



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



As we report on our work in 2020, I am overcome with an immense sense of gratitude to every one of our National Societies and the millions of volunteers who so courageously confronted the COVID-19 pandemic, bringing help and hope to millions with health and humanitarian assistance.

I also mourn for our staff and volunteers who lost their lives to COVID-19 in service to their communities and with those who have lost family and friends.

I would like to thank our partners, who in a spirit of solidarity and support, provided their time, skills and resources as we faced this unprecedented challenge. Thanks to you, we were able to support National Societies and adapt to the context of a constantly evolving situation and changing needs.

While the world's eyes remained fixed on COVID-19, we continued to respond to many other humanitarian emergencies – the majority of which were climate and migration related – and helped communities to reduce their risk and vulnerability.

We did this by supporting National Societies to **strengthen their capacity** as strong local organizations, by **coordinating** the network's response when international support to crises was required and by **representing** the network to influence global discussions and decisions to serve vulnerable communities.

2020 was also a year of transition to our new Strategy 2030, which takes effect in 2021. We laid the groundwork for new strategic priorities and renewed our deep

commitment to supporting our National Societies. I am pleased that this year, the IFRC's annual report includes a dedicated section on the federation-wide perspective. We will continue to develop this to promote our member National Societies.

Our new plan and budget (2021–2025) for the next five years centers on a new way of doing business that reinforces our work, with and for our National Societies – ensuring they have the knowledge, tools and trust to deliver assistance to communities in need.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought many challenges to our plans and operations but was also an opportunity for innovation and progress. We adapted our way of working, often engaging and providing support virtually while scaling up a digital transformation across our IFRC network.

Despite COVID-19 travel restrictions, we engaged with our membership, governments, and our partners across continents and time zones, in high level events and processes, while continuing to highlight our added value as a network on key priority areas such as climate action, pandemic preparedness and response, migration, and COVID-19 vaccination.

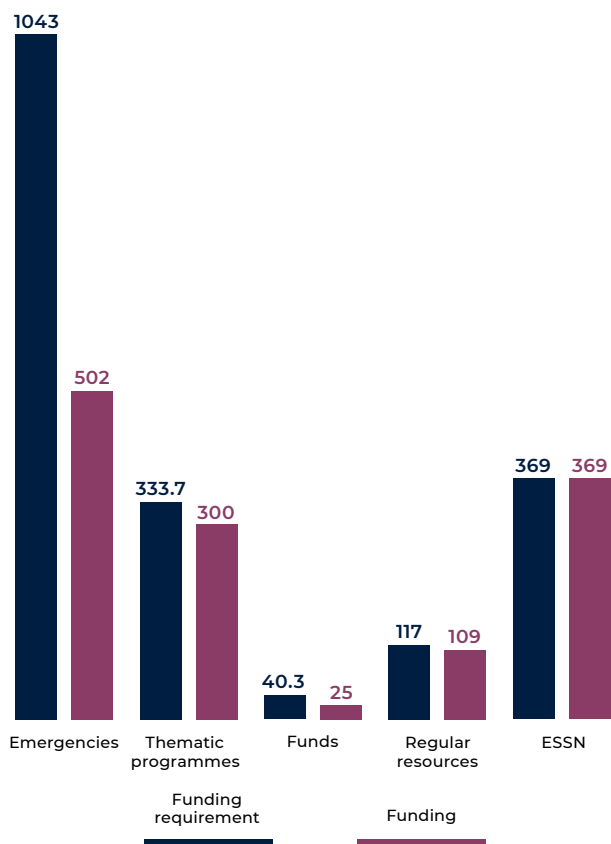
I continue to be incredibly proud and humbled by the dedication and commitment of our IFRC staff, National Societies and volunteers. 2020 was an incredibly difficult year, but also an inspiration to how we can come together to overcome even the most daunting challenges of our time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jagan Chapagain'.

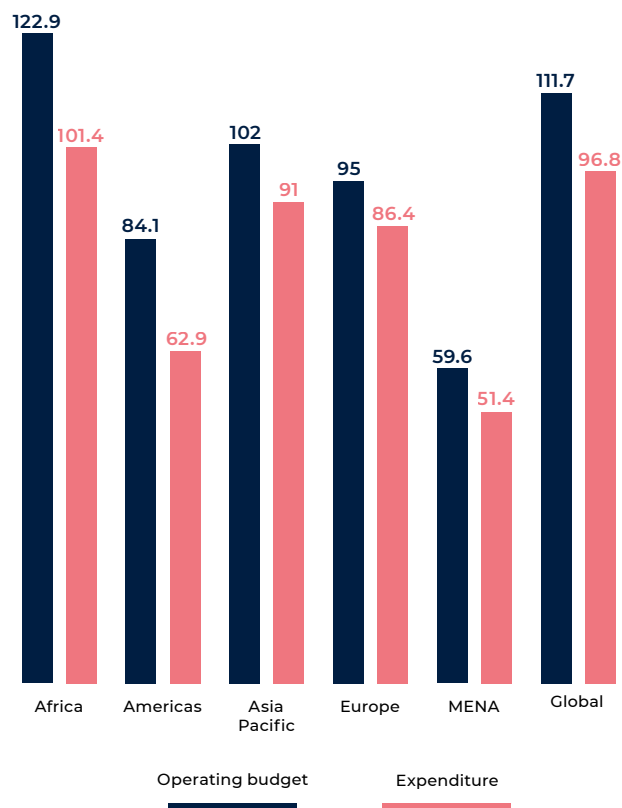
Jagan Chapagain
Secretary General, CEO
International Federation of Red
Cross and Red Crescent Societies

2020 IN NUMBERS

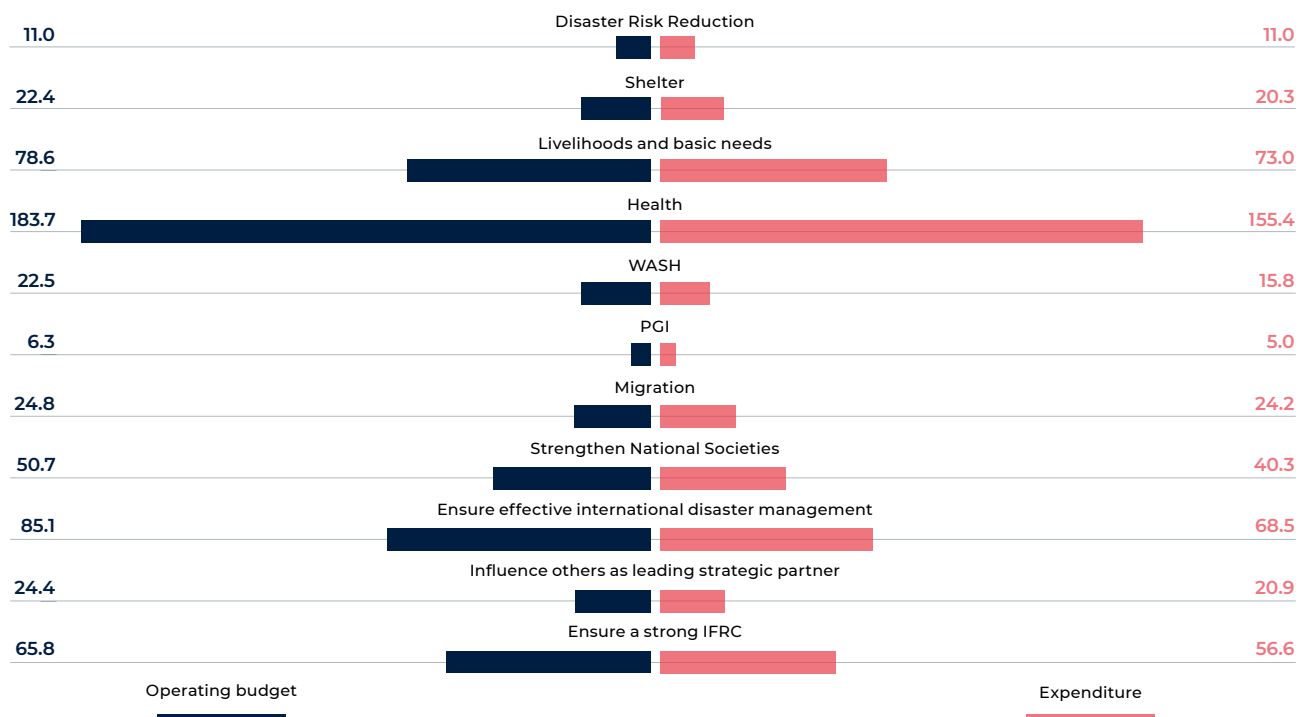
IFRC 2020 FUNDING OVERVIEW CHF MILLION



2020 WORK BY REGION CHF MILLION

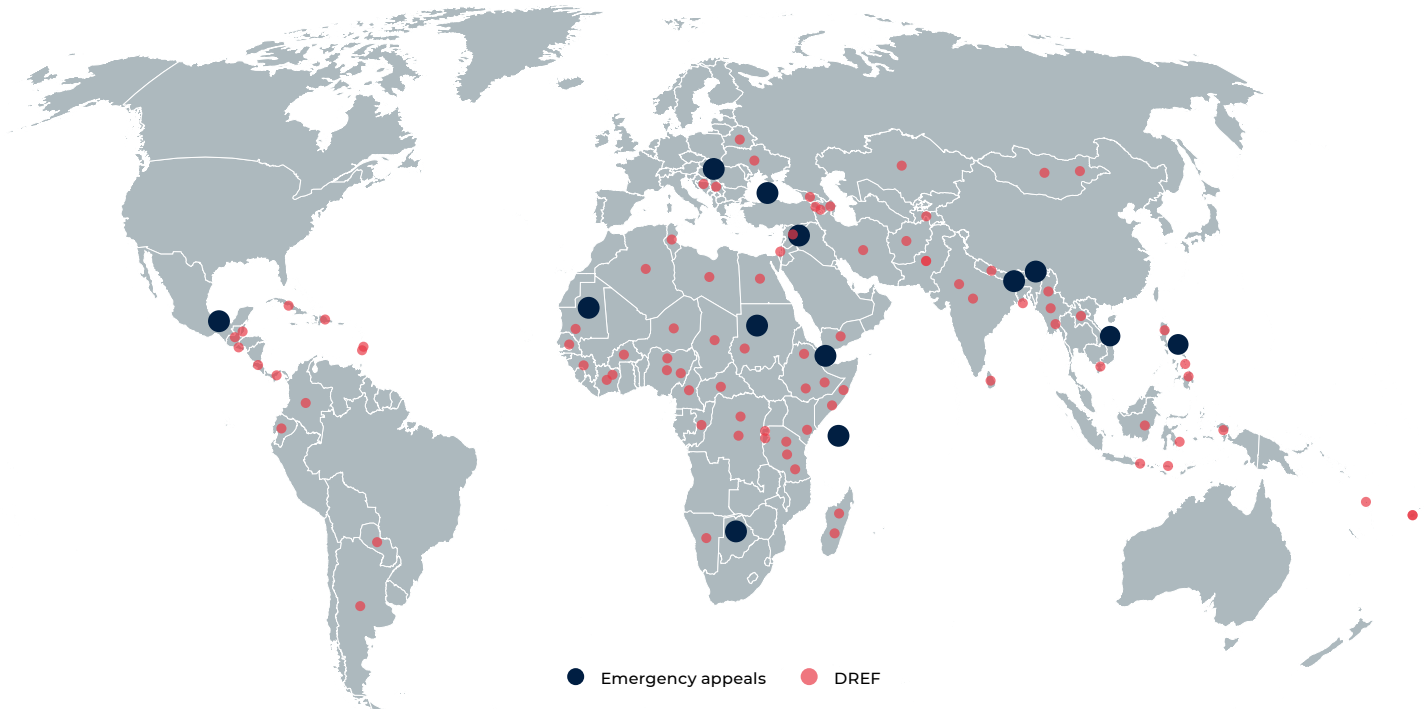


2020 WORK BY THEMATIC AREA CHF MILLION



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

2020 ACTIVE EMERGENCY APPEALS GLOBAL



PEOPLE REACHED BY AREA OF FOCUS

29,520,000
Disaster
risk reduction

1,690,000
Shelter

3,390,000
Livelihoods

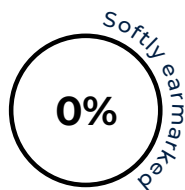
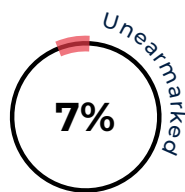
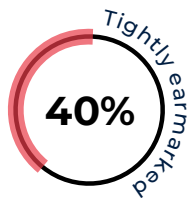
12,560,000
Health

6,000,000
WASH

2,630,000
PGI

3,468,000
Migration

2020 EARMARKING



2020 TOP FUNDING COUNTRIES CHF MILLION

	European Commission	416
	United States	91
	United Kingdom	86
	Netherlands	39
	Switzerland	31
	Germany	27
	Japan	26
	Sweden	23
	Canada	21
	Finland	10
	Others	81

Total 851

*Not including COVID-19 response.
Please see page 62 for Federation-wide figures.*

*includes regular resources and funds for emergencies
and thematic programming and ESSN cash assistance*



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The critical value of the IFRC network to local communities was demonstrated again in 2020 and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The 192 National Societies and the IFRC acted rapidly to the global crisis while responding to other emergencies, reducing vulnerabilities, and working with communities to live healthier and more dignified lives.

The IFRC works through five regional offices and 50 country or cluster offices to support 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 seven areas of focus and four strategies for implementation that are the framework for its 2016–2020 Plan and Budget and its Strategy 2020. 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 COVID-19 pandemic also put considerable strain on the IFRC network itself. It could have been a major disruptor to the last year of IFRC's Strategy 2020. Using the crisis as a catalyst for change, the IFRC adapted and improved. The network demonstrated its ability to adapt and build a solid platform for its Strategy 2030, guiding the IFRC's objectives for the next decade and leading to systemic change in how the IFRC works to more fully support National Societies.

The pandemic was the dominant issue for the IFRC network's global response, but it was also the most significant challenge to its work. It resulted in a reduction of funding for other needs, and strict containment measures intended to limit the spread of the disease also necessitated changes in how National Societies responded and how the IFRC supported them.

The IFRC increased its efforts to raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences of climate change as one of the greatest threats in the 21st century. Through its World Disasters Report 2020 it states that in the past ten years, 83% of all disasters triggered by natural hazards were caused by extreme weather and climate-related events. Adaptation, resilience and preparedness remained crucial to the IFRC's humanitarian work in 2020.

Flexible and unrestricted funding have been vital to adaptability and the rapid and practical support to National Societies. It allows the IFRC to direct funding where it is most needed and enables essential functions that support the programming and development of National Societies.

That flexible funding allowed the IFRC network to respond rapidly and effectively to help people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and several other crises throughout the year. In Africa, intense and prolonged rainfall caused Sudan's worst flooding in 30 years. Category four Hurricanes Eta and Iota hit Central America's Caribbean coast, exacerbating the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, pre-existing chronic violence and poverty – vulnerabilities that have driven recent migrations. In the Asia and Pacific region, Cyclone Amphan severely affected millions of people and left a trail of destruction in the coastal areas both in India and Bangladesh, while Super Typhoon Goni and Typhoon Vamco had a major impact on people in the Philippines.

The IFRC network in the African region carried the highest number of emergency operations in 2020. A total of 44 active humanitarian response operations assisted 12 million people affected by disasters and crises. The IFRC also launched the largest number of emergency appeals for the Asia Pacific region ever.

The explosions in Lebanon and the conflicts in Iraq, Libya, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, and Yemen, have weakened national institutions and basic services and caused mass displacement among vulnerable communities. The IFRC network continued to respond to the complex needs in the region to strengthen the resilience of host communities, migrants, and refugees.

The numbers of migrants and displaced people continued to rise to more than 272 million. In April 2020, the IFRC took over the contract to manage the largest humanitarian cash programme in the world and the largest grant in its history. Through the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme in Turkey, the IFRC partners with the Turkish Red Crescent, ECHO and the Government of Turkey to deliver cash to 1.8 million vulnerable refugee households each month.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need to continuously strengthen National Societies. They were on the frontline of the pandemic – providing life-saving health services and responding to the secondary social impacts of the pandemic. The IFRC supported their planning to quickly scale-up and respond to unprecedented needs while facilitating essential funding.

The ability of National Societies, with locally embedded staff and volunteers, to assist vulnerable and difficult to reach communities during periods of lockdown that prevented many others from providing assistance was invaluable. In many countries, National Societies were the only organizations to have that privileged access. Together, National Societies and the IFRC supported hundreds of millions of people with limited access to basic healthcare systems and services.

With the support of the IFRC, the combined efforts of National Societies also had global influence on governments and other organizations. The IFRC network played a leading role in ensuring that local, national and international governments and decision-makers heard the voices of the world's most vulnerable people. The IFRC helped shape global humanitarian policies and collaborate with other organizations to have a more significant impact on the lives of vulnerable communities.

PROGRESS IN 2020

Global response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic caused not only a public health emergency, but a humanitarian crisis that has affected the lives and livelihoods of people around the world.

The network-wide approach to COVID-19 reflects both the local and global nature of this operation. The response is primarily a local one, with National Societies addressing the needs of those affected by the pandemic within their own countries, based on their domestic response plans. These local responses came together to form a global approach, ensuring more effective support to people affected, greater coordination and increased learning.

Across the network, National Societies reached over 650 million people with health and WASH services, for example. They equally supported with mental health, and support for livelihoods, basic needs, etc.

A major part of the IFRC's mandate is to coordinate the network's response to emergencies requiring international support. This role was crucial in the response

to COVID-19, where more than 170 National Societies carried out local operations within a global coordinated approach.

The IFRC managed the Global Emergency appeal, bringing together the needs of the network for more effective support. The appeal detailed needs across three pillars:

1. Health: Curbing the pandemic, preventing transmission, sustaining health and WASH
2. Socio-economic: Tackling poverty and exclusion
3. National Society strengthening

Through the Global Appeal, the IFRC was able to **allocate over 217 million Swiss Francs** to support 162 National Societies. Other supported included essential guidance on health services, global sourcing of PPE and medical equipment, technical guidance in numerous areas and facilitation of data and information sharing and learning.

People reached by the IFRC network during COVID-19



650.5M

Health and Hygiene promotion activities



106.2M

Community WASH



79.5M

Food and other in-kind assistance



73.6M

Community preparedness, response and disaster risk reduction measures



8.7M

Mental health and psychosocial services



8.4M

Essential community health services



4.2M

Cash and voucher assistance



209.4K

Risk Communication and Community Engagement for vaccine hesitancy



Disaster risk reduction

The IFRC network supports communities in high-risk areas to prepare for and respond to disasters and adopt climate risk-informed and environmentally responsible values and practices.

Disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience-building need to be urgently scaled up to match the new threat levels identified in the IFRC's World Disasters Report 2020.

In January 2020, the IFRC, ICRC and the Climate Centre finalized and published the *Movement Ambitions to Address the Climate Crisis*, shaped in 2019 in consultation with National Societies. This document set out how the Movement will collectively build on its unique added value and expertise to address the climate crisis. The IFRC convened the Climate Action Taskforce with National Societies to urgently scale up activities.

Climate-smart disaster risk reduction aims to reduce the effects of disasters and extreme weather events in a changing climate and help communities effectively prepare for and cope with their consequences.



Shelter

In addition to the rapid lifesaving shelter solutions during emergency response, the resilience of vulnerable communities and settlements and the capacity of National Societies to support them was an integral and vital part of the IFRC's work in 2020.

The IFRC's shelter activities focussed on improving the ability to provide rental assistance through cash programming for disaster-affected communities, mitigating the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, and scaling up sustainable shelter initiatives. It launched its *Step-by-step Guide to Rental Assistance* to support National Societies with their implementation of successful programmes.

The IFRC also engaged in several shelter research projects and provided technical support to 49 National Societies in sub-Saharan Africa and pre-positioned shelter stocks to reduce response times in the event of an emergency. Over three thousand households were assisted with a multi-purpose cash programme to help secure the basic needs of those affected by Hurricane Dorian, and the IFRC established the Tarpaulin Project with the ICRC and UNHCR to reduce emissions and explore potential sustainable shelter materials in close coordination with the Global Shelter Cluster.



Livelihoods and basic needs

In anticipation of, and during emergencies, securing basic needs and livelihoods is a primary focus for the IFRC and National Societies. They work with vulnerable communities through food assistance and livelihoods protection interventions, mainly using cash and voucher assistance.

In 2020, in response to the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC responded to widespread food insecurity and loss of livelihoods. The IFRC has partnered with the Turkish Red Crescent Society to implement the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme, which brings monthly cash assistance to more than 1.8 million of the most vulnerable refugees in Turkey. The ESSN is the largest humanitarian programme in the history of the EU and the largest single programme ever implemented by the IFRC and the Turkish Red Crescent.

It made successful interventions to protect livelihoods through numerous Emergency Appeals and scaled up the technical support capacity within the Livelihoods Resource Centre to support National Societies with the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Health

The IFRC supported National Societies carrying out vital health interventions during the pandemic, at an unprecedented scale, reaching hundreds of millions of people. In addition, mental health support has been a crucial area of work. The IFRC has developed guidance and essential action for ensuring mental health services at the community level via National Societies.

The IFRC worked across sectors and in close collaboration with National Societies to strengthen the ability of communities and local actors to prevent, detect and respond to disease threats before they become outbreaks. It established the Health and Climate Working Group in 2020, with more than 30 National Societies and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre initiating health and climate risk assessments in 11 countries to better understand hazards, vulnerabilities and exposure. It extended its partnership with the World Health Organization to promote the urgency of climate and health.

The IFRC continued to respond to cholera and Ebola outbreaks, alerts to polio, dengue and other major diseases such as malaria. The rapid success of the Ebola containment in 2020 was enabled by the outreach to two million people in affected areas with disease prevention messages. The IFRC's immunization programme in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and Pakistan reached more families than ever. It reduced mortality caused by measles, polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B and a strain of influenza known to cause meningitis, pneumonia and septicemia.



Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

The IFRC provides safe water services, raises awareness for improved treatment and safe use of wastewater, and promotes personal and community hygiene while increasing vulnerable people's access to appropriate and sustainable WASH services.

In addition to remote support missions, the IFRC launched WASH emergency response operations in Greece and Honduras. It has provided technical and strategic support directly to National Societies worldwide.

The IFRC engaged with the Global Task Force on Cholera Control hosted by the World Health Organization in 2020. The IFRC supported, hosted and managed a Country Support Platform to assist the coordination, development and implementation of National Cholera Control Plans. It also launched the One WASH initiative globally to support National Societies mobilize their water and sanitation work to eliminate cholera.

The IFRC played an essential role in 2020 in the Global WASH Cluster and in formulating the roadmap for increased investment in the sector.

Protection, gender and inclusion

The IFRC empowers communities to become more peaceful, safe, and inclusive by meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable people.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 increased the risks to marginalised and vulnerable people. The access of vulnerable people to services and staff and volunteer's access to training and face-to-face support was severely affected. Therefore, the IFRC focussed on remote technical support, remote accompaniment, and online training for National Societies. It provided toolkits, guidance notes, training, webinars and other resources that enable National Societies to continue their protection, gender and inclusion work and meet the increased demands for community education support. The IFRC gave particular attention to programming and training to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and create pathways for treatment and referrals.



Migration

The IFRC provides humanitarian aid and protection for migrants and displaced people in countries of origin, transit and destination, whatever their legal status. It provides support to National Societies for their work with migrants during emergencies and via community programmes. It also undertakes global and regional advocacy and diplomacy on their behalf.

In 2020, the IFRC continued to address the humanitarian needs of migrants and forcibly displaced persons in emergency contexts (from Bosnia, to the Venezuela crisis, Cox's Bazar to Tigray) as well as through longer term programming, including a particular focus on Humanitarian Service Points.

The IFRC supported National Societies with technical and policy work and developed guidance for National Societies to reach migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic. It strengthened National Society programming support to migrants and established a new Movement Migration Leadership Model, comprising a Migration Leadership Group and renewed Global Migration Taskforce.

In 2020, the IFRC invested financial and technical resources to make new tools and guidance available to National Societies, including training on climate and displacement, and migration and health and a *toolkit for humanitarian service points*.

In the Americas, the IFRC's Monarch Butterfly Programme provides regional migration protection, particularly on the border of Colombia and Venezuela, supporting migrants and host communities to protect the most vulnerable groups with health and protection resources.



Strengthen National Societies

The IFRC supports National Societies to improve their capacity to carry out critical programming and develop as strong, accountable organizations.

The Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated the essential value of volunteers, financial stability, cash programming and the need for National Societies to develop contingency plans so they can make a sustainable difference in communities.

The IFRC supported and provided seed funding in 2020 to 17 National Societies to ensure insurance coverage for volunteers, and it operationalised minimum standards for their safety, security, and wellbeing. The IFRC also strengthened the capacities of volunteers and volunteer management systems and ensured they had the necessary personal protective equipment, training, and knowledge to work on behalf of their National Societies.

The IFRC provided National Societies with contingency planning through the Business Continuity Planning Help Desk. It also developed scenario-based predictive modelling approach to strengthen National Societies' ability to anticipate economic impacts on their potential income.

Ensure effective international disaster management

The IFRC supports operations with coordination, The IFRC ensures that a well-functioning, relevant global disaster management system is in place to address the needs of vulnerable people affected by disasters and crises.

In 2020 there was a significant increase in improved communications with communities, operationalizing feedback into responses through localized community-based actions. The IFRC and partners launched the risk communication and community engagement COVID-19 behaviour change framework drawing on data from 196 countries to improve data availability to inform response decision making.

Effective disaster management depends on strong membership coordination. In 2020, the IFRC launched a federation-wide emergency appeal in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 175 National Societies provided data, increased learning and strengthened peer support.

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocations included 40 operations launched for floods, cyclones, population movement and epidemics. Seventy-five National Societies received funds for 109 operations, totalling CHF 32 million to support more than 4 million people.

The IFRC also increased the maximum amount National Societies could request from the Forecast based Action by the DREF, from CHF 250,000 to CHF 350,000. Early Action Protocols were activated for extreme winter, floods, cyclones and volcanic ash by National Societies in Mongolia, Bangladesh, Ecuador and Mozambique, helping to reduce the adverse effects on vulnerable people. Another six protocols were approved.

“The reward is seeing the transformational change that takes a National Society that is usually the recipient of funding to one that is able to contribute to its network.”



Influence others as a leading strategic partner

In 2020, the IFRC network played a leading role in ensuring that local, national and international decision-makers heard the voices of the world's most vulnerable people. The IFRC, in events and through new digital channels continued to advocate for vulnerable people, advancing the IFRC's policy priorities on COVID-19 response, local action, climate change and extreme weather events.

As well as promoting effectiveness and equity in the public health and humanitarian response to the pandemic, the IFRC continued to advocate for the effective localization of humanitarian response.

The IFRC's World Disaster Report *Come Heat or High Water*, published in 2020, drew attention to the scale of climate and weather-related disasters and the devastating humanitarian impacts of climate change on lives and livelihoods. It set out clear actions to avoid the worst of these impacts, advocating for scaling up risk reduction and preparedness, prioritizing the most climate-vulnerable countries and communities, and better integrating and localizing approaches.

To strengthen National Societies' auxiliary role, the IFRC developed the new guidance document [Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy](#) to support them in persuading decision-makers to act in the interests of vulnerable people. It also developed a set of messages for National Societies attempting to secure humanitarian access during the pandemic and a pre-disaster agreement template for National Societies to use with their governments.



Ensure a strong IFRC

The IFRC can only assist National Societies if it is an effective and accountable organization itself. Trust, community engagement, accountability and integrity were common threads connecting the work of the IFRC's General Assembly, the Council of Delegates, and the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI) of 2019. The OIAI restructuring that began in 2019 to ensure more robust audit processes was completed in 2020 with the improvement of OIAI staffing and delivery structures. New risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic were integrated while increasing investigation capacities.

Digital advancements enable transformation in the humanitarian sector by connecting National Societies, IFRC staff, volunteers and communities. After consulting more than 70 National Societies, the IFRC produced a Digital Transformation Strategy to address the digital divide across international, national and local levels highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The IFRC's first digital global summit *Climate: Red*, co-hosted by the Solferino Academy and the Climate Centre, was attended by more than 10,000 people from 195 countries.

The IFRC also addressed the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse by launching relevant training courses in 2020 and established the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment Solutions Group to ensure continuous self-reflection and development throughout the IFRC network.





Conclusion

The IFRC and National Societies responded to the challenges of 2020 in an increasingly challenging environment. Together, we were able to overcome and deliver on a scale as never before.

The pandemic was the primary focus of the IFRC network in 2020, but it was also the greatest challenge to getting work done. The IFRC responded to adapt its way of working and put in place a stable foundation for Strategy 2030 and will continue to improve its response to humanitarian and development challenges, the way it works in a rapidly changing world, and to invest, support and represent National Societies and the local communities they are such a fundamental part of.

The IFRC network responded around the world to the COVID-19 pandemic while the impact of climate change was increasingly felt, and other large-scale emergencies continued. Long-term work with communities to live sustainable, healthier and more dignified lives again demonstrated the unique value of the IFRC network.

Despite increasing needs, the IFRC continues to make significant progress in saving and improving the 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 protect development gains. The IFRC remains committed to ensuring that vulnerable communities participate in decisions that affect them and are vital partners and owners of solutions.

The work of National Societies is needed more than ever as we face unprecedented challenges. The IFRC will continue to support them in developing as effective local organizations and providing support to communities wherever and whenever needed.

INTROD AND OV



DUCTION INTERVIEW





SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The context within which the IFRC supported National Societies in 2020 was dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. All the while, other disasters and crises continued to affect millions of people around the world. These protracted crises and complex emergencies required the IFRC and National Societies to mobilize staff and volunteers who themselves had to overcome monumental barriers to deliver their lifesaving work.

National Societies and the IFRC, with support from Movement partners, continued to respond to worsening weather-related disasters. Nearly 25 million people were internally displaced due to sudden-onset hazards. The number of migrants and displaced people continued to rise to more than 272 million migrants, the majority of whom moved for work, family, and education, and nearly 80 million forcibly displaced people who fled their homes due to human rights abuses, persecution, and conflict.

The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected migrants and displaced communities who were at heightened risk from the health effects of the pandemic and the socio-economic fallout. Many migrants and refugees also faced serious concerns related to border closures, deportations, accessing international protection, and issues regarding the principle of non-refoulement.

In Africa, deteriorating economic prospects, political instability, conflicts, food insecurity, locust infestation, and recurrent climate shocks continued to increase humanitarian needs. In Sudan, intense and prolonged rainfall caused the country's most intense and widespread floods in 30 years. In Ethiopia, fighting in Tigray escalated. This further exacerbated an extremely volatile security situation for the 600,000 people who were already dependent on humanitarian assistance.

Two category 4 storms hit Central America's Caribbean coast, both making landfall on the northern coast of Nicaragua. Hurricanes Eta and Iota aggravated the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, and the pre-existing chronic violence and poverty vulnerabilities that have driven recent migrations. The COVID-19 pandemic modified the usual migration flows, severely worsening the Venezuelan migration crisis as thousands of Venezuelans attempted to return to Venezuela. With more than 5 million Venezuelan migrants in the region, their health, economic and social needs, caused by the economic and political crisis in Venezuela, continued to deepen.

The impact of climate change continued to increase demands on the IFRC and National Societies. In the Asia-Pacific region, monsoon-related floods severely affected millions of people in South and East Asia in



the first half of 2020. One of the worst-hit countries, Bangladesh suffered with more than two million people in need. Cyclone Amphan, which made landfall on 20 May, left behind a trail of destruction in the coastal areas both in India and Bangladesh, affecting tens of millions of people.

Countries in the Mekong region experienced heavy rains due to the influence of multiple storms and the southwest monsoon, linked to the La Nina year of atmospheric change. This resulted in widespread flooding and landslides in multiple provinces of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, and Thailand. The island groups of Luzon and Visayas in The Philippines were also hit by a series of typhoons in quick succession, including Super Typhoon Goni (category 5) and Typhoon Vamco.

More migrants attempted to reach Europe after the Government of Turkey announced that it would no longer stop refugees from attempting to cross by land or sea. Massive fires destroyed the Lesbos camp in Greece forcing thousands of people to seek refuge, while the newly established camp of Kara Tepe, also on the island of Lesbos, experienced an outbreak of COVID-19.

The MENA region continued to be affected by complex and protracted humanitarian crises. In Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Syria, and Yemen, the political instability, insecurity, and economic volatility led to a further deterioration of basic services. A massive explosion occurred in the port area of Beirut, Lebanon, on 4 August 2020 which killed more than 200 people and injured more than 6,500. It is estimated that more than 300,000 persons suffered severe to moderate damage to their homes. Since then, the economic and financial crises have accelerated, leading to increasing levels of poverty, food insecurity among Lebanese, migrant, and refugee communities.

