

2021



Maldives © American Red Cross

NEW DELHI IFRC COUNTRY CLUSTER

Appeal number
MAAIN001

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
1.13 million



Countries

4



National
Society
Staff

2,506



National
Society
Volunteers

55,237

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

1.4 billion

Vulnerability to disasters

					
Floods	Earthquakes	Drought	Tropical storms	Migration	Water & food insecurity

A high percentage of the populations in Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka are young people and, except for Sri Lanka, all of them have experienced high urbanisation rates. Though ranked as low to high middle-income countries, each country is challenged by deep socio-economic inequities, severe social exclusion, extreme poverty and high vulnerability to multiple disasters and increasing climate change impacts. The ranking of Sri Lanka and Maldives on the Human Development Index (HDI) has remained high, while that of India and Bhutan has remained low. However, Sri Lanka continues to be one of the major sources of migrants to the Gulf and Middle East region and it still faces the challenge of social cohesion and reconciliation in a highly religious and ethnically diverse society. Additionally, an increase in extreme events and slow onset disasters like heat waves, sea-level rise and fewer rainy days threaten to wipe out the development gains of vulnerable communities in the region.

Maldives faces the challenge of ensuring basic amenities and dignity to a large number of internally displaced people and foreign migrants. Sea-level rise and other effects of climate change are also a major concern for a young people in other countries. Bhutan, a small, mountainous country, has rapidly and successfully modernised from being a pastoral, subsistence economy - but despite a low overall unemployment rate, the country experiences comparatively high youth unemployment, declining female labour participation and a slight increase in its levels of income inequality. India, an emerging influential voice on global policy platforms, is also host to one of the largest numbers of the world's poorest people.

The IFRC supports the National Societies in the region to ensure that socio-economic vulnerabilities are not deepened due to an increase in disasters. It supports the National Societies to strengthen their work on disaster, climate and environmental risk reduction. The IFRC will also focus on both rural and urban areas, with a large proportion of people continuing to depend on climate-sensitive agriculture and allied activities. The countries also require humanitarian support for the consequences of continued social unrest and exclusion.



ROLE OF THE CLUSTER OFFICE

The **Indian National Society** is the oldest of the four countries, celebrating its centenary year in 2020. It has established itself as the lead agency in India for blood services with a total of 90 blood banks, 1,127 local branches and a network of 44,000 volunteers. The National Society has reached around 2 million people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

In contrast, the **Bhutan National Society** is the youngest, registered in May 2017. In collaboration with the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and supported by the Swiss Red Cross, the National Society conducted an assessment of the need for an independent National Society as early as 2008-09 and already has 30 branches working on its priority areas of disaster risk reduction, health and social inclusion.

The **Maldivian National Society** was set up in 2009, with a relatively young staff and volunteer network. Its primary focus has been on disaster management, health, social care and youth empowerment. The National Society's 2030 strategy has also prioritised climate risk reduction and resilient development planning, in close coordination with local planning authorities.

The **Sri Lanka National Society** has been in operation since 1936. One of its first responses as a humanitarian organisation was to a malaria epidemic. With branches in all 25 districts of Sri Lanka, the National Society has over 118 staff members and 6000 active volunteers.

All four National Societies have been supported by the IFRC to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through various activities, including the sourcing of PPEs, masks, sanitisers and blood and plasma reserves, conducting awareness campaigns, distributing food and essential items to vulnerable populations, providing shelter facilities, supporting migrant populations, giving psycho-social support and building capacities of volunteers and local communities.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
American Red Cross		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
British Red Cross		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Canadian Red Cross		✓						
Finnish Red Cross		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
French Red Cross		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hong Kong Red Cross		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Italian Red Cross	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Japanese Red Cross		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Korean Red Cross			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Qatar Red Cross		✓	✓					
Swiss Red Cross			✓			✓	✓	✓

Movement footprint

Movement cooperation on first aid, community resilience, health and wellbeing, water and sanitation, communication, disaster response, and National Society development will continue. Where possible, peer-to-peer support is prioritised and fully utilised as the most effective and efficient working modality within the region. The IFRC also hosts National Societies when they collaborate on any of the thematic areas.

The IFRC will continue to coordinate relevant thematic focuses with international partners like the EU, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) where appropriate. The IFRC will also provide technical support to National Societies to develop partnerships with key national and international facilitators. It has provided technical support to the Indian National Society on its partnership with Google for Early Warning Early Action.



