

2021



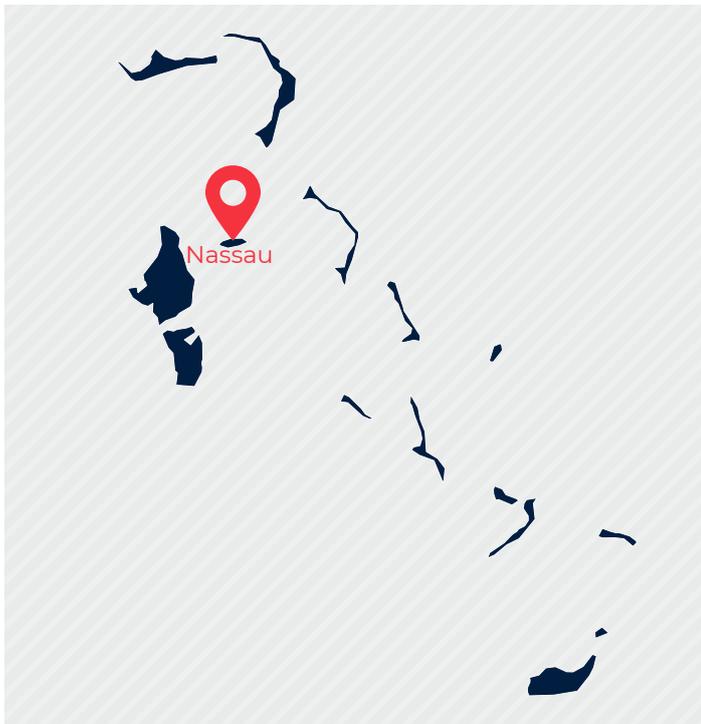
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THE BAHAMAS

IFRC COUNTRY PLAN

Appeal number
MAA49003

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
775,000



Branches

2



Staff

35



Volunteers

1,000



People to be reached

30,500

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.



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SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

377,000

2019 Human Development Index Ranking

60

Vulnerability to disasters



Tropical Storms



Tsunamis



Earthquakes



COVID-19

The Bahamas takes up 97 per cent of the Lucayan Archipelago’s land area and is home to 88 per cent of the archipelago’s population. The country consists of more than 700 islands, cays, and islets, encompassing 470,000 square kilometres.

During the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, the Government of The Bahamas issued numerous Emergency Orders to curb the spread of the virus and there were spikes in positive cases throughout the year. A large proportion of people in The Bahamas are at considerably risk, with 71.6 per cent of the population considered overweight or obese, and large numbers are afflicted with diabetes and high blood pressure. These risk factors are likely to have contributed to the higher COVID-19 mortality rate in comparison to other countries.

The Bahamas is a high-income service economy, heavily dependent on Tourism and Financial Services. However, the COVID-19 pandemic also heavily impacted the socio-economic situation. Approximately 13 per cent of people in work filed for unemployment and the proportion of households earning below minimum wage more than doubled by May 2020. The pandemic has had a significant impact on people’s ability to meet their needs for healthcare, food, hygiene, and has severely affected their economic and livelihood situations.



ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



Established

1939

The Bahamas Red Cross Society was founded in 1939 as a branch of the British Red Cross Society. The National Society was officially recognised by the Bahamas Government in the BRCS Act of 1975, as a voluntary aid society, as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field in accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and as the only National Society with permission to carry out its activities in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

The National Society has two local centres in Grand Bahama and Abaco and has groups in Eleuthera, Andros, San Salvador, Cat Island, Crooked Island Inagua, Mayaguana, Acklins, Long Island, Bimini, Exuma and Ragged Island. In total, it has approximately 1,000 volunteers and 35 staff members.

The main programmes carried on by the National Society are Meals on Wheels, School Milk Programme, Red Cross Youth, After School Mentoring Programme, Assistance to Refugees, First Aid/ CPR Training, First Aid Service, Disaster & Emergency Relief Assistance, and Family Island Service. In September 2020, the National Society board approved a strategic plan with the vision to collectively build a more resilient nation - one person, one community at a time. This strategy reinforces the change towards a humanitarian organisation present across all the Bahamian territory.

Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas in September 2019 and dramatically changed the National Society's priorities. The Dorian Operation strengthened the capacity of the National Society in Abaco and Grand Bahama, as well as in the headquarters in Nassau. It also presented an opportunity for the National Society to secure funding for the National Society Development programme and, as a result, it transitioned from fulfilling a welfare role to becoming a humanitarian organisation. Through implementing the COVID-19 operation in 2020, the National Society further strengthened its impact in communities and their capacities.

The National Society and its volunteers have been collaborating with the National Food Distribution Task Force since it was established in May, 2020 to distribute weekly food parcels in Nassau and the family islands.



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MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Movement coordination

Name of Partner	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
National Society								
American Red Cross		✓						✓
Canadian Red Cross		✓						✓
ICRC		✓		✓				

Movement footprint

Movement cooperation takes place regularly in The Bahamas, involving partners that have been present since Hurricane Dorian. Every two weeks there is a general coordination meeting to discuss operations, programmes, and activities. There is also a biweekly National Society Development coordination meeting to monitor the Plan of Action supported by the IFRC, American Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross. Movement partners work closely together alongside their counterparts in the National Society.

The National Society is a member of the National Food Distribution Task Force, part of the government's COVID-19 response. The National Society has a direct partnership with the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance in case of emergencies.

Local fuel distribution company RUBIS provides support to the National Society for food distribution activities. The Melia hotel provides the venue for many National Society events and other actors contribute financially, in kind or through volunteer programs on an ad hoc basis. The World Central Kitchen collaborated to feed people in shelters displaced by Hurricane Dorian and on the National Society's Meals on Wheels Programme. However, this organization returned to the United States in March 2020 when the COVID-19 situation in the Bahamas began to worsen. Now they provide pro bono support for the design and the selection of equipment in the renovation of the National Society's kitchen.

In November 2020, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Bahamas and the Bahamas Red Cross formalized their partnership to enhance community resilience in vulnerable communities. They have been developing a joint work plan and will engage in joint resource mobilization from 2021. This process slowed down due to the impact of COVID-19 but is an important endeavour, particularly in view of the National Society's Strategy 2030 to build a more resilient nation. The National Society has initiated a partnership with the Cat Island Conservation Institute, a community-based and community-serving participatory science institute, with a view to collaborate on the new climate change programme.



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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
120,000

People to be reached
5,000



The increased frequency and ferocity of Hurricanes affecting The Bahamas are a direct consequence of climate change. In addition to hurricanes and tropical storms, the country is vulnerable to other types of disasters such as tsunamis and earthquakes.

Climate change has also led to an increased frequency of disease outbreaks. The National Society is taking climate change very seriously and its commitment shows in the recently adopted Strategy 2030. In addition, the National Society is formulating a climate change programme and building partnerships with new actors such as The Nature Conservancy.

Ninety per cent of The Bahamas gross domestic product (GDP) is dependent on the services industry, which is largely dominated by tourism. That tourism, which is reliant on the natural environment, marine resources, and coastal infrastructure, makes the country highly vulnerable to climate change and associated natural hazards.

Priorities include the creation of a community lab, which includes the development of community scientists, a clean-up and recycling campaign, a community gardening project, using art and culture to connect communities to climate change, and peer to peer support with exchange of best practices.



1 metre
sea level rise
projected by 2100

80%
The Bahamas
landmass less than
1 m above sea level

TARGET 1

Communities have increased capacity to address the evolving impacts of climate change

ACTIVITIES

- Integrate short- and long-term impacts of climate and environmental crises in programmes and operations
- Create new programmes that contribute to reducing the impacts of the climate and environmental crises
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices
- Promote more sustainable environmental practices
- Reduce and adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises



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EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
185,000

People to be reached
20,000



Based on the experience and learnings from Hurricane Dorian and the COVID-19 operations, the National Society is transforming from a traditional welfare agency to the humanitarian actor it aspires to be. Between 2019 and 2020, the response capacity of the National Society was strengthened considerably.

