, British, and Spanish National Society members of the Food Security and Livelihoods Reference group developed a technical competency framework for livelihoods and basic needs with the support of the Swedish and British National Societies and the Livelihoods Resource Centre.

IFRC developed Disaster Relief Emergency Fund guidelines for crises affecting food and economic security and a step-by-step checklist to help guide National Societies in their decision-making when making applications.

IFRC 2019 Country Activities



Cyclone Idai in Mozambique was the livelihoods operation with the largest number of targeted households in 2019.

The IFRC mobilized technical support for the **response to Hurricane Dorian** in The Bahamas, including Field Assessment Coordination Team Delegates for Livelihoods and Basic Needs supported remotely by teams of technical specialists.



The IFRC launched food security and livelihoods responses in Zambia, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana and Eswatini in **response to drought** in southern Africa.



The IFRC set-up a **Fund for Women Economic Empowerment** with support from the Kuwait National Society. The Fund is being piloted in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Vietnam.



The IFRC is conducting livelihoods programmes in Myanmar and Bangladesh for the **recovery of economic activities** by support agricultural production, small businesses, saving schemes and cash for work.





Maternal and child mortality rates continued to decline in 2019 and increasing numbers of children were vaccinated against life-threatening diseases. However, many people remain without critical, life-saving services and information. Non-communicable disease prevalence is growing, and infectious diseases continue to cause significant mortality and morbidity, especially for people in fragile, conflict and disaster-affected settings. Climate change, urbanisation, poverty, and changing demographics are also increasingly straining health systems.

AREA OF FOCUS

HEALTH

The communities suffering most are the ones that the Red Cross Red Crescent works for and with to deliver sustainable health programmes and services. The IFRC supported National Societies to encourage community-led, people-centred, locally appropriate, evidence-based interventions. Its operations, seek to protect the life, health, and dignity of people in need, ensuring that communities and individuals are empowered to take ownership of their health and well-being.

STRATEGY, ADVOCACY & POLICY

Health and Care Framework 2030

In 2019 the IFRC network developed the Health and Care Framework 2030 in support of Strategy 2030. The Health and Care Framework (i) presents the collective priorities and programming modalities that define the work of the IFRC Network in health and care for the next decade; (ii) illustrates a pathway for National Societies' engagement with public health authorities in their auxiliary role around health and care; and (iii) links the IFRC Network in health and care to the global agenda of the SDGs. The draft Framework was reviewed and approved by the Governing Board and during the General Assembly in December 2019.

Resolutions adopted at the 33rd international conference

- Resolution entitled **'Time to act: Tackling epidemics and pandemics together'**. The resolution affirmed the critical role National Societies can play in preparing and responding to epidemics and pandemics. It committed member states and National Societies to work together to further strengthen collaboration in this field.
- Resolution entitled **"Addressing mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies"**. The resolution affirmed the centrality of mental health and psychosocial wellbeing in humanitarian crises. It will provide a platform for States and the Movement to translate their respective commitments on mental health and psychosocial support into action for people affected by armed conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies.

IFRC working towards results

Outcome sought: Vulnerable people's health and dignity are improved through increased access to appropriate health services.

Some of the ways we do this include:

- **development** of community-based health and first aid plans to address identified health risks
- **supporting** National Societies to reach people with services to reduce relevant health risk factors
- **supporting** National Societies to develop contingency plans to respond to epidemics and pandemics
- **supporting** the provision of clinical health care services during emergencies
- **supporting** National Societies' immunization activities.

IFRC's work contributes to SDG indicators 2.2.1, 3.1.1, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.3.1-3.3.4, 3.4.1, 3.6.1

UN General Assembly high level meeting on universal health coverage (UHC)

As a member of UHC 2030, IFRC took a prominent role in the extensive ongoing consultation process for the campaign towards the UNGA High-Level Meeting on UHC in September 2019. Together with the IFRC Office in New York, the Secretariat was actively engaged in dialogue with Member States to further advocate for the importance of community health in the final declaration. IFRC senior management and National Society representatives spoke on targeted side events and panels organised by IFRC and other partners.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

CBHFA

The IFRC's Community-Based Health and First Aid approach empowers volunteers and communities to take charge of their health to create healthy and resilient communities. Community-based Health and First Aid helps to build a sense of community and identify existing problems that can affect people's health. Volunteers work with their community to identify issues and develop and implement community-based solutions. **At least one aspect of the Community-based Health and First Aid is being implemented in the health programming of 154 National Societies.**

Health and Climate Change

- IFRC celebrated its 100th anniversary at a climate and health conference in Cannes, organised and hosted by the French Red Cross. More than 400 officials, academics, humanitarians and other concerned people from all over the world took part in several debates on the impact of climate on health and collective ways to address those risks and consequences.
- In 2019, the IFRC collaborated with the Climate Change Reference Centre to develop a suite of tools that address the interlinkages of climate change events and their effects on health.

Community-based health and first aid: areas of National Society engagement with volunteers and staff



Behaviour change



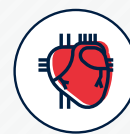
First aid



Working with vulnerable populations



Maternal/newborn child health



Non-communicable disease prevention



Road safety



Communicable disease prevention



Violence prevention



Mental health and psychosocial support

Care in the Community

RCRC Network Care in communities guidelines for National Red Cross Red Crescent Society staff and volunteers, including the community health in the emergency model for care and support were developed. The guidelines follow a health systems approach to guide the National Societies to develop and sustain community health programmes focusing upon person-centred care and support.

Healthy ageing

National societies of India, Cambodia, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Montenegro, and Belarus healthy ageing and NCD projects have been supported with the focus on community-based care and support using a life course approach.

First aid

The Red Cross Society of China was awarded the first international first aid attestation after piloting the process in the provinces.

Active outreach

The active outreach file covers the following areas: HIV and TB, activities related to substance abuse and the health of migrants. In 2019:

- A guide for affected communities on drug resistant tuberculosis was developed. The guide was developed together with WHO and the Global Coalition of TB Activists.
- Two publications on HIV Interventions for key populations and HIV interventions in complex emergencies were developed.



Malaria coordination

The IFRC continued to host and chair the **Alliance for Malaria Prevention** partnership. The alliance has more than 40 member organizations whose joint goal is to expand the ownership and use of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets.

Alliance for Malaria Prevention provides operational guidance through technical assistance and the sharing of evidence-based best practices to achieve and maintain universal coverage targets.

Impact of bed netting



Alliance for
Malaria Support



In-country
missions



Number of nets
distributed



Lives saved

2018

14
countries

41

123,000,000

170,000

2019

23
countries

78

71,092,000

99,000

EMERGENCY HEALTH

The IFRC continued throughout 2019 to support National Societies with health emergency risk management, readiness, and response, including for Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique, Dengue fever in Honduras, the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia, population movement in Bangladesh and the Americas, floods in Nigeria, and the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and surrounding countries.

On behalf of the Membership, the IFRC engages in international emergency coordination mechanisms, such as the World Health Organization's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, and the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention's Global Emergency Response and Recovery Partner Engagement: Expanding Efforts and Strategies to Improve Rapid Response to Public Health Emergencies Globally. The presence and participation of the IFRC in such mechanisms increases the influence and effectiveness of the emergency health services provided by the network.

The IFRC chaired the humanitarian track of the World Congress of Disaster and Emergency Medicine in Brisbane, Australia, and gave an early progress report on the development of the Red Cross Red Crescent Health Information System.

The IFRC and National Societies collaborated to improve the network's collective response capacity to public health emergencies. National Societies led a process that built on their experience, expertise, and knowledge of public health issues to prioritise the development of public health emergency response units that are standardised for design and training.

The **Global Advisory Panel on Corporate Governance and Risk Management of Blood Services in Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (GAP)** continued building transparent, agile and well-coordinated systems for blood programme support. GAP's way of working ensures support for National Society blood programmes globally. GAP now benefits from the expertise of 15 dedicated member countries and provides relevant and up-to-date governance and technical advice across all IFRC regions.



EPIDEMIC AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

More than 100 IFRC and National Society staff and 3,000 volunteers participated in the Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme in coordination with public health authorities and partners in eight countries (Cameroon, DRC, Guinea, Kenya, Indonesia, Mali, Sierra Leone, and Uganda), where the programme contributed to epidemic preparedness and community-based surveillance. National Societies supported Ministries of Health and Agriculture in ongoing outbreaks such as measles and cholera in Cameroon; chikungunya, cholera and measles in the DRC; anthrax and cholera in Kenya; plague of ruminants in Sierra Leone; yellow fever preparedness in Mali; Lassa fever preparedness in Guinea; measles in Indonesia; and enhanced Ebola preparedness in Uganda. With the support of BBC Media Action, 250 local media and humanitarian actors were trained on how to communicate with people affected by humanitarian crises to help save lives and reduce suffering.

Ebola Virus Disease

The IFRC worked with National Societies in 2019 to respond to the Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo and to maintain a high level of preparedness and vigilance in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and South Sudan. It also collaborated with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to review the evolution and impact of safe and dignified burials during the outbreak.

Over the course of the outbreak, there were 3481 cases (3323 confirmed, 158 probable), of which, 2299 people died and 1162 survived. The outbreak was declared over on 25 June 2020. The second half of 2019 saw a noticeable improvement with the number of weekly new confirmed cases remaining under 50 and continually decreasing. This was due to the contributions of all partners including 384 volunteers of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo that formed 29 Safe and Dignified Burials teams.

Ebola efforts in 2019 included the most extensive feedback collection in IFRC's history when 807 community engagement and accountability volunteers reached more than 1,870,000 people with door-to-door and community communication activities and almost 460,000 community feedback data points. Based on the feedback and the changing epidemiological situation, the IFRC then revised the One International Appeal to focus on enhancing local ownership and strengthening epidemic readiness in the affected countries.





Community Based Surveillance

To prevent outbreaks from becoming epidemics, the IFRC and National Societies have established methodologies for communities to identify and address health risks. The IFRC has developed tools, training, and resources with and for National Societies to strengthen their detection and response to health risks in their communities.

The Nyss platform, launched in 2019, helps volunteers engage in community-based surveillance through simple SMS messaging and enables National Societies to contribute to the government, WHO and multi-organizational, evidence-based response systems and mechanisms during disease outbreaks.

Nyss is a custom software platform tailored to the needs of the Movement and is now available to multiple organizations. It allows for real-time detection, reporting, aggregation, and analysis of information on community health risks, which in turn, enables prevention, identification, and response to disease outbreaks, through early warning and early response.



Almost one billion people still lack access to safe water and more than three billion people - half of humanity - do not have adequate sanitation facilities. SDG 6 hopes to foster Universal Coverage for WASH facilities to the world population by 2030.

AREA OF FOCUS

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

The IFRC supports National Societies to work with vulnerable communities to improve water and sanitation conditions in chronic contexts as well as in acute contexts during emergencies. Their local presence is crucial to leverage the potential from the local experience of communities. In 2019, the IFRC continued to develop technical and programming tools and initiated new funding mechanisms, still in their infancy, that hope to leverage the increased investment required to contribute to SDG 6. IFRC provided direct support to the emergency operations of National Societies, built partnerships, and helped deliver effective and innovative technical solutions. The Global Task Force on Cholera Control appointed the IFRC, together with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CDC, UNICEF and WHO to form a new steering group. This positions the IFRC and the network at the heart of global and regional partnerships for inter-agency coordination for eventual cholera elimination. The IFRC also became a founding member, with WHO and UNICEF, of the Cholera Platform for Middle East and North Africa.