While people living in vulnerable communities around the world faced severe crises, the IFRC and National Societies continued with their dedication to addressing their needs in the most effective way. The consequences of strict containment measures and movement restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic forced the IFRC network to develop new and innovative ways of working. Many of these innovations and adaptations will enable a strong IFRC to continue to support National Societies to provide life-saving responses to those most in need and demonstrate its leadership and commitment to localization long into the future.

ABOUT THE IFRC



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.

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.

While the Secretariat is responsible for managing 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 IFRC supports National Societies through 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.

IFRC WORKFORCE

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

86%

of the IFRC's workforce
is based in the field

2577

staff members
as of December 2020

57%

National staff

25%

International staff

12%

Staff from National
Societies

6%

Interns, consultants
and contractors

633 Internationals

52%

Geneva

17%

Africa

10%

Asia Pacific

9%

Americas

7%

Europe

5%

Middle East and North Africa



IFRC BUDGET PROCESSES

This section clarifies the main types of budgets that may be encountered for the IFRC's work – explaining their purposes and differences.

It is important to note that the budgeting processes of the IFRC are often time bound. In reality, much of the work the IFRC does, including in complex emergencies, is **multi-year**. When the needs and work of the IFRC are viewed in their totality, the IFRC is an over **1.9 billion**

Swiss Franc organization (including thematic programmes, Emergencies, ESSN and funds). This also includes special programmes, such as the European Social Safety Net Programme in Turkey. For example, the estimated amount for emergencies in 2020 was 187 million Swiss Francs. This is the estimation of appeals **launched** in that year. However, if we look at all emergency appeals that were **active** in 2020, that amount increases to just over **one billion Swiss francs**.

Overarching budget – General Assembly approved Plan and Budget

The IFRC [Plan and Budget](#) includes a two-year budget that is drawn up by the Secretary General in consultation with the Chair of the Finance Commission and approved by the General Assembly.

The budget is always presented in Swiss Francs. It reflects the strategy of the IFRC, carried out through

a two-year plan of work. The budget shows **estimated** annual income and expenditure for the two-year period. It covers both **thematic and emergency work**. The amount for emergency work is based on a five-year average.

Putting the plan and budget into practice

The IFRC's thematic work

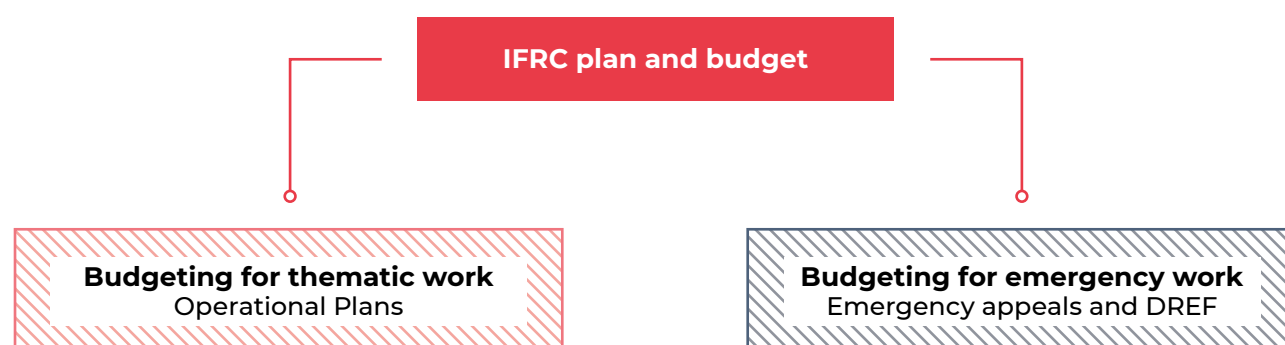
Funding Requirements

Annually, country/cluster offices, regions and Geneva headquarters develop **operational plans** for how they will deliver the IFRC Plan and Budget.

Each operational plan identifies the estimated resources needed to achieve the planned results. This is the

funding requirement. It is based purely on assessed needs, not secured funding. The consolidation of all the funding requirements across the organization is represented in the [IFRC Global plan](#). The global plan includes the amount required for the IFRC's work, globally, for one year.

Breaking it down





Operating budget

The operating budget is established annually. It is reviewed and revised quarterly, to reprioritize expenditure to meet changing organizational needs and priorities.

The operating budget is based on the operational plan, and *prioritizes activities for which funding has been identified*, but also includes commitments for which there is a funding gap. The operating budget thus expresses what the IFRC will do with the funds it already has or has a high-level of confidence will be received.

The IFRC's emergency work

Emergency appeals

In accordance with the [Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance](#), emergency appeals are launched at the request of the National Society, to support them to meet humanitarian needs.

Emergency appeals provide a fast, simple and informative document to be shared with partners that includes a high-level plan by areas of intervention. These areas of intervention can be based upon the IFRC's Areas of Focus and Strategies for implementation. The emergency appeal includes the **funding requirement** to carry out the work detailed in the appeal. The goal of the emergency appeal is to communicate the areas of response and funding needs to partners.

All Emergency Appeals (and revision thereof) are approved by the Secretary General and launched on the IFRC's public website.

Within 14 days of the Emergency Appeal launch, an *Emergency Plan of Action* is developed. This plan of action includes an **operating budget**, based on secured and expected income. The operating budget cannot be higher than the Emergency Appeal funding requirement – otherwise the Emergency Appeal would have to be revised.

DREF

The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) provides immediate financial support to National Societies. It has two main purposes:

- Start-up funding for the IFRC and National Societies to respond to large-scale disasters – the “loan facility”.
- Funding for National Society responses to 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”.

The DREF is technically categorized as an emergency appeal but has a *funding requirement* that is established on annual basis. A DREF Appeal is approved by the Secretary General and launched. The DREF Manager may proceed the corresponding *operating budget* with the received funds.

All National Societies can make a request for DREF. Allocations are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Funds can be authorized and released within 24 hours, allowing funding even before fundraising can begin.

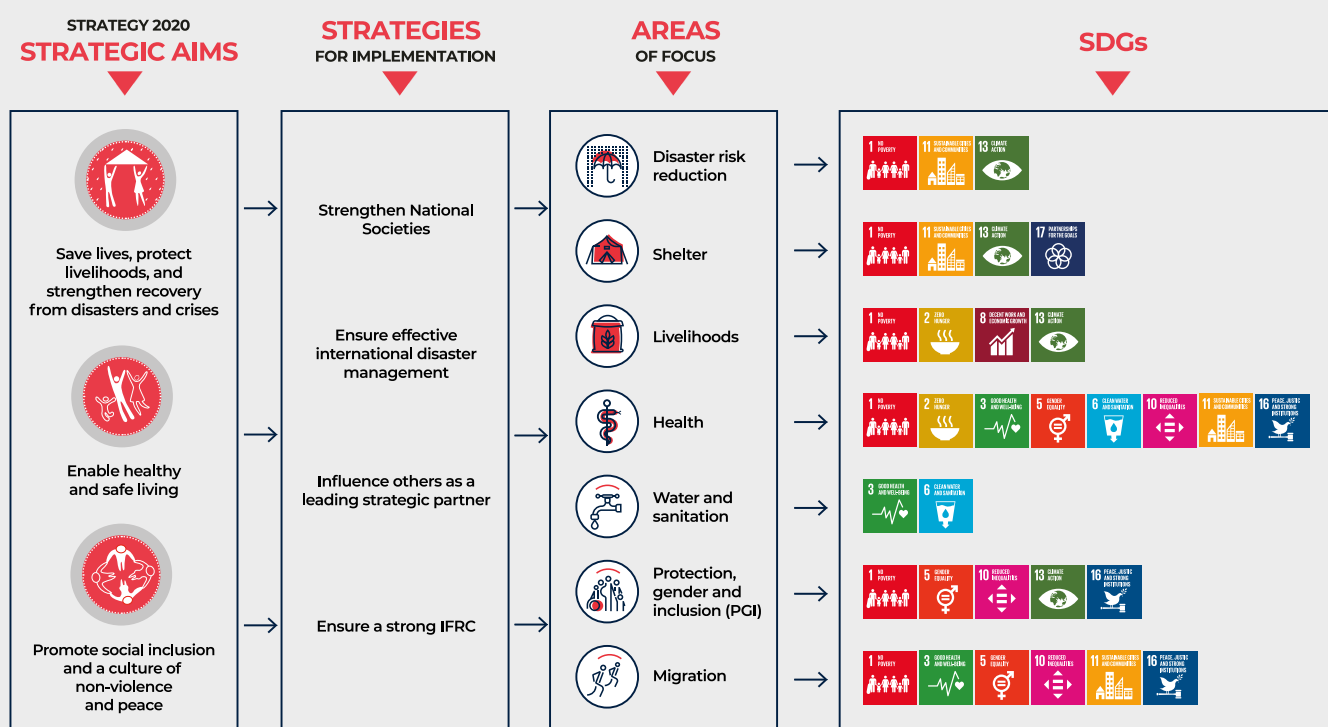


HOW WE SUPPORT: AREAS OF FOCUS AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The IFRC's programme priorities in 2020 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

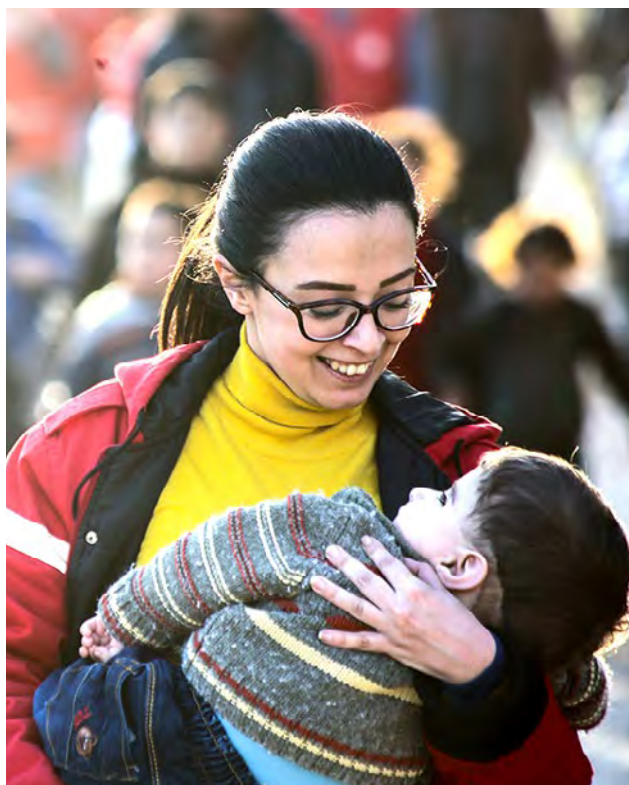
Strengthening National Societies National Society effectiveness and performance are critical to achieving humanitarian impact. The IFRC supports National Societies in their efforts to develop their organizational capacity and effectiveness.

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.





STRATEGY 2030: A YEAR OF TRANSITION

The implementation of Strategy 2030, defining the IFRC's work for the next decade, officially begins in 2021. However, throughout 2020, the IFRC has been preparing. Our activities in 2020 have been laying the groundwork for the new strategic priority areas of Strategy 2030 and reflecting the shifts outlined in the Secretary General's Agenda for Renewal.

Strategy 2030 retains a strong focus on disasters and crises, health, values, inclusion and peaceful communities while focusing more clearly on five specific global challenges: *climate and environmental crises; evolving crisis and disasters; growing gaps in health and well-being; migration and identity; and values, power and inclusion.*

The Agenda for Renewal proposed a new way forward for the IFRC – renewing the IFRC's engagement and investment in our 192 National Societies to become stronger local actors, more trusted by the communities

they serve. This will strengthen the IFRC's ability to carry out its mandate of National Society development, coordination and representation.

While the COVID-19 pandemic deeply affected much of what was originally planned for 2020, it also put into focus how the changes called for by Strategy 2030 and the Agenda for renewal will be put into practice. The response to COVID-19, for example, required and facilitated an incredible level of coordination within the IFRC network and illustrated the value of the IFRC's commitment to support the local responses of National Societies.

The work detailed in this annual report not only illustrates the accomplishment of activities in 2020, but also clearly shows the transition taking place within the IFRC to adapt and prepare for future challenges.



LOCALIZATION: FROM WORDS TO ACTION

Localization aims to increase international support for the leadership, delivery and capacity of local responders to humanitarian crises. It is about achieving a better balance in the international humanitarian system – towards an approach that is “as local as possible and as international as necessary.” *The goal? Better results in the lives of vulnerable people, through accountable and effective action by empowered local actors.*

The IFRC's own history is deeply rooted in **empowering local action** through the network of volunteers of local chapters. It works to support National Societies to be the strongest humanitarian organizations at home, rooted in their communities. The IFRC is also about global solidarity, providing coordination and support for an international response that assists a National Society to meet needs in its country when a crisis exceeds domestic capacity.

Together with the Swiss Government, the IFRC continued to serve as co-convenor of the Grand Bargain Localization Workstream in 2020. The Workstream aimed to support and encourage signatories to meet their commitments on the localization of the international humanitarian “system”.

Stronger National Societies make a more significant and positive difference in people's lives.

Grand Bargain commitments

Channelling 25% of funds as directly as possible to local actors

The COVID-19 pandemic changed many things – including the visibility within the humanitarian sector of how effective and, in fact, indispensable, local action is. COVID-19 has been a global test on how local responders act in the absence of extensive international deployments. National Societies around the world passed this test with flying colours.

The value in the solidarity of the global IFRC network was likewise demonstrated, reaching one in 12 people across the globe in 172 countries. National Societies were able to respond quickly and with services covering both health and secondary impacts of COVID-19.

While the overwhelming majority of the funds raised by National Societies around the world were from domestic sources, the IFRC's international appeal was a lifeline for countries where these were not sufficient. This funding overcame, to some extent, global inequities in COVID-19 funding. The IFRC allocated over 217 million Swiss francs through its Global Emergency Appeal – directly supporting local operations by National Societies.

COVID-19 was a significant opportunity to support National Societies in their work, but certainly not the only one. Throughout 2020, **69% of IFRC funding**

was passed on to National Societies. This is done through emergency appeals and DREF among others.

Through the Grand Bargain, the IFRC is working with partners to encourage the global system more generally to invest in delivery by local actors. In total, a dozen donors and international organizations were able to report **meeting the Grand Bargain's goal** of channelling 25% of their funds as directly as possible to local actors.

Greater support for capacity strengthening

Much of the attention of the Grand Bargain commitments on localization focuses on increased funding to local actors. While this is crucial, localization also includes ensuring that local actors have the core capacity to absorb and effectively use those funds. This means ensuring quality services to vulnerable people. In the network, this kind of core capacity is developed through the process of National Society Development, the work done to increase one or more of the relevance, quality, reach and sustainability of National Society services.

PROVIDING GUIDANCE

In 2020, the IFRC supported Grand Bargain signatories negotiate common guidance synthesizing best practice and recommendations from recent research and consultations in the areas of partnership, funding, coordination, capacity strengthening and gender aspects of localization, among others. These guidance notes were used by the IFRC, together with UNICEF, to support the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to develop its [Interim Guidance on Localization and COVID-19 Response](#). The guidance notes are being

used as essential resource for the on-going Localization Workstream-supported dialogue processes on localization in six countries – Myanmar, Syria, South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria and Colombia. In addition, the IFRC co-led the collaboration with other Grand Bargain mechanisms and with other global humanitarian platforms, such as the IASC, to strengthen and advance localization. It also supported collective efforts to improve the ability of pooled funds (whether from UN, NGO and RC/RC sources) to better support local action.

IFRC CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL INITIATIVES

The IFRC engages in some of the world's most important global initiatives, to ensure that community needs and priorities are reflected at global scale, with emphasis on serving the most vulnerable. This engagement fosters an enabling environment for the work of National Societies and ensures a community perspective in discussions and the decisions that come out of them.

Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction

To enable healthy and safe communities, reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen resilience, the IFRC works with National Societies to implement the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction.

In 2020, as a member of the Advisory Group of the UNDRR's Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism, the IFRC worked closely with members in implementation at local, national, regional and global levels by developing joint key messages and engaging in various events to influence policy processes.

The IFRC contributed to the process of hazard definition and classification, led by the UNDRR and the International Science Council, to define and describe hazards to facilitate more effective disaster risk management.

As a member of the Steering Committee of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign 2010–2020, the IFRC contributed to raising awareness of disaster risk reduction and resilience amongst cities. The IFRC supported the UNDRR to launch the Making Cities Resilient 2030 in October 2020 and became a member of its Global Coordination Committee.

Universal Health Coverage

The IFRC seeks to reduce preventable death and disease through improved access to health care for underserved communities and the most vulnerable. We seek in particular to “reach the last mile”, to provide health and care to those who are outside or at the margin of the formal health sector. In doing so we seek to ensure that *universal health coverage* is just not a slogan, but it really does mean *access for all*.

Red Cross Red Crescent community-based volunteers play an essential role in achieving health and care access in ‘last mile’ communities through community presence, reach and access. The IFRC plays a central role in supporting governments to continue to prioritize and achieve Universal Health Coverage in hard-to-reach areas.

Reaching and engaging communities and leaving no-one behind are central to achieving the transformative promises of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the achievement of Universal Health Coverage.

In 2020, the IFRC contributed to the [State of commitment to universal health coverage \(UHC\)](#) which provides a multi-stakeholder view on progress towards universal health coverage at country and global levels.

During 2020 and 2021, the IFRC, with the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism of UHC2030, is engaged in conducting country consultations and focus groups with civil society organizations and communities at the country level to capture experiences, challenges and achievements from populations that are often left behind.



The Global Health Initiative to End Cholera

In October 2020, the IFRC officially became the implementing partner to host the Global Task Force on Cholera Control Country Support Platform. Cholera continues to affect the poorest and most vulnerable in over 40 countries, especially in complex settings. Though probably underreported, cholera claims at least 100,000 lives a year and threatens over 100

million people. The IFRC's commitment is to contribute to the reduction of cholera deaths by 90% by 2030 by supporting the provision of multi sectoral public health, oral vaccination and WASH inputs to those affected or under threat. The Red Cross and Red Crescent cholera interest group includes 45 host National Societies and 20 Participating National Societies.

Alliance for Malaria Prevention

The IFRC leads the Alliance for Malaria Prevention. This public/private partnership of more than 40 organizations to support countries to scale up insecticide-treated nets coverage to prevent malaria. The IFRC works with both Governments and communities, mobilizes skilled volunteers through National Societies, and has capacity for rapid response in challenging settings, which mass

net distribution requires. Since 2004, the Alliance for Malaria Prevention has directly supported the distribution of over **1 billion nets in 47 countries**. More than 162 million insecticide-treated nets were distributed in 2020, despite the restrictions enacted by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

45

National Societies host the Red Cross and Red Crescent cholera interest group and 20 National Societies participate

162M

Insecticide-treated nets were distributed in 2020 despite COVID-19 restrictions

HOW THE IFRC IS 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 nine

members and four observers and the group was chaired by Switzerland in 2020.

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 2020

Donor country	Total value of voluntary funding 2020 <small>Includes regular resources and funds for emergencies and thematic programming and ESSN cash programming (CHF million)</small>
European Commission	415.6
United Kingdom	79.6
United States	73.0
Netherlands	39.3
Germany	26.7
Japan	25.2
Sweden	22.8
Canada	20.9
Switzerland	20.6
Norway	9.7
TOTAL DAG MEMBERS	733.6

CHF 36.4M

was contributed in Statutory Contributions by 136 National Societies

CHF 733.6M

provided by Donor Advisory Group members

The IFRC receives funds through:

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 2020, a total of 36.4 million Swiss francs were contributed in Statutory Contributions by 136 National Societies.

Voluntary Contributions and Donations: Voluntary Contributions and Donations represent the largest source of income to the IFRC, although the amount varies annually. In 2020, 851 million Swiss francs was received from 204 donors, of which 44 are National Societies and 108 others, including 37 governments, 7 multilateral agencies and 95 corporations. Of this, 30 million Swiss francs was unrestricted, which allows the IFRC the greatest flexibility to pursue its objectives. The European Commission funded the ESSN in Turkey with 403 million Swiss francs. The remaining 417 million Swiss francs went to finance thematic programmes and humanitarian response operations, including COVID-19.

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 26 million Swiss francs in 2020.

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

The IFRC would like to thank all of its partners – Donor Advisory members for their long support and invaluable counsel and the increasing number of new partners who have engaged with the IFRC for the first time.

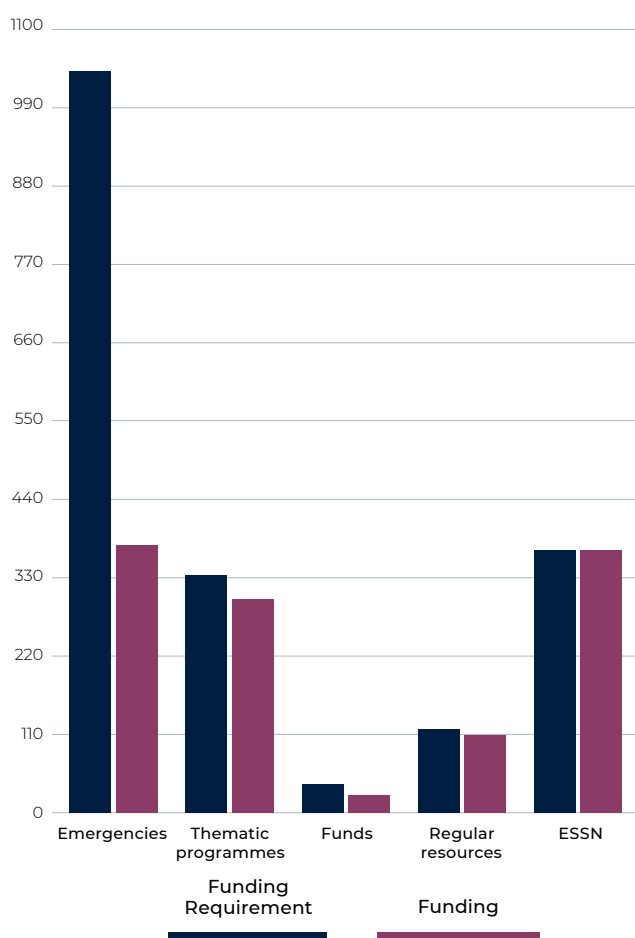


FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE

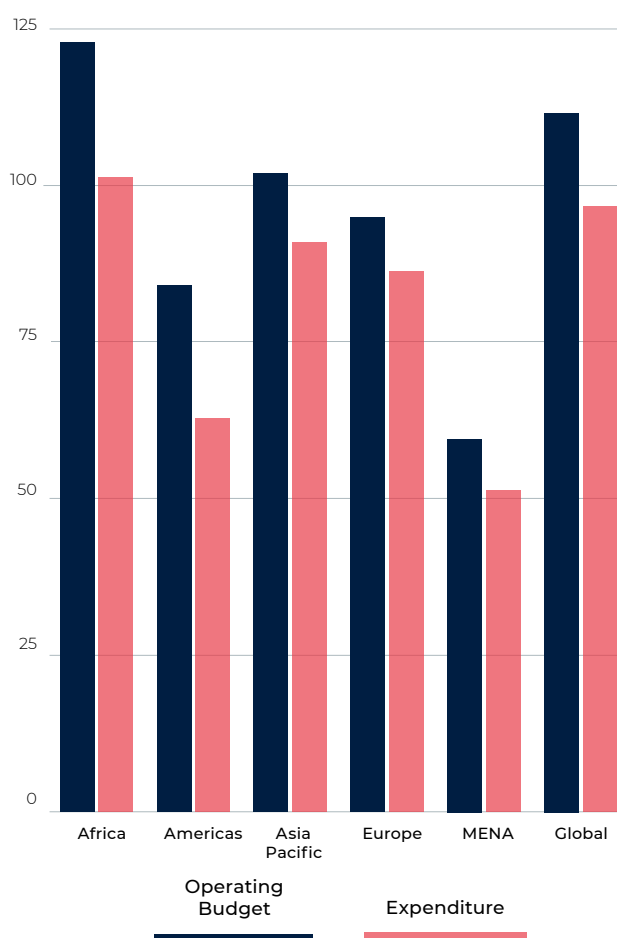
The below chart includes figures for the IFRC's thematic work, emergency appeals (including COVID-19), funds and the ESSN programme. To better reflect multiyear emergency programming, the funding requirement includes all **emergency appeals active in 2020**.

However, those funding requirements have been adjusted to take into account historic income pre-2020. The IFRC's audited financial statements for 2020, can be viewed on its [public website](#).

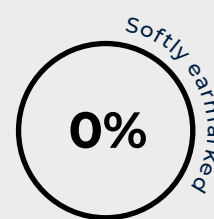
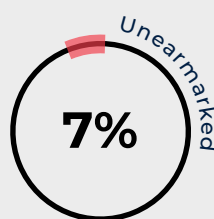
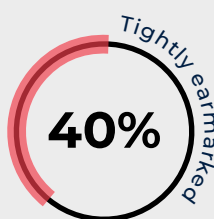
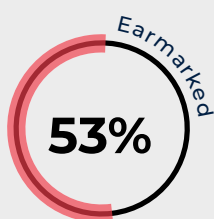
IFRC 2020 FUNDING OVERVIEW
CHF MILLION



2020 WORK BY REGION
CHF MILLION

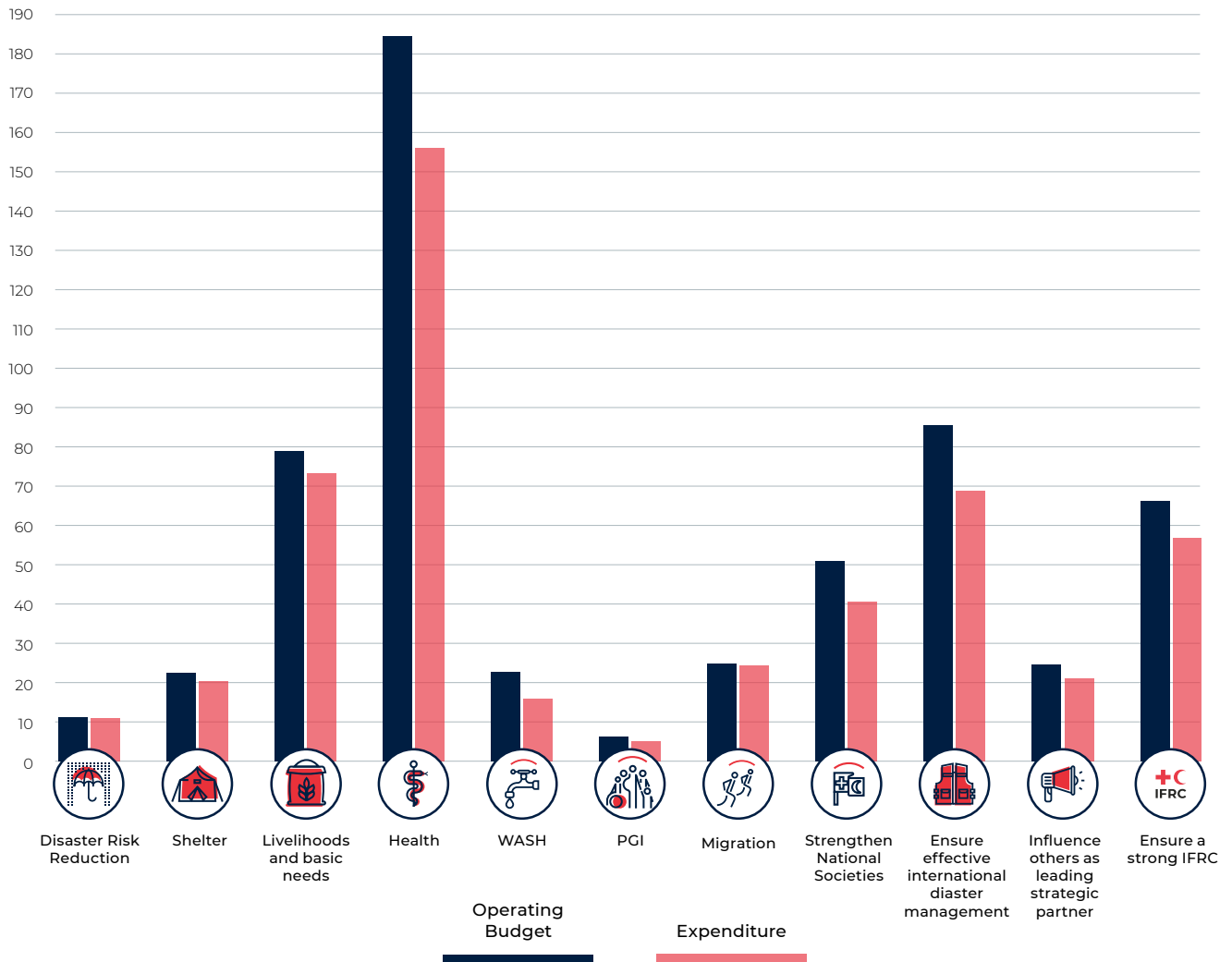


2020 EARMARKING

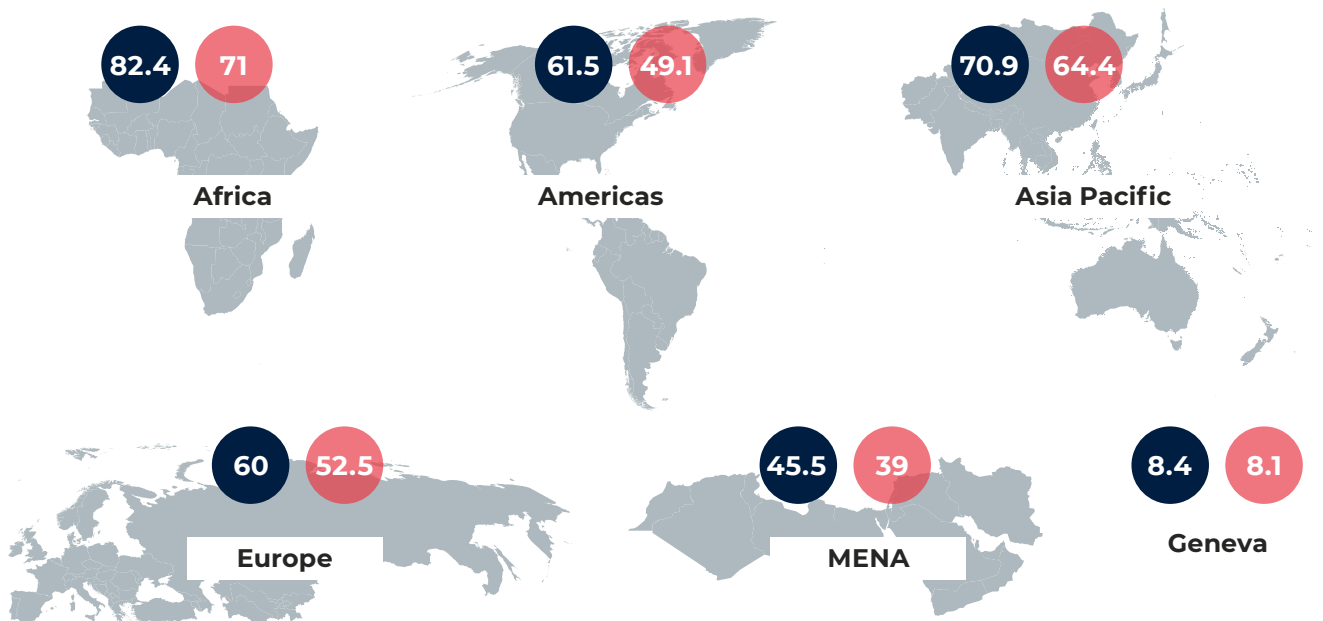


The amounts stated in this report are based on management accounts and do not include all adjustments necessary for International Financial Reporting Standards.

2020 WORK BY THEMATIC AREA CHF MILLION



2020 ACTIVE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CHF MILLION





The IFRC's top donors and funding sources

Top 10 Governments

CHF million

British Government	64.1
United States Government	49.9
German Government	25.3
Japanese Government	21.7
Canadian Government	19.4
Netherlands Government	18.9
Swiss Government	15.9
Italian Government	7.6
Swedish Government	7.4
Norwegian Government	6.8

Top 10 National Societies

CHF million

American Red Cross	21.9
Swedish Red Cross	14.7
British Red Cross	9.7
The Netherlands Red Cross	4.2
Swiss Red Cross	3.8
Finnish Red Cross	3.4
Japanese Red Cross Society	3.2
Norwegian Red Cross	2.6
Singapore Red Cross Society	2.3
Australian Red Cross	2.0

The data presented related to the value of contributions from funding sources where the National Society partner has provided this information about their back donors.