The National Society received full cooperation from the member groups in all islands for its 2020 hurricane preparedness efforts. As a result, all member groups developed their own local emergency response plans. This is a huge achievement in terms of preparing the National Society to respond as one team.

A future priority is to strengthen capacity further by developing policies, procedures and training as part of the National Society Development and Preparedness for Effective Response plans.

🎯 TARGET 1

Communities have increased resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards

🎯 TARGET 2

Communities are prepared for mitigation, response and recovery to crises and disasters

🎯 TARGET 3

People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through access to assistance and support

➡ ACTIVITIES

- Support at-risk communities to reduce their vulnerability and exposure to hazards
- Respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters
- Expand leadership capabilities in the field of Disaster Law



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GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
250,000

People to be reached
2,000



The National Society offers courses in emergency, basic and advanced First Aid Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. However, it does not have a national health, water, sanitation, and hygiene strategy or programme. The focus in recent years has been the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded project to tackle the Zika virus and conduct Psychosocial Support activities.

Access to running water has been a major challenge for many, including members of the migrant community. During the Dorian Operation there was an increase in water, sanitation, and hygiene activities. Thereafter, the response to COVID-19 gave the National Society a new experience in responding to a pandemic. The National Society is therefore strengthening this area in alignment with the focus on resilience in the Strategy 2030. Areas for growth include the first aid programme, the water safety programme, and the ambulance services. The Psychosocial Support programme also needs strengthening and will be expanded to the family islands.

🎯 TARGET 1

A defined and active health, water, sanitation, and hygiene strategy

🎯 TARGET 2

The health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved through access to health services

🎯 TARGET 3

Improved ability to respond to mental health and psychosocial needs effectively during emergencies

🎯 TARGET 4

Communities have increased access to water, sanitation and hygiene services

➡ ACTIVITIES

- Ensure the National Society's position on relevant country level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms
- Achieve national targets for vector-borne disease interventions, including coverage with insecticide-treated nets for effective prevention.



MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
50,000

People to be reached
1,500



Migrants in The Bahamas have mainly arrived for work from Haiti, while others have come from Cuba and Jamaica. There are many undocumented people from Haiti in the Bahamas, and there are no up to date official figures on the number of migrants in the country. During Hurricane Dorian, many migrant communities relocated. However, since the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been no reports of any new deportations.

The National Society assisted 1,163 migrants in detention centres in 2019. It also assisted 60 victims of trafficking and 164 refugees and asylum seekers in the same year. Efforts are always made to make information available in Creole. In the new strategic plan, assistance to migrants and refugees forms a significant part of the core programmes and services.

60
trafficking victims assisted by
the National Society in 2019

1,163
migrants in detention centres
assisted by the National
Society in 2019

164
refugees and asylum seekers
assisted by the National
Society in 2019

● TARGET 1

Migrants and displaced persons have access to assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes

● TARGET 2

The assistance and protection needs of vulnerable migrants are addressed

● TARGET 3

National Societies are able to more effectively respond to the priority needs of migrants, displaced persons and host communities

➔ ACTIVITIES

Negotiate agreements, policy or legal provisions to strengthen the National Society's auxiliary role in support of vulnerable migrants and displaced persons



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VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
50,000

People to be reached
2,000



The National Society aims to relaunch the Youth Links programme as part of the youth strategy to be approved on 8 Feb 2021. The programme has mainly operated in New Providence, the island where the capital Nassau is located. Efforts will be made to reach schools in all family islands. The programme could not run for much of 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the closure of schools for the majority of the school year.

There is a need for meaningful after school activities and homework support for children and young people who live in vulnerable communities. The National Society plans to fulfil this need and reach vulnerable children and young people in new safe ways, particularly as this group has become even more vulnerable due to COVID-19.

