

2021



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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC IFRC COUNTRY PLAN

Appeal number
MAACF001

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
8.43 Million



Branches

77



Staff

104



Volunteers

12,000



People to be reached

4.7 million

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

4,745,185

2019 Human Development Index Ranking

188

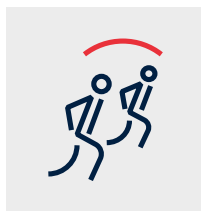
Vulnerability to disasters



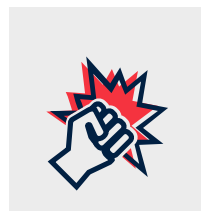
Floods



Disease outbreak



Population movement



Violence



Conflict

Approximately 2.9 million Central Africans, more than half of whom are children (half of the population has less than 16 years old), are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection and 1.6 million people have acute and immediate humanitarian needs, according to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs assessment. This is an increase of 16% on the previous year. The crisis in the Central African Republic is ranked third, after Yemen and Syria, based on the ratio of the total population to those in need of humanitarian assistance. From September 2018 to January 2019, more than 640,969 internally displaced persons were reported across the country and the number of Central African refugees increased from 573,242 to 590,610.

Two-thirds of internally displaced people are with host families. The accession and ratification of international texts and the adoption of the constitution oblige the Central African State to protect vulnerable populations from disasters. The Central African Republic Red Cross Society plans to validate its national strategy on disaster risk reduction, for effective coordination and management of disasters.

The Central African Republic has faced several disasters in recent times, including population movement, flooding, and COVID-19, internal conflict related to the Elections, and the country is vulnerable to other potential future disasters such as Ebola, and others.

Agriculture is the main source of economic activity in the country, with 70 per cent of the population relying on the production of food crops to meet their needs. Destruction of property, looting, widespread insecurity and population displacement have contributed to the lowering of agricultural production by 58 per cent in 2014. The exile of traders, merchants and wholesalers has reduced the supply of goods used in income-generating activities, leading to a general spike in prices.



ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



Established

1966

The National Society started during the colonial period as the French Colony of the Overseas Red Cross. In 1960, the Central African Republic gained independence and the National Society changed its name on October 25, 1966 by presidential decree to become the Central African Red Cross. It was recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on October 24, 1973 and admitted to the IFRC on October 29, 1975.

The National Society acts as auxiliary to the public authorities in carrying out humanitarian actions. Its main objective is to prevent and alleviate the suffering of men and women in the Central African Republic, to protect life and health and to uphold human dignity.

In times of armed conflict, the National Society provides assistance to public services and during times of peace, it prepares in the areas provided for by the Geneva Conventions and in favour of all victims, both civilian and military. The National Society contributes to improving health, preventing disease, and alleviating suffering through programs and projects adapted to the national and local context in the service of the community.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Membership coordination

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Dutch Red Cross	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
French Red Cross			✓		✓			

Movement footprint

All components of the Movement are represented in the Central African Republic, including the ICRC, the IFRC, and partner National Societies, including the French Red Cross, the Dutch Red Cross. The National Society organises two monthly coordination meetings. One is operational committee and brings together technicians to examine operational issues, and the other is the strategic Committee to support the National Societies decision-making.

Under the leadership and coordination of the National Society President and the Secretary General in March 2020, the Red Cross Movement signed the Movement Coordination Agreement and an additional protocol on COVID-19 activities. Under its coordinating bodies, the members of the Movement work jointly to strengthen and maximise the capacity building of the National Society's emergency response and disaster preparedness.

The ICRC carries out disaster assistance, risk reduction, health care and education, and epidemic control and prevention activities. The Dutch Red Cross supports the National Society's Disaster Risk Reduction, branch capacity assessment, COVID-19 response and overall capacity building. The French Red Cross works primarily on health in Bangui and in the prefecture of Nana-Mambere. The entire RC Movement supports the National Society to organise General and local assemblies.

Within the Central African Republic Government, the National Society has partnerships with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation, the Ministry of Health and Population, the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, the General Directorate of Civil Protection of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Local Development, and the National Commission for Refugees. Auxiliary to the Public Authorities, the National Society is, in principle, the emergency assistance arm of the Central African Government in the event of a natural disaster.

The National Society also has ongoing relationships with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the International Organization for Migration. The African Development Bank has consistently financed response activities to multiple floods in Bangui and in the country, and the African Union has provided financial support for internally displaced people.



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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

130,000

People to be reached

1,882

Extreme events and climate uncertainty present new challenges for the Government of the Central African Republic and its people. It currently does not have the human, technical, institutional or financial capacity to overcome these challenges. The National Society will strengthen the country's capacity to meet these challenges, redouble development efforts, preserve progress already made, and mitigate the climate impacts that affect food, water and energy security as well as livelihood and health. The National Society will work closely with authorities and communities in the country to invent and apply methods to mitigate change, adapt to changes, remedy loss and damage, monitor reliable climatic parameters, adopt new methods and technologies, and raise awareness.