Top 10 multilateral agencies

CHF million

European Commission – DG ECHO	415.6
ICRC	2.7
UNHCR – UN Refugee Agency	2.6
Islamic Development Bank IsDB	2.0
The OPEC Fund for International Development	1.2
World Bank	0.9
UNOCHA-UN Office Coordination Humanitarian Affairs	0.8
UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund	0.5
UN WOMEN	0.2
WHO – World Health Organization	0.1

Top ten in private sector

CHF million

Heineken International BV	15.9
The Bloomberg Family Foundation Inc	6.1
Johnson & Johnson foundation	4.3
Nestle	4.3
Standard Chartered Bank	3.2
Coca Cola Foundation	2.4
Fernwood Group Fund	2.0
Qatar Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy	1.5
Fondation Botnar	1.3
London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)	1.1

REGULAR RESOURCES

Regular resources are critical for the IFRC's ability to support its member National Societies, and their ability to provide life-saving services to the world's most vulnerable communities. This section will detail how the IFRC allocates and uses regular resources and more importantly provide concrete examples of their impact – National Society development, global and country programming and accountability.

Importance of regular resources

Delivering on the IFRC's mandate

Regular resources are essential for IFRC to deliver on its mandate. This mandate includes the following:

- 1. National Society development:** The IFRC's principal objective is to support the work of National Societies. This means helping National Societies to become strong, effective **local organizations** that are trusted, accountable and capable to carry out programmes for vulnerable communities at scale.
- 2. Coordination:** When crises surpass the capacity of a local National Society to respond, the IFRC coordinates the network's response when international assistance is sought. The IFRC's coordination also supports National Societies to connect with and learn from one another to capitalise on existing capacities, reduce overlap make the network stronger.
- 3. Representation:** The IFRC represents the network to **influence** global discussions and decisions to serve vulnerable communities. Profiling the work of National Societies in international fora increases the understanding of their work and positions them as strong actors domestically. The IFRC also engages in advocacy to advance priorities for vulnerable people and supports National Societies to engage in domestic advocacy efforts. The IFRC's status as an international organization means that we can facilitate access for National Societies to global discussions and funding.

Regular resources ensure:

- **Flexibility** for efficient resource allocation based on needs of National Societies
- **Stability** of presence for on-going support in the field to National Societies that need help on an ongoing basis
- **Core functions** to support National Society development and sustainability through global and country teams
- **Provision** of start-up investments to leverage other resources, ensuring capacity at global and country level to pursue programmatic funding opportunities.

There are multiple sources of funding for regular resources including voluntary contributions from partners, statutory contributions from National Societies and cost recoveries. **The IFRC's partners voluntarily contribute CHF 30 million out of CHF 95 million of regular resources.**

The Swedish Government, agrees with the value of regular resource funding and has said, "Sweden is pleased to support the IFRC and its rapid, flexible and principled response to the most pressing humanitarian needs across the globe. As demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic, a localized humanitarian response is critical – and in many cases facilitated by the IFRC's critical and long-standing role in coordinating and strengthening the capacity of National Societies. This long-term strategic engagement with National Societies is made possible by flexible funding from donors. Sweden is proud to be a top donor of flexible funding to the IFRC."

“Sweden is pleased to support the IFRC and its rapid, flexible and principled response to the most pressing humanitarian needs across the globe.”

— H. E. Mr. Per Olsson Fridh,
Minister for International Development Cooperation

Composition of regular resources

Multiple sources for multiple uses

Regular resources have a critical role for IFRC to support National Societies in variety of areas as explained below.

Member National Societies pay **membership fees** each year, which are part of regular resources. These funds are an **investment in the IFRC** and intended to cover costs like governance, the IFRC Global Leadership team (Geneva Headquarters and 5 regional offices) as well as accountability and coordination functions at headquarters and basic administration support.

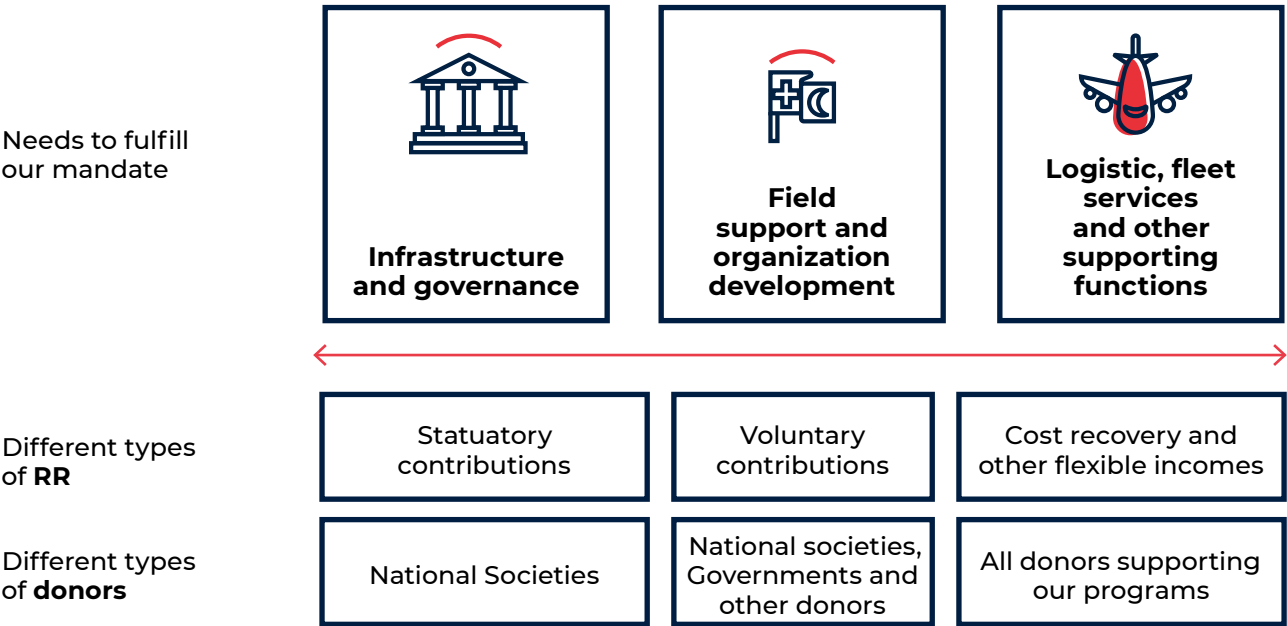
Cost recoveries contribute to services for National Societies such as logistics and procurement. These functions operate with **full cost recovery**, allowing the IFRC to preposition stocks and ensure an effective and efficient supply chain which operates around the clock. The income from these services does not generate a profit but enables the IFRC to maintain the functions.

Supporting key strategic areas

Regular resources support all the IFRC’s work with National Societies, from legal to accountability to financial sustainability, both through the work by country, cluster and regional offices as well as the Geneva headquarters.

Specifically, regular resources contribute to field support and organizational development including capacity building, planning, readiness to respond, operating systems, accountability, legal frameworks and innovation. IFRC headquarters creates policies and technical support materials to guide National Societies in need while Country and Cluster Delegation Heads support National Societies to implement actions in these strategic areas.

IFRC regular resources



IFRC SUPPORT TO NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Key areas of support: Capacity development, readiness to respond, strategic and operational planning, system development & accountability, legal frameworks, innovation and management functions.

In the Field:

Enabling targeted, day to day support to National Societies for capacity development and emergencies.

At headquarters:

Enabling support to multiple National Societies at once in parallel thematic and development areas.

Allocation of regular resources

Allocation priorities

The most important aspect of regular resources is their flexibility. Decisions on the allocation of the IFRC's regular resources are guided by several overarching priorities.

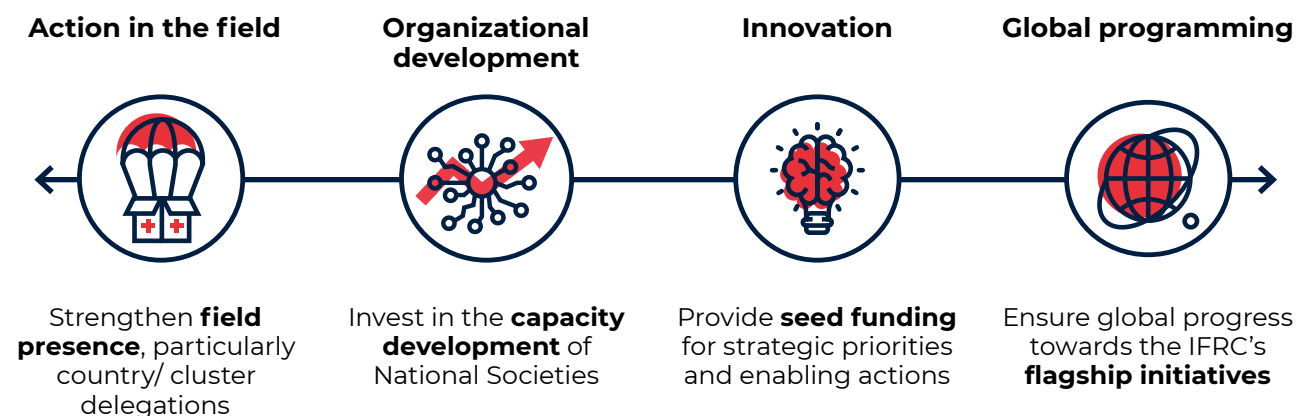
- **Action in the field:** Strengthening field presence, particularly in country/cluster delegations to support National Societies on a day-to-day basis
- **Stronger National Societies:** Investment in the organizational and programmatic capacity development of National Societies including legal aspects, systems, processes, integrity, readiness, digital abilities
- **Innovation:** Provision of seed funding for each Area of Focus and Strategy for Implementation
- **Global Programming:** Ensuring global progress on main initiatives through implementation in National Societies and by financial support and capacity building for those initiatives

Allocation process

The IFRC Secretary General holds decision making authority in the regular resources allocation process with input from senior management. The process begins with an initial analysis of planned or anticipated thematic and emergency work for the coming year and identification of gaps or difficulties to fund specific areas. This takes place at the beginning of the year and is based on the IFRC's Plan and Budget, Operational plans and ongoing Emergency Appeals. When considering potential areas for allocation, priority is given to **strengthening field presence and National Society development** and strategic priorities such as digitalization.

After allocations are made, there is a review process. Each quarter, the IFRC reviews completed and intended spending, identifies costs savings, and analyses events that may have changed priorities. Regular resources may be re-directed at this time to reflect changing needs. Having the flexibility to reallocate these funds is another reason why regular resources are so important.

Priorities for allocation of regular resources



Regular Resources funding and expenditure in 2020

Funding

Regular resources funding in 2020	CHF million
Statutory Contributions	36
Voluntary contributions and donations	30
Cost recoveries	39
Other income	4
Total	109

Expenditure

In 2020, the IFRC reported an expenditure of CHF 82 million of regular resources. These funds were used at global, regional and country levels in support of National Societies. They were utilized to achieve impact in ensuring sustainable field presence and supporting National Societies in their development and in emergencies.

CHF 12.5 million of regular resources were spent on **National Society development and operational coordination**, directly supporting National Societies to increase their capacities and improve effectiveness of programming. CHF 12.5 million went to **humanitarian diplomacy and digitalization**, ensuring that global discussions and decisions serve the most vulnerable and supporting the digital transformation of the network- one of Strategy 2030's priority areas.

The investment in the IFRC's functioning included CHF 12.6 million for governance and leadership. This is far less than the CHF 36.4 million in income from member statutory contributions.

Finally, regions received more than CHF 22 million towards regional and country/cluster offices, to ensure day to day support of National Societies.

At the close of 2020, there was a surplus of CHF 27 million of regular resources due to two main factors – changes in planned spending for 2020, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and savings due to efficiency. Because of the exceptional nature of this remaining funding, and to honor the nature of regular resources, a decision was taken to apply 14 million to the **Capacity Building Fund**. The fund supports National Societies to develop in the areas of integrity, transparency and accountability; financial sustainability; youth and volunteering development; and systems development and digital transformation. This investment will have a direct impact on their ability to implement quality programming and become more accountable and trusted.

“2020 has proven the value of our core contribution to IFRC. As the world locked itself, Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers continued to operate where others could not. Covid-19 taught us how investing in local capacity is an absolute no-brainer.”

— Marriet Schuurman,
Director Stabilization and Humanitarian Aid,
Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In the field, out of a total of 50 country/cluster delegations, 41 were provided with regular resources funding in 2020. The remaining eight continued to be funded through emergency and project funding. As explained previously, the IFRC is prioritizing the allocation of regular resources to strengthen country presence to avoid the unsustainability and unpredictability of project funding which also limits the opportunity to support National Society development. It is important to note that as of **2021 all IFRC**

country/cluster offices will be supported by regular resources.

Regular resources are some of the most important resources that partners can provide. The IFRC is grateful for the support of its partners who choose to provide regular resource funding. This is the result of long partnerships and trust building, and these partners have fully understood the value that regular resources have in the IFRC's ability to support National Societies on an ongoing basis.

Partners providing voluntary regular resource funding in 2020

Name of donor	Value of funding (CHF million)
UK Government	10.6
Swedish Government	7.1
Swiss Government	3.5
Netherlands Government	3.2
Hungarian Government	1.2
The United Arab Emirates Government	1.1
Panama Government	0.7
Irish Government	0.6
New Zealand Government	0.1
Turkish Government	0.1
Other unsolicited donations	1.2
TOTAL	30.0

“More than 100 million people have been supported this year by IFRC and its National Societies thanks to life-saving and life-changing work of 13.7 million dedicated volunteers all around the world. We are proud to support such an impressive and unique movement especially in this context of pandemic. In 2020, Switzerland had the honor of chairing the IFRC Donor Advisory Group.”

— Patricia Danzi, Ambassador,
Director General
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

The impact of regular resources for communities

Regular resources enable the IFRC's effective assistance to National Societies by ensuring a sustained presence in communities, supporting National Society Development and supporting emergency response efforts of National Societies.

Sustained presence in the field

Ensuring a permanent IFRC presence locally, is critical to supporting National Societies. Strong National Societies are better able to serve communities. IFRC country/cluster offices provide the most **direct day to day support** to National Societies, for their development and during emergencies.

In the past, country/cluster offices often had to be supported through income linked to emergencies or programmes. While this can make sense for the support provided during that time, **what happens when the emergency or project ends?** This kind of funding is neither predictable nor sustainable and makes a focus on capacity development extremely difficult.

Capacity development takes time. It is a medium to long-term process, requires trust building and a roadmap to achieve progress. Having a sustained presence of an IFRC country/cluster office is crucial for this to happen. It limits the risks associated with programmatic funding, including office closure when an emergency operation ends. If a National Society sees the IFRC coming and going, it impacts their confidence in the IFRC's ability to support them and thus reduces their willingness to engage.

At the same time, having an existing presence, allows the IFRC to **act fast when disasters strike**, providing needed support in planning, fundraising, implementation and reporting.

The IFRC's goal is to have 100% of its country/cluster offices supported by regular resources, which will become a reality in 2021. In offices where there is a sustained presence and significant programmatic support, additional functions may also be funded. The IFRC envisages strengthening these additional roles in the future, which bring much needed technical expertise closer to National Societies.

Examples from the field

Regular resources for the **Myanmar** delegation and the Rakhine State office have allowed the IFRC to maintain leadership to deal with the numerous humanitarian challenges as they happen. With ongoing flare ups in civil unrest, this presence has been particularly important. **Papua New Guinea** is one of those countries where humanitarian needs are enormous but donor interest in development programs is lower. In such challenging environment, regular resources have allowed the IFRC to maintain its presence and continue support to the National Society. In situations like this, where there is little opportunity for emergency or project funding, regular resources are critical to ensure that the National Society can be supported.

In the **South Caucasus**, thanks to regular resources, the IFRC has begun the process to re-open the IFRC office in Azerbaijan. This office will be important considering COVID-19 and anticipated draught.

The IFRC office in **Greece** experienced significant instability, as it previously depended on programmatic funding, mainly due to the influx of migrants. The office went between large operations, but when the operation ended, so did the funding. Regular resources mean that the IFRC will be there at the onset of the next emergency to accompany the National Society and focus on contingency plans for the crises that will inevitably happen.

The **Democratic Republic of Congo** experiences numerous emergencies. However, operational funding did not allow opportunities to support the National Society's development. Regular resources ensure a constant presence allowing longer-term planning with a greater level of confidence. The IFRC Head of Delegation is a member of many taskforces with UN, IASC, etc., for example, to support better coordination for the National Society's work, which would not be possible without the support of regular resources.

The IFRC office in **Cameroon** was in danger of closing before regular resources were received. This has helped to gain the confidence of the National Society, knowing that the presence will continue. The IFRC also now has an office to support the Red Crescent Society of Islamic Republic of **Iran** to deliver vital humanitarian assistance.



National Society Development

There are two main areas where the IFRC supports National Societies to develop their capacities: **organizational** development and **programmatic** development.

National Society development is an **equal partnership** between a National Society and the IFRC. National Societies are responsible for their own development. The IFRC provides tools, guidance and expertise to accompany them in this process.

Aside from the assistance provided by the IFRC directly to National Societies, the IFRC also coordinates resources from within the network. The IFRC has considerable expertise but is by no means alone in this in the network. Some National Societies are leading experts in various fields and play an important role in the capacity development of their sister Societies. The IFRC acts as a broker to connect National Societies who need support, to other National Societies who have the necessary expertise.

Organizational development

Organizational development leads to stronger, local organizations that are transparent, accountable and have the tools and systems they need to successfully carry out their work for vulnerable people. The IFRC's support includes the **development of systems** including finance, human resources, volunteer management, etc. It includes **training and development** for National Society leaders, advising on Governance development and capacity and training for increased **accountability**. The IFRC also accompanies National Societies who are experiencing **integrity** crises, not just to 'fix the problem' but to reduce future risk.

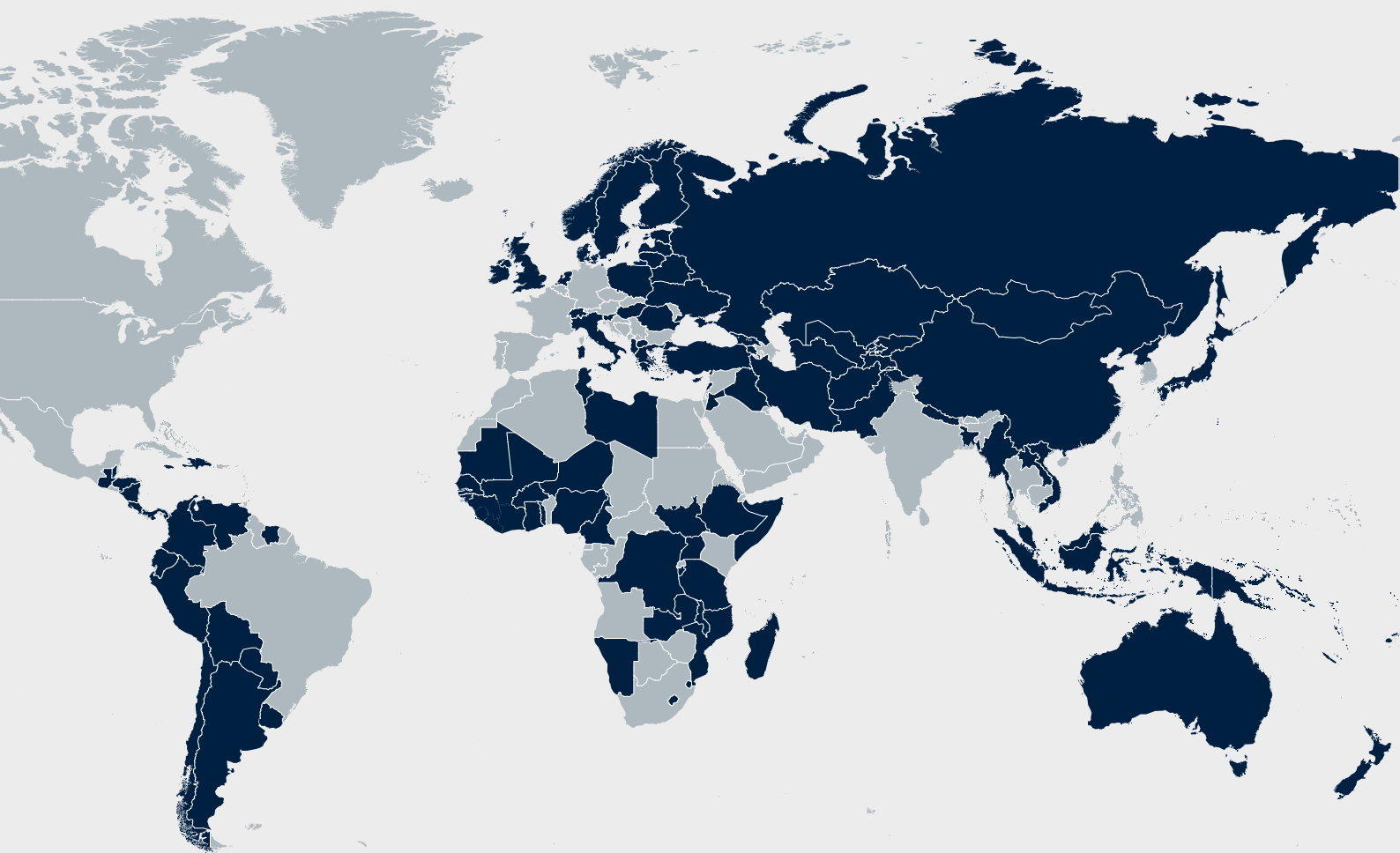
“IFRC is a highly valued and trusted partner of Ireland. The critical work of IFRC, in very challenging circumstances, resonates strongly with Ireland’s focus on fragile and forgotten contexts. Working with local National Societies and networks, the IFRC provides a rapid response in emergency settings whilst also building local capacity to respond to future crises.”

*— Simon Coveney TD, Ireland
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence*

Regular resources supported the development of OCAC, enabling the IFRC to engage National Societies to co-design the OCAC methodology. With this support,

the IFRC coordinates all efforts on OCAC, training and mobilising facilitators, and verifying OCAC reports. Regular resources have enabled some regional capacity, which with the support of the IFRC country/cluster offices can tailor support to the requesting National Society, ensuring that the results inform and contribute to the prioritization of development actions. Importantly regular resources enable the IFRC to provide complementary funding to National Societies in need to participate in the OCAC process.

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The IFRC provides **legal guidance** to National Societies to strengthen their role in their country and facilitate their work through their statutes, auxiliary role and Red Cross/Red Crescent laws.

In 2020, 43 National Societies started the process of revision of their Statutes and 18 National Societies have Statutes that are aligned with standards in IFRC guidance. The IFRC's guidance defines updated standards to avoid integrity issues (all types of harassment, fraud and corruption, abuse of power and nepotism, treating everyone with dignity and respect). **Objective: all 192 National Societies are to update their statutes by 2025.** In addition to this progress, six National Societies started process of revision of their Red Cross Red Crescent Laws.

Finally, given the circumstances during COVID-19, many National Societies were obligated to adapt how they work and communicate. Regular resources contributed to the provision of **digital information and guidance** for National Societies on virtual meetings and online governance processes.

Programmatic development

The IFRC develops guidance, standards and policies in a number of areas with the support of regular resources. National Societies can use these policies as a base for developing their own, adapted to their context. When requested, the IFRC also supports them to do so. For example, the IFRC exceeded its target to provide protection, gender and inclusion by supporting 15 National Societies in the development of their policies, such as policies on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse. **These policies have a direct impact on the ability of the National Society to effectively incorporate protection, gender and inclusion into programming.**

IFRC staff hold technical expertise in numerous areas. When a National Society needs support on a specific topic they can reach out to technical experts in country, regional or Geneva offices. This support was crucial in the network's response to COVID-19, for example, where the IFRC organized **help desks on health, livelihoods and cash among others**. Regular resources contributed to all these support systems.

Examples from the field

Regular resources have been instrumental in partnering with National Societies to develop **strategic plans**. The IFRC has supported National Societies in numerous countries such as **Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Papua New Guinea**. Not only is this important for the

National Societies operations, but it is an opportunity for greater coordination, by ensuring alignment with Strategy 2030, for example.

The IFRC plays a strong role in helping National Societies to improve their transparency and accountability. In 2020, regular resources enabled the IFRC to support National Societies undergoing transitional processes in places like in **Sudan** and **Greece**. The support in **Sudan** included a new governance structure and drafting of a road map for greater accountability.

Leadership support can help new National Society leaders to prepare for their role to be effective resources for their National Societies. In **Botswana**, the new Secretary General was supported with leadership mentoring and with the support of the IFRC has been appointed to the Compliance and Mediation Committee.

Having adequate **systems** in place is important to carry out effective programmes. Regular resources enable the IFRC work with National Societies to develop and use systems to improve their services to the most vulnerable. **Iraq** and **Jordan** Red Crescent were supported to modernize their finance and human resources systems. Regular resources enabled the IFRC to bring in a specialist to support improvement in critical back-office services. In 2020, the IFRC supported **Sudan** with logistics, line management, and human resources.

Supporting National Societies to develop partnerships improves their financial sustainability. **Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya** were supported in their domestic fundraising. While an experienced fundraiser, Kenya faced an increasingly crowded space which necessitated learning to diversify its income sources. The learning from this work is now being used to support other National Societies. In **South Africa**, the IFRC supported the National Society to achieve an MOU with the Southern African Development Community on promoting vaccination and with South African weather services on **forecast based financing** and climate-based issues. In **Georgia**, a partnership with UNDP has been facilitated related to the professionalisation of home care services.

Regular resources enabled the IFRC to support resource mobilization during COVID-19, successfully unlocking funding from the World Bank for **Lebanon's** vaccination roll-out and potential for other countries to access future funds.

In **Azerbaijan**, the IFRC opened the door to negotiation with EU for funding for the National Society.

A National Society's **auxiliary role** is crucial to define their relationship with their authorities and how they work in a country. In 2020, some of the countries that benefitted from the IFRC's support to strengthen their auxiliary role were **Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Kiribati, Panama, Philippines** and **Uganda**. **El Salvador, Panama** and **Guatemala** National Societies' work in the COVID-19 emergency was recognized in 2020, establishing significant legal provisions, and strengthening the relationship and coordination with the ministries of health of those countries, with the support of the IFRC. Several other countries adopted specific language recognizing the auxiliary role of Red Cross Red Crescent as first responders to the COVID-19 pandemic (**Bahamas, Jamaica, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago**).

Emergency response

When a National Society is faced with an emergency, it can count on the IFRC's aid. Regular resources contribute to a number of areas in emergency response.

- **Planning:** When disasters strike, the IFRC works with National Societies to develop their response plans (often at country-level)
- **Appeals:** Timely launching of an Emergency Appeal, or provision of DREF funding
- **Coordination:** Coordination of member support when international assistance is needed
- **Technical expertise:** IFRC technical experts are there to support the National Society when needed in any of its areas of work
- **Fundraising:** When an Emergency Appeal is launched, the IFRC supports the National Society to fundraise for its response

Examples from the field

Whether for COVID-19 or other emergencies, regular resources enabled the IFRC to work with National Societies to develop emergency response plans and plans of action in 2020. For example, in **Sudan** (floods, population movement and COVID-19), **Belarus, Russia** and **Moldova** (Post Presidential elections, COVID-19), **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan**. In **Honduras**, the IFRC worked with the National Society on the establishment of a joint work plan with the UN system and the activation of the shelter cluster.

In **Central America** the IFRC was able to strengthen a strategic alliance with CEPREDENAC, the regional intergovernmental organization belonging to the Central American Integration System as the Specialized Secretariat in charge of coordination for disaster prevention in Central America. Through this partnership, the IFRC contributed to the review and activation of a **regional emergency coordination mechanism** and the recognition of the role of the National Societies in the prevention of disasters in Central America.

In Papua New Guinea, the IFRC carried out a Preparedness for Effective Response review to ascertain readiness level of the National Society. This can help to direct more effective assistance in the future.

The IFRC worked with the **Armenian Red Cross Society** to gain recognition as a **central cash assistance** organization. As a result, they are now implementing cash programming for the World Food Programme.

Regular resources are helping National Societies to become 'cash ready'. The IFRC is working with many National Societies to prepare for and implement cash programming.

CHF 12.5M

of regular resources were spent on National Society development and operational coordination

CHF 22.3M

of regular resources was received by regions to use towards regional country/cluster offices day to day support of National Societies

CHF 12.5M

of regular resources went to humanitarian diplomacy and digitalization

Cash readiness

3

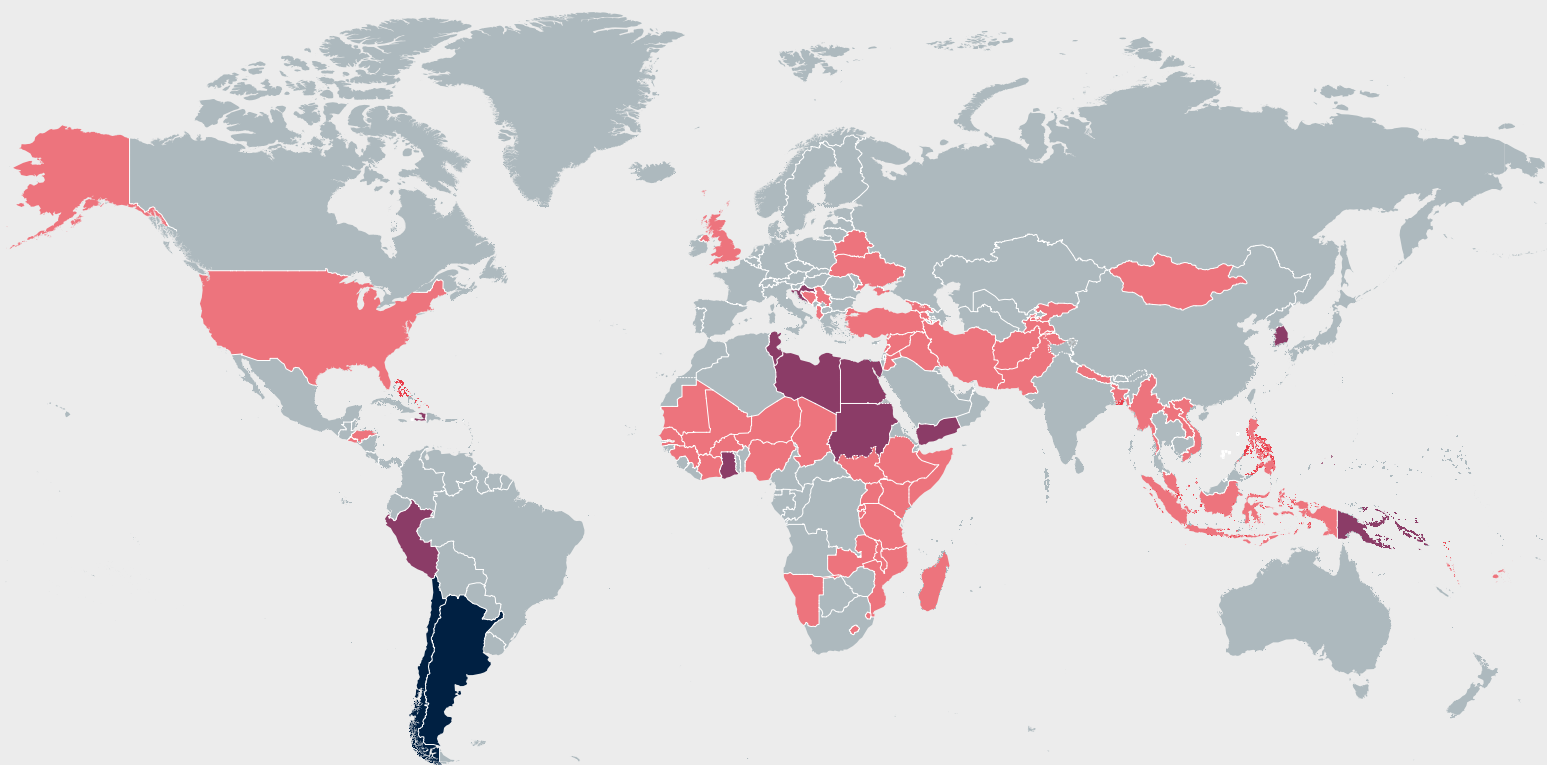
Engaged in the past

60

On-going

12

Under consideration



Through its 2021–2025 Plan and Budget, the IFRC has set an ambitious target to deliver 50 per cent of humanitarian action through cash by 2025, supporting National Societies to prepare for and carry out cash programming.

60

National Societies are currently implementing cash programming

43

National Societies started the process of revision of their Statutes and **18 National Societies** have Statutes aligned with standards in IFRC guidance

15

National Societies were supported by the IFRC in developing their policies such as on protection, gender and inclusion

SPOTLIGHT ON

REGULAR RESOURCES IN COVID-19

COVID-19 has been, in many ways, a case study for the value of regular resources. The virus proved extremely unpredictable and fast, with needs changing on an almost daily basis. Flexibility was the key to responding.

While funds provided to the COVID-19 global appeal are earmarked to the response, the flexibility within the response allowed the IFRC and National Societies to respond to constantly changing circumstances and needs. Regular resources were a lifeline allowing the IFRC to respond quickly and tailor its response to the needs of different National Societies.