The IFRC's work with potential innovative and new funding partners (including the Islamic Development Bank) on the One WASH Initiative led to the launch of the 'One WASH Fund'. The fund is intended to help National Societies that have committed themselves to control and eliminate cholera with a 150 million US dollar target over the next ten years, though the fund is still in its infancy.

IFRC working towards results

Outcome sought: Vulnerable people have increased access to appropriate and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services

Some of the ways we do this include:

- **providing** safe water services that meet agreed standards
- **reaching** communities with awareness raising activities on improved treatment and safe use of wastewater
- **promoting** personal and community hygiene
- **providing** communities with knowledge of and access to improved excreta disposal
- **supporting** the development of community-based water and sanitation management plans.

IFRC's work contributes to SDG indicators 6.1.1 and 6.2.1

WASH TOOLS

The IFRC committed to making WASH programming more inclusive and to enabling the affected population to take action to prevent water, sanitation, and hygiene related diseases.

The IFRC published [*Guidelines to Hygiene Promotion in Emergencies*](#) in English, French, Spanish and Thai, Bahasa and Russian. It also published [*Menstrual Hygiene Management Guidelines*](#) in English, French, Arabic and Bahasa to help National Societies integrate menstrual hygiene management into humanitarian programming. Information, education and communication material for disposable and reusable pads and for tampons, were also published in English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese and in Bahasa all available together with two videos for advocacy and training.



Menstrual hygiene management process and support tools

PROCESS PHASE	 IFRC TOOLS
ASSESSMENT <p>Activity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Identifying the problem 2 Identifying target groups 3 Analysing barriers and enablers for behaviour change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus group discussion guide – assessment • Checklist for inclusive menstrual hygiene management friendly latrines • Checklist for inclusive menstrual hygiene management friendly bathing areas • Checklist for inclusive menstrual hygiene management friendly solid waste facilities • Cash programming for menstrual hygiene
PLANNING <p>Activity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Formulating menstrual hygiene objectives 5 Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step-by-step tool for deciding priority menstrual hygiene management actions • Example menstrual hygiene management outputs, indicators, and targets for the Emergency Plan of Action • Minimum items to be included in dignity or menstrual hygiene management kits for menstrual hygiene
IMPLEMENTATION <p>Activity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IEC materials for disposable pads, reusable cloth pads and tampons
MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING <p>Activity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Monitoring and evaluation 8 Review, re-adjust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback and mitigation log • Post-distribution monitoring survey • Survey for post-distribution monitoring • Checklist for menstrual hygiene management actions in humanitarian operations



Villagers in Guinea help to clean up the village's port area as part of a campaign to improve hygiene and reduce the incidence of infectious diseases.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programming promotes good personal and environmental hygiene to protect health. Hygiene promotion is a vital component of WASH programming as it helps to change or reinforce positive health-related behaviours.

ONE WASH: WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION FOR CHOLERA ELIMINATION

One WASH promotes a common yet adaptable approach for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to establish large-scale, long-term integrated public health and WASH projects to contribute to the Global Task Force for Cholera Control 'cholera roadmap to end cholera' launched in 2017. The roadmap lays out a long-term strategic response to cholera and has been adopted by the international community including the IFRC and many humanitarian and development actors worldwide. The integrated approach of One WASH aims, between now and 2030, to reach a minimum of 5.5 million vulnerable people in high-risk cholera countries. This will contribute to the cholera roadmap goal of reducing cholera deaths by 90 per cent in the first instance, leading to eventual eradication of cholera.

The vision

The roadmap to end cholera is based on a multi-sectoral approach that links the Global Task Force for Cholera Control with other partners and stakeholders, including the IFRC. The vision is to, where possible, prevent or reduce predictable outbreaks worldwide by 2030, which would directly contribute to reaching Sustainable Development Goals 3- Good health and well-being and 6- Clean water and sanitation and indirectly support other goals related to poverty,⁵ gender equality, disease and malnutrition;¹³ climate change; and 17 partnership for goals.

IFRC and its membership have a broad reach in providing public health and WASH programming worldwide, with WASH alone having reached more than 35 million people between 2005 and 2019.

One WASH focuses on over 20 cholera-affected countries initially where National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are committed to the elimination of the disease. The strategy focuses on three main actions that are closely interlinked and operate in full alignment with the Global Task Force for Cholera Control cholera road map:

- **Improve preparedness**, early detection, and response to contain cholera outbreaks
- **long-term integrated** WASH approach to prevent cholera
- **internal and external advocacy**, coordination and resource mobilization.

WASH EMERGENCY SUPPORT

In 2019, the WASH Team supported National Societies on emergency operations in the Americas, Bangladesh, The Bahamas, Indonesia, Mozambique, and Nigeria. These operations supported hundreds of thousands of disaster-affected people with lifesaving access to water and sanitation as well as, with novel use of surge mechanisms, the initiation of programmes to provide sustainable WASH services..

WASH INNOVATION

The IFRC conducted a field trial on an innovative approach to emergency faecal sludge treatment in Rohingya camps in Bangladesh. An independent review of technologies used in Bangladesh recognised the IFRC approach as being more effective than those used by others. Improvements made by the IFRC dramatically boosted the intake volume, increased the number of people, and ensured that the effluent meets or beats national wastewater standards.



The IFRC is committed to

“pursue equality of power, opportunities and access to resources and services for women, men, boys, girls and people with any sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and characteristic, of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. (...) We will embrace diversity not only for fairness sake, but as core to finding better solutions for humanitarian and development challenges.”

IFRC Gender and Diversity Policy

AREA OF FOCUS

PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION

The IFRC amended its gender policy as part of the IFRC Strategic Framework on Gender and Diversity Issues (2013–2020) revision process in 2019 to include new commitments to ensure that protection, gender, and inclusion are included in all its work. The adoption of the new [Gender and Diversity Policy](#) at the General Assembly in 2019 reinforced the importance of dignity and access to safety and protection for all.

“Protection, Gender and Inclusion is about *what we do, how we do it, but also really about who we are as humanitarians*”

In 2019, the 22nd General Assembly made significant revisions to the IFRC Constitution. Among the amendments was the introduction of a quota system for the election of National Society members to the IFRC Governing Board. National Societies must now nominate candidates of both majority sexes (men and women) and ensures that not less than 30 per cent of either men or women will be represented on the governing board while respecting geographical representation.

The IFRC has committed to achieving gender parity at all staffing levels by 2028. It has begun comprehensive assessments and evaluations of the barriers and inequalities different people face in their recruitment, service, or participation in an acknowledgement of the need for a holistic approach to inequality and discrimination. In 2019, the IFRC piloted the IFRC Organizational Assessment for Gender and Diversity in the Asia Pacific region.

In 2019, the IFRC also analysed the proportion of women in staff and governance positions for the first time using data captured in its Federation-Wide Databank and Reporting System and published the results in the 2019 Everyone Counts report.

The Everyone Counts Report 2019 shows that more needs to be done, including within the IFRC and National Societies.

The [Sexual and Gender-Based Violence appeal for 2019–2022](#) was launched in response to the Oslo Conference on Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises. The appeal outlines the holistic approach that the IFRC network brings to preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence in collaboration with the ICRC and local authorities.

IFRC working towards results

Outcome sought: Communities become more peaceful, safe, and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most at-risk people.

Some of the ways we do this include:

- **Ensuring** DREFs and Emergency Appeal operations address; and supporting National Society plans and programmes to address:
 - equitable access to disaster response
 - Sexual and gender-based violence
 - preventing, responding to, and mitigating violence towards children
 - child protection.
- **Providing** humanitarian education programmes.

IFRC's work contributes to SDG indicators 10.3.1 and 16.b.1

The appeal includes the strengthening of the capacity and coordination of highly skilled National Society and IFRC professionals. The fund received around 800,000 Swiss francs for activities in 2020.

The protection, gender, and inclusion rapid response roster is an essential part of our humanitarian capacity. Delegates were deployed to support disaster response operations in Mozambique, the Bahamas and continuously to Cox's Bazar to ensure mainstreaming in assessments, planning, design, and programmes. The IFRC ensured that protection, gender, and inclusion was included in all DREFs and Emergency appeals in 2019. Protection, gender, and inclusion teams providing life-saving and essential services to marginalized groups were successfully set up in both Cox's Bazar, Mozambique, and Bahamas as a result of IFRC coordination.

Also in 2019, more than 200 Red Cross and Red Crescent staff were made aware of minimum protection, gender and inclusion commitments to ensure they have the basic competencies and are able to provide standardized and appropriate first response to survivors of violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation and that they are able to support volunteers to do the same.

The IFRC leads the development of the chapter of the revised Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. In partnership with International Social Services and an advisory group of 12 humanitarian agencies, a [*massive open online course on "Caring for Children Alone"*](#) that focuses on protection of unaccompanied and separated children had its second run. More than 20,000 people completed the six-week course in 2019. In Africa, a collaboration with UNICEF was initiated with National Societies in Eastern and Southern Africa to improve government coordination on child protection in emergencies.