● TARGET 1

Reach ten new schools with the Youth Links programme in 2021

● TARGET 2

Positive change in communities through a wider understanding, ownership and concrete application of humanitarian values

● TARGET 3

Inspire others on gender and diversity

➔ ACTIVITIES

- Scale up technical and financial support for youth-led education and action
- Adopt a comprehensive Protection, Gender and Inclusion approach across operations and programmes
- Promote and support the agreed Minimum Standards for Protection, Gender and Inclusion in emergencies



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ENABLER 1

ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

20,000

The IFRC plans to use innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate and adapt to complex challenges and opportunities. Competency, vision and innovation skills, and adaptive and transformational leadership will be among the criteria for the selection of new leaders. Learning, coaching, and experiential opportunities will be prioritised as part of a leadership program.

Innovation and transformation within the National Society will be supported by the IFRC through organisational strategies, plans, and policy development activities. As part of this, leadership will be accountable for driving systems and cultural change.

As part of a digital transformation, the IFRC will assist with the connection and collaboration between National Societies on changing systems across the network and encourage peer network development and knowledge sharing opportunities, particularly in the areas of youth and volunteering. It will also provide standards, tools and guidelines, and the coordination of resources and capacities. The IFRC will also support the National Society with major processes being conducted virtually, as part of the digital transformation that began in 2020. This includes hurricane preparedness webinars and strategic planning processes.

🎯 TARGET 1

Relationship management system established to improve the management, engagement and use of volunteers

🎯 TARGET 2

Digital Volunteer management training used in all islands

➡️ ACTIVITIES

- A leadership programme with learning, coaching and experiential opportunities
- Convert face to face courses to online courses (adapted to the Caribbean context)
- Promote coordination of resources and capacities within the IFRC network
- Increase promotion of the IFRC learning platform
- Develop leadership competency framework



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ENABLER 2

ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

60,000

The National Society is transitioning from a self-funded welfare organisation to a humanitarian agency funded by external donors. It is improving its financial processes and procedures to be more transparent and so it can efficiently provide quality reports on the activities of the organisation. The IFRC is working with the National Society to ensure that all financial audits from 2017 to 2019 are completed.

🎯 TARGET 1

Complete the financial audits of 2017, 2018 and 2019

🎯 TARGET 2

All documents are in place for an audit to be carried out for 2020

🎯 TARGET 3

Provide quarterly finance reports to the board for review

➡️ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Society to complete the financial audits from 2017, 2018 and 2019
- The IFRC will support the National Society to improve financial process and procedures and project monitoring and reporting for the entire organisation
- The IFRC will support the National Society to prepare the budget for 2022



ENABLER 3

TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP
WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

120,000

The National Society will continue its development process based on the Bahamas Red Cross Society Strategy 2030 and will require further assistance from the IFRC to make this transformation more sustainable. This is based on a systems and collaboration approach with supporting strategies in areas such as volunteering, youth, resource mobilisation, and branch development. It is also in addition to the National Society Development component of the Hurricane Dorian Operation.

The IFRC will support the National Society to assess development needs, revise the legal base, and better address sustainability of services through strategic development plans. It will also provide technical support and assistance with co-designing activities that strengthen local action via communities of practice.

The National Society will improve its financial sustainability through investment in accountability and systems development, resources mobilisation, and its vision and mandate. One output of this will be business continuity plans to better address service sustainability in complex emergencies, and activities for brand and volunteer development. Another output will be training in risk management, anti-corruption and safeguarding, as well as the development of guidelines, tools and mechanisms to prevent, manage and address integrity and reputational risks.

The IFRC will provide support to the National Society for the implementation of Youth and Volunteering strategies, ensuring that the needs of young people from all backgrounds are well understood and reflected in operational plans and programme delivery. The IFRC will also support the National Society in its effort to attract volunteers that reflect the diversity of the communities it serves, with particular attention paid to gender, local languages and cultures and marginalised groups.

TARGET 1

Become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action

TARGET 2

Improve financial sustainability through resource mobilisation finance control procedures.

TARGET 3

Youth and volunteers contribute to decision-making, innovation and the strengthening of the domestic network

TARGET 3

Needs of young people from all backgrounds are well understood by leaders

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Society to create a volunteer self-assessment learning tool
- The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen psychosocial wellbeing for volunteers
- The IFRC will support the National Society to provide leadership training for key national managerial staff



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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