The Central African Republic is in a post-conflict situation and in political transition, which is causing a considerable level of socioeconomic vulnerability. Heavy rains and floods mainly affect the southern part of the country, while drought is more prevalent in the north and northeast. The rural populations who are the poorest are the most exposed.

The National Society has put in place a mitigation program with eight options for adapting to the adverse effects of climate change. These options include adjusting the legal framework, improving knowledge of resilience to climate change, sustainable management of agro-sylvo-pastoral systems, land use planning, improving and developing basic infrastructure, guaranteeing energy security, improving public health systems and managing sustainable water resources.

**75%**

**Central African population
affected by climate change**

➔ ACTIVITIES

- The National Society will take urgent action to adapt to risks from the climate and environmental crises
- The IFRC will support the National Society to become recognised and approached as key partners in efforts in scaling up climate action and working with at-risk communities
- The National Society will establish a strategic framework for the management of climate change
- The IFRC will support National Society cooperation with local governments including urban, peri-urban and rural authorities
- The IFRC will provide technical, material, and financial support to manage climate data



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EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

500,000

People to be reached

6,850



The humanitarian situation Central African Republic is extremely concerning. It has been affected by civil unrest for several years but since May 2017, violent clashes between armed groups have increased. More than 623,400 Central African refugees are located outside the national territory and there are more than 684,000 internally displaced people. Approximately 48 per cent of people suffer from hunger, and two thirds of the population does not have access to primary health care. An estimated 2.2 million people, nearly half of the country's population, depend on international aid to survive.

The escalation of violence in the region is increasing humanitarian needs and reducing the capacity of vulnerable people to access emergency response or basic social services. For the third year in a row, the Central African Republic is ranked among the most dangerous countries in the world for humanitarian workers. Repeated attacks against humanitarian organisations hinders the delivery aid by the National Society the to the most vulnerable people.

The rainy season in the Central African Republic is intense. The rains have caused the destruction of shelters, the obstruction of transport routes, and an increase in diseases such as cholera and malaria. Floods are among the most frequent natural disasters and the costliest in terms of human and economic losses. Flooding is expected to increase in frequency, magnitude, and seasonality due to climate change. Mitigating the effects of natural disasters on vulnerable populations is becoming increasingly relevant in humanitarian responses due to the looming climate crisis, particularly in countries like the Central African Republic where livelihoods depend heavily on subsistence agriculture.

🎯 TARGET 1

Communities have increased resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards

🎯 TARGET 2

The National Society is prepared to respond to crises and disasters with increased capacity



48%

people who suffer from hunger



2/3

population without access to primary health care

➡ ACTIVITIES

- The National Society will organise working sessions with the national meteorology service to strengthen collaboration
- The National Society will carry out vulnerability and capacity studies to identify the major risks
- The National Society will provide assistance to 2,500 disaster victims
- The National Society will support the government in setting up a national platform for risk reduction

GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
7,000,000

People to be reached
87,500



In the Central African Republic, there are a considerable number of health issues that need to be addressed. The maternal mortality rate is the second highest globally, with 880 deaths per 100,000 live births between 2016 and 2018. The proportion of births attended by qualified health personnel (including at home and in a supervised environment) was just 54 per cent in 2018. The mortality rate of children under five is incredibly high, ranking third globally in 2018.

There were 9,200 new HIV infections in 2018. In the same year, the number of newly HIV infected children under the age of 15 rose to 1,100 for boys and 1,500 for girls. The number of people given antiretroviral treatment also rose from 28,303 in 2015 to 42,000 in 2018, when there were 5,200 HIV-related deaths. The prevalence of tuberculosis is increasing due to inadequate hygiene, unsanitary conditions, and promiscuity among displaced populations. The number of confirmed malaria cases was 198 per 1000 inhabitants between 2017 and 2018. Malaria has become the leading cause of morbidity in the country according to the Ministry of Health.

Persistent insecurity has made access to public services and operational health care extremely difficult and as a result, areas where people are most in need of medical assistance are difficult to reach for humanitarian actors. In 2016, the Central African Republic experienced a number of epidemics, including monkey pox, meningitis, measles, and cholera. Currently the country faces a measles epidemic and neonatal tetanus are affecting almost all the prefectures. The Ebola epidemic in Equateur province poses a significant risk of transmission to the rest of the Central African Republic. COVID-19 cases are increasing and efforts to control this disease continue.