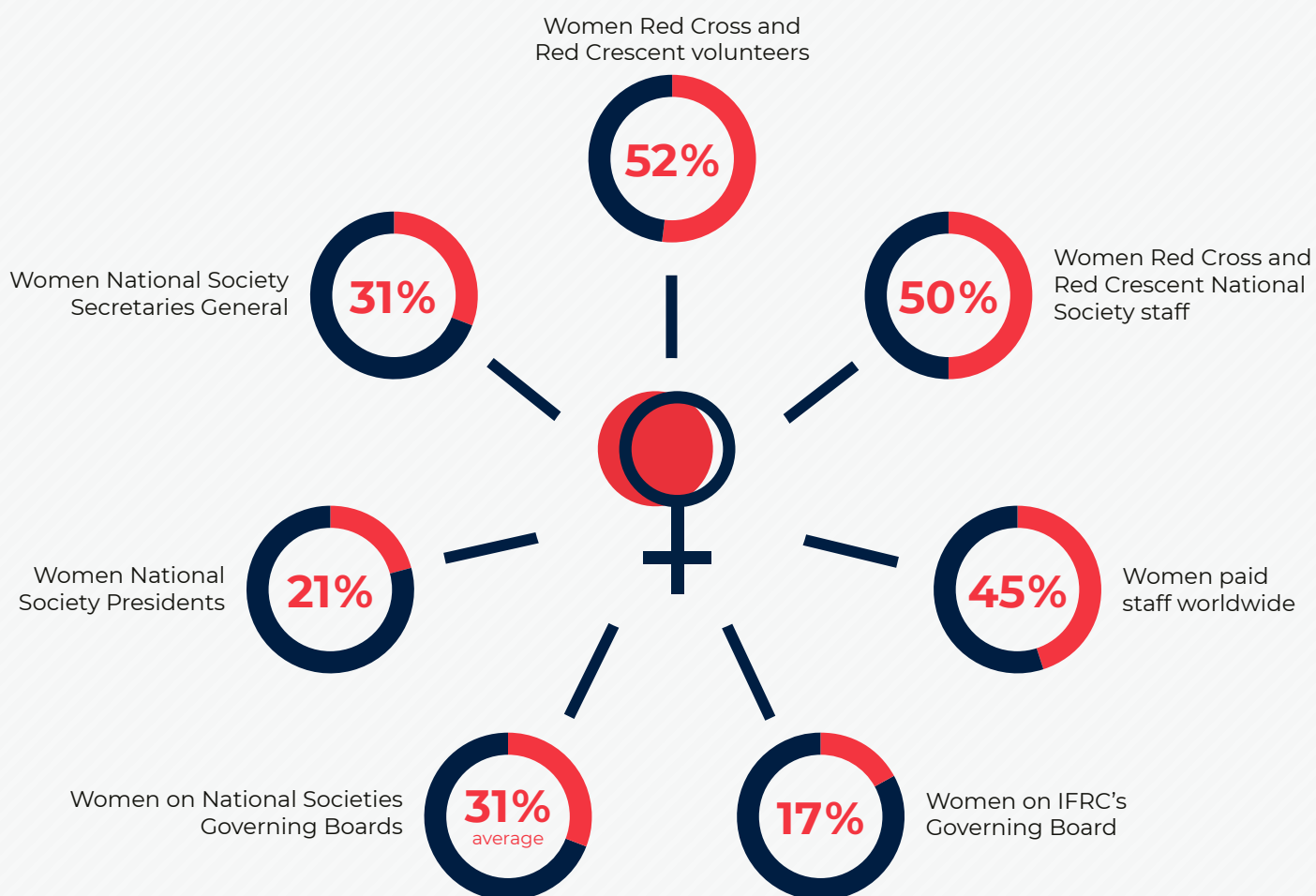
In 2019, the IFRC worked with 15 National Societies to develop prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse policies. Five National Societies finalized and adopted policies. The IFRC developed a 'Strategic Framework on Inclusive Programming' to guide social inclusion, tackle xenophobia and improve the social cohesion work of National Societies, and adopted its first-ever strategic framework on education for 2020–2030 to ensure that all people can access educational opportunities safely, continuously and equitably.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Health Information System has been upgraded in consultation with in-house protection, gender, and inclusion experts to improve patient quality of care and medical operational efficiency, particularly in emergencies settings.

The IFRC also combined protection, gender, and inclusion in training on Universal Health Coverage with behaviour change, climate change and community-based health and first-aid for 19 National Societies in Africa.

Unaccompanied and separated children are especially vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation, yet struggle to find or access the assistance they need.





Source: *Everyone Counts Report 2019* (2017 figures).

National Societies providing information on sex-disaggregated indicators for people reached (2017)

	National Societies reporting sex-disaggregated data	National Societies reporting data but not sex-disaggregated	National Societies reporting that they do not provide corresponding programmes or services	National Societies not reporting at all on the indicator	Total
Disaster Response and Early Recovery Programmes	63	60	31	36	190
Long-term Services and Development Programmes	56	63	25	47	190
Disaster Risk Reduction	68	53	31	38	190
Shelter	34	25	82	49	190
Livelihoods	41	30	70	49	190
Health	74	60	14	42	190
WASH	56	37	50	47	190
Migration	39	41	58	52	190
Cash Transfer programme	38	24	78	50	190
Social Inclusion	47	44	41	58	190

Note: The above information is based on data provided by a proportion of National Societies and may not be typical of all National Societies.

Source: Everyone Counts Report 2019.



2019 marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the *International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Policy on Internal Displacement* and the IFRC Policy on Migration. The policies provide essential guidance to all components of the Movement on how to prevent, respond to and facilitate durable solutions to internal displacement caused by climate change disasters, armed conflict, and other situations of violence.

AREA OF FOCUS

MIGRATION

Even a decade later, people still suffer from unacceptable levels of forced migration and displacement, which poses significant humanitarian challenges. Across the globe, people face unacceptable risks and are too often deprived of the humanitarian assistance and protection they need to ensure their safety, dignity, and rights.

These challenges are so significant that the IFRC went on to secure funding in 2019 from the European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) for 1.7 million Syrian refugees living in Turkey. This will be the most extensive programme the IFRC had ever implemented and the largest in EU history.

The IFRC made significant progress in 2019 with the roll-out of the *Global Migration Strategy* by including migration priorities in the plans of an increasing number of National Societies through direct technical support and workshops. A global survey showed that National Societies were increasingly aware of the Strategy and were undertaking needs assessments and treating migration as a strategic priority. The National Societies of the Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Gambia, Russia, and Libya had included migration in their national strategic and/or operational plans.

The advocacy work of the IFRC on behalf of vulnerable migrants was enhanced in 2019 with tools for the establishment of Humanitarian Service Points. The concept and tools helped the IFRC to secure a partnership agreement with the Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Centre that will begin in 2020. The IFRC also published the new version of the Global Portfolio of Migration Projects, illustrating 23 projects implemented by National Societies.

The IFRC exerted its influence in several forums. It presented at the 13th Red Cross Red Crescent Mediterranean Conference, the Inter-American Conference in Buenos Aires, the regional network meetings of the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants, the Global Forum for Refugees, and the UN Migration Network, the mechanism put in place to implement the Global Compact for Migration.

The IFRC launched an online Introductory Course on Migration and its translation into all IFRC official languages. The training involved some 4,160 people in 2019, and the successful runs of the Children on the move online training attracted more than 17,000 learners from around the world. Additional training took place locally in collaboration with National Societies that are investing in building migration-related capacities. These initiatives will inform the development of a global Training Curriculum on Migration in 2020, the initial scoping of which was carried out by the IFRC in 2019.

IFRC working towards results

Outcome sought: Communities support the needs of migrants and their families and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit, and destination).

Some of the ways we do this include:

- **Provision** of services for migration assistance and protection (through engagement with local and national authorities as well as in partnership with other relevant organizations)
- **Initiatives** with policy and strategic planning decision-makers to promote greater awareness of, assistance for, and protection of migrants
- **Awareness** raising and sensitization campaigns to address xenophobia, discrimination, and negative perceptions towards migrants
- **Restoring** family links for people separated from, or without news of, their loved ones.

IFRC's work contributes to SDG indicators 10.7

Supporting the most at-risk people in Turkey

Turkey is home to the largest refugee population in the world, hosting more than 4 million refugees, many of them fleeing a nine-year conflict in Syria. Thanks to European Union funding and a partnership between the IFRC and the Turkish Red Crescent Society, the most vulnerable refugees living in Turkey are receiving vital humanitarian support.

The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme provides monthly cash assistance through debit cards to more than 1.7 million refugees in Turkey.

Every month, each family member receives 120 Turkish Lira (approximately 17 euros), so they can decide for themselves how to cover essential needs like rent, transport, bills, food, and medicine. The programme offers additional quarterly top-ups based on family size, with special payments to families with members who require specialised care. The IFRC launched an online Introductory Course on Migration and its translation into all IFRC official languages. The training involved some 4,160 people in 2019, and the successful runs of the Children on the move online training attracted more than 17,000 learners from around the world. Additional training took place locally in collaboration with National Societies that are investing in building migration-related capacities. These initiatives will inform the development of a global Training Curriculum on Migration in 2020, the initial scoping of which was carried out by the IFRC in 2019.

Total number of people
registered as refugees in Turkey

4 Million



Total number of refugees
from Syria

3.6 Million



Total number of refugees
living outside of camps

3.9 Million





Strengthening IFRC Responses to Internal Displacement in Disasters

The IFRC commissioned research to capture how it and National Societies respond to internal displacement in disaster settings and to identify opportunities for further development. The report "[*Strengthening IFRC Responses to Internal Displacement in Disasters*](#)" was published in 2019 as a summary of the main findings and recommendations emerging from the research.

The Report was disseminated within the IFRC network, through the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP20) Platform and the Platform on Disaster Displacement. The Report informed the 2019 Council of Delegates resolutions and will guide the work-plan for 2020, including the establishment of a Movement Working Group.

Total number of people
reached with services for migration assistance
and protection

3.7 Million



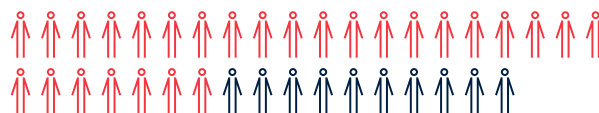
approximately

60

**Total number of IFRC policy
and strategic initiatives**
to promote migrant awareness,
assistance and protection

Total number of people
reached in Turkey

2.7 Million



21,600

Total number of people
reached by awareness-raising and sensitisation
campaigns to address xenophobia, discrimination
and negative perceptions towards migrants

IFRC programmes for migrants and displaced people

We help migrants and displaced people with

1

First aid, mobile health clinics and primary health care services.

2

Food distribution in emergencies and food production support in communities of return.

3

Supplies, tools and guidance for shelter construction and repair.

4

Distribution of household and other essential supplies.

5

Emergency water and sanitation programs, construction or repair of water and sanitation systems in settings of large-scale displacement or communities of return.

6

Community engagement with migrant or displaced to ensure these populations have a voice in all aspects of our humanitarian response.

7

Information mechanisms, like the Virtual Volunteer app, to ensure people migrating can make informed decisions and stay healthy and safe.

8

Mental health care, psychosocial support and referrals.

9

Reuniting families through the Restoring Family Links programme.

10

Cash assistance.

11

Skills building and other income-generation and livelihoods recovery support.

12

Wide-ranging assistance to help host communities.

13

Initiatives to counter anti-migrant sentiment and foster acceptance, integration and social inclusion.

14

Wide-ranging assistance in destination countries to help refugees and other newcomers adjust, find work if permissible and build new lives.

15

Humanitarian Service Points.





2

Migration-related resolutions adopted by the Council of Delegates (CoD)

RESOLUTION

7

"Strengthening implementation of the Movement Policy on Internal Displacement: Ten years on"

prevention of displacement, urban responses and durable solutions.

8

"Movement Statement on Migrants and our Common Humanity"

expresses concerns about the hardening of laws and attitudes.

2

Resolutions referencing migration

RESOLUTION

2

"Addressing mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by armed conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies"

calls for the addressing of mental health and psychosocial needs of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons.

RESOLUTION

4

"Restoring Family Links while respecting privacy, including as it relates to personal data protection"

calls for the facilitation of reunification of families, restoring and maintaining contact, and the protection of personal data collected for humanitarian purposes.

AFRICA



CONTEXT

Economic and societal progress in Africa was again constrained in 2019 by armed conflict, the increasing severity of food insecurity, protracted crises, communicable disease outbreaks including Ebola virus disease, and cyclones and other climate-induced disasters. The effects of these events were compounded by poverty, weak infrastructure, rapid urbanisation and weak water and health services. It was again vulnerable people that suffered most. Large numbers of people were affected, resulting in forced migration and erosion of the capacity of local communities and the most vulnerable people to cope.