COVID-19 tested and often surpassed the capacities of even the most developed National Societies. The IFRC's global approach comprised of many local responses would not have been possible without regular resources. Regular resources allowed the IFRC to provide vital services to 172 National Societies.

The IFRC **managed the Global Emergency Appeal**, which enabled National Societies to present a united and coherent plan to partners. This facilitated not only funding, but also brought National Societies together in common reporting.

The use of the IFRC's Go Platform (which regular resources contributed to the development of) vastly improved data collection, giving National Societies more in-depth and up to date information to inform their approaches and helping them learn from one another.

From the first moments, IFRC country/cluster offices worked with National Societies to **develop their response plans**. Not only did this help to ensure strong local responses, but also a coherent global approach with local context.

The pandemic limited the ability of the IFRC to provide and coordinate physical surge support. The IFRC and National Societies remained committed to supporting one another but had to turn to more innovative and digital solutions. Within this new reality, the IFRC continued to foster **membership support and peer learning**. Information on the GO Platform, help desks and COVID-19 specific guidance helped National Societies to learn throughout the response and continue to improve their interventions. Surge support was provided in a mix of physical and remote modalities.

Logistics and procurement services, supported by regular resources, helped National Societies source the equipment and materials needed for their responses. For instance, the IFRC's global sourcing capacity **gave many National Societies access to personal protective equipment (PPE)** that they otherwise could not have gotten or would have received much later. Weekly meetings through the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation group allowed sharing of information and discussions on tendering, putting discussions that were previously theoretical into practice.

IFRC staff contributed greatly to **raising funds** which enabled the **allocation of over CHF 217 million** to support National Societies for their domestic responses. Country and cluster offices equally supported National Societies to raise funds – connecting them with partners and funding opportunities. The funds facilitated by the IFRC were a lifeline to many National Societies, particularly ones that did not have the capacity to mobilise funding nationally, i.e. the ones in poorer or emerging countries.

For more information on the network's response to COVID-19 please see the COVID-19 section on page 61.



IFRC FUNDS

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

In 2020, the DREF and Forecast Based Action (FbA) by the DREF supported 40 operations in response to floods, 17 for cyclones, eight population movement operations and another eight for epidemics. Five per cent were for early actions via the Early Action Protocols. CHF 34 million were allocated by the DREF for early action and emergency response in 78 countries, and CHF 1 million as a loan to the global Emergency Appeal for the COVID pandemic.

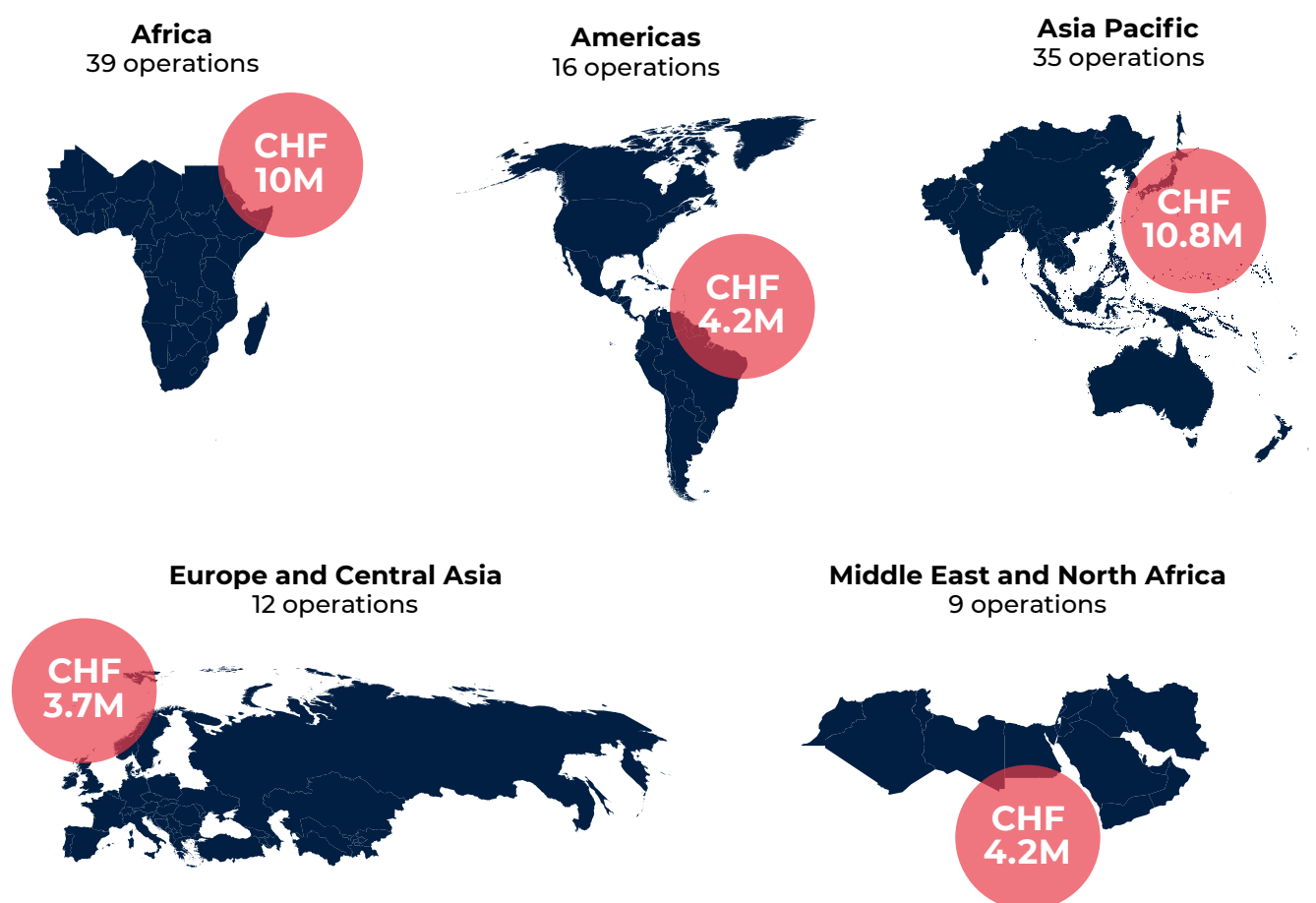
Strong, sustainable, and effective National Societies are the bedrock of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. While they have been delivering humanitarian action for many decades, they still need support through investment to continue transforming and adapting to the fast-changing environment, become agile and fit for purpose and to deal with the adverse

effects of climate change, pandemics and a resurgence of violence, racism and other challenges in a complex global context.

Strong National Societies are central to achieving greater localization of humanitarian action, which the humanitarian system has committed to and remains an important cornerstone meeting ever increasing humanitarian needs.

The diversity of National Societies needs a wide range of development support. The Capacity Building Fund (CBF), the National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) and the Empress Shoken Fund (ESF) complement each other to meet the range of National Societies' needs and contribute to a broader transformation in the IFRC network.

DREF Allocations in 2020 by region



Capacity Building Fund (CBF)

The Capacity Building Fund was formally established by the IFRC's Governing Board in May 2000 to assist National Societies with their development. In 2020, the IFRC renewed its purpose, business rules and management structure to scale up CBF support and establish a mechanism that is agile, easy to administer and enables the IFRC Secretariat to respond to National Society priority needs in a quick and efficient manner. The revived CBF will support National Societies to lead and accelerate their transformation by providing resources to meet integrity, transparency and accountability, financial sustainability, youth and volunteering

development, and systems development and digital transformation development priorities. The IFRC will support the CBF by allocating a substantial amount from its unrestricted reserves that will be augmented by additional donations of partners.

The CBF will be accessible to National Societies with allocations based on measurable results that respond to acute challenges and will gradually expand support based on achievements. The re-engineered CBF is expected to become operational in 2021.

National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA)

2020 saw the continued growth and development of the NSIA, a joint initiative of the IFRC and the ICRC to support the long term, sustainable development of National Societies in high-risk contexts. It provides flexible multi-year funding to support National Societies with their organizational development and efforts to strengthen capacities so they are better able to scale up in times of emergency and to deliver essential services to communities at risk.

In 2020, seven National Societies were allocated CHF 1.7 million. This brings the total number of National Societies supported to 17 so far. Despite the immediate focus on providing services in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, there were 49 applications from National Societies, of which 57 per cent indicated that

the pandemic would lead to a decrease in income in the long-term. There was also an increase in the quality of proposals to the NSIA, particularly at the Accelerator stage, with the number of promising investment opportunities far exceeding funds available.

There has been strong interest from National Societies in boosting their financial sustainability, and the first of these are beginning to demonstrate impact. The National Societies in Lebanon, Ukraine, and Colombia that were awarded funds in 2019 have already demonstrated considerable return on investment, generating more than CHF 20 million in additional income for their domestic services and helping them to cement their position as trusted partners for the delivery of principled and effective humanitarian action.

Empress Shôken Fund (ESF)

The ESF was created in 1912 by Her Majesty, the Empress of Japan at the 9th International Red Cross Conference to promote "relief work in time of peace". In recent years, the ESF supported projects showing innovation in addressing humanitarian challenges and that strengthened National Societies. The fund encouraged new ideas and imaginative approaches that have the potential to generate new insights that can be beneficial to the Movement.

In 2020, the fund has distributed CHF 407,929 to 14 projects in Argentina, Bulgaria, Greece, Iraq, Lithuania,

Montenegro, Namibia and Palestine, Panama, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda.

These projects covered a number of themes including first aid, youth engagement, and disaster preparedness. Nearly all of the selected projects seek to strengthen the volunteer base of National Societies to build on the unique role of the Movement in communities.

The fund also invited National Societies to share stories and learnings to be collected, to mark the fund's 100th distribution in 2021.



COVID 19





THE IFRC'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused not only a public health emergency, but a humanitarian crisis that has affected the lives and livelihoods of people around the world. At the end of 2020, [WHO](#) reported over 79.2 million cases and more than 1.7 million deaths from COVID-19.

As a result of the pandemic, global extreme poverty rose in 2020 for the first time in over 20 years. According to the [World Bank](#), between 88 million and 115 million people were forced into extreme poverty in this period.

While many countries have focused on lockdown measures, others have shown that investment in public health interventions, including contact tracing and testing, has been efficient in stemming transmission.

However, it is important to understand local barriers to following guidance on public health interventions. For example, higher transmissions have been seen in poorer communities, where abiding by restrictions such as staying at home translates into not earning the

money to feed one's family, or when living together in tight conditions makes compliance next to impossible.

Responding to COVID-19 requires a whole-of-society approach, with the solidarity and combined actions of individuals, communities, institutions, governments, and donors.

While the focus of the COVID-19 section of the annual report is on the IFRC's support of National Societies during the COVID-19 pandemic, it also provides an overview of the network-wide response and highlights some of the work that National Societies supported by the IFRC have carried out. The response to COVID-19 is a global domestic response where National Societies respond to domestic needs in a coordinated way. For a full picture of the work of the IFRC in response to the pandemic, please refer to the COVID-19 Outbreak 12-month update mentioned below.

It is important to note that the figures in this section are aligned with the 12-month reporting on COVID-19, to end January 2021.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK: 12-MONTH UPDATE

The IFRC recently released an update on its response to the pandemic. The 12-month report brings together information from National Societies and describes the global impact of the network's response and country-level detail of the activities that National Societies have carried out in response to COVID-19 and its effects.

Read the report at: <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/emergency/global-covid-19/>





650.5M

Health and Hygiene promotion activities



106.2M

Community WASH



79.5M

Food and other in-kind assistance



73.6M

Community preparedness, response and disaster risk reduction measures



8.7M

Mental health and psychosocial services



8.4M

Essential community health services



4.2M

Cash and voucher assistance



209.4K

Risk Communication and Community Engagement for vaccine hesitancy



121.2K

Skills development for livelihoods/economic activities



99.3K

Hard to reach persons vaccinated

A FEDERATION-WIDE RESPONSE

In 2020, the IFRC supported the response of National Societies to the impact of COVID-19. These National Societies have been at the front line – responding within their own communities and supporting those most affected by the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

“Our delivery of services has been entirely localized. We focused on scaling up national capacities for both manpower and funding while our international funding helped to address inequities and gaps where domestic funding was not available.”

— Jagan Chapagain, IFRC Secretary General

A local-to-global approach

The Federation-wide approach to COVID-19 reflects both the local and global nature of this operation. The response is primarily a local one, with National Societies addressing the needs of those affected by the pandemic within their own countries, based on their domestic response plans. As front-line community responders in their local and national context, trusted National Society staff and millions of volunteers, including youth volunteers, have scaled up their response to address the divergent health, socio-economic and National Society strengthening needs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers are providing essential services, including healthcare, to those impacted by COVID-19; supporting quarantined communities with education, risk communication, care, shelter, and feeding; delivering psychosocial support to the self-isolated, caregivers and others; and giving durable and non-durable medical supplies and equipment to those in need, including personal protective equipment, and essential blood and plasma.

Staff and volunteers are preparing at-risk communities to respond to disasters and shocks during the

pandemic, including the most vulnerable communities. In addition, they are sustaining healthcare services for ongoing health conditions – malaria-related services, immunization, water, sanitation and hygiene, for example – and helping to avoid sudden disruption to life-saving medicines, such as those for epilepsy and non-communicable diseases.

At the same time, the IFRC is helping to ensure a coordinated response, where member National Societies can learn from one another's operations, and supporting with the latest information, guidance and technical advice to ensure the highest quality interventions by National Societies. Aside from providing health guidance, the IFRC is working with National Societies to design tailored and innovative solutions to social and economic needs, while strengthening their capacities.

In this manner, the IFRC network can better respond to the immense demands and ever-changing character of the pandemic. The global response also coordinates with the International Committee of the Red Cross to ensure greater impact by the members of the Movement.

CHF 1.9 billion

sought by the Federation-wide appeal, including CHF 550 million for the IFRC to support National Societies

CHF 217 million

allocated by the IFRC to support
162 National Societies



Federation-wide Appeal

The Federation-wide COVID-19 Appeal represents a global effort by the entire membership of the IFRC network to respond to the direct and secondary impacts of the pandemic across sectors. Working with the ICRC, which has supported public health services and people detained in contexts affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, the Movement has been united in its efforts against COVID-19.

Within the Federation-wide appeal of CHF 1.9 billion, the IFRC appeal, launched at the end of January and revised four times, seeks CHF 550 million to support National Societies.

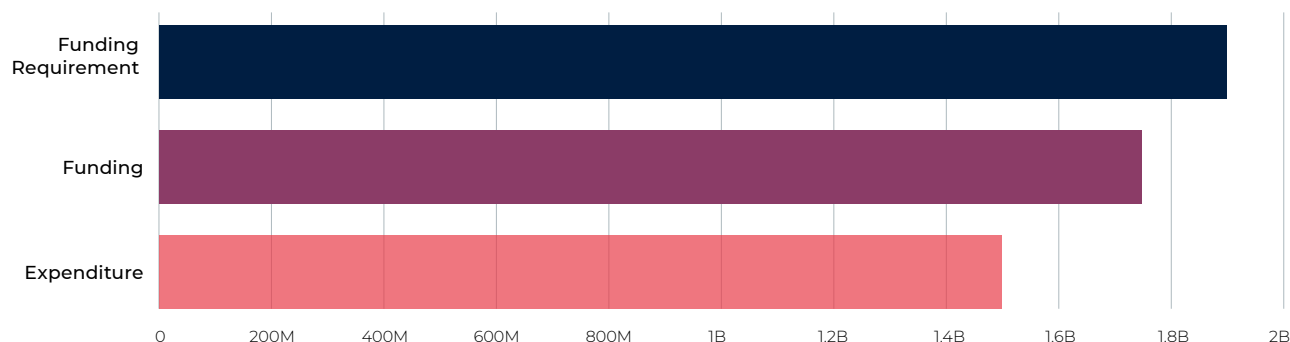
The appeal and response are organized into three pillars:

1. Health: Curbing the pandemic, preventing transmission, sustaining health and WASH
2. Socio-economic: Tackling poverty and exclusion
3. National Society strengthening

The Federation-wide emergency appeal is based on the domestic response plans of National Societies. This ensures linkages between response activities (including through bilateral support and those funded domestically), effective coordination, and maximises the collective humanitarian impact of the members of the network.

In addition, a set of common, Federation-wide indicators and reporting mechanisms were developed to collect data and make visible the scope of the response.

FEDERATION-WIDE APPEAL FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE CHF



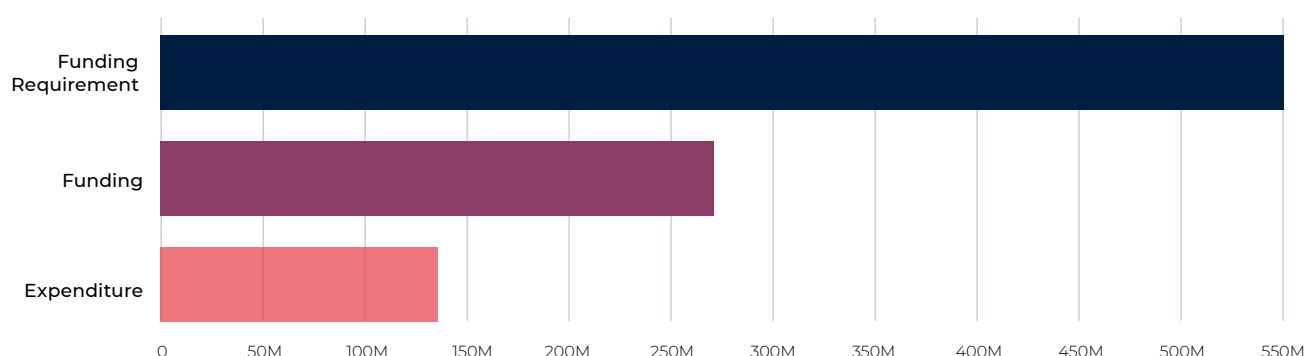
THE IFRC'S SUPPORT OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES' COVID-19 RESPONSE

The pandemic required a whole-of-organization mobilization, and the IFRC activated a multi-layered task force mechanism involving staff at country, regional and headquarters levels from January onwards, with decision-making integrating public health expertise alongside operational coordination.

The IFRC appointed a Special Representative of the Secretary General for COVID-19. This Special

Representative was put in place during the second semester to coordinate the COVID-19 response related to external relations and diplomacy, business growth and continuity, risk management, digitalization initiatives, global and Movement coordination, multisectoral initiatives and lessons learned to prepare for future responses. The Special Representative also engages externally to mobilize political support and maintain momentum around the COVID-19 response agenda.

IFRC PORTION OF THE APPEAL
CHF MILLION



General areas of support

IFRC management of the global emergency appeal

A major part of the IFRC's mandate is to coordinate the network's response to emergencies requiring international support. This role was crucial in the response to COVID-19, where more than 170 National Societies carried out local operations within a global coordinated approach.

The IFRC's Global Appeal brings together a spectrum of needs from every region. In this way, the IFRC was able to develop an approach covering not only direct health needs, but also the secondary impacts of the pandemic, as well as ensuring that National Societies had the capacity to respond effectively.

Being a part of the Global Appeal enabled National Societies to access funding that they may not normally be eligible for or have the capacity to access. The IFRC has developed global partnerships with a variety of partners, which enables faster agreements for funding the response and allows National Societies to engage these partners in their local work.

The IFRC was also able to capitalize on its status as an international organization to access funding for the benefit of National Societies. It opened a clear path for partners to provide support to multiple countries or regions with one entry point.



Top 10 Donors to the IFRC's Global Appeal

	CHF million
British Government (through British Red Cross)	43.0
Japanese Government	21.7
German Government	17.4
Heineken International	15.9
United States Government (USAID)	15.7
Canadian Government (through Canadian Red Cross)	14.9
EU – DG SANTE	10.1
American Red Cross	9.9
Netherlands Government (through Netherlands Red Cross)	6.9
Swiss Government	5.3
Total from top 10 donors	160.8

Through the Global Appeal, coordinated reporting to partners was also assured. Most National Societies provide reports through the IFRC's [GO Platform](#), which allows the IFRC to provide a clear and detailed report

of progress and impact towards the objectives in the Global Appeal. It also reduces the reporting burden on National Societies by reporting into one mechanism.

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

Funding allocations

The IFRC is working closely with member National Societies in countries responding to active outbreaks to ensure those countries are supported when addressing significant impacts due to the pandemic, especially within high-risk communities.

The IFRC employs a country impact index for COVID-19. This index is an assessment tool that helps to ensure support is given to those most in need. The index is based on vulnerability with risk factors linked to the pandemic, humanitarian context, epidemiological risk factors, health system capacity, socio-economic indicators, government preparedness measures and the mandate of the local National Society.

The IFRC has been providing its member National Societies with financial support, goods, technical guidance and advice, human-resource capacity, capacity building, advocacy, and communications support. Multilateral funding via the IFRC proved to be a lifeline for many low-income National Societies in particular.

Managing the global appeal allows the IFRC to work with partners worldwide for the benefit of National Societies. More than CHF 217 million has been allocated to support 162 National Societies' domestic response to COVID-19. In addition, the IFRC has handled global and regional procurement of personal protective equipment and other materials to National Societies in the five regions.

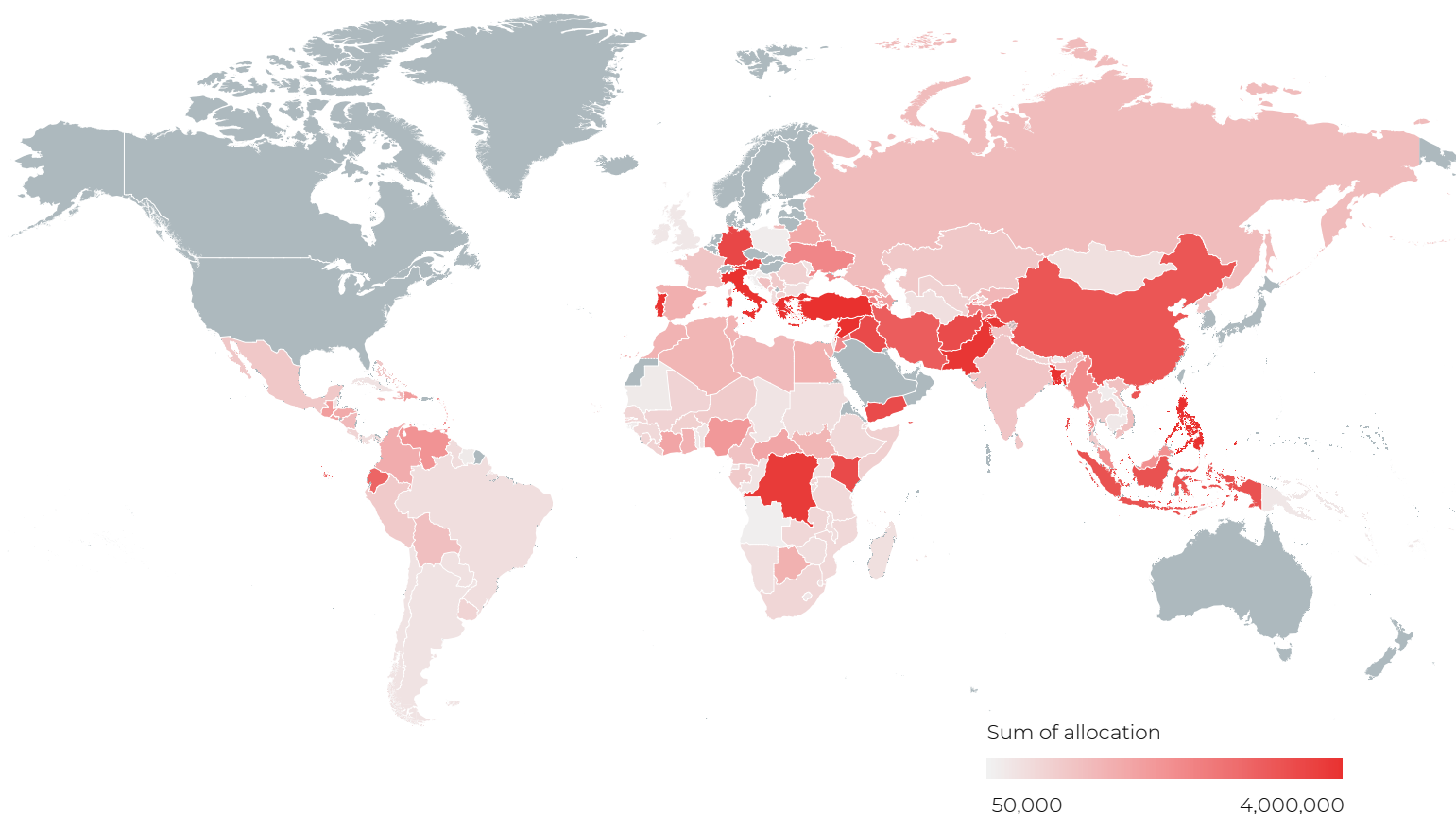
IFRC COVID-19 Emergency Appeal allocations by country

162

National Societies supported by allocations

CHF 217M

Total amount allocated





IFRC coordination support

The COVID-19 pandemic is the first truly global crisis requiring an IFRC network-wide response and is a prime example of the IFRC local-to-global approach. Importantly, the individual responses to the pandemic have been based on local needs, contexts and capacities.

Globally, the network has responded in a coordinated fashion, learning from and supporting one another in a unified approach. This response required an unparalleled level of collaboration to ensure that each National Society has the funding, materials, and information they need.

The IFRC focused on providing the needed support to National Societies in partnership with its membership. Many National Societies took the lead to support the network in different areas, sharing both capacities and learning.

The IFRC has played a key role over the past year in providing effective coordination for the collective response of the network. In accordance with its mandate, the IFRC has prioritized effective membership coordination since the commencement of the COVID-19 response.

Membership coordination

At the strategic level, coordination occurs through regular leadership discussions with National Societies, through bi-weekly National Society Advisory Group meetings in which issues are discussed between the IFRC and the operational management of a group of National Societies, and regional consultations with National Society leadership to co-create the strategic direction of the response.

At the operational level, the IFRC has been instrumental in creating and implementing the Federation-wide approach to the operation and has mobilized the collective resources of the IFRC network, sharing leadership among the IFRC, National Societies, and reference centres, hubs and labs. This comprises both thematic and geographical support.

These initiatives resulted in the adaptation or production of innovative COVID-19 tools and guidance with global applicability. This includes the creation of a remote online global help desk for National Society Business Continuity Planning hosted by the Global Disaster Preparedness Centre, an IFRC reference centre, a health help desk, service desks for livelihoods and cash transfer programming support through the Livelihoods Resource Centre and Cash Hub.

It also includes an Urban Pandemic Technical Support Service for preparedness and response in urban settings, a global exchange platform for volunteers (SOKONI) to provide information and space for volunteers, guidance on National Society financial sustainability, and regional guidelines on the inclusion of migrants in the COVID-19 response (for more information, see <https://covid.ifrc.org/>).

The Federation-wide response to COVID-19 also facilitated peer support between National Societies through country support teams to assist National Societies in their domestic response to the pandemic. National Societies have contributed to responses in other countries through bilateral partnerships, including cash, in-kind support, and personnel. Efforts are ongoing to share and repurpose human resources from across the network to strengthen the Federation-wide response.

Movement coordination

The IFRC has strengthened collaboration within the Movement at local, regional and global levels to streamline the response to the pandemic. For example, revisions to the Emergency Appeal were presented in coordination with the ICRC, which carries out actions in response to COVID-19 and provides additional support to National Societies in conflict-affected areas.

From issuing fully coordinated appeals to organizing coordination meetings, the IFRC has witnessed how the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation process has made the Movement stronger and more efficient. The same coordinated approach is now being used in the COVID-19 global response related to immunization and supporting its roll-out.

Coordination with other humanitarian actors

The IFRC and National Societies coordinated their COVID-19 response activities with other humanitarian agencies, including the United Nations, as well as international/national NGOs, civil society organizations, and the private sector. This coordination occurs through humanitarian country teams, global clusters and other coordination mechanisms at local, national, regional and global levels, including the IFRC's co-leadership role of the Global Shelter Cluster, for example.



Technical guidance, advice and learning

The IFRC has longstanding experience in responding to epidemics. It has worked with National Societies and engaged thousands of volunteers through its community epidemic and pandemic preparedness programme to anticipate and plan for these scenarios.

Most epidemics occur within one region, where National Societies face similar challenges and can easily connect. With COVID-19, understanding of the virus grew almost as quickly as the virus spread. Therefore, ensuring up-to-date guidance to National Societies was vital, and necessitated reviewing and adapting existing protocols and guidance for epidemics.

The IFRC, through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, worked closely with partners like WHO and the ICRC to develop global guidance. This guidance was made public for the benefit of the overall humanitarian response to the pandemic. The IFRC has an important voice and perspective on localization that added to global guidance, especially on topics such as dealing with COVID-19 in complex settings.

The IFRC is also an important source of technical information for the activities of National Societies. While it maintains numerous tools on pandemics, they were all updated with information about the particularities of responding to COVID-19.

With the global nature of the pandemic, the IFRC brought National Societies together through webinars

and other digital platforms to learn from and support one another. This has helped to improve programming by providing guidance and tools so that National Societies with less experience in dealing with epidemics can be supported by those with expertise. At the end of 2020, the IFRC developed a COVID-19 learning strategy to better connect staff and volunteers to up to date quality learning opportunities.

The [Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Resource Compendium](#) has links to resources, including a Business Continuity Planning Help Desk, Cash Help Desk, Community Engagement Hub, Livelihoods Help Desk, Health Help Desk, IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support, and National Society resources and guidance on a variety of topics.

Help desks

Due to the exponential growth of the pandemic, the rapidly evolving role of National Societies in the response, and the increased demand for health personnel and other surge resources, there is a growing need to collaborate and share technical health advice.

The IFRC [Health Help Desk](#) offers information and guidance to support public health and clinical health aspects of COVID-19 preparedness and response, along with support to adapt, continue and scale up existing health programming to meet communities' ongoing health needs unrelated to the pandemic.

SOKONI

In April 2020, the IFRC launched a global space for exchange of experiences on the response to COVID-19, to connect the volunteers around the world, called "SOKONI", which can be accessed at <http://sokoni.ifrc.org>. Sokoni (which in Kiswahili means 'marketplace') serves as the primary public space where volunteers

and staff of the 192 Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies can interact on all matters related to COVID-19. It provides thematic forums for discussion on selected topics and also provides access to all official documents on COVID-19 hosted in existing IFRC websites, as well as a calendar of events and trainings related to COVID-19.

Surge support

Throughout 2020, the IFRC has provided surge support in the context of COVID-19 through remote and in-country deployments. It has mobilized tools for use by National Societies and IFRC offices to respond not only to the pandemic, but also to other emergencies within the pandemic context (e.g. Honduras Hurricane Eta – Iota, South Sudan floods).

Given public-health-related measures, travel restrictions, organizational and governmental measures introduced with the onset of COVID-19, operations could not continue without planning for new risk considerations. Remote missions were not the main modality used by the IFRC surge system nor by other humanitarian organizations prior to 2020 but were required for the COVID-19 response.

Requests for remote support need to consider the appropriateness of the role profile, the level of trust, contextual knowledge and familiarity with the available

IT and communication tools. This has required the global surge team to continually adapt to ensure compliance with mandatory restrictions and duty of care, while maintaining business continuity and implementing operations in a safe and secure environment for the rapid-response personnel and emergency response unit members. To achieve this, the surge team worked closely with the Staff Health team and business continuity planning advisers at both the regional and headquarters level.

National Societies that supported surge in 2020 required extra dedication due to concerns related to the complex operating context, including COVID-19 cases, associated restrictions, quarantines, testing protocols, evacuation procedures, etc.

Out of the 254 rapid response deployments in 2020, 126 were remote (most of them to support the COVID global operations) and 128 were in-country.