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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
100,000

People to be reached
39,000,000



The region faces common climate change-induced hazards, including temperature rise, rainfall variability and sea-level rise. These often lead to more frequent, intense and unpredictable extreme weather events, including heatwaves and cold waves, intense showers, erratic temperature and rainfall patterns, flash floods, landslides, excessive soil erosion, prolonged droughts, forest fires, seasonal shifts, urban floods and heat island effects.

As a result of crises caused by climate change, all four countries in the region have experienced an increase in loss of lives among the most at-risk communities, particularly those who rely on predictable weather patterns to maintain their livelihoods. Farming, livestock rearing, fishing, street vending and jobs in construction, tourism and hydropower are all climate-sensitive roles that are often negatively affected by extreme weather conditions. New and longer-lasting health impacts, water and food scarcity and sanitation and hygiene challenges, alongside migration and social unrest, contribute to the increasing vulnerability of communities in the region.

Communities and governments are realising the importance of preserving and restoring natural, or 'blue' and 'green' infrastructure by adopting nature-based solutions. These include using mangroves to mitigate sea-storms, ensuring slums are not created on wetlands like river banks in urban areas, promoting drip irrigation to preserve water, incorporating climate and environmental risk reduction measures in local development plans, using weather and climate services for forecast-based decision-making and investing in Early Warning Early Action.



4.4

expected temperature rise in
degrees Celsius by 2100

➔ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will train staff on climate and environmental crises in all four National Societies
- The IFRC will facilitate the assessment of the IFRC carbon footprint
- The IFRC will support and facilitate the adoption of low-carbon systems within National Society offices, including linking up with relevant national government schemes, such as those that promote water harvesting and solar power
- The IFRC will facilitate National Societies to work with youth volunteers on low-carbon pathways



India © Indian Red Cross Society

EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
90,000

People to be reached
30,000,000



The four countries all experience a number of natural disasters and extreme weather patterns, including recurring floods, droughts, tropical cyclones and landslides. More recently, excessive thunderstorms and lightning, hailstorms and flash floods, waterlogging and cloudbursts, recurring heat waves, excessive storm surges, swell waves and sea-level rise have all become increasingly prevalent. The region is also susceptible to severe earthquakes and tsunamis.

India, Sri Lanka and Maldives experience two monsoon seasons which, in turn, bring about two cyclonic seasons and exacerbate flooding. The weather pattern changes in 2019-20 caused prolonged and intense rain in India and prolonged drought in Sri Lanka. Urban floods are a regular feature in all four countries, leading to the loss of human life, and the destruction of livelihoods and infrastructure, while more frequent and intense rural disasters have been deepening food and water security as crop fields and cattle are washed away or die from the lack of water. Surface water sources become contaminated or dry up, groundwater tables recede and freshwater reservoirs are exploited due to higher consumption and lack of water. The salination of crop fields in coastal areas of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives has become a growing problem, often leading to mass seasonal or permanent migration from these areas.

India is among the top five countries affected by disasters, ranging from avalanches in the high Himalayan range to river and coastal floods, droughts, tropical cyclones and severe heat waves. India also records some of the world's highest number of lives and livelihoods lost to poverty, malnutrition and the water crisis. According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the country suffered economic losses of 80 billion USD during the 20-year period from 1998 to 2017. The vulnerability of India's cities is also likely to increase, and close to 40% of the population is expected to live in urban areas by 2025.

Warmer winters are causing avalanches in mountainous Bhutan, which also faces urban floods, glacial lake outburst floods, forest fires and landslides.



\$80 billion
economic losses in
India from 1998-2017 as
a result of disasters



68%
cultivable land in India
prone to drought

➔ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support and guide National Society staff and volunteers to adopt digital platforms for the identification of at-risk households, data collection, surveys, community feedback and evaluation
- The IFRC will provide technical support and guidance to National Society staff and volunteers to conduct community-based assessments to map risks, vulnerabilities and capacities
- The IFRC will promote and support the National Societies to develop participatory community-based risk reduction and response plans.
- The IFRC will provide National Societies with technical support, funding and human resource to provide localised support to communities and to mobilise funds from the IFRC network



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GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
250,000

People to be reached
3,500,000



The countries in this region require IFRC continuous and robust support for health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) needs. All four of the countries have water-borne and vector-borne diseases, while climate change is exacerbating some of these health issues and introducing new risks to people in the region, including prolonged and recurring heat waves. Non-communicable lifestyle-related diseases, like diabetes and heart-related ailments, are also emerging as significant risks to communities. Additionally, Sri Lanka faces a challenge in its ageing population, requiring significant health support.