By the end of 2019, the number of people struggling to find food rose to more than 41.2 million people in southern Africa alone. A state of emergency was declared in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe where people were suffering from the compound effect of years of drought across southern Africa.

In at least 11 countries across the continent, floods and cyclones forced millions of people from their homes.

Ethiopia, Cameroon, Niger, the Republic of the Congo, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo saw large numbers of displaced people migrating across borders and from rural to urban areas. Together with a high birth rate, this resulted in unplanned urbanisation almost 11 times higher than in Europe. Some cities became home to more than 40,000 people every day.

The vast majority of the IFRC operations are in Africa, where the operating environment for the IFRC and National Societies is highly complex. National Societies and the IFRC together coordinated 45 emergency response operations, including 11 Emergency Appeals and 34 DREF operations in 2019. Many crises were complicated because of their large scale and cross-border population movements, and slow onset disasters often receive limited public media and donor attention.

MORE PEOPLE DIED IN AFRICA IN 2019 FROM DROUGHTS AND FOOD INSECURITY THAN ANYWHERE ELSE.

IFRC SUPPORT

The IFRC supported National Societies in Africa with additional capacity to anticipate and prepare for disasters, reduce the impact and cost of emergency response, and to save lives. It supported the creation of effective, accountable, and resilient National Societies and helped them to become trusted, influential, and effective. It also worked with National Societies to build long-term community resilience and to involve communities in program and operational decision making.

The IFRC revenue for development programmes in Africa increased by 48 per cent, reaching 31 million Swiss francs. New or expanded partnerships were developed, including with the World Bank, the John A. Kufuor Foundation, and the Regional Economic Commissions SADC and ECOWAS. In partnership with the Prudence Foundation and the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, the IFRC launched the Safe Steps public messaging campaign in Cote D'Ivoire with former footballer Didier Drogba as its Ambassador. Safe Steps provides road safety, disaster and first aid information to millions of people through TV spots in multiple languages.

The IFRC also mobilised 48 million Swiss francs for emergencies in 2019 securing significant contributions from the World Bank, DFID, and DG ECHO.

People reached, by thematic area



734,900



343,800



92,200



2,586,100



931,900



7,300



3,800

National Society Preparedness for Effective Response 2019

- Orientation
- Assessments
- Plans of Action



2019 PROGRESS

Strengthening National Societies

The IFRC worked with National Societies in Africa to develop a three-year disaster and crisis prevention, response, and recovery strategic plan. It supported National Societies to deliver comprehensive training on vulnerability and capacity assessments, shelter, preparedness, disaster law, cash, security, protection, gender, inclusion, and data literacy.

13 National Societies engaged in strengthening their response capacities using the Preparedness for Effective Response approach.

The IFRC also worked with National Societies in Africa to deliver leadership training. This included Movement Induction Courses to familiarize people newly engaged in National Society governance and leadership, and volunteers with their roles and responsibilities, particularly the Code of Conduct.

Ensure effective international disaster management

The IFRC embarked on a comprehensive programme of support with National Societies to increase active use of cash programming in disaster management. It helped National Societies better envision disaster response through a cash-based approach and provided tools for better management of cash-related data. National Societies received

Leadership Orientation: Tanzania

The IFRC worked with the newly elected board of the Tanzania Red Cross to improve governance and leadership through an intensive orientation workshop. As a result, all board members signed The Dodoma Commitment on Integrity and Accountability, in which they committed themselves to address governance, integrity, accountability and transparency issues.



training for staff and volunteers online and in-person in several languages. The IFRC worked closely with the National Societies of Belgium, Bulgaria, Burundi, Eswatini, Finland, Kenya, Tanzania, The Netherlands, Turkey, the UK, the USA and Zimbabwe in the sharing of experience, delivery of training and workshops, or direct support of cash programmes.

The IFRC also worked closely with the ICRC and other partners such as the World Food Programme and Mercy Corps to help National Societies adjust their standard operating procedures, increase accountability and share knowledge of technology in cash-based Interventions.

The National Societies of Uganda, Niger, Gambia, Burundi, South Sudan, Malawi, Botswana, Senegal, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde, Rwanda, and Nigeria were supported to strengthen the disaster law of their country and legislative advocacy capacities. Four draft laws, policies and regulations are being drafted with Red Cross and Red Crescent support in South Sudan, Malawi, Uganda and Seychelles.

Influence others as leading strategic partners

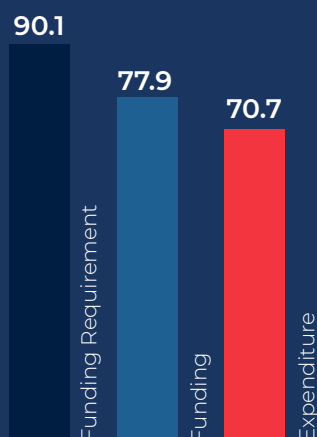
In addition to supporting National Societies in Africa to influence governments through the Disaster Law Programme, the IFRC prioritized helping displaced people and disaster risk reduction through global advocacy forums. It engaged in the new Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration with International Organization for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, including the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework with UNHCR.

The IFRC supported the active engagement of African National Societies in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019, and continued to partner and collaborate with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the African Union, UNDP, the World Bank and Interpeace to advance disaster risk reduction efforts in Africa. It collaborated with:

- UNDRR on the Sendai Framework Monitor Peer Learning workshop on data collection,
- African Union on the 15th Session of the African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction,
- UNDP on Capacity Assessment Missions,
- The World Bank on Disaster Risk Financing for Famine for Somalia and
- Interpeace on a three-year programme to provide baseline knowledge, data and understanding of how humanitarian actors can improve local resilience

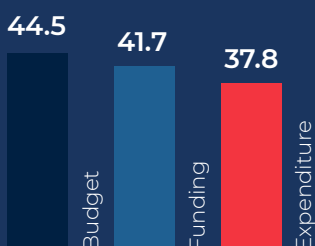
THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

million Swiss francs



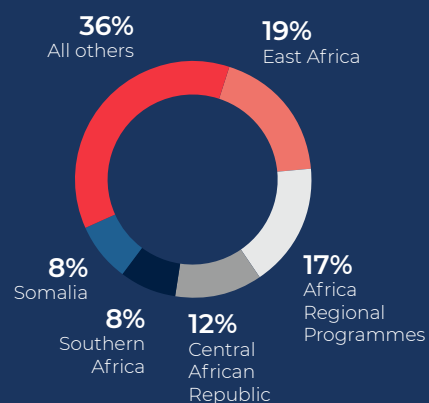
EMERGENCIES

million Swiss francs



FUNDING IN AFRICA REGION

top 5



Disaster risk reduction

In 2019, the IFRC supported National Societies in Tanzania and Malawi and to build community resilience to climate-related disasters using climate information products and services by strengthening Community Disaster Response Teams to prepare better for disasters. They were also supported to build the capacity of volunteers in early warning communications with communities and developed the National Framework for Climate Services. The National Societies were then able to share their experiences at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In 2019, IFRC supported National Societies in Kenya, Ghana, South-Sudan, and Seychelles to develop disaster risk reduction strategies or bills.

Shelter

IFRC shelter operations in 2019 included emergency funding support and the delivery of shelter kits to affected communities in Africa through National Societies. It encouraged learning, the exchange of experience, and supported ten National Societies to strengthen their capacity for regional assessments. The IFRC provided 40,000 households with household items in 33 operations, and more than 30,000 households with emergency shelter support in 26 operations.

In Comoros, more than 1,500 households were supported with emergency shelter kits and household items, 144 households received support for transitional shelter construction and 139 with cash for rent support through funding from UNDP

Livelihoods and basic needs

The IFRC reached around 162,000 people with food assistance, basic relief items, income generation activities, agriculture tools, seeds and extension services in Nigeria, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, and Kenya through multipurpose cash transfer as the preferred method of livelihood and basic needs interventions. By the end of 2019, more than 41.2 million people, 28 per cent more than in 2018, were at risk of food insecurity in southern Africa where several countries declared national emergencies. The regional food insecurity crisis was mainly due to drought, but it was exacerbated by increases in food prices and the loss of livestock and crops. The IFRC launched a regional Emergency Appeal for 7.6 million Swiss francs to assist with livelihoods and basic needs for 81,000 people across Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia. It also launched an Emergency Appeal for 3.5 million Swiss francs to support more than 57,000 people also facing severe food insecurity in Zambia.

Health

The Ministry of Health and the National Society in Kenya collaborated with the IFRC to develop a training manual on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence for community health workers. A community-based health and first aid training of trainers event for 19 Anglophone and Francophone National Societies was delivered with the National Society of Malawi, focusing on protection, gender and inclusion, and data literacy. The intention was to build capacity using behaviour change theories and strategies and to explore how African National Societies can better integrate protection, gender and inclusion and data literacy into community health work. The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to practice data collection skills and techniques. Child marriage and girls' empowerment came through as priority issues needing to be addressed.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

As a result of extensive efforts, the IFRC was able to secure funding for One WASH projects in Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, and Malawi. The IFRC also played a critical role in supporting the emergency response to cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique, with the deployment of a WASH Module from the Spanish Red Cross, and two WASH mass sanitation modules from the British Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross to help control waterborne disease outbreaks.



Protection, gender, and inclusion

The IFRC provided technical support to the National Disaster Response Team of South Sudan Red Cross through the training of trainer programme called Joint Action for Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence. Team members were equipped with skills, tools, and methods for integrating SGBV awareness, prevention, or referral, in emergency programmes and projects.

Migration

IFRC provided technical support to National Societies to increase coverage and quality of the humanitarian response to Internally Displaced Persons and refugees through emergency and DREF operations. The IFRC provided coordination of strategic engagement opportunities to African National Societies, including the Global Compact on Migration and Global Compact for Refugees, the Comprehensive Refugee Framework, the African Union and sub-regional engagements.

The three-year Action for Migrants: Route Based Assistance (AMiRA) project in the Sahel has progressed significantly. Coordination and collaboration have been strengthened between the IFRC, the British Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross and INTRAC to support host National Societies to implement AMiRA effectively. The AMiRA project brought 11 partners together to provide support to migrants in their country of origin, in transit, at arrival, during reintegration, and to the communities hosting them.

AMERICAS



CONTEXT

Violence in all its forms continued in Latin America and the Caribbean, fuelled by social inequality and exclusion, especially in urban areas where more than 80 per cent of the population live. According to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, 43 of the 50 most violent cities in the world and 14 of the 25 most highly rated countries for gender-based violence are in the Americas.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs September 2019 figures show that there are around 70.3 million people are migrants in the Americas, which is around 30 per cent of world's migrants. Although the main destination for migrants is the United States of America, the dynamics of migratory flows on the continent are diverse. Countries in the region serve as reception, transit, and destination zones.

The movement of people is causing a rise in tensions and increased vulnerability across Latin America and the Caribbean and putting increasing pressure on host communities, infrastructures, and health care. The Government of Colombia estimates that around 1.7 million people have arrived from Venezuela since early 2017. There are significant humanitarian needs for people in transit areas, places of temporary settlement and host communities, especially near border crossings between Colombia and Venezuela, Venezuela and Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador, and Ecuador and Peru.