Deployments in 2020

	Female	Male	Total
On site	52	76	128
Remote	58	68	126
Total	110	144	254

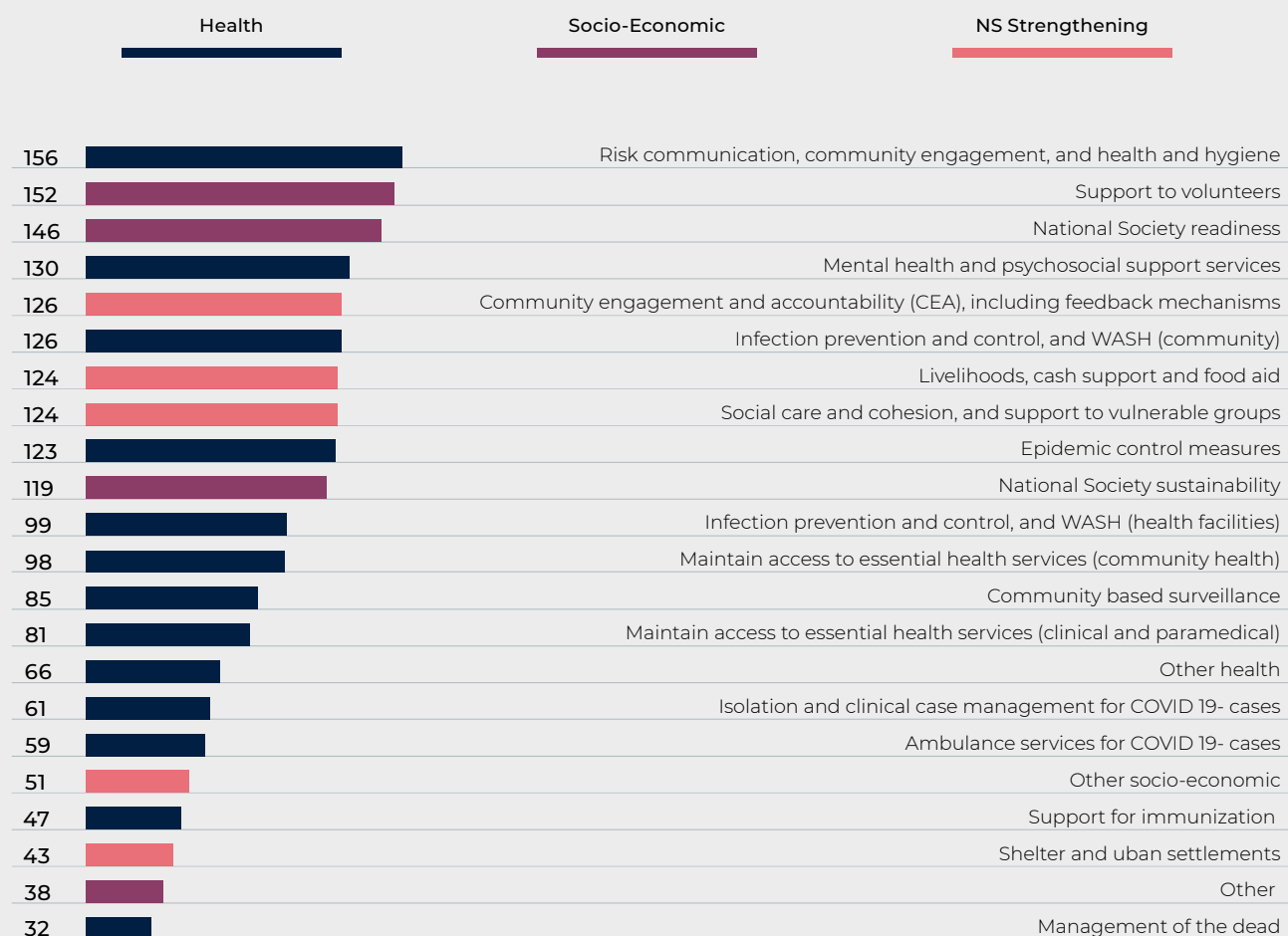
50%

of surge deployments in 2020 were for COVID-19

128

rapid response deployments in 2020 were in-country and 126 were remote

Activity overview



GO PLATFORM

The IFRC's [GO platform](#) has emerged as an essential tool for coordinating the Federation-wide response to COVID-19.

The IFRC adapted its existing GO Platform as the main portal for operational information exchange with National Societies about the pandemic. Given the rapid spread and mutation of the coronavirus, the ability of members to access and analyse data in real time has been crucial to an effective response.

While GO has already proven to be an effective tool, it required development to adapt to the challenges and needs arising from the pandemic. In 2020, the IFRC made strides in collectively sharing real-time operational and financial reporting from across its membership for the COVID-19 response.

The dedicated COVID-19 section on the GO Platform includes information products like a dashboard

showing the current situation, including case trends and other pandemic data. The data behind this dashboard comes from WHO, avoiding duplication of data collection efforts. The dashboard is updated daily and has been evolving to show trends.

Other dashboards (like the one shown below) reflect the involvement of National Societies in strategic priorities and have been of great interest to partners for reporting and planning purposes.

Many National Societies have applied data and used digital tools to enhance their humanitarian services, including interactive messaging to communicate with vulnerable communities about risks, app-based dispatch systems to coordinate local emergency volunteer teams, and risk modelling to enable forecast-based financing and preparedness actions.

Digital services

People around the world have come to rely on and expect a diverse range of digital services to interact with National Societies and the IFRC, as well as with local government, companies, and community organizations and services.

In the context of a health pandemic, achieving a balance between safety protocols and face-to-face interaction with communities has been a priority. In this respect, the IFRC has seen the increased adoption of digital tools and technologies to allow better data collection (e.g., self-registration and use of mobile data collection), remote monitoring, and provision of payments through digital means (e.g. mobile money, prepaid cards). This

has ensured the safety and security of beneficiaries, staff, and volunteers.

Business continuity and duty of care

In the last year, National Societies have increased their awareness of the need for business continuity plans, mainly in response to the pandemic. In 2020, 126 National Societies have reported that they have engaged in business continuity planning for COVID-19 and other emergencies. In addition to trainings and workshops to assist National Societies in the process, the Global Disaster Preparedness centre hosted a [business continuity planning help desk](#).

Thematic areas of support

Health and WASH

The IFRC provided support to National Societies' health interventions in a range of areas from testing and life-saving interventions to mental health and psychosocial support.

Templates and tools for community-based surveillance were provided, including assessments and protocols, so that community members could be better equipped to report suspicious batches of illness which may lead to an epidemic.

Testing

Since November 2020, the IFRC has been implementing the project, "Red Cross actions to contribute to increasing the level of COVID-19 Mobile Testing capacities in EU countries" based on the Project Agreement signed between EU DG SANTE and the IFRC.

The project aims to reduce morbidity, mortality, and social impacts of COVID-19 by preventing, slowing or interrupting transmission in high-risk countries of EU member states, and preventing the spread of infection, identifying clusters and averting community transmission to other countries by scaling up the COVID-19 testing capacity of National Societies of EU member states Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain and Portugal.

Vaccination

The IFRC worked with GAVI and other partners under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to create the COVAX humanitarian buffer, advocating for its existence and providing technical input. The humanitarian buffer is a mechanism established within the COVAX facility to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines for high-risk and vulnerable populations in humanitarian settings.

The humanitarian buffer is only to be used where there are unavoidable gaps in coverage through national vaccination plans. Populations of concern in humanitarian settings may include refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, internally displaced persons, populations in conflict settings or those affected by humanitarian emergencies, and vulnerable migrants, irrespective of their legal status.

The humanitarian buffer will be operationalized in 2021, bringing up to 5% of COVAX vaccines to some of the world's most vulnerable people.

Mental health and psychosocial support

IFRC is hosting the Collective Service for Risk Communication and Community Engagement for COVID-19, a partnership between WHO, UNICEF and the IFRC. For example, the IFRC worked with WHO and 20 other organizations to develop IASC guidance on the mental health and psychosocial support needs of older people during COVID-19.



The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical role of WASH in the prevention of disease transmission, in particular handwashing and hygiene promotion.

Since the start of the COVID 19 response, 136 National Societies have reached 8.7 million people with mental health and psychosocial support services.

The IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support (hosted by Danish Red Cross) along with the IFRC Health and Care team have been providing support to National Society and IFRC offices to facilitate mental health and psychosocial support, promoting psychosocial wellbeing for affected groups, staff and volunteers, and increasing awareness of psychological reactions in times of crisis or social disruption. The Reference Centre has strengthened capacities through virtual trainings, and developed numerous tools and guidelines, and made them available on Health Helpdesk and Psychosocial centre website (<https://pscentre.org/resource-category/covid19/>)

WASH

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role of WASH in the prevention of disease transmission, in particular handwashing and hygiene promotion.

In 2020, community WASH activities reinforced handwashing and hygiene measures for more than 100 million people in 104 countries. In addition, 83 National Societies reported that an estimated 1.1 million people were reached with their community WASH activities as part of the COVID-19 response.

In partnership with WHO and UNICEF, the IFRC supported the Global Hand Hygiene Initiative and development of the Hand Hygiene at Scale guidelines. The IFRC is also an active member of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine's Hygiene Hub, which seeks to align hygiene guidance for COVID-19 across the humanitarian sector to ensure more effective interventions.

The IFRC supported National Societies with a range of technical support, including a technical note on infection, prevention and control with a focus on the widely carried out but generally ineffective practice of outdoor spraying activities; a series of online training sessions for WASH in relation to COVID-19 for National Societies in the Caucasus region; guidance on designs for handwashing facilities in the MENA region; and the formation of a network of volunteers to provide direct support and technical advice to National Societies on hygiene promotion.

Logistics

One of the early challenges in responding to COVID-19 was the lack of protective and medical equipment. This was certainly the case in National Societies: while many of them had a clear role in health activities like screening, testing, quarantine and isolation, they often had problems sourcing the needed equipment.

For example, personal protective equipment (PPE) wasn't readily available in local markets and could only be sourced at the global level. Even when there were local supplies, National Societies often didn't have access to existing local stocks.

This is where IFRC's role was crucial: it provided support through a mix of local (when possible) and international (when necessary) procurement and stock management for PPEs and other relevant items, such as vehicles and medical equipment. The IFRC was able to source them at the global level, which allowed it to better support its membership.

In addition, special procedures were put in place to simplify procurement, standard requirements and quality assurance for PPEs, as well as goods inspection guidelines.

The IFRC continues its procurement and sourcing for PPE supplies – worth CHF 20 million – to address global needs.

A German Government grant also provided significant support. Procurement services valued at almost CHF 16.5 million meant the timely delivery of supplies of PPE, IT equipment, first aid items and specialised vehicles to 60 National Societies. In addition, local procurement in COVID-19 operations, valued at CHF 9.9 million, constituted almost half of the IFRC total of CHF 20 million.

Quality assurance for PPE supplies has been provided to 40 National Societies and IFRC field offices. In total, 70 procurement files were assessed in support of IFRC global and regional procurement, and 10 in-kind donations supported technical evaluation.

Excellent coordination with other major organizations responding to COVID-19, such as WHO and UNICEF, also made the response more efficient. For example, coordination with the World Food Programme on a global cargo provision service secured 48 free flights to 46 destinations, transporting 100 million tons of cargo.

This coordination of sourcing aims to avoid competition for supplies, especially personal protection equipment. It extends across the Movement and IFRC took part in

the global tendering process led by WHO on PPE and medical equipment. To prevent price gouging, the IFRC also shared information on pricing.

The IFRC sourced materials for many National Societies, in particular PPE and medical supplies. By leveraging its large-scale purchasing power, it was able to reduce costs, which allowed members to save.

Cash and voucher assistance

The COVID-19 response has provided an incentive for National Societies to scale up their use of cash and voucher assistance, with more than 75 National Societies providing some form of assistance under the Emergency Appeal.

Protection, gender and inclusion

The pandemic has intensified existing gender inequalities, increased incidences of sexual and gender-based violence. In the area of protection, gender and inclusion, National Societies were supported through guidelines and tools; seven guidance notes were developed addressing child protection, sexual gender-based violence, disability inclusion, working with older people and trafficking in persons. The technical guidance note on protection, gender and inclusion was instrumental in enabling National Societies to adapt and respond to emerging vulnerabilities, risks and exposure to violence. This is evident in over 3,000 branches that included analysis of the specific needs of marginalized groups in their assessments and numerous activities focused on improving access for persons with disabilities and other people in vulnerable situations left out of mainstream sensitization efforts.

Migration

The COVID-19 response provided opportunities for National Societies to include migrants and displaced people in their programming, even in contexts where migration was not seen as a priority area, prior to the health crisis. Investments were therefore directed towards the development of global and regional guidance, provision of policy and technical support through global and regional webinars, as well as the release of a policy report, titled [Least Protected, Most Affected: Migrants and refugees facing extraordinary risks during the COVID-19 pandemic](#), officially launched on 10 September by IFRC President, Francesco Rocca.



The first global research on the impact of COVID-19 on migrants, carried out with the engagement of eight National Societies in their respective country contexts and in collaboration with IFRC and ICRC, will be released early March 2021.

Capacities were also strengthened in the context of COVID-19, with the release of recommendations on Reducing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on internally displaced people, and the Practical Guidance for Risk Communication Community Engagement for Refugees, IDPs, Migrants and Host Communities Particularly Vulnerable to COVID-19 Pandemic.

Volunteering

The main priority for the IFRC in 2020 was supporting National Societies in ensuring their duty of care to Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers worldwide. In early 2020, efforts were concentrated in providing guidance to National Societies in the mobilization of personnel for Covid-19 response to ensure the safety and well-being of volunteers, in preparing for and responding to the pandemic. Initial data collected on the number of National Societies with an insurance mechanism for volunteers indicated that out of 110 National Societies, 20 National Societies had no means to insure their volunteers against accident, health related incident or death. As further National Societies reported on indicators related to volunteer insurance throughout the year the number jumped to 35 National Societies out of 151 reporting.

The IFRC focused its attention to providing those National Societies support in developing and setting up context specific local mechanisms to ensure insurance coverage for volunteers where appropriate or regional insurance mechanisms where these proved to be more challenging. Twenty-two National Societies have been supported to date and are being provided with funds, to be complemented by the National Societies and their partners, to set up the most appropriate identified mechanisms.

Covid-19 also highlighted the need to bring together collective expertise and resources to respond. The Volunteering Alliance was instrumental in supporting sharing of tools and lessons learnt to improve response and to inspire members in creating new avenues for volunteer participation.

Education

The pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing education disparities and threatens to cause multigenerational learning losses. The unprecedented disruption of education due to Covid-19 increases girls and young women vulnerability to child marriage, early pregnancy, and gender-based violence – all of which decrease the likelihood of continuing their education. Children with disabilities have also been given significantly less education than non-disabled children. National Societies have been supported in addressing education-related needs through technical guidance, tools and advocacy,



including 3 inter-agency guidance notes co-developed with UNICEF, WHO, INEE and ACPHA on Covid-19 prevention and control in schools and on weighing risks regarding school closure and reopening. The IFRC also provided more than 50 online opportunities for peer exchange, collaboration and learning, on a wide range of topics (e.g., first aid, international humanitarian law, empathy and migration, respect for diversity and power relationships, shelter and settlement, psychological first aid, human trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence, disability inclusion, safe housing, disaster risk reduction, conflict management and positive communication, digitalisation of educational resources/initiatives) attended by around 3,500 individuals from 100 countries, including children and youth in the Mediterranean, Europe, North Africa and Middle East regions.

Risk management

The IFRC has strengthened its risk management system by identifying, assessing, escalating, mitigating, and reporting on risks across the IFRC in a systematic way. To this end, a network of dedicated risk management officers in Geneva and in regional offices has been created to regularly exchange learning and best practices on improving the way IFRC manages risks.

A global risk register was established that is regularly monitored and updated, with risks reported from the IFRC regional, country and cluster offices.

Risk management training has been rolled out to all country and cluster offices, with additional training carried out based on individual office and cluster needs. The risk management strategy for 2021–2025 will be rolled out in phases considering the context and capacities of IFRC members and benefiting from the risk management experience gained from the COVID-19 response.

Advocacy and auxiliary role

The IFRC network focused on promoting effectiveness and equity in both the public health and humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It worked to support National Societies to strengthen their auxiliary role to better address the pandemic's devastating effects.

In the context of COVID-19, the IFRC developed several tools on Disaster Law to support National Societies' advocacy efforts to governments, including [key messages for National Societies facing access challenges](#), [a template letter addressed to public authorities](#), and [a model pre-disaster agreement](#).

These tools supported National Societies' efforts to be recognized as first responders in the response to COVID and be granted legal facilities they need to do their work, such as unrestricted access to communities, freedom of movement, etc. These tools supported them to have their auxiliary role fully recognized by authorities.



NATIONAL SOCIETIES IN FOCUS: EXAMPLES FROM THE FIELD

The IFRC has supported National Societies in a wide variety of activities in their individual responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The below section details **a few examples** of National Societies' domestic responses to the pandemic. These National Societies have received support from the IFRC, whether financial or technical. Due to the timing of the IFRC's 12-month report, some of the below examples may carry over into January 2021. To see more examples of National Society activities during COVID-19 in 2020, please see the [IFRC's 12-month report on the network-wide response to COVID-19](#).

**“Misinformation threatens the effectiveness of tackling COVID-19.
We all have a role to play in addressing rumours
affecting the response to the pandemic.”**

— Ghana Red Cross response

Africa

Central African Red Cross Society

The National Society completed construction of an isolation facility where confirmed COVID-19 cases are treated. This effort has provided relief to the populace and improved health service delivery and health-seeking behaviour by providing the additional space and peace of mind needed for patients to visit health facilities for other services with confidence, hence maintaining essential services.

The Comoros Red Crescent

The Comoros Red Crescent has prioritized community awareness through mobile caravans, national and local media and social networks. The awareness topics include prevention measures, testing, stigmatization of COVID-19 positive people and intra-family violence. They also conducted disinfection activities in treatment centres and provided clean drinking water to the treatment centres.

Red Cross of Benin

Red Cross of Benin partnered with two mobile telephone network companies that have distributed hundreds of thousands of awareness messages to the millions of Benin citizens and residents. Red Cross of Benin volunteers trained in contact tracing and screening were deployed to support medical staff in these activities. The Ministry of Health has involved the National Society in its COVID-19 response, including participation in the national task force committee. This has enabled the National Society to contribute to COVID-19 procedures and guidelines for the country.

Burkinabe Red Cross Society

Volunteers carried out awareness-raising activities on COVID-19 prevention at water points and in remote neighbourhoods, where there is overcrowding and compliance with prevention measures is not systematic. This improved physical distancing and mask wearing, thus avoiding turning water points into a source of COVID-19 infection. The presence of National Society volunteers increased community acceptance of messaging and combated rumours. Burkinabe Red Cross Society conducted targeting and provided food assistance to vulnerable households affected by COVID-19. The objective of this assistance was to improve the daily meals of the households during periods of travel restrictions linked to COVID-19. Burkinabe Red Cross Society has also given financial support to vulnerable household members whose economic activities have been affected by the pandemic.

This included drilling of boreholes, construction of ground reservoirs, distribution of garden tools and food items, and cash transfers.

The Gambia Red Cross Society

The National Society conducted livelihoods, cash support and food aid reaching more than 2,500 beneficiaries. This included drilling of boreholes, construction of ground reservoirs, distribution of garden tools and food items, and cash transfers. Ambulance services transported more than 380 confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases.



Americas

Bolivian Red Cross

The Bolivian Red Cross supports all three priorities of this operation, with a focus on health, including mental health and psychosocial support, care for returnees, first-line responders (including volunteers) and those requiring medical products (PPE and transport of 66 tonnes of medical oxygen). Additionally, three branches carried out home-based care campaigns. Volunteers reached nearly 6,000 people with hygiene kits, shelter (mattresses and bedding), and rapid testing. Nearly 7,000 people were reached with psychosocial support. Over 5,000 fumigations were conducted in health centres, police stations etc.

Peruvian Red Cross

In 2020, the Peruvian Red Cross reached more than 500,000 people in the departments of Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque, La Libertad, San Martín, Lima and Ica with community-level actions to prevent and control contagion of COVID-19, including WASH actions, and supported livelihoods and household food security with the distribution of food and cash assistance.

Canadian Red Cross

COVID-19 tested Canada's readiness capacity as emergency health needs exceeded communities' capacity to respond. Over the past 12 months, the Canadian Red Cross has assisted with a broad range of activities in support of Federal, Provincial and Municipal partners, including support to quarantined travellers, isolation centres and indigenous populations, staffing in long-term care homes, health surge resources including field hospital capacities, support to testing and vaccination, contact tracing and expertise related to epidemic prevention and control efforts in a variety of facilities.

Dominican Red Cross

To support the government in containing the spread of COVID-19, the Dominican Red Cross has been implementing response activities in key areas including WASH, risk communication, food security, and mental health and psychosocial support. To ensure the safety of its staff and volunteers, the National Society has provided each with personal protective equipment kits every 15 days. These kits contain masks and sanitizer, and additional items such as face shields, coveralls and shoe covers are provided depending on the activity.



Asia-Pacific

Afghan Red Crescent Society

ARCS has reached more than 3,500,000 people through risk communication, psychosocial support, staff and volunteer trainings, awareness raising, screening and referral activities. It mobilized over 6,200 volunteers and 138 health facilities. More than 470,000 people were screened for COVID-19 by the National Society's COVID-19 hospital, mobile health teams, basic health centers, sub-health centers and comprehensive health center.

Australian Red Cross

The Australian Red Cross is working with federal and state governments and hundreds of volunteers to respond to the pandemic. It focuses on helping the most vulnerable and supporting all Australians to maintain their well-being and cope with disruption and uncertainty. As people enter mandatory self-isolation and quarantine, the Australian Red Cross provides extra help to those who do not have the support of an income or a network of family and friends. More than 235,000 well-being calls were made in 2020, providing psychological first aid, information, and services to nearly 92,000 people across the country in quarantine and self-isolation. The Australian Red Cross also provides hygiene packs, health information and emergency relief funds to vulnerable groups.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

The National Society reached more than 100,000 people with essential health services through its nationwide centers. As a part of their auxiliary role to the Government of Bangladesh, they assisted to establish 20 COVID-19 walk-in sample collection booths positioned in 10 different districts to support the government in increasing testing facilities.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's hospital provided medical services as one of the COVID-19 hospitals, treating over 1,300 COVID-19 patients. They also provided nearly 13,000 PPE to frontline healthcare professionals dealing with COVID-19 cases in four hospitals.

Indian Red Cross Society

Distribution of personal hygiene items included washable masks (2,447,290), sanitizers (9,525), PPE Kit (14,897), gloves (695,900) and face shields (23,931). They also provided 320 ventilators and 20,000 oxygen concentrators to the government.

Other activities included distribution of food, community surveillance and counselling, logistic support to quarantine or isolation centers, shelter and restoring family links for migrants, ambulance and transport services and disinfection of public spaces.

Myanmar Red Cross Society

Since February 2020, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, together with the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Operation Team, coordinated with the Ministry of Health and Sports to mobilize more than 5,700 volunteers and staff across the country to focus on three operational priorities: Health and WASH; tackling the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19; and creating a detailed institutional strengthening plan. These operational priorities aim to reduce the suffering and socio-economic impacts from COVID-19 and build resilience in the community, as well as strengthening staff, volunteers, and the system of the National Society.

Nepal Red Cross Society

More than 430,000 people have been reached through awareness sessions, door to door visits, messaging and

Red Cross volunteers supporting help desks established by the government and the Red Cross. Nearly 360,000 PPEs have been distributed to the National Society's first responders. A over 2,700 members from the community received psychosocial support and 195 staff and volunteers have been trained/oriented in Psychological First Aid.

Over 2,600 hygiene kits, 38,800 soaps have been distributed in quarantine sites, public places and government offices. Likewise, 890 handwashing stations have been installed in the quarantine sites, public places and government offices providing hand washing services. Over 55,000 people have been reached with hygiene promotion activities.

Europe

Italian Red Cross

The Italian Red Cross played a key role as part of the Italian Civil Protection System. Services provided at a national level include ambulance services, support to hospitals, screening, psychosocial support, and provision of food. Its many accomplishments included:

- Performed over 90,000 screening and testing activities at ports and airports
- Provided over 54,000 health services, nearly 300,000 emergency services and over 260,000 sanitary transportations
- Guaranteed more than 15,000 psychosocial support services
- Treated more than 140,000 calls through its toll-free number service
- Distribution of over 16,000 vouchers for purchase of food
- Welcomed nearly 60,000 new volunteers as part of its 'Time of Kindness' initiative

Belarus Red Cross

The Belarus Red Cross has provided support to the local authorities combating COVID-19. The National Society built public trust and attracted financial support from corporate partners in Belarus. In total, Belarus Red Cross raised almost CHF 63,000 from private donors, CHF 972,000 from corporate donations, CHF 243,000 from Movement partners and received CHF 877,000 through the IFRC. It also received in-kind donations from international agencies and local companies. The IFRC has also provided Belarus Red Cross with 290,000 masks, 20,400 respirators, 350 goggles, 200,000 pairs of gloves, 4,500 medical overalls and 1,000 protective shields.

Red Cross of Montenegro

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Red Cross of Montenegro has been active in both preventative and response activities. They distributed, 1,000 flyers with recommendations for a healthy diet and physical activities that can be done at home (during the

2,500

people reached with livelihoods, cash and food aid by the **Gambia Red Cross Society**

500,000

people reached with community-level actions to prevent and control COVID-19 by the **Peruvian Red Cross**

6,000

people reached with hygiene kits, mattresses, bedding and rapid testing by the **Bolivian Red Cross**

isolation). With the support of the IFRC, the Red Cross of Montenegro procured and distributed over 11,000 food and 5,000 hygiene parcels to socially vulnerable people and 1,000 baby parcels. They also provided grocery shopping for people in isolation. The total number of people reached directly is over 200,000.

British Red Cross

The British Red Cross has focused their efforts on online-doorstep support, the Hardship Fund, building resilient communities digitally and supporting the NHS. To give people a place to turn for emotional and practical support, the British Red Cross set up a National Support Line, which a donation from Johnson & Johnson contributed to supporting from April to December 2020. Operators address each caller's immediate concerns while also helping them make steps towards tackling the root cause of the issue so they can become more resilient. Around 17,248 calls to the support line were answered between 1 April and 31 December 2020, offering emotional and practical support for people struggling to cope due to COVID-19.

Portuguese Red Cross

Portuguese Red Cross has increased its COVID-19 testing capacity to more than 105,000 people, set up both fixed and mobile testing posts across the country and traced contacts for 370 persons. It has also transported 597 COVID-19 patients and provided psychosocial support to over 2,000 people. Portuguese Red Cross also supported authorities in the vaccination roll-out process for 20,000 police officers.

Hellenic Red Cross

The Hellenic Red Cross has further scaled up its COVID-19 response through a wide range of programmes and services. These include mobile health units in migrant camps, accommodation centres for unaccompanied minors, home care services in urban settings, a psychosocial support hotline, health and hygiene promotion for homeless and other vulnerable groups, temperature screening and risk communication. 39 health facilities in total have been supported by Hellenic Red Cross in infection prevention and control. The first distribution of COVID-19 cash grants to 100 vulnerable households – especially older people living alone and those living with a disability – was completed in Athens.





MENA

Algerian Red Crescent

The Algerian Red Crescent is assisting the government in raising awareness of the importance of vaccination, especially for the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions. It has reached more than 20,000 schools across the country with awareness campaigns, where it provides disinfection kits and masks. It has also distributed more than 1,500,000 masks in schools and public places and institutions (mainly hospitals) and provided food kits to 67,574 families.

Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Iranian Red Crescent has been at the front line of COVID-19 since the first confirmed cases. Its relief workers undertook screening and referrals to medical

centres of suspected COVID-19 cases. More than 835 teams and 3,149 people have been actively engaged in the response. In addition, 543 vehicles, including ambulances, have been mobilized. Through the Emergency Appeal's funds, 80,000 food parcels were procured and distributed in 420 cities across the country.

Iraqi Red Crescent Society

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society uses cash-based activities to address the immediate needs and livelihood recovery for vulnerable households, in coordination with governmental authorities. In 2020, over 17,387,000 individuals were reached through risk communication, community engagement, and health and hygiene promotional activities.

2,447,290

washable masks distributed by the Indian Red Cross Society, as well as sanitizers, gloves and face shields

1,300

patients treated at the **Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's** hospital

11,000

food parcels and 5,000 hygiene parcels distributed to vulnerable people by the **Red Cross of Montenegro**



GOING FORWARD

The response to COVID-19 is far from over. The IFRC is planning for how the response will continue into 2021 and likely beyond, both in terms of health and the secondary, socio-economic impacts of the pandemic which have driven more people into vulnerability and increased the need for humanitarian assistance. This longer-term perspective will maintain a strong focus on health, WASH, vaccination, mental health and psychosocial support as well as protection, gender and inclusion, and livelihoods.

Responding to the aftermath of the health crisis will continue to require changes in how the IFRC operates and increased emphasis on risk management, data

management and learning for example. It will be crucial for the IFRC to continue to take a holistic approach where COVID-19 is exacerbating needs as other crises occur simultaneously.

The IFRC will continue to work closely with other stakeholders including governments, foundations, UN and multilateral organizations, the health sector, academia, civil society, media and digital transformation and the private sector.

It will also ensure that the continued response to COVID-19 will connect with key global processes and advance the objectives of its Strategy 2030.

nearly

60,000

new volunteers welcomed as part of its 'Time of Kindness' initiative by the **Italian Red Cross**

80,000

food parcels distributed in 420 cities across the country by the **Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

1,500,000

masks distributed in schools, public places and institutions by the **Algerian Red Crescent**

STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION



GIES FOR ENTATATION



STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETIES



STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

In 2020, the COVID-19 response was the primary focus for National Societies, confronted with the challenge of dramatically scaling up their capacities to face the pandemic and its consequences while maintaining ongoing relevant and timely humanitarian services. As a result, National Societies were required to ensure duty of care to volunteers and staff, maintain their financial sustainability, revise or develop and implement business continuity plans, and review contingency plans to adapt and ensure operational relevance and capacities.

National Society effectiveness is critical to humanitarian impact. The IFRC supports National Societies to develop their organizational capacity.

Contingency plans were an important element for National Societies to strengthen their capacity. National Societies reported that they had revised and/or developed 141 contingency plans and 126 business continuity plans across the globe. The Business Continuity Planning Help Desk provided by the IFRC's Global Disaster Preparedness Centre, hosted by the American Red Cross, received 3,467 unique visits in 2020.

Cash preparedness continues to be a priority for the IFRC, with 59 National Societies investing in their cash capacities in 2020, of which 55 undertook formal cash preparedness approaches, while four National Societies engaged in the fast-track cash preparedness approach. The IFRC exceeded the target set in the *IFRC Cash Roadmap 2017–2020* of 50 National Societies undertaking cash preparedness, demonstrating a growing interest across the membership in investing in cash initiatives.

Additionally, there were substantive advances on two of the three priorities identified in the *2019 National Society Development Compact*: volunteering and financial sustainability. These were accelerated by the health crisis due to the need for more volunteers and financial reserves to support the COVID-19 response.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Volunteering

The IFRC supported National Societies to ensure their duty of care to volunteers worldwide in 2020 by providing guidance on the mobilization of personnel to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of 151 National Societies, 35 had no means of insuring their volunteers against accident, health related incident, or death. The IFRC prioritized support for 17 of those National Societies to develop context specific local mechanisms to ensure insurance coverage for volunteers, providing seed funds to be complemented by the National Societies and their local and international partners. The IFRC is extending this support to all 35 National Societies in need.

The IFRC also operationalized minimum standards for the safety, security, and wellbeing of volunteers. It strengthened the capacities of volunteers and volunteer management systems and ensured they had the necessary personal protective equipment, training, and knowledge to work on behalf of their National Societies. The Volunteering Alliance was instrumental in sharing tools and lessons to improve their response and inspire

each other to create new opportunities for volunteer participation.

In collaboration with the United Volunteers Programme, the IFRC convened a 4-day Global Technical Meeting that brought together UN Member States, UN entities, Volunteer Involving Organizations, Civil Society, Academia, and the Private Sector to reimagine volunteering for the 2030 agenda. The IFRC called on governments to promote an enabling, inclusive environment that allows volunteers access to those furthest behind and provides equal opportunities for everyone to take up volunteer positions.

The IFRC co-organized a Global Volunteering Alliance meeting in collaboration with the Spanish Red Cross, bringing together over 200 National Societies, volunteering focal points, and volunteers to share their experiences, challenges, and solutions. The outcome of the meeting will shape a new IFRC vision for volunteering, as well as the new IFRC Volunteering Policy to be adopted at the upcoming IFRC General Assembly.

Financial Sustainability

The financial sustainability of National Societies was further highlighted as a concern during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent data shows that half of 154 National Societies reviewed do not have unrestricted financial reserves that will last for more than three months. Financial sustainability was also identified as the main National Society development priority in the COVID-19 emergency appeal, alongside volunteer protection and insurance coverage.

The IFRC conceptual framework on National Society financial sustainability, developed in 2019, was used as a basis for a specific COVID-19 toolkit in early 2020 and to

make recruitments to support the COVID-19 response. Three specific in-depth case studies and a number of shorter case studies were developed during 2020, populating the four pillars of the framework with concrete examples of National Society actions.

The work done in 2020 indicated the need to harmonise common indicators to measure the advances and risks on financial sustainability. The IFRC developed a Financial Sustainability Dashboard and a Scenario-Based Predictive Modelling approach to improve the ability of National Societies to anticipate possible economic effects on their potentially income.

Working in a distributed network

During 2020, the IFRC made progress on the development of a common mobile phone virtual platform called the Virtual Marketplace, designed to enable volunteers to communicate and collaborate across regions towards the IFRC's *Strategy 2030*. The initiative aims to connect volunteers across the globe in a distributed network,

enabling exchange of experiences and wider communication. It will also help to leverage local knowledge and expertise to solve local problems, strengthening the overall capacity of the network to learn and innovate.