🎯 TARGET 1

Communities have access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services

🎯 TARGET 2

Communities have the ability and capacity to identify and reduce health risks



880

maternal deaths per
100,000 live births



9,200

new HIV infections
in 2018

➡ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Society to develop a defined and active health, water, sanitation, and hygiene strategy
- The National Society will conduct mass vaccination campaigns in coordination with other partners
- The IFRC will support the National Society to deliver health promotion, disease prevention and community-based care activities
- The National Society will conduct a household vulnerability and capacity study in targeted health zones regarding water and hygiene standards



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VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

80,000

People to be reached

2,300

The COVID-19 pandemic and floods have increased the vulnerability of women, girls, children, the elderly, migrants, and the disabled in the Central African Republic. These crises have put additional pressures on protective services, medical care, and livelihoods. In particular, violence against children, women and girls becomes even more prevalent in a situation where access to social protection services can be interrupted.

The National Society will integrate an Enterprise Resource Planning system to guarantee the dignity, access, participation, and security of communities, while meeting the IFRC's minimum Protection, Gender, and Inclusion standards in emergencies. The IFRC will provide guidance to the National Society to ensure that the dignity of the communities is maintained throughout the response, that all affected communities are able to access the services they need, and that the participation and safety of the affected communities are ensured.

The National Society recognises that women, girls, men, boys, people with disabilities, and people with chronic conditions have very different needs, risks and coping strategies. Therefore, the National Society's operational plan will pay particular attention to the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will scale up technical and financial support for volunteer led hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns
- The IFRC and National Societies will promote and support safe, equitable and continuous access to quality education for all
- The National Society will map the actors working in protection, gender, and inclusion project areas to allow synergy in actions with the support of the Netherlands Red Cross and British Red Cross societies.
- The IFRC's emergency operations will address education-related humanitarian needs
- The IFRC and the National Society will adopt a comprehensive Protection, Gender and Inclusion approach across all operations and programmes
- The IFRC and the National Society will conduct a gender and diversity analysis in all sector responses including livelihoods, water, sanitation, and hygiene, shelter, and health, to understand how different groups are being affected.



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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

440,000

The IFRC will work closely with the National Society to strengthen engagement with partners on the key challenges facing communities in the Central African Republic. The IFRC will assist and accompany the National Society to substantially widen its involvement and leadership of civil society and other coalitions at the national and local levels.

This involves recruiting and financially supporting additional staff, revitalising technical departments, providing management training, and delivering adequate technical, logistical and financial support for the proper functioning of the National Society. Competency, vision and skills in innovation, and adaptive and transformational leadership are among the key criteria for the selection of new leaders. Therefore, the IFRC will train National Society headquarters executives and organize experience exchange missions with other organisations that have experience in these areas.

The IFRC will provide the National Society's headquarters with modern communication and data processing equipment and equip three pilot areas with IT equipment and a quality connection. The IFRC will also support the National Society to create the foundational IT digital systems to efficiently run and ensure accountability in their daily operations and that they are 'data ready' for engagement with their staff and volunteers, operational decision-making and business intelligence.

The IFRC will support the National Society to organise a planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting workshop, a self-assessment workshop, and a workshop to develop the Strategic plan 2021/2025.

🎯 TARGET 1

The National Society is able to better anticipate, adapt to, and change for complex challenges and opportunities

➡️ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Society to increase its financial autonomy through funding and the proper management of income-generating activities
- The IFRC will incentivise technical teams and volunteers to experiment with new approaches to their work
- The IFRC will undergo a digital transformation



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ENABLER 3

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

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

200,000

The IFRC will support the National Society to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action, with the capabilities to act in the global network. The National Society will adopt guidelines, tools and mechanisms to prevent, manage and address integrity and reputational risks.

The IFRC will work with the National Society to assess its development needs, revise its legal base, and better address the sustainability of its services through strategic planning. It will organise assessments of key assessment tools at the National Society's headquarters, and Branch Organizational Capacity Assessments in pilot branches, support the process of revising legal documents, and assist with the strategic development plan. IFRC is assisting the Central African Red Cross in the planning of the Sub-Prefectural Assemblies and the elective General Assembly for the establishment of a new governance before the end of 2021.

With support from the IFRC, the National Society will train newly recruited team members in management, including planning, monitoring, and reporting. For the newly established team it will establish a coaching and mentoring system, allocate a regional mentor and coaching resources, and organise experience exchange missions in other National Societies.

The IFRC will support the National Society to improve its financial sustainability through investment in accountability and systems development, resources mobilization, and vision and mandate. It will also support the National Society to strengthen engagement with, and accountability to communities by integrating mechanisms for communication, participation and feedback within programmes and operations.

🎯 TARGET 1

The National Society improves its financial sustainability

🎯 TARGET 2

People and communities are empowered to influence decisions affecting them

➡ ACTIVITIES

- The National Society will foster a more diverse leadership embodied in increased volunteer and youth involvement, gender parity and equitable geographic representation
- The IFRC will deliver on its priorities for Movement Coordination and Cooperation
- The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen engagement with and accountability to communities



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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