The effects of climate change are increasing felt in the Americas, as the region is prone to extreme weather events like hurricanes and has low lying areas susceptible to rising waters. Additionally, 2019 saw a significant increase in mosquito-transmitted diseases like Dengue: <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/21-11-2019-who-region-of-the-americas-records-highest-number-of-dengue-cases-in-history-cases-spike-in-other-regions> The transmission of confirmed Zika cases has declined from its high of 2016, but as many cases may be asymptomatic, prevention efforts continue.

2019 PROGRESS

Strengthening National Societies

In 2019, the IFRC designed and delivered a strategy for the development of regional leadership skills for National Society leaders, youth and volunteers, and women. This programme was implemented nationally by National Societies in Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Grenada, Barbados, and Panama. Sixteen members of the National Societies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and El Salvador and took part in the first regional IFRC Humanitarian Information Analysis Course in Spanish. The training was carried out by the IFRC in collaboration with the National Societies of Spain and Sweden.

In 2019, the IFRC supported the National Societies of the Bahamas and Haiti to conduct Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification exercises for the first time. It also supported the National Societies of the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Honduras to carry out their third Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification exercises with financial support from the Canadian Government and the Canadian Red Cross. The National Society of Honduras began preparations for the second phase of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification process for certification during 2020.

The National Societies of Cuba, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Jamaica, Uruguay, and Mexico developed Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment processes during 2019, with the collective involvement of 112 branches. The Costa Rica National Society implemented a second round of workshops to gather information from branches to help build its new strategic plan.

The IFRC also provided technical assistance for the implementation of Preparedness for Effective Response activities to the National Societies of Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Kitts and Nevis, supported by funding from USAID and DIPECHO. The Costa Rican Red Cross also underwent targeted strengthening of its emergency preparedness mechanisms.

Ensure effective international disaster management

Information Management is a crucial component of disaster management, especially when there are cross border issues. The National Societies of Peru, Ecuador, and Brazil were provided Information Management support by the IFRC to monitor activities in response to the migration situation. The IFRC also developed a specific product for the Colombia National Society for data collection, processing, and visualization. All four National Societies were provided with guidance on how to build their own Information Management products.

Several information products were provided by the IFRC to support The Bahamas National Society emergency operations decision-making during Hurricane Dorian. An Information Management Roles and Responsibilities during emergencies document was developed. The document is intended to be updated at the beginning of every hurricane season to help guide National Societies through information management gaps during emergency operations.

People reached, by thematic area



53,700



88,000



47,900



947,700



749,000



75,800



202,900

<https://youtu.be/J24EoGnukw0>

Influence others as leading strategic partners

The IFRC's International Disaster Law Experts Meeting of the Working Group on Teams, Personnel and their Equipment gathered more than 30 experts including representatives from National Societies, the US Federal Emergency Management Agency, the US Department of Homeland Security, the Pan American Health Organization, and Disaster Law Professors from the American Universities of Millersville (Pennsylvania), Delaware and the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

The IFRC also participated in a panel on The Critical Contribution of Law towards Global Efforts to Mitigate Disaster Risk at the 2019 American Society of International Law annual meeting of the Disaster Law Interest Group. It contributed to the Cambridge Handbook of Disaster Risk Reduction and International Law through an article on Disaster Risk Reduction and Protection of Vulnerable Persons in Situations of Disaster. The launch event helped promote the creation of a roster of lawyer volunteers that support the IFRC Disaster Law Programme on a pro-bono basis.

Disaster risk reduction

Community programmes implemented in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Grenada, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Dominica, Belize, Suriname, Ecuador, and Colombia reached around 90,000 people in 2019.

The National Societies in Cuba, Dominican Republic, St Lucia, Belize, Jamaica, Costa Rica, and Grenada were supported by the IFRC to put multi-hazard early warning systems in place. The IFRC also supported the National Societies in Jamaica, Dominican Rep, Barbados, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Guatemala to develop their national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. Workshops were held in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Peru to help National



Societies build their approach to forecast-based action, and a forecast-based financing launch was also held with the Americas Climate Change initiative and the National Societies of Ecuador, Peru, Honduras and Guatemala.

Additionally, the IFRC and The Nature Conservancy launched a strategic partnership to develop a toolkit to promote better disaster management decision-making and resilience that integrates nature-based solutions. The partnership also began implementing innovative nature-based interventions within coastal communities with National Societies in the Dominican Republic, Grenada, and Jamaica.

Shelter

The IFRC was able to help reach around 88,000 people with safe shelter in the Americas. It also continued interagency coordination as the co-lead the Shelter Cluster with UNHCR. This ensured that effective mechanisms were in place to support people affected by natural disasters and internally displaced people affected by conflict with the means to live in safe, dignified, and appropriate shelter.

Livelihoods and basic needs

The IFRC supported National Societies to restore the livelihoods of approximately 38,500 people in the Americas to pre-disaster levels. It also supported almost 980 households to restart and strengthen their agriculture-based livelihoods after a disaster, and over 7,000 households through multipurpose cash programs for basic needs to meet their survival threshold. Almost 9,500 people were provided with in-kind food assistance by the IFRC to meet immediate food needs, and 979 households were provided with support to replace, strengthen, diversify and protect their agriculture-based livelihoods.

Health

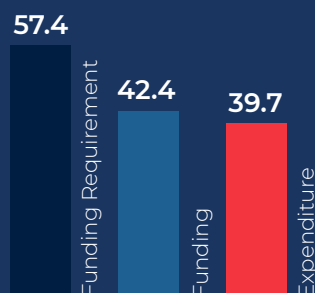
In 2019, the IFRC directly reached 690,000 people with health prevention and risk communications and estimates that it reached another 11.1 million people with activities to reduce health risks.

It supported more than 32,900 people with health care support in Venezuela, delivered 10,000 litres of water per day to migrants and local communities in Panama, and provided around 750 people with psychosocial support in the first month after Hurricane Dorian hit The Bahamas. The IFRC also supported National Societies in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic to respond to outbreaks at the request of their governments.

Together with National Societies, the IFRC reached more than 130,000 people with health programmes and services through the Community Action on Zika project. Psychosocial support for children affected by Zika-related congenital syndromes was provided to 15 communities in Colombia and 13 communities in Honduras.

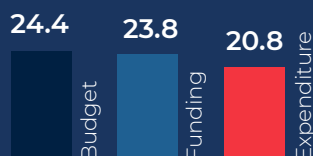
THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

million Swiss francs



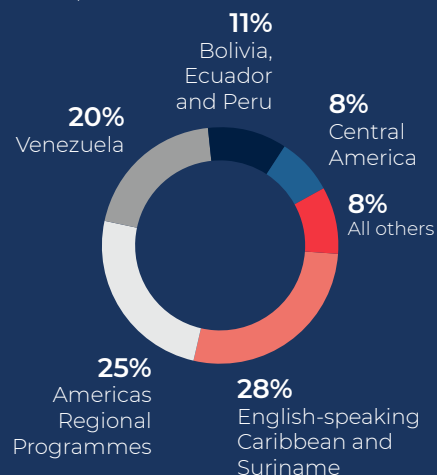
EMERGENCIES

million Swiss francs



FUNDING IN AMERICAS REGION

top 5





Migrants in Andean Countries

In 2019, the IFRC provided comprehensive support to the National Societies of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. Using an integrated approach in all its actions, the Country Cluster Support Team for the Andean region responded rapidly with programmes that complemented IFRC Emergency Appeal operations. The support it provided fostered cooperation and innovation while leveraging proactive partnerships with donors in the Movement, UN agencies and the private sector.

The closure of borders between Colombia and Venezuela, combined with new migratory regulations in Peru, Chile, and Ecuador, exacerbated humanitarian needs related to the population movement from Venezuela. The IFRC helped to boost National Societies' complementary actions and provided shared training opportunities. Swedish Red Cross collaborated with the IFRC on the Monarch Butterfly Programme to help reduce vulnerability and respond to the needs of migrant people in Colombia, those on the migratory route in Venezuela and pendular migrants. It enabled the Colombian Red Cross Society and the Venezuelan Red Cross to develop their skills in migration, protection, gender, and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability.

The team worked with the Peruvian Red Cross on the Ecuador-Peru border to provide health and comprehensive protection services. These actions were extended to other cities in Peru, including those on the southern borders with Chile and Brazil. In collaboration with UNHCR.

The cluster office provided technical support to the National Societies of Ecuador and Peru for the Early Action Protocols of the Forecast based Action by the DREF for hazards such as extreme cold and snow in Peru and volcanic ashfall in Ecuador.

Health ageing plans were delivered in collaboration with the National Societies in Dominica, Argentina, Colombia, Nicaragua, Honduras, Uruguay, and Costa Rica.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

IFRC continued to provide active support to National societies in their water and sanitation work with communities in 2019, providing 20 WASH surge deployments.

For example, the IFRC supported a safe water distribution site that provides 10,000 litres per day to 350 people in the host community and 1,000 migrants in the Darién region of Panama.

Between 2017 and 2019 approximately 10,700 people were reached with hygiene messages, 24,400 households were provided with safe water services; and 880,000 litres of water were treated for drinking.

Protection, gender, and inclusion

The IFRC provided training on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence in Guatemala, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, and Trinidad & Tobago. It supported the National Societies in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador with their annual programmes to prevent, mitigate and respond to violence towards children. It also conducted a case study and child protection assessment on the Ecuador-Colombia border to raise attention for the plight of migrant children.

Migration

Through Emergency Appeals and DREFs, around 117,000 people were able to safely access basic needs services, enhance their resilience and protect their rights. That included people in Cuba in response to Hurricane Irma, the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian, Dominica after Hurricane Maria, Costa Rica in response to floods, and migrants in Colombia and Ecuador.

The Monarch Butterfly programme provided a regional surveillance system to promote cross-border cooperation and greater protection of vulnerable children and youth at risk of forced migration in Central America. In 2019, the programme reached 17,000 people in Colombia, and 5,300 people in Venezuela of all ages.

**AROUND 70.3 MILLION
PEOPLE ARE MIGRANTS IN
THE AMERICAS, WHICH IS
AROUND 30 PER CENT OF
THE WORLD'S MIGRANTS.**

On the ground: IFRC work

ASIA PACIFIC



CONTEXT

The Asia Pacific region encompasses an incredibly diverse set of countries with varying strengths and vulnerabilities. The region experienced a host of fast and slow-onset disasters in 2019. Climate-related hazards and extreme events were of substantial concern, especially along coasts where many Asian cities are located and for Pacific Small Island Developing States. A one-metre rise in sea level could displace 37 million people in the Asia Pacific region. In comparison, a three-metre rise would affect 90 million people - along with the potential damage to the physical, economic, and culture of rural and urban areas.

Displacement is of increasing concern: some 13.4 million people were displaced across South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific according to the *2019 Global Report on Internal Displacement*. Bangladesh is home to the world's largest refugee camp, and there was a decline in the security situation in these camps in 2019. It was also a challenging year for social cohesion between people from Rakhine and their host communities, where competition for employment and livelihoods was a significant source of tension.