The IFRC prototype was designed, based on inputs by a number of volunteers, and is being tested by them

to ensure that its functionalities meet their needs. The platform has the potential to connect volunteers in large numbers, allowing for exchanges of experience and learning.

The IFRC has also been developing a framework for National Society branch development. Once finalized the framework will help National Societies to sustain their field presence.

The IFRC has been working on the establishment of a Community of Practice around financial development,

called the *Financial Development Competency Network*, in close collaboration with the Norwegian Red Cross. This Community of Practice will enable requests to be supported by expert advice, while gathering policies, documents, case studies, and evaluations that could be relevant for financial managers at headquarter and branch levels. The Community of Practice will take into account the successes and challenges of existing similar initiatives to provide a blueprint that can be replicated across other areas of National Society development.

National Society Development data for evidence-based decision-making

A global network with 192 member National Societies and 165,000 local branches and units generates a considerable amount of useful data. If analysed properly, the data can be used to detect emerging trends and facilitate decision-making for National Societies and IFRC leaders.

In 2020, the IFRC harmonised its collection of two key datasets for National Societies, OCAC and BOCA, setting the basis for an expansion of data collection and analysis without overwhelming National Societies with requests for additional information. This will allow the IFRC to provide feedback and structured analysis to National Societies, enabling them to strengthen their response to humanitarian crises.

VOLUNTEERS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

The need for volunteers has become more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteering is at the heart of community-building and has remained an essential driver of political, social, and economic development, with volunteers often the first responders during crisis situations. IFRC volunteers reach some 30 million people each year during disasters alone and even more through community development initiatives, providing vulnerable people with access to humanitarian services every day.

Since the beginning of the health crisis, 3,000 Red Cross volunteers have delivered body temperature screening services for more than 2 million incoming passengers at 25 national airports. Additionally, the Norwegian Red Cross is exploring Serum Immunity approaches so that people can return to volunteering, and the Swiss Red

Cross is using a multilingual chatbot to support the registration process of new volunteers.

Emergencies and climate-related disasters did not stop in 2020 and volunteers continued to respond to these emergencies. In Central America and Colombia, hurricanes Eta and Iota caused mass devastation. More than 180 volunteers responding to the crisis as part of Operation Eta and Iota, supporting an estimated 33,000 people with psychosocial support, water and sanitation, and hygiene promotion.

“To help others, it is important to stay united, have a positive mind, be persistent and empathetic. We do everything with love and always committed to health for everyone,” explained one of the psychosocial support volunteers from the Nicaraguan Red Cross.

SPOTLIGHT ON

UKRAINIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY

“Despite the National Society’s focus on COVID-19 and in parallel to a range of natural disasters which were abnormally heavy in 2020, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society introduced institutional change and strengthened in a range of areas.”

The IFRC provided support to the Ukrainian Red Cross to accelerate its development, focusing specifically on resource mobilization throughout 2020 through funding from the National Society Investment Alliance.

In 2020, an exceptional CHF 8.5 million was raised by the National Society to implement its core emergency response activities. This funding enabled the Ukrainian Red Cross to support vulnerable communities and respond to the most acute needs of a vulnerable population affected by the armed conflict and the onset of COVID-19. The National Society also supported those affected by the devastating fires and large-scale floods that impacted the country during the year.

Following on from its development priorities and plans, in 2020, the National Society established protection & community engagement and accountability systems nationally. These systems comprised the creation, adoption, and implementation of child protection,

gender and data protection policies, mainstreaming of protection, gender and inclusion and community engagement and accountability standards in all programmes and activities, and the launch of a national feedback mechanism.

Over CHF 194,000 was allocated by the IFRC to strengthen the National Society’s capacities in first aid. As a result, 3,810 people attended first aid training and 16,742 people took part in seminars and master classes on first aid. The annual First Aid Education European Network International Meeting hosted by Ukraine saw the virtual participation of 47 National Societies.

The IFRC also made approximately CHF 185,000 available for the National Society to continue strengthening its HR, financial management, accountability and transparency, legal base, IT, volunteer management, and branch development processes.

3,180

people attended first aid training in Ukraine, funded by the IFRC

8.5M

Swiss francs raised by the Ukrainian Red Cross to implement core activities for emergency response



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VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING HUB

During the COVID-19 response, the IFRC's Virtual Fundraising Hub was focused on coordinating digital fundraising appeals, data collection and analysis, and the creation of tools to help guide National Societies through resource mobilization and financial sustainability pressures.

A Movement-wide global digital fundraising campaign was conducted for the first time in June 2020, with the aim of raising funds together with the Coca Cola Foundation. 111 National Societies participated and

received additional support from a digital fundraising project manager.

A pilot of the fundraising investment fund was conducted by the Uruguayan Red Cross, with an audit of their fundraising market. Additional funds have been raised to explore the potential launch of other pilot schemes. Planning also began for the first ever virtual International Fundraising Skillshare to take place in 2021, with tools developed for the Movement to support individual fundraising efforts, such as emergency fundraising guidance and market study tools.

Preparedness for Effective Response (PER)

Four rounds of the consultation and drafting process of the IFRC's *National Society Preparedness Framework* took place during 2020, with National Societies, the IFRC, the ICRC teams, and various technical working groups. Additionally, five regional sessions conducted in English, Spanish, and French were held to gather feedback.

Nine National Societies engaged in the [Preparedness for Effective Response process](#), while 47 National Societies are implementing a common approach to National Society Preparedness to systematically assess and enhance their response preparedness capacities. Additionally, other National Societies started the orientation phase that facilitates more in-depth understanding and creates the political will to make informed decisions. 15 National Societies completed a full cycle of the Preparedness for Effective Response process and

were able to identify gaps and improvements throughout response capacity assessments.

Several Preparedness for Effective Response training sessions and induction courses were organized for South African National Societies and partners in 2020. While COVID-19 measures did not allow face-to-face activities, the process was adjusted and pack were delivered online. The webinars were recorded and shared to further increase outreach.

A dashboard was created on [GO](#) collecting operational learnings and challenges from National Societies response operations supported by the DREF, categorised by sector, and components of a National Society preparedness and response mechanism.

more than

180

volunteers responded to the Eta and Iota hurricanes, supporting more than **33,000 people**

more than

2M

incoming passengers at **25 national airports** received body temperature screenings in Italy in 2020

more than

400

volunteers contributed to the dissemination of Ebola prevention messaging



HEALTH – EBOLA

The IFRC has provided a great deal of support to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) during the Ebola response, enabling the National Society to increase its capacity to lead the response on its own.

Over the last three years, the IFRC has supported the National Society's preparedness to prevent the potential spread of Ebola in four neighbouring provinces. Emergency rapid response teams were set up in 12 health zones with a prepositioning of contingency stocks, and more than 400 volunteers contributed to the dissemination of Ebola prevention messages. At the onset of COVID-19, these teams played a significant role in community engagement and accountability, and in patient transfer and the decontamination of health facilities.

The IFRC provided community-based surveillance training to 20 volunteers, therefore strengthening early detection, early action, and early response to diseases of epidemic potential. By the end of December 2020, the IFRC had established 78 rapid response teams in DRC, providing first aid services, securing bodies of people suspected to have died of contagious diseases to minimize post-mortem spread, and the safe transfer of patients to health facilities.

Additionally, the IFRC supported the National Society with the successful registration of 3,934 Red Cross volunteers on the Red Rose system by the end of December 2020, enabling digital payment of allowances for volunteers to limit the risks of cash handling and potential fraud. 59 staff and volunteers were also trained in warehouse management to support the prepositioning of emergency stocks in Beni, Bukavu, Goma, and Bunia.

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT



STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The COVID-19 pandemic has not paused the IFRC's responsibilities to respond to other crises. The need for coordination in the network's responses to crises has become ever more apparent given their frequency and complexity. Efficiency and collective resources have been crucial to the success of the network's work. From the explosion in Beirut to hurricanes Eta and Iota in the Americas, the world's most vulnerable people remain threatened by crises.

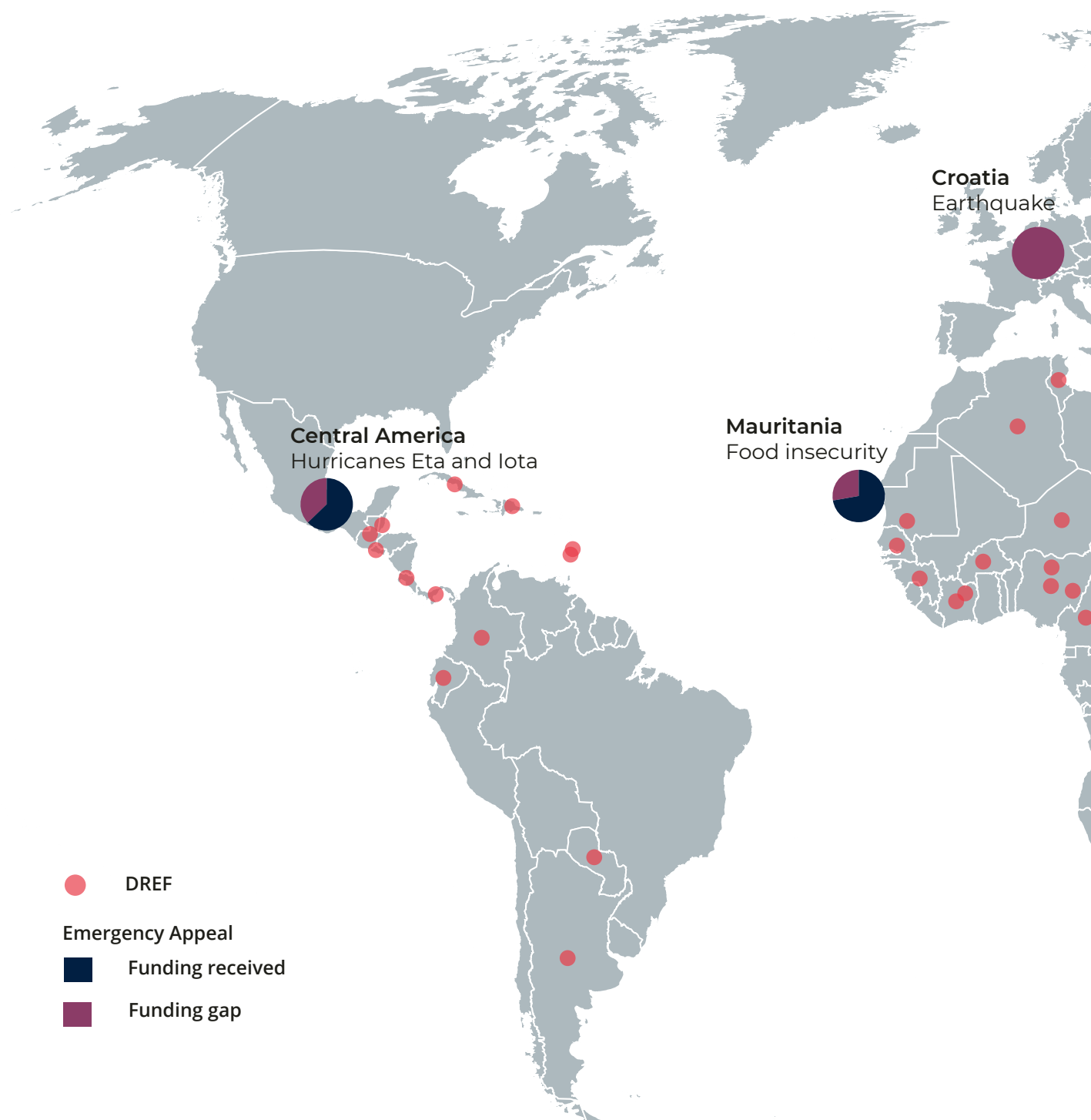
Effective coordination in emergency preparedness disaster response and recovery that addresses the needs of vulnerable people.

The IFRC's role in coordination was especially crucial in 2020, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring global support for local responses.

There has been an increase in the need to support people to adopt safe practices, by challenging rumors and misinformation during the response to the pandemic. Identifying and supporting community-led solutions to bring the outbreak under control requires understanding of culture and context. This is essential to gain confidence of communities for preventive measures and vaccinations.

In 2020, the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) faced a critical situation when allocations exceeded available resources. While the donor base remains diverse, with a growing number and volume of annual contributions from governments and institutional donors, National Societies' demand for the fund has risen even faster. A new DREF strategy has been created to increase allocations to CHF 100 million by 2025 to meet National Society demands.

Emergency Appeals and DREF operations launched in 2020



89

DREF



13

Appeal



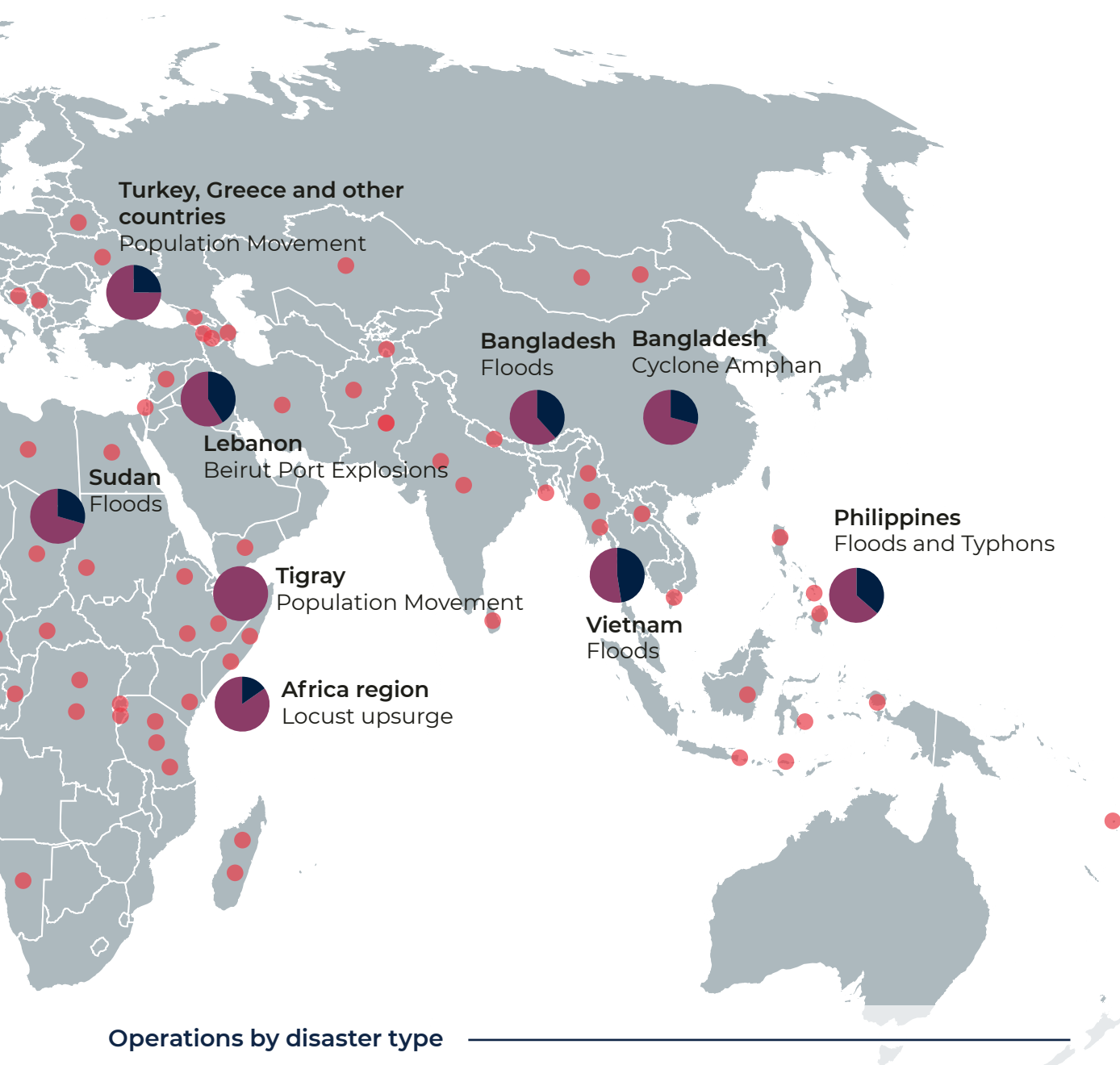
601M

Total CHF

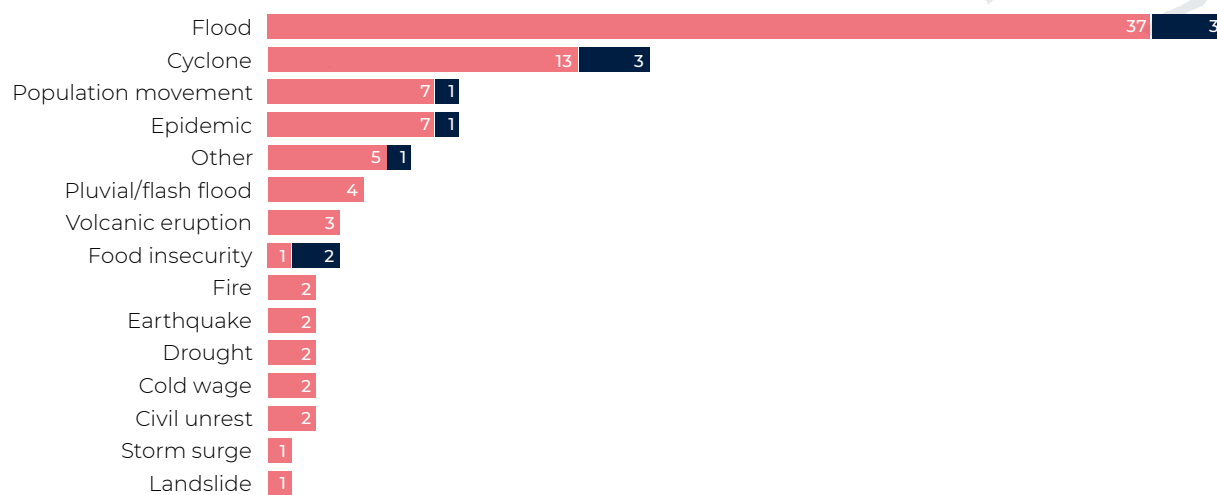


5.2M

Targeted population



Operations by disaster type



* Does not include Global COVID-19 Outbreak Emergency Appeal.



ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The focus of the IFRC has been to improve access to resources for National Societies, including technical support, tools and training, funding and data. Together, these have allowed for a more **rapid response** to crises globally. The IFRC focus on preparedness and Early Action Protocols have been of significant value during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community engagement and accountability

Trained volunteers, community health workers and community leaders have played a critical role in reaching, listening and responding to the concerns of otherwise inaccessible populations. The IFRC has established **community feedback mechanisms** to understand beliefs, fears, perceptions, questions and suggestions regarding COVID-19 with more of a focus on vaccines in the last months of 2020.

[Community feedback data](#) needs to be meaningfully interpreted and used to refine the work of the IFRC network. National Societies in Africa have recorded and responded to more than 130,000 comments related to COVID-19 in more than 40 countries. Every two weeks, the IFRC published the latest COVID-19 [feedback and perception highlights](#) to capture social and behavioural data trends.

The IFRC, as part of the **Risk Communication** and Community Engagement [Collective Service](#) partnership, has supported efforts to generate, analyse, and use evidence of community perspectives to systematically inform policy and programming, and improve effectiveness and efficiency.

The recently launched [data portal](#) illustrates social behaviour findings and summarizes existing evidence compared with expectations in the first ever Risk

Communication and Community Engagement COVID-19 [behaviour change framework](#) drawing on more than 126 sets of data from 196 countries. The framework ensures that the Movement's response is grounded in social evidence to improve the availability of data on community capacities, knowledge, feedback and insights to inform response decision making.

The IFRC launched a [pocket guide for community engagement and accountability practitioners](#) and a [Vaccine Feedback Package for developing surveys](#), with support from the Risk Communication and Community Engagement [Collective Service](#). These resources, as well as [specific training](#) for rapid response, are supporting the work that staff and volunteers are doing to generate demand and deliver COVID-19 vaccines.

The IFRC works to strengthen National Societies' capacity engage with affected communities collectively. This support has been demonstrated through the development and coordination of peer-to-peer and technical coaching through remote and face-to-face training. More than 329,500 volunteers have been trained in risk communication, community engagement and accountability, and 1,950 people have completed the Risk Communication and Community Engagement COVID-19 training, made available in 11 languages.

Coordination

Membership coordination

Strengthened membership coordination was a key priority of the IFRC in 2020. Consistent with the Governing Board decision in 2019 to operationalize a Federation-wide approach in large emergencies, the IFRC implemented this strengthened approach, most notably for the Covid-19 operation. A Federation-wide Emergency Appeal was launched, reflecting the funding needs of National Societies and the IFRC. Common, Federation-wide indicators and common reporting tools were developed – with more than 175 National

Societies providing data, showing the truly global nature of this response. Shared leadership mechanisms were utilized at both thematic and country levels, resulting in the creation of resources on numerous topics that have been used by many National Societies in their domestic responses, as well as country level peer support to assist with local responses.

In other emergencies, ranging from the Beirut explosion, Ebola outbreaks, hurricanes Eta and Iota in the Americas, to Tropical Cyclone Eloise in Mozambique and

the complex emergency in Ethiopia, a Federation-wide approach was also followed. This was based on the centrality of the local National Society domestic response plan, as well as a shared leadership approach to facilitate peer support at the country level.

Movement coordination

While COVID-19 was the focus of Movement coordination in 2020, it was not the only crisis that required a strong Movement response in 2020. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that re-ignited in September 2020 was another example showing how the use of Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation tools contributed to improved coordination of emergency response, leading to improved service delivery to the people we serve.

Anticipatory Action

The anticipatory action approach anticipates disasters and reduces the human impact as a result. More National Societies are now integrating Forecast based Financing into their disaster risk management cycle each year.

29 National Societies worked on developing Early Action Protocols in 2020. Based on forecasts of extreme weather, National Societies in Mongolia, Bangladesh, Mozambique and Ecuador were able to take preventive action to reduce the impacts of extreme winter, flood, cyclones and volcanic ash fall for 80,000 people. These activations during COVID-19 demonstrate the importance of having pre-agreed plans and pre-arranged financing to tackle the compound risks of a pandemic and extreme weather events.

The IFRC has partnered with the World Bank to support the Philippines and Myanmar National Societies to further develop forecast-based financing through other financing options, including the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk and Insurance Facility. The IFRC is also

In parallel, the hurricanes Eta and Lota severely affected many countries in Central America and required an immediate international response. Here too, solid, cooperation mechanisms already established in the past, at the regional and country levels, enabled quick and decisive action, making the best use of the collective resources of the Movement.

In addition to supporting the conduct of our operations all around the world, the SMCC 2.0 process has also made significant headway in thematic areas. As an example, in the field of logistics, an important fleet agreement was finalized between the ICRC and IFRC which will allow for much smoother inter-operability and increased cost-efficiency, notably by having the possibility to source vehicles from each other's stocks and the ability to use each other's maintenance structure.

partnering with the InsuResilience Global Partnership and the Centre for Disaster Protection to accelerate developments in this area.

The Anticipation Hub was launched by the IFRC, the German Red Cross and the Climate Centre as an exchange platform to scale up anticipatory action. The hub serves the broader humanitarian system, including the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, government and academia involved in the scaling up of anticipatory action.

Its features include a global map of projects, training materials and advocacy messages. The Hub provides an opportunity to strengthen the IFRC's capacity for anticipatory action, cover more locations and reach more people. It can be applied to a wider range of hazards while influencing the broader humanitarian, development and climate agendas based on the experience and expertise gathered by the IFRC network.

80,000

people were reached by anticipatory humanitarian support through the activation of six Early Action Protocols in 2020

329,500

volunteers were trained in risk communication, community engagement and accountability

250

Rapid Response team members were deployed in 2020 to 50 countries

Surge and information management

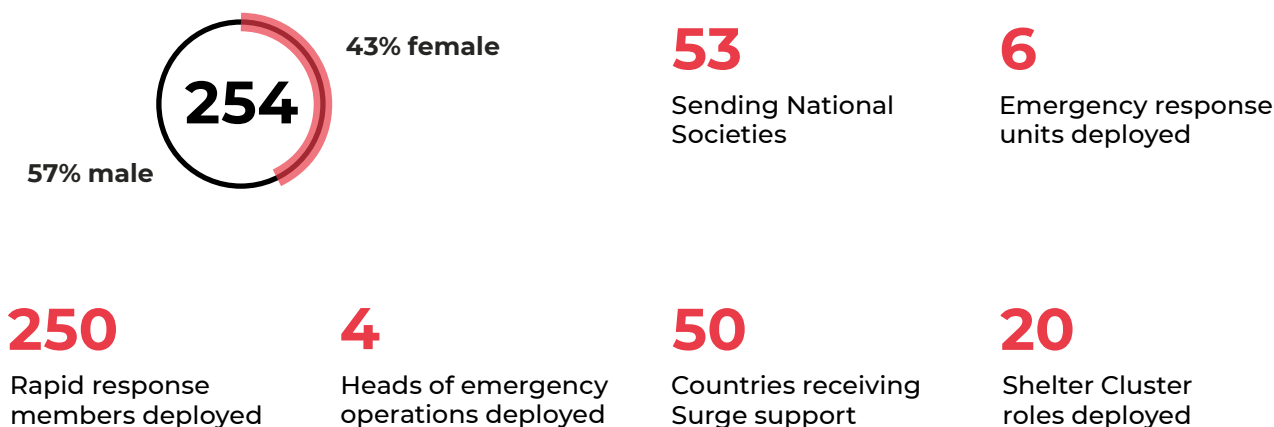
The IFRC ensures rapid deployment of response teams and assets at the onset of a disaster or immediately before a disaster is predicted, when needed. 250 rapid response team members, from 53 National Societies, were deployed in 2020 to 50 countries, including 20 shelter cluster roles.

More than half of these were in response to epidemic emergencies in the Americas, Europe and Asia. A third were deployed to weather-related emergencies, including the hurricane response in Central America and

others were for migration, technological hazards, conflicts and earthquakes. Leadership, health and logistics were the services most in demand.

The achievements of these deployments demonstrated the success of new rapid response guidelines and provided opportunities to develop and test the new digital Rapid Response Management System. New toolkits and learning resources were implemented, including seven surge webinars attended by 1,000 participants.

IFRC Surge response in 2020



Types of emergencies



54%
Epidemics



33%
Climate-related hazards



3%
Population movement



3%
Technological hazards



2%
Conflicts



2%
Earthquake



3%
Other
(Multiple resources/
complex emergency)

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

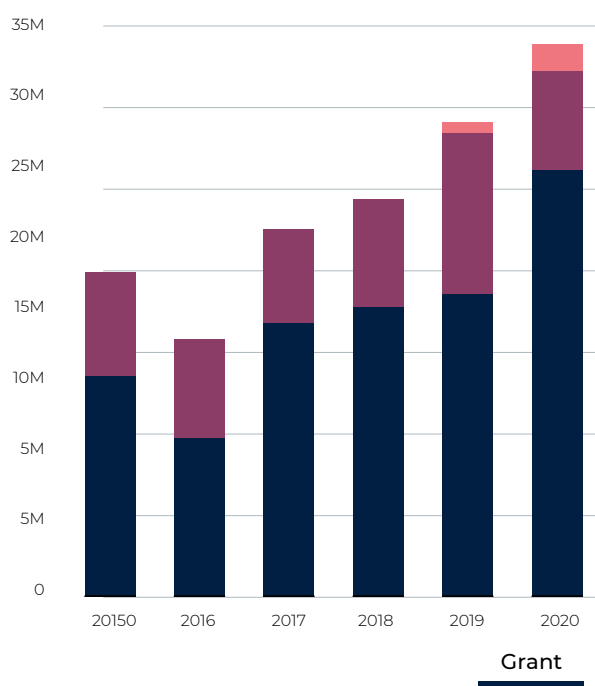
The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocates grants to enable National Societies to respond to disasters and emergencies where an Emergency Appeal would not be warranted. It also provides start-up loans to Emergency Appeals before donor pledges are received.

75 National Societies received funds for 109 operations, totalling CHF 32 million to support more than 4 million people in 2020.

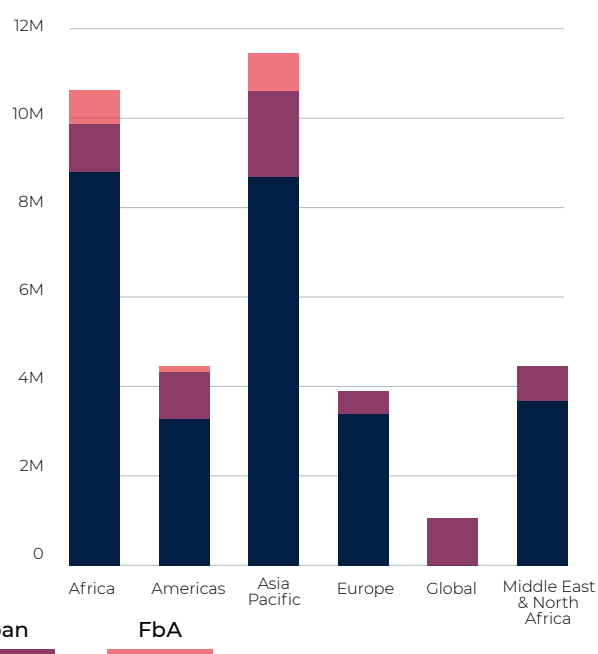
The DREF also developed online training, seeing 1,000 people register and 300 participants completing the training to date on the IFRC Learning Platform.

Additionally, the IFRC increased the maximum amount National Societies could request from the Forecast based Action by the DREF, from CHF 250,000 to CHF 350,000.

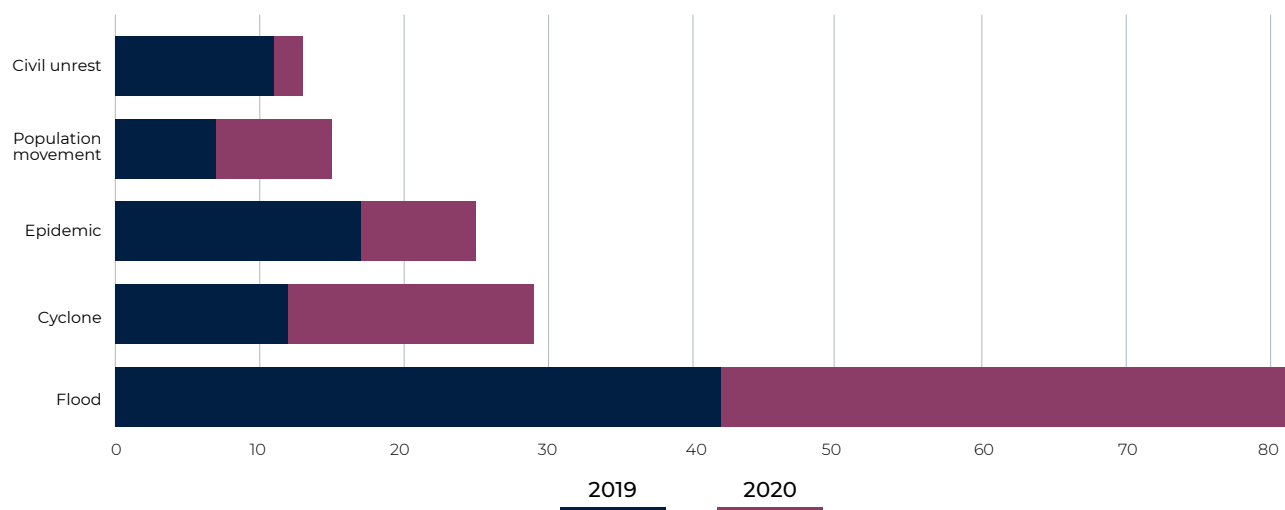
DREF ALLOCATIONS 2015–2020
CHF MILLION



DREF ALLOCATIONS BY REGION 2020
CHF MILLION



TYPE OF OPERATION SUPPORTED BY DREF
2019–2020





GO PLATFORM

The GO platform continued to expand to connect emergency needs to the right response across the IFRC network. GO provides situational awareness to inform emergency response actions across 192 National Societies and greatly increases accountability and transparency.

It features emergency data, information products, charts and graphics, maps and analyses, resources for emergency responses and disaster notifications in four languages.

The [GO platform](#) field reporting system allows National Societies to alert the network to emerging crises. The system was expanded in 2020, with early warning and epidemic versions, a disaster-affected area mapping service, and [COVID-19 focused reporting](#). The launch

in 2020 of a [3w module](#) promises to create an overview of Movement-wide project data, providing estimates of people targeted and reached, capacities and funding support at sub-national level.

These improvements in data collection and analysis have enabled unprecedented federation-wide planning and reporting, monitoring of not only international resourcing but also National Societies' domestic fund-raising and expenditure.