The Indian National Society currently manages the operation of blood banks and has provided plasma during the COVID-19 pandemic. First aid continues to be a flagship programme for National Societies across the region. Mental health and psycho-social services also remain a priority for the IFRC, which will support the four countries to deliver these services to their respective communities.

The IFRC will also support National Societies with technical support and guidance on scaling up first aid provision, especially among youth volunteers. National Societies will also be supported to strengthen their auxiliary role.



35.8%
households in India that wash
hands with soap or detergent
before a meal

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support all four National Societies to develop or update their health/WASH plans and strategy
- The IFRC will provide technical support and training on health promotion, disease prevention and community-based care
- The IFRC will help National Societies to increase the number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donations
- The IFRC will provide continuous support to National Societies to achieve and sustain national targets for vector-borne disease interventions
- The IFRC will train staff and volunteers on psychosocial support in emergency training
- The IFRC will support National Societies to deliver improved access to safe water for communities

MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

200,000

People to be reached

436,000



Humanitarian needs for migrants and displaced persons range from emergency aid, including health, WASH, food and Restoring Family Links (RFL), to protection and support for longer-term needs related to livelihoods, education and social inclusion.

India has 314 million Indians identified as migrants. The number of Indian women who are economic migrants has grown by 129 per cent.

The increased demand for labour in urban settings, better jobs and salaries, medical services, education and entertainment are all pull factors, while low salaries and incomes, drought, floods and reduced availability of medical services and education in rural areas are push factors.

The COVID-19 pandemic severely affected the livelihoods of around 40 million internal migrants in India and prevented many people from being able to restore their income through dignified work. Around 60,000 migrants returned from urban centres to the rural areas they originated from in just a few days, to face familiar issues such as the lack of access to health services, and food. The magnitude of internal migration in India is about two-and-a-half times that of international migration.

Reports of exploitation of migrant workers in Maldives through fraudulent recruitment practices by their agents, including the withholding of wages and the confiscation of passports, continue to circulate. In addition, shelters to accommodate trafficking victims and support services are not operational and the basic needs of these marginalised communities are often disregarded. Migrants in Maldives come up against significant challenges to their livelihoods and basic human rights, including human trafficking, inadequate housing, non-payment of wages and lack of proper documentation to enable individuals to resolve these issues. Those migrants with an irregular status, may also be discriminated against and excluded, sexually exploited or forced to live in fear of deportation, with deceptive recruitment practices, wage theft, passport confiscation, unsafe living and working conditions and excessive work demands. Many are without passports or work visas which reduces their access to health care and other necessary services. Migrant workers in the capital are also disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Around 1.7 million Sri Lankans live abroad while there are 475 asylum seekers and 993 registered refugees from 11 different countries in Sri Lanka, originating from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Myanmar. Sri Lanka does not have a legal framework to recognise asylum seekers or refugees - they are treated as 'irregular migrants' and are therefore vulnerable to arbitrary arrest, detention and deportation. Many live within detention centres or safe houses. Women and children are often trafficked into the sex industry while children and people with disabilities are at risk of being subjected to forced criminal activities or begging.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Societies in the Maldives and Sri Lanka to meet the needs of IDPs and host communities with durable solutions and to train staff and volunteers on migration tracking, support system, counselling and family links
- The IFRC will support the Maldives and Sri Lanka National Societies to undertake a national needs assessment on migration and displacement
- The IFRC will facilitate participation of all four National Societies in global and regional networks such as the Movement Leadership Group, the Global Migration Task Force, the Movement Reference Group on IDPs, and the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN)
- The IFRC will provide support to the Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka National Societies to negotiate agreements, policy and legal provisions related to migration and displaced persons



India © Indian Red Cross Society

VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
150,000

People to be reached
11,400,000



Women and other marginalised groups are at a higher risk from disasters than others. Disasters accentuate existing gender inequalities and several global studies have shown that gender-based violence increases during and after emergencies.

National Society staff and volunteers will attempt to ensure that the needs of marginalised people are assessed and addressed in a participative way, with dignity and safety. The IFRC's guidelines on Minimum Standard Commitments to Gender and Diversity will be applied to all emergency response operations to ensure that these activities prioritise the dignity, access, participation and safety of women and other socially marginalised sections of society.

The IFRC will provide support to the National Societies to help integrate the minimum standards within operations, appeals and long-term humanitarian programmes. Moving forward, youth education is a key focus of this thematic priority area, developing leaders who can implement change in the mindset, values and behaviour of their communities.