The Asia Pacific region launched 30 emergency operations with IFRC support in 2019, including in the Philippines (9), India (4) and Pakistan (4). Operations spanned a variety of crises, including floods (10), cyclones (6), epidemics (6 – including polio, dengue, measles, and influenza), earthquakes (3), drought (2), and civil unrest, fire and volcanic eruption.

Pacific Island nations are experiencing the effects of climate change and rising sea-levels first-hand. Afghanistan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, and Pakistan all experienced drought in 2019.

THE NATURE OF **CRISES** IN

THE **ASIA PACIFIC** REGION

CHALLENGE DONOR

RESOURCES AS **HUMANITARIAN**

NEEDS EXPAND.

2019 PROGRESS

In the Asia Pacific region, the IFRC provided technical assistance, quality control and innovation advice to humanitarian operations and longer-term resilience programming. Programs focussed on disaster, displacement, and disease as the major humanitarian issues. Empowering women is an essential priority in line with Manila Call for Action.

Strengthening National Societies

The Mongolian Red Cross Society became the first National Society in the region to become Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification Certified.

In Malaysia, the National Society is being supported to develop an interactive volunteer management system.

Eleven National Societies were assisted with finance development (Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Marshal Islands and Micronesia, and Palau).

People reached, by thematic area



2,673,600



1,049,800



680,200



10,772,700



1,594,200



6,380,200



97,200

The National Societies in Kiribati, Solomon Island, Samoa, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Myanmar were supported with strategic planning review process; while Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and Malaysia were supported in the revision of their statutes.

Ensure effective international disaster management

Fifty-four separate emergency operations were supported in 2019 (some having begun in previous years), targeting 3.1 million people in 20 out of 38 countries in Asia and Pacific. Forty per cent more people were assisted than initially planned.

In Bangladesh, flood, cyclone, and monsoon preparedness improved enormously in 2019. Stocks were pre-positioned, plans were in place for immediate response in the wake of potential disaster, and disaster risk reduction activities had been undertaken. A 72-hour response plan is in place for cyclones, and all partners are preparing accordingly.

The IFRC and National Societies with pre-positioned stocks in Kuala Lumpur agreed to sell stock under an acquisition agreement, as opposed to the borrowing stock mechanism which was used previously. This allows greater response flexibility because it ensures quick access to goods.

Preparedness for Effective Response assessments were conducted in Vanuatu, Malaysia, Mongolia, Bangladesh, and DPRK, and workplans were completed in Philippines, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Vietnam and DPRK. Red Ready work is underway in nine target countries. *Red Ready* is the result of a partnership between the IFRC, the American Red Cross and USAID's Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance. Its goal is to boost local disaster preparedness and response capacity.

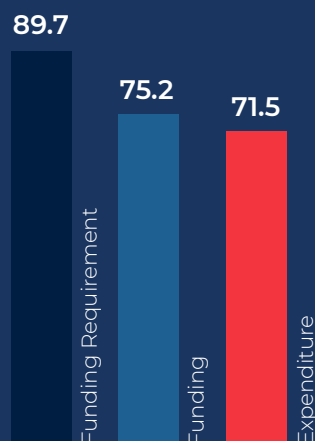
Influence others as leading strategic partners

Along with international development partners, UNDP and Asian Development Bank, the IFRC provided technical and financial support to the review of the Lao Disaster Management Law. After a five-year process, the disaster management law was endorsed by the National Assembly of Laos in 2019. The law formally establishes the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee, including membership of Lao Red Cross Society at national and municipal levels, in addition to creating the first Disaster Management Fund for the country.

The Vanuatu Disaster Risk Management Act was passed in late 2019. Vanuatu's experience during 2016 Tropical Cyclone Pam provided the catalyst to review the national arrangements. The IFRC was heavily engaged in the development of the law, providing technical assistance, peer exchange opportunities and supporting consultations at national and local levels across the country. The new law ushers in a new proactive approach to risk management.

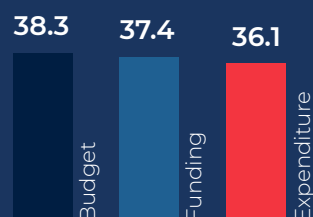
THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

million Swiss francs



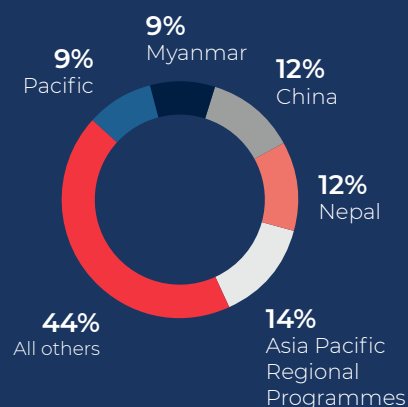
EMERGENCIES

million Swiss francs



FUNDING IN ASIA PACIFIC REGION

top 5



It draws closer links with climate adaptation initiatives and formalizes the role of Vanuatu Red Cross Society and the IFRC in the national arrangements.

Disaster risk reduction

The IFRC provided coordination, technical guidance, and quality assurance for climate smart disaster risk reduction programming, including training and field testing of the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment guidance with 15 Asia Pacific National Societies, capturing key findings, lessons and recommendations.

In the Asia Pacific region, there were seven forecast-based financing projects implemented by National Societies (Nepal, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Mongolia, Solomon Islands). This includes four approved Early Action Protocols for floods, cyclones, or typhoons, and dzud severe winters. The IFRC continued advocacy and outreach to strengthen the interest and uptake of forecast-based financing at local, national, and regional levels. It reached out to 10 countries with forecast-based financing training and workshops, including Myanmar, Thailand and DPRK, as well as intergovernmental organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The IFRC supported National Societies to include environmental sustainability in their planning processes with the dissemination of the IFRC Environmental Policy. This resulted in its inclusion in 2020 Operational Plan, integrating activities related to raising awareness, as well as promoting and piloting suitable environmental screening tools in one operation or programme.

Shelter

The IFRC worked with the support of the Australian Red Cross on the development of an Asia Pacific Shelter Technical training curriculum. This training will be the first regional training package for shelter in the Asia Pacific region. It will help to enable more tailored and contextualised support to Asia Pacific National Societies.

Branch level emergency shelter training sessions were designed for first responders and delivered in the Solomon Islands and in Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness training. This approach ensures that the emergency shelter needs of affected populations are met effectively, adequately and appropriately, taking into account local capacities, resources, materials, knowledge, practices, hazards, climatic considerations as well as cross-cutting issues such as protection, gender and inclusion.

Surveys of National Societies in the Pacific were also undertaken to gauge their level of readiness to deliver inclusive shelter and settlement support to communities, and the priority areas that need to be strengthened.

Livelihoods and basic Needs

In 2019, more than 94,000 people (nearly 19,000 households) were supported with in-kind assets or cash or vouchers for recovering or starting/strengthening economic activities; and more than 150,000 people were supported to increase and improve household food production.

The Women Empowerment Programme was piloted in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Vietnam to foster sustainable livelihoods and empower women as partners to economic development.

Health

National Societies in the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Mongolia, Indonesia, and Myanmar were supported to develop contingency plans on health risk.

The National Societies in Indonesia, Philippines, Lao PDR, Solomon Island, Papua New Guinea, and Mongolia were trained in epidemic control for volunteers.

A partnership with the Prudence Foundation led to the development of first aid materials reaching more than 34 million children.



Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

The IFRC has provided technical guidance, ensuring consistency and quality, in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene interventions by National Societies for 35 emergency operations across 15 countries. This has almost doubled compared to 2018 numbers.

A WASH hub was developed in Indonesia where the IFRC is supporting the National Society to implement market-based programming for WASH in emergencies, supported by the Global WASH Cluster.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society was supported to develop a WASH strategy for 2020–2023.

The IFRC continued to support National Societies in strengthening their emergency WASH capacities, through training and pre-positioning of essential WASH equipment and materials.

Twelve emergency WASH training sessions were held at national/sub-national level, aimed in strengthening the quality of local emergency responses, in Cambodia, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Tuvalu (300 branch/sub-branch staff and volunteers (138 female).

Protection, gender, and inclusion

In Fiji, the IFRC supported the National Society to conduct a gender and diversity assessment, and a new gender and diversity policy is being developed.

In the Asia Pacific region, the IFRC achieved 35 per cent deployment of female aid workers in regional disaster response teams. Fifty-one members were deployed in 23 different disaster response operations across the Asia Pacific region, out of which 18 (35 per cent) were female and 33 (65 per cent) were male.

In 2019, there was a strong emphasis on fostering the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse work in the Region. The IFRC Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policy was adopted in 2018 and the Coordinator Office has been supporting the Kuala Lumpur office to build internal capacity to strengthen its internal steering committee and develop an internal protocol for reporting systems and safety of staff.

Migration

Strong tailored support to National Societies on migration and displacement continued in 2020. The foundation of this support is the five-year IFRC Asia Pacific Migration and Displacement Framework, comprising a three-tiered



approach centred on (1) support for emergencies and longer-term programming (2) capacity strengthening (3) partnerships, communications, and humanitarian diplomacy. The approach is also based on a shared leadership model, with valuable support from the National Societies in Australia, America, UK, Denmark, Italy, and New Zealand.

Support in emergencies and longer-term programming

The most important operational migration emergency remained Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, where more than 850,000 refugees and displaced people are living in 34 camps. Support was also provided to National Societies addressing the needs of displaced people in the context of other emergencies and disasters, including the deployment of expert displacement advisors to support the National Societies in Bangladesh and Indonesia. Targeted support was also provided to the Pacific National Societies for their work on climate change and displacement. Longer-term programming support focused on the new regional Mekong initiative for undocumented migrants, in partnership with Thai Red Cross, Laos Red Cross and Cambodia Red Cross, as well as the new Last Mile Initiative for Migrants, including the Singapore Red Cross, Sri Lanka Red Cross, Philippine Red Cross and Myanmar Red Cross. Support continued to be provided to the National Society of the Philippines for the implementation of the Virtual Volunteer.

Capacity strengthening on migration and displacement

Capacity strengthening initiatives centred on the commitments and targets contained in the IFRC Global Migration Strategy and the Asia Pacific Manila Call for Action – especially that 75 per cent of National Societies will undertake a migration needs assessment and integrate migration into National Society strategic plans. In 2019, support for migration needs assessments and strategic plans was provided to the National Societies of New Zealand, Singapore, Myanmar, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and the Maldives. This was complemented with peer to peer support, dialogue and sharing of experiences – including through the Asia Pacific Migration Network.

Partnerships, communications and humanitarian diplomacy

Communications and representation continued in 2019, at the regional and global levels, including with key initiatives and forums such as the UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement, the Bali Process, the Asia Working Group on Disaster Displacement, and the Pacific Technical Working Group on Disaster Displacement. Key thematic areas for external cooperation included assistance and protection in emergencies, migrant workers and access to essential services, and the impacts of climate change and disasters on migration and displacement.