Improved data collection provides vital information to National Societies, fosters learning and enables higher quality reporting.

For information on the impact of GO during the IFRC's COVID-19 response, see page 72.

SPOTLIGHT ON

BEIRUT RESPONSE

On 4 August 2020, two huge explosions at the Port of Beirut rocked the city and surrounding areas, causing extensive damage. Hundreds of people were killed, and thousands injured. The blast was so strong that it registered as a 3.3 magnitude earthquake.

The blast occurred after the accidental ignition of 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, which had been stored in the Beirut Port area for a number of years under inadequate conditions.

The explosion resulted in over 200 deaths and 6,000 people injured. 300,000 people were displaced due to damaged and destroyed homes. Two out of Beirut's five hospitals were damaged, including one acting as a COVID-19 facility.

Lebanese Red Cross immediate response included:

During the first 72 hours of the response, the Lebanese Red Cross provided temporary shelter and organized distributions of hygiene kits, baby kits, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), ready meals and food parcels. A rapid assessment of the basic needs of 1,440 families was also undertaken. In September, they initiated emergency cash assistance to support up to 10,000 households over a period of seven months with 300 USD/month. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GpTge60xnM>

The Lebanese Red Cross effectively led the enormous response to the explosion. They also led coordination of support from the IFRC, ICRC and 21 National Societies who work in the country.

With its in-country office, the IFRC was there immediately to support the Lebanese Red Cross in the development of its plan of action, which ensured that support from all partners contributed directly to the National Society's plan. Initial financial support was provided through a DREF allocation followed by the launch of an IFRC emergency appeal.

In addition to the emergency appeal, the IFRC acted quickly to provide surge and technical support. It is worth noting that all surge capacity, was embedded directly into the National Society. That means the staff provided worked within the National Society directly, rather than through the IFRC office. This ensured an even greater level of coordination and support, helping the National Society to strengthen their existing strategies and partnership within the Movement and externally.

Going forward, the IFRC is continuing to support the Lebanese Red Cross in their development to have the capacity to respond at scale in the future and position themselves as a leading organization in the country. A case study on the response is available [here](#).

more than
2,600
wounded
treated and
transported

more than
1,200
blood units
distributed
within the
first 48 hours

1,000
families
provided with
emergency
shelters

over
23,000
people received
ready meals,
food parcels &
hygiene kits

approximately
45,000
household
assessments
completed





INFLUENCE OTHERS AS A LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNER



STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

In 2020, the IFRC network played a leading role in ensuring that local, national and international decision-makers heard the voices of the world's most vulnerable people. The IFRC helped shape global humanitarian policy debates and collaborated with many other organizations to have a more significant impact on the lives of vulnerable communities.

Putting communities at the centre of local, national, and international decision making that affects them.

The COVID-19 pandemic dominated much of the policy agenda and transformed how humanitarian diplomacy itself could be carried out. The IFRC network prioritized promoting effectiveness and equity in both the public health and humanitarian response to the pandemic. It also supported National Societies to strengthen their auxiliary role in this area to better connect with their authorities in their response.

The IFRC also continued to advocate for effective localization of the humanitarian system to improve the timeliness and quality of humanitarian response available to vulnerable people.

It also continued to raise awareness of the humanitarian consequences of climate change, as a global threat even greater than the pandemic over the long-term and highlighted the urgent need for climate adaptation.



ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The IFRC network developed a common COVID humanitarian diplomacy agenda, drawing on the far-sighted agreements with governments in Resolution 3 of the 2019 International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent: [Time to act: tackling epidemics and pandemics together](#).

The successful participation of the IFRC network in global diplomacy events such as the [Global Forum on Migration and Development Summit](#) in Quito and the [World Urban Forum](#) in Abu Dhabi, they gradually transitioned to a new frontier of digital diplomacy.

The IFRC Delegation to the United Nations continued to advocate for vulnerable people at the UN, advancing the IFRC's policy priorities on COVID-19 response, local action, climate change and extreme weather events through these new digital channels. It advocated for emergency health services where they would otherwise be limited or non-existent.

The IFRC network also delivered its own, increasingly ambitious, virtual events, including high-level side events around the UN General Assembly, a [global technical meeting on volunteering](#), a consultation on preventing displacement organized with ICRC on behalf of the [High Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#), the launch of the global [Anticipation Hub](#), and the ground breaking [Climate: Red Summit](#), which attracted more than 10,000 participants from 195 countries. The IFRC called for a fair and equitable approach to COVID-19 **vaccination** and treatment, the protection of [migrants](#) and [children](#), and [forecast based action](#), among other issues.

The IFRC continued to increase efforts to localize response to disasters and crises. Its strength is in its network of National Societies, which play the crucial role of first responders, ensuring that humanitarian response is early, accessible and cost-effective. For more information on the IFRC's role in localization, please see page 29.

Strengthening National Societies' auxiliary role

National Societies are neither governmental institutions nor NGOs. Their relationship to the authorities is defined by their role as "auxiliaries" and by the [Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent](#). A National Society's auxiliary role is crucial in shaping its role within its country.

To support National Societies to strengthen this role, in 2020, the IFRC developed new guidance, which focuses on how law and policy can support their auxiliary role to persuade decision-makers to act in the interests of vulnerable people.

The guidance document, entitled [Guide to Strengthening the Auxiliary Role through Law and Policy](#), provides practical guidance to National Societies on enhancing their auxiliary role through domestic law, policies, plans and agreements. It also addresses legal facilities, which are legal rights and exemptions that enable National Societies to conduct their operations more efficiently and effectively.

An online training course for staff and volunteers, which provides an engaging overview of the main concepts in the guide, accompanied the guidance.

Disaster law for effective humanitarian work

To date, the IFRC has published research and recommendations relating to three of the four main phases of disaster risk management — disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response. In 2020, the IFRC turned its attention to **disaster recovery**, publishing a [Literature Review on Law and Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction](#). The review forms part of preliminary

evidence to develop a set of recommendations on disaster recovery for law and policy makers.

The IFRC also developed a series of new online training programmes for staff and volunteers on disaster law and advocacy.

Equity in response to public health emergencies

The IFRC consistently called for **equity in global access to personal protective equipment**, therapeutics and vaccines to combat COVID-19, for instance in a high-level joint statement on a “people’s vaccine” issued by the Movement and the UN in June 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic underlined the importance of transparent **laws and policies for disaster preparedness and response**. Prompted by experiences of the pandemic, the IFRC embarked upon a research project to identify best practice for domestic law and policy relating to public health emergencies.

The Law and Public Health Emergencies Research Project mapped COVID-19 emergency decrees in 113 countries during the initial stages of the pandemic, and a detailed assessment in 33 countries of domestic legal and institutional frameworks for public health emergencies. This concentrated on the COVID-19 pandemic and the legal and policy instruments used to respond to previous outbreaks and epidemics, such as the Ebola virus, SARS, MERS and Zika virus. The IFRC will publish a report and guidance document on the findings in 2021.

To further support their advocacy work, the IFRC developed a set of messages for National Societies facing

challenges when attempting to secure humanitarian access during the pandemic. The IFRC also prepared a **pre-disaster agreement template** for National Societies to use with their governments.

These tools supported National Societies’ to be recognised by public authorities as critical partners and emergency workers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to be granted the legal facilities they need to carry out their work.

Legal barriers for vulnerable migrants

The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for people around the world, but it has been particularly devastating for the world’s vulnerable migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum.

The IFRC launched a report called [Least Protected, Most Affected](#), which discusses the increasing barriers that migrants faced in accessing essential services during the pandemic. The document made **recommendations for governments** on how COVID-19 responses can keep everyone safe and avoid penalizing migrants and refugees.



Communicating for greater impact

In 2020, the IFRC increased its reach with messages about humanitarian issues. The number of people following the IFRC on all social media platforms by the end of 2020 was 5.27 million compared to 846,000 the previous year. Engagement levels increased steeply across all platforms. As a result, the IFRC now has one of the most powerful voices in the sector, particularly via LinkedIn, TikTok and Instagram. This means that National Societies' work and impact reached the **biggest audience in the network's history**.

Beyond its social media success, the IFRC produced more than 100 digital resources for use by the network. They were used widely by the membership to promote public health. One indicator of the impact of the IFRC's digital resources is that they were translated and used by National Societies in 36 languages.

The IFRC developed new partnerships with communications and marketing organizations to enable National Societies to spread their messages further. The IFRC's ongoing relationship with TikTok, for example, led directly to the donation of CHF 1 million to the Lebanese Red Cross, to support people in need in the wake of the Beirut explosion.

In addition, the IFRC launched Red Talks Live in 2020. These talks are a platform for experts from across the

network to speak on pertinent issues affecting vulnerable people. By the end of 2020, 52 live streams were broadcast, featuring 70 National Societies and reaching more than 500,000 people.

A dynamic and innovative digital communications approach based on collaboration allowed the IFRC to add significant value to National Societies around the world during challenging times.

The IFRC in the media

The IFRC significantly increased media coverage in 2020, with 2,500 media mentions across news outlets globally, compared to 1,500 in 2019 – an increase of 60 per cent. Press briefings by the IFRC President – covered topics from the joint COVID-19 appeal and trust to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the humanitarian situation in Syria. The briefings resulted in hundreds of news stories globally and across major news outlets such as the *New York Times*. This meant that the humanitarian needs witnessed by the IFRC were **shared with a global audience**. The IFRC used these opportunities to highlight the gaps, showcase the work of the IFRC and National Society volunteers and staff on the ground, and deliver critical advocacy messages to governments and decision-makers across the world.

Hosted programmes

The IFRC also hosts several programmes that bring partners together.

Global Road Safety Partnership

Its role is to create and support multi-sector road safety partnerships that are engaged with front-line good practice road safety interventions in countries and communities throughout the world. For more information on the Global Road Safety Partnership, please visit <https://www.grsroadsafety.org/>

Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response

The Steering Committee brings together nine of the world's leading humanitarian organizations to share analysis and learning and promote greater accountability and impact of humanitarian actions. For more information on SCHR please visit <https://www.schr.info/>.

One in 12

people across the globe in **172 countries** have been reached by the IFRC network's ongoing COVID-19 response so far.

5.27M

people followed the IFRC on social media by the end of 2020 (2019: 846,000), meaning that the IFRC now has one of the largest shares of voice in the sector, and the work, impact and fundraising needs of National Societies reached the biggest audience in the history of the Movement.



SPOTLIGHT ON

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY

**“Acting before disasters and crises happen,
more efficiently and in a more dignified way”**

The IFRC is dedicated to reducing the humanitarian impacts of the global climate crisis. As a result of its prominent voice on climate change, including through leadership in the Global Commission on Adaptation and as a convening partner of the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership, the IFRC began to see the impact of its advocacy.

In particular, the IFRC and relevant National Societies were invited to contribute to two Green Climate Fund proposals – one in the Pacific and the other in Liberia. The Green Climate Fund is the largest global fund dedicated to helping fight climate change. The proposals aim to ensure a stronger focus on communities, support the adoption of forecast-based financing and strengthen legal frameworks for climate-smart disaster risk management.

The IFRC also worked closely with partners, including the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, to highlight the vast gaps in climate finance to meet the needs of vulnerable communities.

The Anticipatory Action Focus Task Force, presented five key policy asks on anticipatory action to the European Union’s Council working party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid. The recommendations highlight the importance of acting before disasters and crises happen, more efficiently and in a more dignified way. The policy asks informed ECHO’s Disaster Preparedness Guidelines and the EU Council’s Presidency Summary on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action.

The German Red Cross, the IFRC and the Climate Centre collaborated to launch a new Anticipation Hub. The hub acts as an online knowledge and exchange platform for practitioners, scientists and policymakers. It enhances

the ability to anchor anticipatory action in the humanitarian sector and subsequently adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risk, ultimately saving lives. The IFRC is grateful for the funding supplied by the German Federal Foreign Office, making the development of the hub possible.

As part of a research project co-funded by the Irish Research Council and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, the IFRC and the University College Cork of Ireland co-produced three new publications. Two of the publications are case studies focused on integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the Philippines and Pacific Island countries. Both case studies identify good practices and gaps in existing frameworks and make recommendations for potential improvement.

The 2020 edition of the IFRC’s **World Disaster Report, Come Heat or High Water**, brought together new evidence of the scale of climate and weather-related disasters. It also highlighted the devastating humanitarian impacts of climate change on lives and livelihoods.

The report set out clear actions that can be taken to avoid the worst of these impacts, advocating for scaling up risk reduction and preparedness, prioritizing the most climate-vulnerable countries and communities, and better integrating and localizing approaches.

Findings from the report were reflected in the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)’s *“Communication on the EU’s humanitarian action”* report as well as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)’s *“2020 State of Climate Services Report”*.



ENSURE A STRONG IFRC THAT'S EFFECTIVE, CREDIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE



STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The IFRC has continued to work throughout 2020 to ensure that it is strong, transparent and accountable.

The IFRC's **risk-based audit approach and methodology** has led to improvements in control and risk mitigation, particularly at country and programme levels. Due to the risks posed by COVID-19, the newly emerging risks were included in the audit plan. Investigation capacity was also increased.

The IFRC is intent on improving transparency and accountability, and mitigating the risk of corruption; protecting the security of members and volunteers.

Globally, the IFRC continues to witness deterioration in **security environments**, with the additional risk to aid workers from the COVID-19 pandemic requiring a greater focus on building a culture of security to keep IFRC staff and volunteers safe. The IFRC also recognises the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. The **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment** Solutions Group was established in September to ensure continuous self-reflection and development throughout the IFRC network.

In 2020, the necessity and value of digital advancements were shown to enable wider humanitarian transformations. Reflection on the digital divide across the network has resulted in a **Digital Transformation Strategy** that was presented after consultation with more than 70 National Societies. The IFRC's first digital global summit, Climate: Red, co-hosted by Solferino Academy and the Climate Centre, was held virtually to reduce emissions. The global trend towards virtual gatherings using innovative methods supported the smooth running of this event that was attended by more than 10,000 people from 195 countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put considerable strain on the IFRC's control framework. However, the IFRC has adapted and improved, using the crisis as a catalyst for change and enhancement, ensuring that the IFRC can meet evolving needs in an ever-changing world.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Harassment

To fully support National Societies to prevent sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment in the workplace, the IFRC must exemplify the highest standards itself. This requires continuous self-reflection and development.

The *Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment Solutions Group* was established in September to better understand the current situation within the IFRC and identify areas for improvement. By strengthening inter-departmental cooperation, the group aims to fully implement the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy throughout the IFRC.

The group will launch an all-staff sexual misconduct survey, develop mandatory **PSEA training for all staff**, appoint PSEA focal points, and be responsible

for coordinating all PSEA related work within the IFRC. Ten short videos presented outlined the responsibilities and appropriate actions to be taken by managers, HR, investigations, legal, PGI, security, community engagement and accountability and PSEA focal points and coordinators. New staff will be able to view the presentation on the IFRC Learning Platform.

Finally, the IFRC is in the process of revising its 2007 anti-harassment guidelines, which it intends to complete in mid-2021.

These processes have been designed to include all staff, who will not only be protected, but develop their own understanding and competencies of how to address PSEA in the IFRC.

Security

The security of IFRC personnel and volunteers is a critical priority. Globally, the IFRC continues to witness a deterioration in the security environment, with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic adding a further layer of instability, putting humanitarian aid workers at risk.

Keeping people safe requires building a culture of security. The IFRC supports its personnel, National Societies and their volunteers worldwide with its **Stay Safe approach**. The IFRC is grateful to the Norwegian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross who all generously supported its security work in 2020.

In 2020, the IFRC continued to develop the new Stay Safe e-learning course for National Society and IFRC personnel. It raises awareness around security issues and heightens the security management capacity using state of art systems and the latest pedagogical approaches.

It includes new features like gaming elements that allow the learner to make decisions that affect the successful resolution of the incident. These elements make the course unique among humanitarian e-learning courses.

Gender has been mainstreamed throughout the course and a module on Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse is included.

The use of **“Mobile first” technology** allows significantly more volunteers, particularly in low and middle income countries to have access to this important training from their phones.

Additionally, in 2020:

- The IFRC responded to all of the 4,400 security support requests made
- 175 staff from the IFRC and National Societies were trained via individual video conference training despite restrictions due to COVID-19
- A record high 272,000 IFRC and National Society personnel have now signed-up to or completed one of the IFRC 3 Stay Safe e-Learnings: Volunteers, Personal and Managers. This is an increase of 35,000 from 2019

Governance

Frank discussions of best practice at the highest level are essential to enable National Societies to learn from each other and improve their own future programming.

Approximately 110 leaders from more than 70 National Societies attended a think tank webinar on National Society leadership, and two think tank webinars on leadership during COVID-19. At these events, National Society leaders shared lessons learned during the

COVID-19 response, innovations and transformations that improved their responses.

The IFRC provided the Compliance and Mediation Committee with the mandate to examine breaches of the Code of Conduct by Governing Board Members. This is a safeguard for the integrity of the organization and demonstrates its leadership in promoting accountability and transparency.

Digital Transformation

Digital advances can help wider humanitarian transformations, yet many National Societies face significant challenges to put in place and maintain basic IT infrastructure, network systems, and digital applications. This Digital Divide exists at international, national and local levels. Digital transformation is more than technology. The call is to transform and support all our work, processes, change management, and staff in a digital way. Technology is only one part of the equation.

In October 2020, the IFRC consulted with more than 70 National Societies and over 200 people across the IFRC, on its Digital Transformation Strategy to enable adaptation to a digital world. At the core of this strategy is partnering and investment to engage external expertise and support for data literacy and digital skills, as well as peer-to-peer support and networks to share and build on National Societies' expertise.

Climate: Red The first ever digital IFRC global event

On 9 and 10 September 2020, the Climate Centre, in a collaboration with the Solferino Academy, hosted Climate:Red, a major virtual summit focused on the Climate and Environmental Crisis. This was the first virtual summit held by the IFRC and its largest.

During the 30 hours of the summit, more than 10,000 people from around the world attended over 200 crowdsourced and feature sessions on the Climate:Red platform.

Climate: Red was conceived as a virtual summit to reduce the environmental impact of the event. By hosting the event virtually, it became accessible to the entirety of the IFRC network; including the volunteer and branch base, community members, supporters and the public interested in acting on climate change. None of the participants in attendance from the 195 countries were required to take a flight. Many of the 200+ sessions were translated into multiple languages.

Climate: Red



10,000+

people from
around the globe



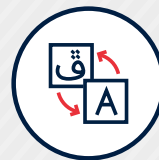
195

countries
represented
through
participants



200+

sessions



4

4 languages
(Spanish, English,
Arabic and French)
across all content



0

flights taken



By improving capacity to utilize digital technology and data, the IFRC and National Societies will strengthen the relevance, speed, quality, accessibility and sustainability of humanitarian services available to help those most in need.

Risk Management

The IFRC has continued to refine its approach to risk management and grow in risk maturity during 2020. A network of risk management experts has been embedded in the IFRC to ensure a more coherent, universal approach and rapid response across the organization.

This network keeps management informed of emerging risks from their respective regions. Best practices in risk management from the different regions and countries are shared through the network, so that they can be adopted by the rest of the organization.

In 2021, partners and major donors will be offered regular risk management updates. This will increase collaboration on identifying and implementing risk mitigation measures.

INTERNAL AUDIT AND INVESTIGATIONS

The Office of Internal Audit and Investigation (OIAI) is the one of the cornerstones of the IFRC's assurance arrangements. The OIAI is an independent and objective assurance and investigation function that adds value to and helps enhance the operation of the IFRC and its members. It helps the organization accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluating and improving governance, risk management, and control processes.

It provides the Secretary-General with the necessary independent assurance over IFRC's governance, risk management, and control framework to discharge his accountability and integrity responsibilities to the Governing Board and more widely to the IFRC's stakeholders, including donors. The OIAI comprises two key functions: internal audit and investigations.

To ensure the OIAI meets its obligations, the IFRC has adopted the Global Institute of Internal Auditors' International Standards, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and Core Humanitarian Standards for its fraud and SEAH investigations.

To support the IFRC during 2020, the OIAI re-prioritized its internal audit activities to focus on **critical risk areas, increase awareness of integrity issues, and build its reactive investigation capacity**. A dedicated audit team was recruited and embedded in the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme, with an independent reporting line to the OIAI.

The 2020 audit plan was revised to provide a greater focus on **emerging risks** from the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent appeal. The plan also retained coverage of IFRC strategic priorities and systems. Investigation capacity was increased with regional investigators and investigation outsourcing arrangements were enhanced. Creating a culture of integrity awareness was prioritized in all investigation and audit work.

The OIAI's work found that while the COVID-19 pandemic put considerable strain on the IFRC's control framework, the organization has adapted and improved, using the crisis as a catalyst for change and enhancement. The pandemic highlighted the need to continually review and fine-tune corporate and programmatic systems to ensure that the IFRC can meet the challenges of an ever-changing world and the evolving needs of its stakeholders.

The work of the OIAI has been used to support the IFRC's leadership to enhance its system of internal controls. This has included the recruitment of risk management specialists in the IFRC's regional offices, a refreshed approach to capturing and monitoring risk, and provision of risk management training to all regional and country office directors and heads. [OIAI annual report](#)

The IFRC Alumni Association

The IFRC's alumni association celebrated its first full year in 2020. Its members have devoted a significant part of their lives to serving the most vulnerable people through IFRC. The Association's free membership reflects the reliance of the Movement on its vast network of volunteers worldwide.

The alumni association allows its 390 members, many of whom are now in senior positions with other organizations, to remain apprised of IFRC operations, and to share experience across all fields of humanitarian practice.

While COVID-19 greatly affected the opportunities for in-person activities, members remain connected through weekly messages on topics ranging from Secretary General Announcements to humanitarian book reviews and academic research requests.

Reach more about the IFRC Alumni Association at <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/ifrc-alumni-association/>.

AREAS OF FOCUS





DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



AREAS OF FOCUS

Climate-smart disaster risk reduction is a vital focus for the IFRC. Risk reduction and climate change adaptation are becoming ever more important and frequent due to climate change, population growth, urban development in risk-prone locations and changes in land use.

Strengthening preparedness to respond when a disaster occurs, mitigating its effects and protecting development from the impact of disasters.

According to the World Disasters Report 2020, the number of disasters related to climate and weather has risen by almost **35 per cent** since the 1990s, while disasters attributable to climate and extreme weather events increased by **83 per cent** in the 2010s. Disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience building must be urgently scaled up to match the new levels of threat.

The dangers of cyclones, flooding, drought and heatwaves did not diminish while the world was adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first six months of the pandemic, more than 100 disasters affected around 50 million people

Investing in preparedness can save lives, enabling faster and more effective assistance when needed. Risk-informed approaches have proved invaluable during the pandemic as in all emergencies. The IFRC is leading effective disaster risk reduction in a rapidly changing world using its extensive experience of supporting National Societies and the world's most vulnerable people to help build resilience to risks.

People reached
29,516,643

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

“The need to prepare for a world of unexpected shocks has become clearer than ever.

Epidemics, floods, storms, droughts, and wildfires are all expected to become more frequent and severe, affecting hundreds of millions of people each year.”

— Jagan Chapagain, IFRC Secretary General

Strengthening National Societies' capacities

The IFRC continued to work towards its disaster risk reduction and climate ambitions by further developing the capacities of National Societies using online resources such as webinars, remote conferences, reports and platforms.

In January 2020, the IFRC, ICRC and the Climate Centre finalized and published the *Movement Ambitions to Address the Climate Crisis*, shaped in 2019 in consultation with National Societies. This document set out how the Movement will collectively build on its unique added value and expertise to address the climate crisis. It set out four pillars of action, with four enabling approaches, underpinned by the reduction of our own carbon footprint. The IFRC convened the Climate Action Taskforce with National Societies to provide strategic direction on how to position the Movement and urgently scale up activities. It also established a health and climate working group and made significant progress in defining what National Societies can do to reduce and address the health impacts of climate change.

The IFRC developed several resources to help National Societies take a **risk-informed approach to COVID-19 response efforts**. These included the guidance note *“Towards a risk informed approach aimed at building community resilience”*, the *“Technical Guidance: Primary and Secondary Effects of Natural and Technological Hazards and the Compounding Impact of COVID-19”* and *“Climate-smart DRM programming during COVID-19”*, a companion piece to existing DRR-related methodologies and tools. It coordinated disaster risk reduction activities during the COVID-19 pandemic with the global Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group and adjusted Emergency Appeals and Emergency Plans of Actions.

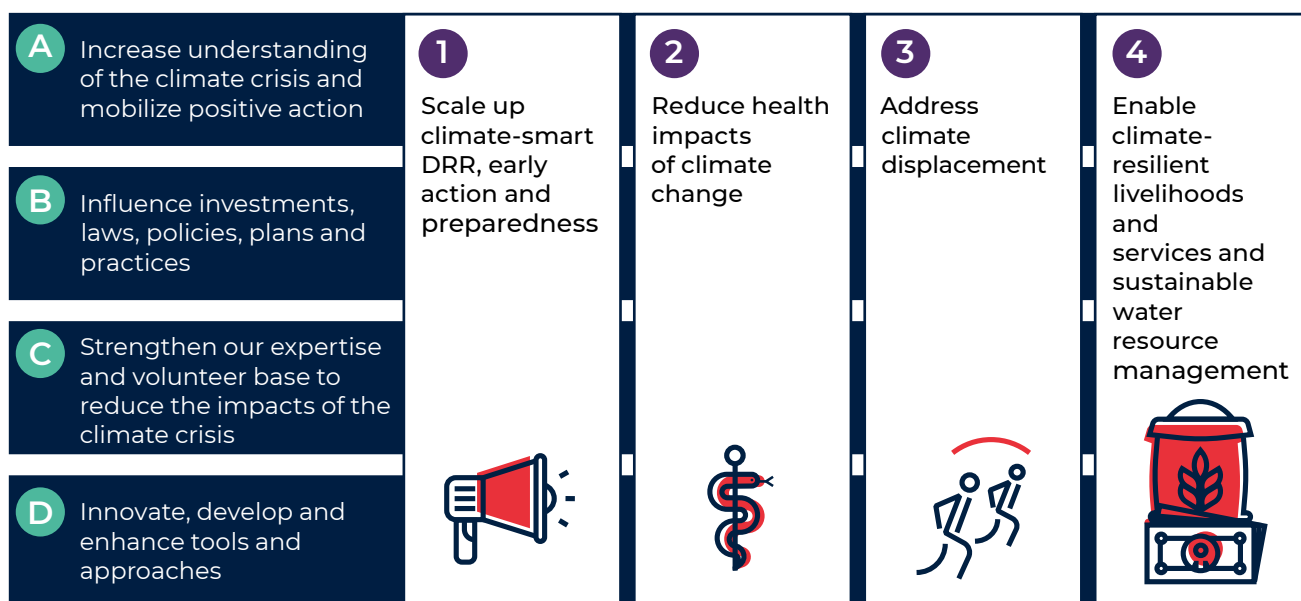
the IFRC also supported a **digital transformation of its risk-informed approaches**, including the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment and the Road Map to Community Resilience. In parallel, the IFRC developed phase one of a **community resilience measurement dashboard** which aims to measure community resilience.

The IFRC, together with the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, created and now hosts a **Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities e-learning course** on the IFRC's e-learning platform. The course allows users to conduct a comprehensive analysis of a community's flood resilience to inform resilience building programmes and advocacy actions. It is currently used by the IFRC, National Societies and INGOs in 24 countries.

The IFRC and the Alliance led the coordination of a **3-day virtual global learning exchange focused on integrating climate smart practices** into current and future flood resilience programming. The virtual session involved participants from 10 organizations representing 18 countries to discuss climate smart programming, nature-based solutions and key advocacy and influence strategies to achieve a broader change.

As part of an expansion of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, the IFRC launched the scale-up of its existing flood resilience programmes in Mexico and the Philippines by opening new project locations in other flood prone areas of the countries. In addition, a new flood resilience programme was launched in Mozambique which builds on the lessons and insights of an *applied research study on cyclones Idai and Kenneth* conducted by the IFRC.

Reduce the current and future humanitarian impacts of climate change and support people to adapt in the face of it



Reduce our own carbon footprint GREEN THE RED

As the most ignored and rapidly rising climate risk, **heatwaves became an increasing priority** for the IFRC. Together with the Climate Centre and partners, the IFRC published two guides providing a basic introduction to this issue and a resource to start planning for extreme heat: the [Heatwave Guide for Cities](#) and [Heatwave Guide for Red Cross Red Crescent Branches](#).

The IFRC added a disaster risk reduction surge to its Rapid Response Manager System to more effectively **integrate risk reduction into emergency and recovery operations**. Dedicated surge personnel could

then be deployed, as needed, to ensure risk reduction is suitably addressed and included in post-emergency assessment, planning and programming.

Natural hazards are especially deadly in contexts of fragility, conflict and violence. The IFRC developed a training manual and programme of its 2016 **Better Programming Initiative** and the **Conflict-Sensitive Programme Management** approach to enhance National Society programming in such contexts.

Early warning and anticipatory action

As of 2020, around 30 National Societies were developing or implementing anticipatory humanitarian action through the **Forecast-based financing approach**. This approach combines a scientific forecast, risk analysis, pre-agreed planning and financing, to ensure pre-emptive action on the ground, at the right time, to reduce impacts of forecast hazards. In 2020 the IFRC activated Early Action Protocols for extreme winter, floods, cyclones and volcanic ash in Mongolia, Bangladesh, Ecuador and Mozambique for the first time, enabling National Societies to reduce some of the impacts these extreme events would have caused. The IFRC's expertise was also used as a basis for one of the UN Central

Emergency Response Fund's first multi-stakeholder anticipatory action pilots in Bangladesh. The result was a 10-fold increase in reach: from 27,900 people in 2019 to 274,000 people in 2020.

After early warning of a potential La Niña episode, and with the support of the Climate Centre, the IFRC led a process to identify high-risk countries and support the National Societies to **pilot early action planning** to potentially access Disaster Relief Emergency Funds. The lessons from these pilots have inspired more flexible support for anticipatory action from the DREF.

Several new resources were published to support the implementation of this approach, including the [Forecast-based Financing Practitioners' Manual](#) and [The Future of Forecasts: Impact-based Forecasting for Early Action guide](#).

To unleash the full potential and ensure that most people in high-risk contexts can receive assistance ahead of predictable shocks, the IFRC launched or supported several global initiatives, including the **Anticipation Hub** with the German Red Cross and the Climate Centre. The hub allows for increased knowledge exchange, learning and guidance on anticipatory action that brings together more than [70 partners](#) from across the Movement and other humanitarian and disaster risk management organizations. As host to the

[Risk Informed Early Action Partnership](#), the IFRC supported the establishment of the **REAP Secretariat** team.

With the support of the Centre for Disaster Protection and the UK Government Actuary's Department, the IFRC started exploring [risk financing options](#) to expand anticipatory action financing through the forecast-based action by the DREF. The IFRC also explored how it might make use of risk transfer instruments, such as insurance. For example, it worked with the World Bank on the **feasibility of using the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility** to provide predictable support for forecast-based action and earlier response by the Philippines Red Cross and the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

Nature-based solutions

Nature-based solutions are increasingly being recognized as one of the most effective ways of reducing disaster risks and building community resilience. The IFRC began exploring how its own actions can integrate nature-based solutions **at scale and provide longer-term resilience** to communities as a priority – moving from individual environmental sustainability actions, such as market gardening, to broader-scale mangrove and coastal ecosystem restoration. It expanded its partnership with organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, UNEP and WWF, and became a member of **the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction**, a global alliance of UN agencies, NGOs and specialist institutes that promote and scale-up implementation of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction.

The IFRC began a new programme, '*Greening Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Risk Reduction: Saving Lives through Working with Nature*', funded by USAID, which aims to expand the IFRC network's use of nature-based solutions to reduce disaster risks. The programme will enhance and develop tools, guidance and training for National Societies, support the implementation and testing of solutions in Vietnam, the Philippines and Jamaica, and promote nature-based solutions within and beyond the IFRC network.

The IFRC organized a series of introductory webinars for its staff and National Societies. As a member of the Advisory Committee for The Nature Conservancy's Nature Protects People project, the IFRC contributed to the development of "[The Blue Guide](#)" for DRR practitioners on nature-based solutions in coastal areas.

IMPROVING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The IFRC has produced three new publications with the University College Cork of Ireland. Two of these case studies focus on the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the normative and institutional frameworks of the [Philippines](#) and [Pacific Island countries](#), and have identified good practices and gaps in existing frameworks. They conclude by identifying recommendations and areas for

potential improvement, informing future programmes on disaster risk reduction. These publications were part of the IFRC-MSCA Caroline Research Project, [Leave No One Behind: Developing Climate-Smart/Disaster Risk Management Laws that Protect People in Vulnerable Situations for a Comprehensive Implementation of the UN Agenda 2030](#).