➔ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the development of a flagship programme for young people, the reactivation of the South Asia Youth Network (SAYN) and the development of methodologies, tools and technologies to initiate or scale up youth programming in all four National Societies
- The IFRC will support the National Societies in setting up formal agreements with the Ministry of Education and Youth Organisations to provide training and activities to youth in schools
- The IFRC will review the National Societies disaster responses and ensure that activities include measures to prevent and respond to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)
- The IFRC will review the existing Gender and Diversity policies of the National Societies and provide technical support in developing these policies



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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

50,000

The IFRC will facilitate the strengthening and expansion of regional and global visibility and networks of the four National Societies, and support them to strengthen their engagement with partners within and outside the network on the key challenges facing communities. It will also actively engage with critical stakeholders and pursue formal agreements or joint action plans.

All four National Societies will be supported by the IFRC to develop their plans and programmes in alignment with Strategic Plan 2030, as well as their own goals. Federation-wide planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting will be emphasised to capture the impact of IFRC's work and to strengthen accountability across the region.

The IFRC will support National Societies to enhance their advocacy skills, encouraging systematic engagement in regional, national and policy making and decision making platforms to influence policies and systems for the most vulnerable people. The IFRC will also support the engagement and influence of National Societies on inter-governmental forums and to strengthen their auxiliary role at the local level to actively engage with local stakeholders and respond to crises. The IFRC will also provide media and advocacy support to National Societies, targeting donors, government partners and policy influencers via media, social media, web and other digital channels, highlighting National Society operations.

The IFRC will continue to support the National Societies in their digital transformation, with specific attention on the development of a digital platform to record, manage and engage volunteers. National Societies will also be supported to provide yearly data and documents on the Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System (FDRS) and to disaggregated data collected and reported by sex, age and disability. Peer-to-peer support will be provided to National Societies to build specific areas of data literacy, applying lessons learned and relevant Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) skills.

The IFRC will promote and support response planning based on improved needs assessments, including smoother transition from relief to recovery and the use of cash and voucher assistance. Support will be provided to create a system that is conducive to innovation, agility and transformation and is able to challenge systems, cultures, and practices when necessary. The IFRC will ensure Business Continuity Plans are up to date and activated in a way that is timely, and safe for staff during the ongoing pandemic and beyond.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support National Societies to ensure that volunteers have insurance coverage for accidents and death.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to provide visibility jackets to volunteers.



ENABLER 2

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

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

240,000

The IFRC is working as one organisation globally, providing support to National Societies, volunteers and the communities they work with as effectively and efficiently as possible. It supports the development and talent of staff at all levels and has a strong culture on gender, diversity and inclusion, both at an institutional level and in the delivery of its humanitarian operations.

The IFRC manages organisational risk and culture across the global network and will explore ways to strengthen risk management, mitigation and accountability approaches in the four National Societies through regular risk assessments, updating relevant risk registries and linking regional and global risk management processes. The IFRC will also facilitate participation in risk management training.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support National Societies to establishing and maintain the Emergency Operating Centre
- The IFRC will support National Societies to secure operational cost
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to submit externally audited financial statements and comply with procurement procedures, ensuring that financial resources are safeguarded and managed effectively, efficiently and transparently.
- The IFRC will provide National Societies with support for Blood Bank resources and activities



ENABLER 3

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

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

50,000

The IFRC supports National Societies to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action, with the capabilities to act in the global network. The IFRC will support the National Societies to strengthen their leadership teams and the development of their legal and volunteer base.

National Society guidelines, tools and mechanisms, including a fraud and corruption policy, a Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policy, a non-discrimination, harassment and child safeguarding policy to prevent, manage and address integrity and reputational risks, are important tools for building trust with local communities.

The IFRC prioritises volunteer development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action, ensuring access and nurturing trust in all contexts and supports National Societies to improve their volunteering recruitment and management systems. It will also support the National Societies in their duty of care to volunteers, providing them with effective and functional insurance coverage, psycho-social support services and safety and security training.

The IFRC will implement shared leadership initiatives and country support mechanisms for peer support within National Societies and strengthen the engagement of National Societies with Reference Centres, Hubs and Labs to foster evidence capture and knowledge sharing.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support National Societies to conduct mid- and end-term evaluations.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to plan and monitor progress on multilateral and bilateral cooperation and provide recommendations for improved preparedness for both IFRC and National Societies in epidemic/pandemic responses.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to deploy rapid response personnel on monitoring missions based on assessed needs



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.

Contact Information

Udaya Regmi

Country Cluster Support Team Head of Office

T +91 966 7438124

udaya.regmi@ifrc.org