On the ground: IFRC work

EUROPE



CONTEXT

Although the number of migrants arriving by sea slightly dropped in 2019, tens of thousands continue to attempt the dangerous journey to Europe, with many losing their lives on the way. According to the International Organization for Migration, 1,283 people tragically died while crossing the Mediterranean in 2019. According to UNHCR, the migration route from Libya to Europe is responsible for the highest death toll mainly because of a reduction in search and rescue activities.

At the end of 2019, only three boats were actively carrying out search and rescue operations. Four other vessels suspended operations due to legal proceedings against the ship or the crew.

The Europe region continues to witness a demographic and social shift characterized by an increase in older population. In parallel, increasing inequality creates disproportionate adverse health impacts on the poorest and most vulnerable.

Non-communicable diseases remain a major health concern, while communicable diseases like tuberculosis and HIV have alarming rates of infection in many Eastern European and Central Asian countries.

IFRC SUPPORT

IFRC supports European National Societies with a focus on disaster risk reduction, health, migration, protection, gender and inclusion, community engagement and accountability, information management, cash and vouchers assistance and strengthening National Societies.

The IFRC is supporting National Societies across Europe to support people on the move throughout the migratory trail - working with authorities to secure access to these at-risk communities, ensuring migrants have access to essential services, supporting local communities and providing life-saving physical and psychosocial support.

2019 PROGRESS

In 2019, the IFRC and the Turkish Red Crescent Society were awarded €500 million to support 1.7 million Syrian refugees living in Turkey with multi-purpose cash, to begin in 2020. The funding will be provided by the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) to the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme in Turkey. The ESSN is the largest humanitarian programme in the history of the European Union and will be the largest programme ever implemented by IFRC. The ESSN programme is an attempt to address the continued challenges faced by displaced people and the communities that host them.

Strengthening National Societies

National Societies were supported to develop their disaster Preparedness for Effective Response, with Georgia and Armenia incorporating it into a two-year project on capacity building for health in emergencies; Turkey received an induction course for cash; and Ukraine was supported in its development of a contingency plan and new four-year disaster management strategy.

A new project – Building communication and coordination capacities for effective preparedness and response in South-East Europe – focuses on improved coordination and cooperation among countries in that area, jointly using early warning and other disaster response mechanisms during major emergencies including establishment of emergency operation centres within National Societies.

A growing number of National Societies have been supported to engage with partners towards financial sustainability through development and review of market studies, fundraising strategies, individual giving and corporate partnerships, and income generating activities. Kazakhstan Red Crescent, Armenian Red Cross Society, Azerbaijan Red Crescent (supported by British and Swiss Red Cross), Belarus (supported by Swiss and Icelandic Red Cross), Georgian Red Cross, Lithuanian Red Cross, Romanian Red Cross, Russian Red Cross (national with support from Norwegian Red Cross), and Ukraine Red Cross were all supported in 2019.

People reached, by thematic area



227,300



21,000



37,100



391,300



19,800



185,200



110,700

THE EUROPE REGION

CONTINUES TO WITNESS

A DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT DUE

TO AN INCREASE IN OLDER

POPULATION.

Ensure effective international disaster management

2019 saw a strong focus on increasing surge and regional disaster response capacity.

USAID supported the project Enhanced Europe Region Red Cross Red Crescent Response Capacity and Strengthening of Regional Disaster Response Teams, integrating cash transfer programming and forging connections with National Society health focal points to prepare for effective emergency response. Training of 71 new members of these teams has been completed, bringing the total to 177, a 55 per cent increase compared to active profiles in 2018. Five regional disaster response team missions took place in 2019 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Georgia, Albania, and a cross regional deployment to Mongolia.

Influence others as leading strategic partners

IFRC supports the adoption of policies, laws and strategies by governments at the domestic level. IFRC initiated the development of a model law on equal access of People Living with HIV to health services at Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Commonwealth of Independent States that include eight countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan.

At least 25 National Societies were supported in actions in global campaigns on World Tuberculosis day, World AIDS day, World Immunisation week, World Blood Donors Day, and World First Aid Day in the framework of Universal Health Coverage.

IFRC supported research conducted by the Red Cross of Serbia on mental health of migrants and their access to health services.

Crisis communications support was provided for the National Societies of Georgia, Belgium, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. More than 180,000 people across Europe were reached through IFRC social media and digital platforms, surpassing the target audience of 140,000. In 2019, 75 per cent of disaster response operations included a communications component.

Disaster risk reduction

The National Society in Montenegro worked with communities to reduce the risk of exposure and impact of flooding with a micro project to clean the canal in cooperation with the Municipality.

Forecast-based financing preparedness actions are being tested in Europe with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan initiating the process in 2019, in cooperation with German Red Cross.

Austrian Youth Red Cross is supporting National Societies in Bulgaria, Hungary, North Macedonia and Serbia in “Safer schools and kindergartens project” to build competencies and skills of primary school and kindergarten teachers and pupils in climate change, disaster risk reduction, first aid and school safety.

Shelter

In 2019, nearly 2,300 women and 4,000 men were supported with shelter solutions in emergencies related to natural hazards in Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Georgia. IFRC promoted adherence to minimum programming standards and delivered a master’s level course in Shelter & Settlements in Emergencies and Natural Disasters, ensuring capacity to provide appropriate and quality shelters.

Livelihoods and basic needs

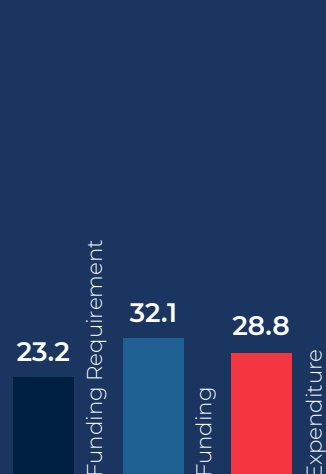
The IFRC supported Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Hungary, Serbia, Moldova with livelihoods and basic needs through DREFs. In 2019, more than 18,500 people have been reached by livelihood support in emergencies related to natural and human-made hazards. Online livelihoods training courses supported National Societies to improve the quality of their local programming.

Health

IFRC, together with USAID and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, began a joint programme – called Strengthening resilience of local communities of South Caucasus to health emergencies – to assist vulnerable communities in disaster-prone areas of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in managing health risks and effects of emergencies and disasters.

THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

million Swiss francs



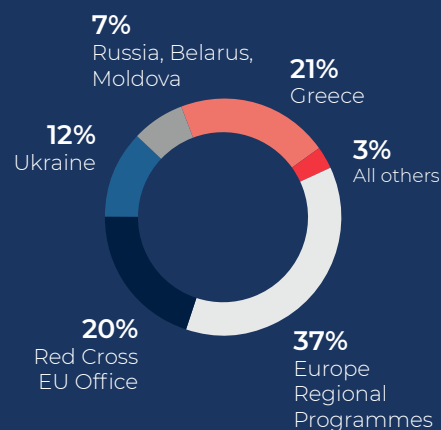
EMERGENCIES

million Swiss francs



FUNDING IN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA REGION

top 5



The work of the medical and social center in Lviv, Ukraine assists the elderly with medicine and other basic needs.



In 2019, an Advisory Group on Healthy Ageing composed of representatives of 26 National Societies was created by the IFRC as a regional platform to strengthen the capacity of National Societies working with older people, to share and disseminate quality standards and evidence-based programming. Within the framework of this initiative and with support from Pfizer, the National Societies of Belarus and Montenegro worked to raise awareness and improve capacity of local branches on screening, prevention, follow up, care and support with a new focus on non-communicable diseases.

The IFRC support to National Societies to respond to urgent needs of the most vulnerable migrant communities was made possible through a generous contribution from the Norwegian Red Cross. It allowed the IFRC to work with National Societies on basic health care, first aid services and psychosocial services in Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia, as well as to advocate for better access of migrants to health services in Belarus and Russia. It also helped to facilitate participation of National Societies in IFRC networks to enhance cooperation within the region.

Protection, gender, and inclusion

The IFRC invested in the capacity of National Societies to prevent, mitigate, and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in Europe. It launched a new child protection tool which it combined with IFRC regional training delivered in collaboration with the British Red Cross. It also provided training of trainer sessions on Protection and safeguarding of children on the move, attended by approximately 25 participants from National Societies.

IFRC supported Belarus Red Cross in revising their Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Child Safeguarding policy. This was followed by training sessions and peer support was facilitated to provide technical advice and follow-up.

Migration

While a steady flow of migrants into Europe remains, funding across Europe to support migrants has decreased. National Societies have highlighted that supporting undocumented migrants and rejected asylum-seekers is becoming an increasing challenge.

Support to the project Action of Red Cross on Integration of Relocated and Resettled Asylum-seekers and Refugees, in cooperation with the National Societies of Bulgaria, Croatia and Germany, included community engagement and accountability training and pre-departure assessment of refugees awaiting resettlement in Turkey for example.

In 2019, Montenegro saw a 57 per cent increase in the number of people seeking asylum. The distribution of food and relief items to the most at-risk people became significant priorities of the response for the National Society, which also provided psychosocial support and help with social inclusion. It provided 1,800 people with clothing and delivered 40 workshops on first aid, restoring family links, hygiene, and language classes. Of these, 15 were organised for children and 25 for adults, with an average of 15 people in each.

Italian Red Cross continues to provide hygiene materials in bulk or in kits at ports, as well as water and snacks and various clothing materials to migrants. Increased attention was given to protection activities with updated information on topics such as restoring family links, and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in various languages. Italian Red Cross works with an increased number of volunteers and staff well trained in protection, gender, and inclusion.

On the ground: IFRC work

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



CONTEXT

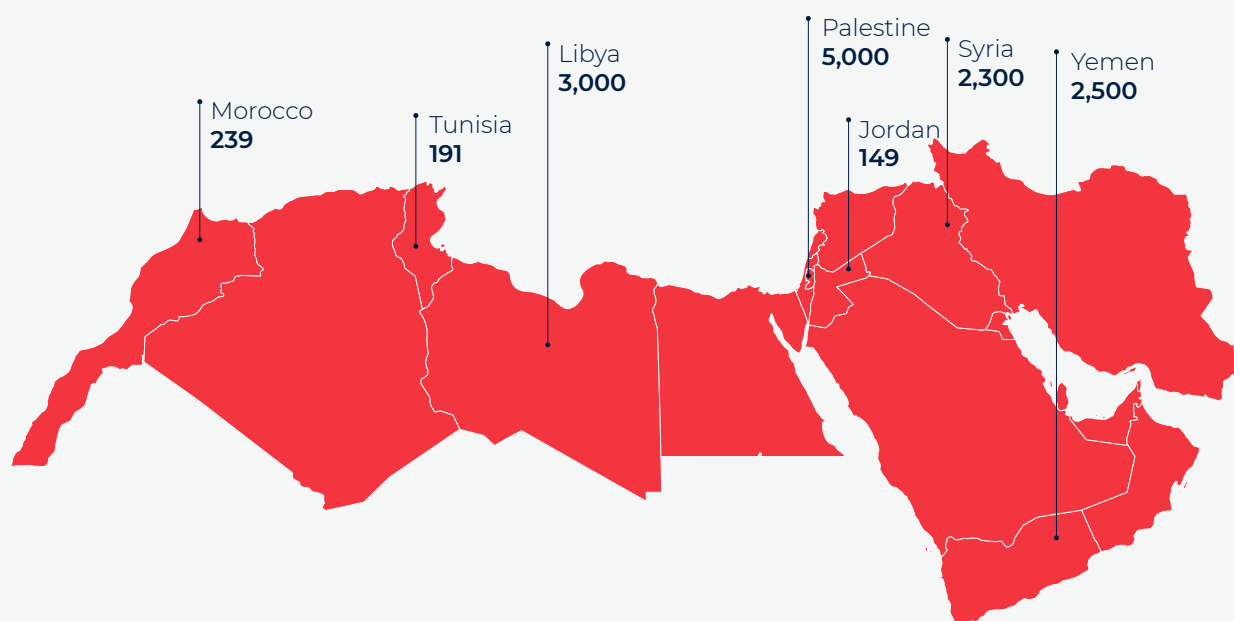
Some of the world's worst humanitarian crises have occurred in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in the past decade. Protracted human-made disasters were exacerbated in 2019 by natural emergencies, primarily floods in Yemen, Syria, Algeria and Iran and other emergencies in Lebanon and Iraq. The crises have resulted in large-scale displacement and migration, leaving millions of people in need of safe water, sanitation, nutrition, and health care.

The IFRC network is a critical part of the response and support effort for local communities. The National Societies are among only a few actors with sufficient access to vulnerable people affected by conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Occupied Palestinian Territory and Libya. National Societies in neighbouring countries were also among the first to provide services to the huge migrant populations living in host communities and camps that stretch host-country services. With the support of the IFRC, they help at-risk migrants from countries in the region transiting through neighbouring countries and to other countries in Europe.

The 2019 Council of Delegates resolution on Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation provided a robust framework for closer collaboration between National Societies working in MENA, IFRC and ICRC.

The prevalence of protracted crises, including conflicts, in the region requires close collaboration within the Movement. Although the ICRC focuses its efforts on Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon, where it has provided financial support to IFRC programmes, it also conducts activities in and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Egypt, Iran, and Kuwait.

Number of volunteers insured



2019 PROGRESS

Strengthening National Societies

In 2019, support to volunteers and the capacity of the National Societies was increased. Seven National Societies insured their volunteers through the IFRC volunteer insurance scheme.

Training was provided at the MENA Regional Movement Induction Course workshop for the leadership of 14 National Societies, and at the national and local levels for National Society staff and volunteers. The IFRC also helped National Societies to revise and improve volunteer-related policies and manuals.

The IFRC also supported National Societies to strengthen their work with young people and helped youth focal points to vote in the first election of the IFRC Youth Commission. It supported ten youth representatives from National Societies to attend the 4th International Youth Meeting in Solferino, and 18 to participate in Movement statutory meetings. It also supported their participation in the IFRC Global Youth Expert meeting, the UN ECOSOC HAS meeting and the 4th Membership Meeting of the Global Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action. These efforts help to equip young people with skills and experience and directs input from youth in high-level dialogue on humanitarian and development issues.

People reached, by thematic area



19,000



1,034,200



957,300



1,679,000



1,088,600



405,700



3,400

Ensure effective international disaster management

In 2019, the IFRC provided coordination support for seven Disaster Relief Emergency Fund operations and two Emergency Appeals in the MENA region. It provided training and guidance to National Societies on the use of the IFRC international response tools, information management, reporting, and data analysis to ensure effective international disaster management. Rapid Response Standard Operating Procedures were developed for the MENA region to ensure relevant and timely deployments and to help facilitate response requests by National Societies.

The IFRC provided National Societies with procurement and audit guidance and support, advice and technical assistance in Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Tunisia, Algeria, and Egypt. It ensured that full audit trails, approval and due diligence systems are in place, and that fraud and corruption training was conducted.

Influence others as leading strategic partners

The IFRC conducted a workshop for participants from 13 MENA National Societies on accountability through the establishment of minimum standards for results-based management. A network of planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting practitioners was created to share knowledge and provide peer to peer support.

The Syria data collection mechanism was enhanced in 2019 and was an essential data tool to showcase the work of the Movement for the Syria crisis during the annual Syria pledging conference in Brussels. IFRC supported the MENA National Societies, jointly with ICRC, to organize and co-host the MENA National Societies Leadership Roundtable to discuss the themes of the Statutory Meetings, to understand the negotiations that were held with States on the International Conference resolutions, and to formulate joint positions.

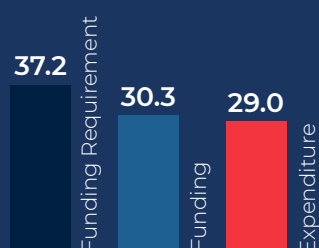
Disaster risk reduction

While disaster risk reduction and climate change are significant concerns in the region, National Societies and the IFRC continued to be directed by the life-saving priorities of ongoing crises. However, the IFRC provided technical support and advice to several National Societies and began a Disaster Risk Reduction Climate Change Adaptation network in the region for the sharing of knowledge, technical resources, and experience. The review of early warning and risk watch mechanisms allowed the IFRC to strengthen monitoring, alerting, and country office coordination on anticipated risks such as hydrometeorological hazards, with the National Societies of Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, and others.

The IFRC developed its relationships with the regional UNDRR office and with the Arab Disaster Risk Reduction platform and shared the concepts of forecast-based financing and green response awareness with all National Societies, encouraging the integration of the latter in training. It launched an awareness campaign on climate action and disseminated the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment tool.

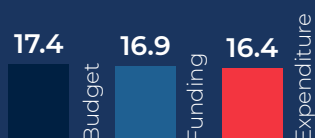
THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

million Swiss francs



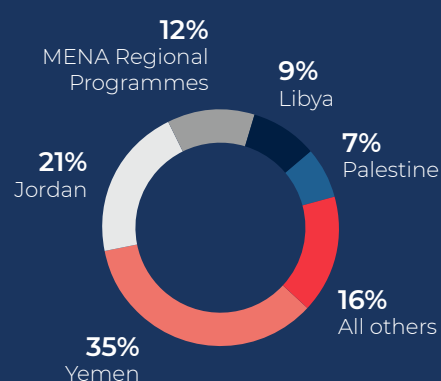
EMERGENCIES

million Swiss francs



FUNDING IN MENA REGION

top 5



Shelter

Most activities planned for 2019 did not take place due to a lack of resources. Technical support and advice were provided to National Societies. The recent urban collaboration workshop was organized in Beirut hosted by the Lebanese Red Cross.

Livelihoods and basic needs

The IFRC supported National Societies with funding applications supporting livelihood and basic needs activities in three countries. It conducted a technical mission to Iran to support the National Society's cash response.

The IFRC also provided training and shared technical guidance and information with National Societies through the Livelihoods Reference Centre and technical support during country-level planning. It developed a two-year cash and voucher assistance roadmap after an intensive planning and consultation process with National Societies and Movement partners.

Health

The poor security situation limited the access and therefore the support that IFRC could provide to Yemen, Syria, and Libya in early 2019, and civil protests in Lebanon and Iraq affected plans in late 2019.

Despite these constraints, the IFRC was still able to provide community-based health and first aid technical and capacity building support later in the year to Iraq, Yemen, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Libya. It conducted more than 15 field visits to provide technical support for mental health and psychosocial support, emergency health, community-based health and first aid missions to Syria, Yemen, Jordan, and Lebanon. It translated community-based health and first aid training modules into Arabic and conducted MENA Regional Public Health in Emergencies training to strengthen the emergency response capacity of ten National Societies.

The IFRC regional Mental Health and Psychosocial Support meeting included 14 participants from 11 National Societies from the MENA region and from the IFRC, the ICRC, and the National Societies of Denmark and Sweden. It resulted in the establishment of a technical committee for a MENA mental health and psychosocial support network.

The IFRC, the Global Advisory Panel on Corporate Governance and Risk Management of Blood Services in Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Asia-Pacific regional offices co-facilitated and supported the workshop on Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation recruitment and retention for National Societies in Asia and the MENA region. The National Societies of Lebanon and Egypt were able to share their experiences and challenges and to learn from National Societies in Asia.

PROTRACTED HUMAN-MADE

DISASTERS IN MENA REGION

WERE EXACERBATED IN 2019

BY NATURAL EMERGENCIES.



The IFRC also strengthened cooperation and collaboration with UNICEF and WHO regional offices in MENA through regional technical working group meetings, bilateral meetings on emergency health and community-based surveillance and the cholera platform integrated with WASH.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

The IFRC worked closely with the Governing Board of the Islamic Development Bank which approved the launch of the Global One WASH Fund for longer-term funding for WASH and public health activities in the MENA Region. The IFRC also established a regional Cholera Platform in collaboration with UNICEF and WHO to better coordinate multi-agency efforts for cholera response and control and joint multi-agency cholera WASH training was planned for early 2020. The IFRC collaborated with UNICEF to increase joint training opportunities and National Societies allocated co-financing to One WASH Projects in Yemen, Iraq, and Syria.

During 2019, the IFRC contributed to the development of WASH tools and guidelines for Menstrual Hygiene Management and Hygiene Promotion for both emergency and developmental contexts. All those global tools were translated into Arabic and were reviewed in consideration of the MENA context. It also ensured WASH related priorities were considered in the DREFs and Emergency Appeals for the flooding in Tunisia, Lebanon and Syria and protracted crises in Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon.



Protection, gender, and inclusion

The IFRC developed and translated WASH tools and regional training on menstrual hygiene management into Arabic. This led to the establishment of projects in Lebanon and Iraq including collaborative research in Lebanon with the University of Huston, Texas, which carried out field trials of locally produced menstrual hygiene management materials for refugees and displaced women and young girls. The project also raised awareness of the need for better understanding of menstrual hygiene management issues including the need for female-friendly sanitation facilities.

Migration

The IFRC MENA migration plan of action for 2020 was developed, and the IFRC Migration Strategy was disseminated and implemented with technical support to National Societies. Regional training needs were assessed at country and regional level between IFRC and National Society representatives, and collaboration began with the ICRC to provide training and improve understanding of internal displacement issues and smart practices. National Societies were also supported by the IFRC to collect data, manage information and with their reporting.

The IFRC shared policies, tools and guidelines on migration during the first IFRC Workshop on migration for senior staff and management of the Libyan Red Crescent Society and with representatives of all the National Societies from North Africa that took part in the simulation exercise on Migration.

CONCLUSION

Despite increasing needs, the IFRC continues to make significant progress in saving and improving lives of the world's most vulnerable people. Reducing risk and increasing resilience remain the best ways to avoid the worst effects of disasters and to protect development gains. The IFRC remains committed to ensuring that at-risk communities not only participate in programmes that affect them, but that they are vital partners and owners of solutions.

Climate change and epidemics are increasingly becoming drivers of suffering and the IFRC is adapting its approaches and programming to address them. We will continue to lead, with the support of our partners, to ensure that no one is left behind and people around the world can live safe and dignified lives.

The work of our member National Societies is needed more than ever as we face unprecedented challenges. The IFRC will continue to support them to develop as effective local organizations and provide support to communities wherever and whenever they are needed.



THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 14 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.

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