SPOTLIGHT ON

CLIMATE: RED SUMMIT

Supporting partners: IFRC Climate Centre, Aljazeera, Open Lab, Italian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross

Climate change is the biggest challenge the world faces in the coming decades and today.

The IFRC network has big ambitions for actions on climate change. The first step is to understand the role of National Societies in addressing climate change, to open new opportunities for partnership and strengthen existing collaborations.

Climate:Red, a first of its kind virtual summit, brought people together to discuss climate change. It demonstrated that a truly global conference can be organized without the greenhouse gas emissions of a traditional meeting (in this case, saving 25,412 tonnes of CO₂).

Convened by the IFRC, including the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and the Solferino Academy, the Summit engaged more than 10,000 participants from 195 countries. They debated climate-smart disaster risk reduction, health, early warning early action, conflict, climate-induced, youth engagement, disaster laws, nature-based solutions, gender and greening ways of working.

The Summit built upon four main themes: Act, Enable, Empower, Influence.

Act looked at what the Red Cross Red Crescent is already doing on climate – and what more do we need to do. There is already an incredible amount of climate work underway within the network to be replicated and taken to scale. Some takeaways included the need for:

- increased anticipatory action
- increased focus on climate-related migration and displacement
- scale-up of nature-based solutions
- increased focus on fragile and conflict-affected settings

Empower focused on capacity strengthening, community engagement, and youth and volunteers, including the challenges of communicating about climate change to different audiences, and how the IFRC network can harness the power of young people to call for and implement change. Participants discussed the need for inclusion of grassroots voices and women, and greater understanding of indigenous communities' balanced solutions for better relationships with nature.

Influence focused on policy engagements and humanitarian diplomacy from the local to global levels. This requires engaging with new partners; well-defined institutional and regulatory frameworks that integrate individual and societal vulnerabilities and consider political, social and environmental factors; engagement of civil society at the community level; inclusion of the private sector; and the need for finance to reach the most vulnerable people and places.

Transform looked at how the IFRC network can be better equipped for a future in a changing climate – not just greening ways of working but also how work and approaches need to change.

The full report from this ground-breaking summit can be viewed [here](#).



SHELTER



AREAS OF FOCUS

In addition to the rapid lifesaving shelter solutions during an emergency response, the resilience of vulnerable communities and settlements, and the capacity of National Societies to support them, have been integral and vital parts of the IFRC's work. Shelter and settlements assistance plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety, security, and dignity of those affected in the immediate aftermath of a disaster or crisis, and in the weeks and months that follow.

For the IFRC, shelter is not just a *product* – but a *process* whereby people can create a safe and secure environment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected the urban poor, migrants, and displaced people, with loss of income and livelihoods leading to an increased risk of homelessness and destitution. As temporary shelters, camps, and other emergency accommodation became overcrowded, the risk of infection and transmission of COVID-19 among these groups increased. For those in urban settings living in inadequate housing or informal settings, the risk of infection has been high, while the ability to observe protective measures has been compromised.

In 2020, the IFRC's shelter activities centred on improving the ability to provide rental assistance through cash programming for disaster-affected communities, mitigating the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, and scaling up sustainable shelter initiatives.

People reached
1,685,142

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Shelter assistance

In September 2020, the IFRC launched its *Step-by-step Guide to Rental Assistance* through a series of webinars that attracted more than 350 participants. Developed in response to a lack of knowledge of rental markets and the need to increase shelter assistance in urban contexts, the guidance brings together expertise ranging from shelter, migration, cash, livelihoods, community engagement and accountability, and social protection to support National Societies with their implementation of successful programmes.

The IFRC also launched a webinar on *Shelter and Settlements and Cash* in the context of COVID-19, in collaboration with the Cash Hub to continue building National Society capacity.

The IFRC's shelter and WASH teams collaborated in 2020 to advance plans for inclusive WASH and shelter and settlements programmes, in both emergency responses and sustainable development. The IFRC began work on the design of female-friendly and accessible communal sanitation facilities, enabling vulnerable communities to protect themselves against disease and other health issues related to poor sanitation.

The PASSA Youth programme made consistent progress in 2019 and 2020, in part due to financial contributions from the Facebook Community Leadership Award grant and other partners. In March 2019, a multi-phased proposal was defined between the IFRC and partner organization Habitat for Humanity to develop a user-friendly platform for and with PASSA Youth facilitators, relevant to their needs and realities. In June 2020, a co-design research and concept development

and prototyping workshop was held in the Philippines, with the active involvement of the Philippines Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity facilitators.

By August 2020, the PASSA Youth initiative reached its objective of launching a digital platform that will connect and manage knowledge and insights created by PASSA trainers and facilitators. The final phase of the development of the platform in 2020 was supported entirely by the Australian Red Cross.

The IFRC also engaged in several **shelter research projects**. The Shelter Africa Collaboration aims to support communities in sub-Saharan Africa face disaster management challenges through the capacity building of National Societies. The IFRC provided technical support for the **implementation of a shelter component and emergency plans of 49 National Societies in sub-Saharan Africa**. Two strategy workshops and four training sessions were conducted in response to the shelter needs in the region, leading to an improvement in the response capacities of 21 National Societies.

Additionally, the IFRC, in collaboration with the Luxembourg Red Cross, coordinated and implemented activities and resources to **pre-position shelter stocks** in various African countries. These shelter kits considerably reduce response times in the event of an emergency. Due to COVID-19, the project was extended by six months, allowing the teams to finalize the IFRC's 2020–2023 strategy document, Humanitarian Shelter in Africa.

25%

increase in the risk of illness in a person's lifetime through inadequate shelter

15,000

people in need of food and shelter assistance following Hurricane Dorian

3,023

Bahamian households supported with a multi-purpose cash programme to secure basic needs



Hurricane Dorian: Bahamas Response

Hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas from the 1st – 3rd September 2019, significantly affecting Abaco and Grand Bahama Islands and the surrounding Cays. The hurricane made several historical records as the strongest Atlantic hurricane to impact a landmass since records began. There were 74 deaths, 282 missing and an estimated 15,000 people in need of food or shelter.

The IFRC and Bahamas Red Cross provided shelter assistance across three main programmes: multi-purpose cash, minor repairs, and rental assistance.

Multi-purpose Cash Assistance

Over 3,000 households were assisted with a multipurpose cash programme to secure the basic needs of those affected by Hurricane Dorian – including housing, utilities, transport, food and water, communication, furniture, education, clothing, and health costs. The programme also distributed a total of USD 3,620 to undocumented migrants who were unlikely to come forward for other types of assistance via pre-paid Visa debit cards. Additionally, the cash modality provided an opportunity to stimulate the local economy following natural disasters.

Minor Repairs

562 households received cash assistance for minor repairs assistance, with an average value of up to USD 6,000. These grants aimed to address non-structural damage to houses, allowing families to safely reoccupy their homes with at least one dry lined room, functional WASH and kitchen facilities, and sealed roofs and external walls.

Rental Assistance

The IFRC and the Bahamas Red Cross provided 232 households with rental assistance in Grand Bahama, in conjunction with assistance being offered by the Department of Social Services in the country. The programme provided safe and appropriate housing options for those affected by the hurricane, enabling these households to recover their livelihoods, rebuild their homes or find alternative housing arrangements. Upon verification that the accommodation met minimum standards, payments were made directly to the tenant household.



TARPAULIN PROJECT

Each year, millions of tarpaulins are distributed to meet shelter, settlements, and WASH needs of disaster-affected populations. The tarpaulins currently used within the humanitarian sector are made of polypropylene, a type of plastic that, after use, may enter our ecosystem as harmful micro plastics.

As leading agencies in the humanitarian sector and significant users of tarpaulins during emergency response, the ICRC, IFRC, and UNHCR have explored ways of reducing the environmental impact of this household item, while retaining its performance and function.

The Tarpaulin Project was established in 2020 with a steering committee and terms of reference to support its objectives. The two-year project aims to produce

a full life cycle analysis of the standard tarpaulin, identify its emission values and find options to reduce these emissions within the current specifications, and explore potential sustainable materials to replace polypropylene.

The project will involve a wide variety of stakeholders, namely humanitarian partners, donors, suppliers, academic partners, and private sector. It will also coordinate closely with activities undertaken by the Global Shelter Cluster, co-led by the IFRC and UNHCR and supported by an ECHO grant for greening humanitarian shelter operations. It is high priority for IFRC to invest in initiatives to green the humanitarian shelter operations, through its own operations, as well its leadership of the Global Shelter Cluster in 2021.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE: EGYPTIAN RED CRESCENT

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly increased the vulnerability of migrants in Egypt, leaving many people without an income and in danger of eviction. In addition to the threat of homelessness, migrant families are also vulnerable to other protection risks, including sexual and gender-based violence and financial exploitation.

With some households prioritizing rental payments over the purchase of food to avoid eviction, the Egyptian Red Crescent intervened to negotiate rents with landlords, reducing the eviction risk for these families and providing them with up to two months' rental assistance to ease the financial burden.

As part of the intervention, the Egyptian Red Crescent also conducted a rental market assessment to

understand the average rental value of accommodation typically leased by migrants. With this knowledge, the National Society successfully renegotiated rents within the local area down to the average rate for migrant housing. In cases of sexual and gender-based violence, these households were supported to move home and connect with a 'trusted' landlord within the community.

As of March 2021, 316 families had received rental assistance from the Egyptian Red Crescent, with a total of 552 months of rental payments distributed to landlords. The National Society formed strong relationships with community leaders during these activities and continues to hold regular meetings with them to assess community needs.

49

National Societies provided with technical support to implement a shelter component and emergency plans into their disaster management process

552

months of rental payments sent to landlords

316

families supported with rental assistance


LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS



AREAS OF FOCUS

In anticipation of, and during, emergency situations, securing basic needs and livelihoods is a primary focus for the IFRC and National Societies. They work with vulnerable communities through food assistance and livelihoods protection interventions, in most cases using the cash and voucher assistance modality.

Helping families meet their basic needs and protect their livelihoods is essential for their physical and mental health and maintaining dignity.



An additional 100 million people are living in extreme poverty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic had a significant impact on the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people in the world, contributing to an increase in food and nutrition insecurity and loss of income, which in turn have contributed to a rise in domestic violence and weakened social cohesion. Mobility and economic constraints further limited access to WASH facilities and health services.

Informal workers and migrants were particularly badly affected by the health crisis because of their position outside of the formal system. Many women were negatively affected because of their reliance on work in the domestic, hospitality, and the informal sectors. The long-term effects of the pandemic are likely to increase the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2030 by a further 207 million.

Much of the IFRC's response is centred around helping families meet their basic needs and protect their livelihoods primarily through *cash and voucher assistance*. Many National Societies implemented a 'fast-track cash preparedness' process to support timely cash assistance to those who desperately need it. Other National Societies implemented livelihoods protection interventions for the first time in response to the pandemic.

People reached

3,390,000

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2020, the IFRC addressed the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, responding to widespread food insecurity and loss of livelihoods. It made successful interventions to protect livelihoods through numerous Emergency Appeals, and the scale-up of technical support capacity within the Livelihoods Resource Centre. A helpdesk led by the Centre was created to ensure continuity of guidance and support to National Societies for the emergency response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods and basic needs.

As part of the global appeal for the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC Global Disaster Preparedness Centre and Livelihoods Reference Centre collaborated to adapt the Business Preparedness Initiative tools to micro and small businesses. The initiative aims to help strengthen the capacity of National Societies for business preparedness and to better support small and medium-sized businesses as they adapt and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative was piloted by the National Societies in Ecuador, Peru and El Salvador and included a small cash grant to support the businesses. Elizabeth Meza, 46, has been the head of her family business, Rodme Tejidos y Colores, for 21 years. Her textile company employs 5 people in Quito, Ecuador. She received \$500 from the small business grant programme.

“The project has helped me rise from the ashes, giving me the push at the perfect time to be able to buy raw materials to produce more for Christmas.”

— Elizabeth Meza,
small business grant recipient

In 2020, a core group comprising of the IFRC, the British Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross, and the Livelihoods Resource Centre, developed the global food security and livelihoods approach. The main objective is to support food security and livelihoods, from the onset of a crisis, with integrated quality programming at scale – ensuring impact, promoting inclusion, reducing dependency on humanitarian aid, and leaving no one behind. The approach was presented and discussed in a first series of round table consultations with senior leadership and technical colleagues from 63 National Societies.

Cash and Voucher Assistance

The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has helped National Societies increase their application of cash and voucher assistance, with more than 75 National Societies providing some form of such assistance under the Emergency Appeal.

The use of digital tools and technologies to deliver cash programming increased in 2020 due to the need for adherence to safety protocols and the consequential reduction in face-to-face contact with communities. These tools also allow for better data collection, remote monitoring, and the provision of payments through mobile money or prepaid cards. In response to concerns about **data protection**, the IFRC developed a practical guide for cash and voucher assistance that allows cash practitioners to **identify risks**.

A fast-track cash preparedness approach was developed in 2020 and piloted in five National Societies to satisfy the high level of demand for cash programmes. This approach is an adapted version of the IFRC's standard Cash and Voucher Assistance Preparedness, focusing

on establishing minimum requirements to deliver cash programming in a timely, accountable, and effective way.

The global increase in cash programming saw enhanced cooperation and collaboration across the IFRC network, with **surge support secondments to regional cash teams** providing record levels of support. The IFRC's Cash Hub, hosted by the British Red Cross, provided knowledge, learning, and practical support to programmes to strengthen reach. The hub also provided technical advice via a remote help desk.

The increased appetite for cash and voucher assistance across the IFRC network has encouraged strong commitments to the IFRC's ambitious plan and budget targets for **50 per cent of humanitarian action being delivered through cash by 2025**. Additionally, there is growing interest in linking cash and voucher assistance with national social protection mechanisms, and an opportunity for National Societies to strengthen and enhance their response in support of national government infrastructures.





SPOTLIGHT ON

ESSN ASSISTANCE WITH DIGNITY

Turkey is currently hosting 4 million refugees, the highest number of refugees in the world, 3.6 million of which are from Syria. A decade after the start of the Syrian conflict, many refugees have settled in Turkey and begun integrating into communities. However, many still struggle to meet their basic survival needs, such as rent, food and transportation.

Thanks to generous funding by the European Union, the IFRC has partnered with the Turkish Red Crescent Society to implement the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme which brings monthly cash assistance, via debit cards, called “Kizilaykart” to more than 1.8 million of the most vulnerable refugees in Turkey. The ESSN is the largest humanitarian programme in the history of the EU and the largest single programme ever implemented by the IFRC and the Turkish Red Crescent.

What does this really mean?

Every month, each family member receives 155 Turkish Lira (17 Swiss Francs), on a prepaid debit card, enabling them to decide for themselves how to cover essential needs. The money can be used in shops and spent on rent, food and daily essentials, which also helps people participate in community life and contribute to their local economies. Despite their hardship, it gives them freedom to manage their own lives.

The programme offers additional quarterly top-ups based on family size, with exceptional payments to families with members who require specialized care. Cash is an effective and transparent way to provide humanitarian assistance. The people the programme serves are diverse – 60 per cent are between 0–17 years old and 37 per cent between 18 and 59 years old. Over 51 per cent of those served are female.

By the end of 2020, over CHF 253 million had been provided.

The #powertobe campaign

Changing the perception of refugees is key to their acceptance in new communities. The IFRC supported a digital campaign to raise awareness of support to refugees in Turkey and to create positive perception change.

The #powertobe campaign highlights the stories of four young refugees – a singer, a cook, a football player and a parkour runner – who were uprooted by the war in their home countries but are regaining control of their lives in Turkey through ESSN cash assistance.

In inspiring videos, [Davud](#), [Amal](#), [Bilal](#) and [Hamad](#) talk about their passions, dreams and challenges as they rebuild a new normalcy in Turkey. The four young refugees also met with influencers in Turkey, Spain, France, Austria and Romania digitally to discuss their common passions in video messages, online calls and eye-level cell phone clips.

More than 16 million people were reached by the campaign.

The ESSN programme is making a real difference to the lives of vulnerable refugees. Thanks to the ongoing support of the EU, phase III of the ESSN programme has been extended to March 2022. Households that fit the demographic criteria will continue to receive the assistance to help them cover their basic needs.

For more information on the ESSN programme please visit <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/essn/>

80%

of families are able to afford their basic necessities like food, rent and utilities

1 in 2

people said the cash assistance helped manage their debts

77%

of families are able to maintain an adequate, nutritious diet

HEALTH



AREAS OF FOCUS

Health challenges hit the world's most vulnerable people the hardest. They are more exposed to disease and outbreaks and have little or no access to health facilities. In addition, climate change is one of the greatest threats to public health in the 21st century. People with limited capacity to adapt, who do not have resources or access to health and who often live in areas where climate impacts like floods, droughts and storms hit hardest, are forced to make do with limited health services.

Promoting good health, prevention and early detection to avoid health crises and responding to community needs when they occur.

Climate change adversely affects human health, directly through exposure to hazards and indirectly through natural and socio-economic systems. Health systems face moving targets, as both vulnerabilities and the population at risk are constantly evolving and expanding in all regions of the world.

Women and girls are disproportionately impacted, experiencing unequal access to resources and decision-making, especially in areas faced with high levels of poverty.

Achieving global health security requires an inclusive and collaborative effort that captures and builds on the critical interdependencies between communities, civil society, the private sector and governments to ensure success. By working with National Societies, the IFRC ensures they are well placed to help support and facilitate a whole-of-society approach to health threats.

People reached
12,564,272

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENT

Emergency health

The IFRC's Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme, known as the CP3 initiative, supports communities to prepare and respond to health emergencies. The programme works across sectors and closely with National Societies, ensuring communities and local actors are at the centre, strengthening their ability to prevent, detect and respond to disease threats before they become outbreaks.

Over 100 staff and 3,400 volunteers have been involved in the CP3 initiative across Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Kenya, Indonesia, Mali, Sierra Leone and Uganda. With the IFRC's support, they have **developed COVID-19 response plans in record time** based on the experience gained on epidemic preparedness and response through the programme, saving lives across the region and continuing to carry out community health promotion, early detection and response to other outbreaks.

In Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, volunteers have worked with their communities to prepare for and respond to **cholera outbreaks** and collaborated with media organizations to share life-saving messages. By engaging schools and traditional community structures in Kenya, reporting rates of anthrax and other zoonotic diseases have improved, resulting in increased vaccination of livestock and greater community ownership of disease prevention. In Guinea, polio alerts raised by volunteers were investigated by the Ministry of Health and triggered an immunization campaign by the government. Volunteers in Sierra Leone have trained traditional healers to help detect diseases early while encouraging parents to continue regular child immunization despite their fear of visiting health facilities during the pandemic. The Uganda Red Cross has replicated the community-based surveillance system developed through the programme to other districts. In Indonesia, dengue and COVID-19 alerts by the Red Cross have led to prevention measures by affected communities.

Ensuring an effective response to health crises has been crucial in supporting the Democratic Republic of the Congo's efforts to contain significant Ebola outbreaks. The outbreak in June 2020 was declared over just five months on, with a total of 130 cases. Part of this containment was achieved by reaching 2,000,000

people in affected areas with messages of disease prevention. These messages have been adapted to include other diseases, including cholera and malaria.

The IFRC supported the Democratic Republic of the Congo's National Society in **community-based surveillance**, training 20 volunteers to carry out a pilot project in early detection, action and response. By the end of 2020, 78 rapid response teams responded to alerts. They provided first aid services, securing bodies of people suspected to have died of contagious diseases to minimize post-mortem spread and safe transfer of patients to health facilities. The IFRC supported this by providing training and appropriate vehicles to enable swift and secure transfer of patients. It trained a further 59 staff and volunteers in warehouse management to preposition emergency stocks in Beni, Bukavu, Goma and Bunia.

The IFRC represents its membership in the World Health Organization Emergency Medical Team initiative and plays a similar role within the IFRC's Emergency Response Unit system.

The IFRC hosted sessions and co-hosted an IFRC Asia Pacific regional quality assurance meeting. The meeting encouraged engagement and dialogue among National Societies in the region about the better utilization and optimisation of resources in emergency medical services. In Asia Pacific, a growing number of National Societies are requesting assistance from the IFRC to have well-functioning and well-equipped emergency medical teams, which they can either deploy domestically or internationally for emergency response.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Health Information System is an IFRC project designed to support Medical Emergency Response Units and other Red Cross Red Crescent health facilities. The aim is to provide an electronic medical record (individual patient medical records), health information system (de-identified reporting and trend analysis for early identification and management of outbreaks at facility level), and health facility management support to improve patient quality of care and medical operational efficiency. This will be critical in enhancing Red Cross Red Crescent response to epidemics and pandemics, and other disasters.



Climate and health

The Health and Climate Working Group, established in 2020, consists of over 30 National Societies, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and the IFRC. The IFRC chairs the group in collaboration with the French Red Cross and the RCRC Climate Centre. **Health and climate risk assessments** were initiated in 11 countries with National Societies in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Maldives, Fiji, Mongolia, Timor Leste, Malawi, Ethiopia and Kenya to understand hazards, vulnerabilities and exposure.

The IFRC extended its partnership with the World Health Organization to promote the urgency of climate and health. It also contributed its views on the progress

being made towards UHC at country and global levels to the State of Commitment to Universal Health Coverage. The review is country-focused and action-oriented. It complements the more technical and global Universal Health Coverage monitoring report focusing on UHC indicators on service coverage and financial protection, ensuring political leaders are held accountable for their commitments.

The IFRC worked with the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism of UHC2030 to capture challenges and achievements in Universal Health Coverage from populations that have previously been left behind.

REDUCING THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The Health and Climate Working Group has developed a clear positioning and strategic direction for the IFRC network on addressing the impact of climate change on health, including on how to scale up relevant activities to meet the increasing demands that climate change brings.

A major resource paper developed by the group reflects on specific health risks that are increased by climate

change and seeks to identify ways to reduce the health impacts caused. It allows current commitments on health, water and sanitation to be applied to a rapidly changing climate, in particular for vulnerable communities who are likely to experience the effects of climate change most severely and on an increasing basis. It explores the urgency of climate action for health and supports National Societies and partners with specific courses of recommended action.



Immunization

Whole communities benefit when children are vaccinated against deadly and contagious diseases. The IFRC and its National Societies are vaccinating some of the most vulnerable and isolated groups in the Central African Republic, in Pakistan and in Afghanistan. This programme has reached tens of thousands of children in extremely hard to reach areas, many of which are in occupied territory and pose extreme hazards to workers.

The programme has reached more families than ever before, including some communities which have not previously been accessed for 15 years. As a result, diseases will be reduced, and child mortality will decrease.

27,000 infants provided the Pentavalent vaccine in Central African Republic, protecting them from five major diseases and 19,200 in Pakistan in 2020.

22,000 children were vaccinated for measles and polio in Pakistan and over 20,000 were vaccinated for polio in Afghanistan in 2020.

“People understood that we come here for the health of their children. And they agreed to let us work in their village to protect lives.”

— PRCS Community Mobilizer, Pakistan

IMMUNIZATION SUCCESS IN AFGHANISTAN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND PAKISTAN

The IFRC has targeted the most vulnerable and isolated communities in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and Pakistan with an extensive and successful infant immunization programme. The programme has seen a Red Cross presence in conflict areas, remote mountainous areas and has included 3,200 of the hardest to reach villages.

Families in these areas live far from health centres and have little available income to spend on transport or medical attention. Successful immunizations have saved countless lives through this programme and protect entire communities.

In the Central African Republic, the IFRC and the National Society have registered children with local

health centres to receive vaccinations. Staff are also present at the centres and have reassured parents of infants of the benefits of immunizations in previous areas of low uptake due to accessibility and fear of contagious diseases, including COVID-19. As a result of this work, 27,000 infants received their third dose of a vaccine protecting them from diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B and a strain of influenza known to cause meningitis, pneumonia and septicemia. This number accounts for 65 per cent of the total infant population and is double the number reached in 2018.

The same programme reached 16,500 children in Pakistan and immunized 22,000 children against polio and measles. Some areas in the country had not previously been reached in 15 years.

LEADING PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT IN CRISES

The IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support facilitates mental health and psychosocial support to National Societies. It promotes psychosocial wellbeing for affected groups, staff and volunteers, and increases awareness of psychological reactions in times of crisis or social disruption.

The Reference Centre strengthened capacities through virtual training and developed new tools and guidelines to be accessed globally.

The need for impactful mental health and psychosocial support has heightened during the COVID-19 response. The IFRC's promotion of wellbeing has been crucial for

accessing vulnerable communities and ensuring mental health is highlighted in any response effort, but the pandemic has given this area a renewed significance.

Similarly, the increasing effects of climate change have a detrimental impact on mental health in vulnerable communities. Sudden disasters and ongoing crises affect the livelihoods of more people each year, and the IFRC's dedication to including mental health and psychosocial support in the outreach of National Societies is pivotal in providing people with the support to adapt and continue their lives, and staff and volunteers' abilities to cope in highly challenging circumstances.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

To strengthen the Movement's collective response to mental health and psychosocial support, the IFRC worked with National Societies and the ICRC to implement the roadmap for [Movement-wide mental health and psychosocial support policy](#). This has helped strengthen collective response, setting out crucial activities for National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC.

A series of webinars and online training sessions have been launched in multiple languages to reach staff and volunteers providing evidence-based community health care, including mental health and psychosocial support services.

The IFRC collaborated with the World Health Organization to create a framework for mental health and psychosocial support in radiological and nuclear emergencies. This complements the existing framework surrounding mental health, which has furthered the

work of National Societies, strengthening the support that can be offered to target communities, staff and volunteers globally.

The team also worked with the World Health Organization and 20 others to finalize Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidance on mental health and psychosocial support needs of older people during COVID-19, as part of a more significant focus on mental health needs of vulnerable groups.

Mental health support has been crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in community-based health care. The IFRC's outreach and campaigns have developed guidance and essential action for ensuring a strong continuity of services, including mental health services at the community level via National Societies.

150,000

deaths annually are estimated to be caused by climate change, which will rise to 250,000 deaths per year by 2030

2M

people in the Ebola virus affected areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo were reached by Red Cross volunteers

8.7M

people were reached with mental health and psychosocial support services since the start of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



AREAS OF FOCUS

The lack of access to an affordable and sustainable water supply remains an unfulfilled human right for millions of people.

This problem, combined with poor hygiene practices, undermines global efforts to save lives, improve health and wellbeing and promote human dignity. It especially affects the world's most vulnerable people, often women and children. They are frequently the most at risk of disease, death and lack of dignity or safety. There are major water and sanitation concerns for people at risk from pandemics, including COVID-19, and epidemics, most commonly cholera, those impacted by climate change and natural disasters, conflict and economic distress.

The IFRC works to ensure that vulnerable people have access to appropriate and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

At least 25 per cent of global healthcare facilities lack basic water services and 20 per cent have no sanitation service. Prioritizing adaptation, with measures to adapt to increased water scarcity, is critical for the continued survival of the world's most vulnerable people.

The IFRC has continued to expand its water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities in the areas of Emergency WASH, Urban WASH, WASH and Public Health, WASH in Development, and innovation standards setting.

Despite the challenges to access posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC has increased its involvement in platforms and programmes surrounding WASH. This continued effort has allowed the IFRC to reach the world's most vulnerable people in disasters and crises.

People reached
6,003,240



ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Emergency WASH

In addition to remote support missions, the IFRC has launched traditional **WASH emergency response operations**, notably in Greece and Honduras. Global tools have been modified using the review of the Emergency Response Unit system to advocate for a more agile approach and increased engagement with National Societies in line with the restrictions

on movement resulting from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With this agility, the IFRC has provided technical and strategic support directly to National Societies worldwide. It has supported the Red Cross Red Crescent WASH Advisors Group, and the WASH and Health Emergency Response Unit technical working groups.

WASH and Cholera

The One WASH initiative was launched globally, expanding the strategic initiative to **reduce deaths caused by cholera**. The initiative has allowed National Societies to mobilize their water and sanitation work towards eliminating cholera and host a cholera Country Support Platform on behalf of the Global Task Force for Cholera Control where the IFRC also sits on the Steering Committee.

The IFRC is committed to **reducing cholera deaths by 90 per cent** by 2030 through the cholera programming and the global flagship initiative, One WASH. It will achieve this by continuing its support to National Societies, and by supporting the provision of multi-sectorial public health, vaccination and WASH inputs. The IFRC has also identified an internal cholera interest group of 45 National Societies and 20 participating National Societies.

The Global Task Force on Cholera Control, hosted by the World Health Organization is supported by the IFRC, among other partners. As part of the task force, the IFRC has supported the establishment of a Country Support Platform, initially for three years, to provide direct support to countries affected by cholera. This country support platform is hosted by the IFRC and is under IFRC management. Its primary function is to assist the coordination, development and implementation of National Cholera Control Plans.

Currently, the country level team is present in four countries and will increase that number to 12 by 2023. However, support will be offered to any country affected by cholera through the country support platform.

Since October 2020, an IFRC inception team of three people has been identified to establish the country support plan. Internal IFRC approvals and procedures have been completed and the team have identified roles for eight new staff members – three in Geneva, one in Addis Ababa and one in each of the four target countries of Bangladesh, Dominican Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Zambia.

Since its launch, the country support Pplan has provided short-term technical support to cholera activities in Tanzania and Mozambique.

The IFRC's hosting of the country support plan will add further value to other cholera programmes, including One WASH and the ongoing activities of the IFRC's Africa Cholera Framework to enhance ongoing activities in Ghana, Zambia, Rwanda, Uganda, Malawi Kenya and Mozambique.

The IFRC also played an important role in 2020 in the **Global WASH Cluster** and in formulating the roadmap for increased investment in the sector.

100,000

lives a year are claimed by cholera, though this is likely to be an underreported figure

more than

100M

people are threatened by cholera in over 40 countries

103M

people are reached directly with health services, as well as another 15.9 million through WASH

THE LAUNCH OF ONE WASH

One WASH is a newly launched global initiative to tackle cholera outbreaks by combining health, WASH, nutrition and environmental sanitation in areas at high risk of cholera.

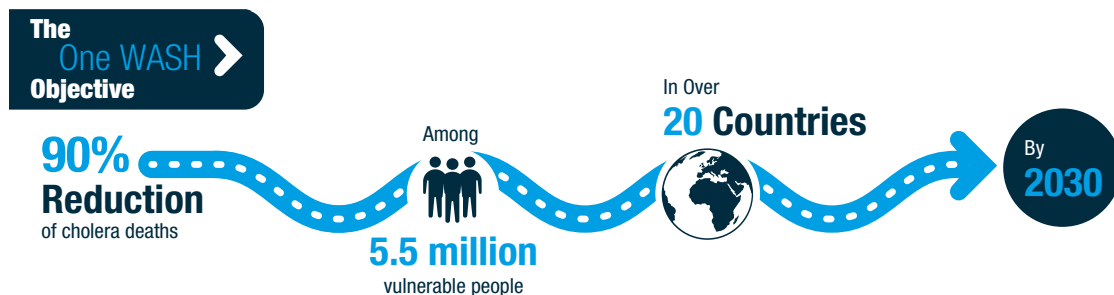
Focusing on three main actions which are closely inter-linked with the Global Task Force on Cholera Control, the IFRC has overseen the first One WASH projects launched in Ghana and Uganda. These will be followed by projects in Rwanda, Malawi and Yemen.

The first of the three focus areas is improved preparedness. To meet this objective, the IFRC has

worked with National Societies on contingency and preparedness plans, standard operating procedures and simulations for staff and volunteers. This has allowed for community-based surveillance to take place, increasing early detection and monitoring of cholera, and creating community case management.

The second area of the IFRC's focus delivers sustainable, long-term WASH programmes to communities, integrating health and nutrition and supports year-round health and hygiene behaviour change communication.

This work is supported by advocacy, commitment and resource mobilization.



Menstrual hygiene management

The largest impact resulting from an increase in access to water and sanitation in vulnerable countries is through direct access to resources and information. The IFRC has worked with eight National Societies to develop a new set of publications and online tools on **menstrual hygiene management**. This will accompany the emergency WASH, COVID WASH, hygiene promotion, cholera and oral rehydration online training and playlists and allow staff and volunteers to distribute vital information to vulnerable people, increasing hygiene and allowing informed choices over sanitation. These new resources have reached more than **3,500 learners** in various languages and more

than 1,900 active members of WASH Communities of Practice.

The IFRC development of resources and information benefits disease prevention and health promotion. The IFRC has supported individuals and communities by increasing their capacity to gain control over their own health and wellbeing, strengthening health literacy, and promoting healthy behaviour. It has also addressed stigma and discrimination, particularly for women and girls.

In addition, the IFRC developed a module on **WASH and climate change** with the Climate Centre.

3,500

learners have accessed training on Emergency WASH, COVID WASH, hygiene promotion, cholera and oral rehydration in numerous languages

8

National Societies have been involved in producing new publications and online tools on menstrual hygiene management



IMPROVING MENSTRUAL HYGIENE FOR COMMUNITIES GLOBALLY

The IFRC worked with eight National Societies on Menstrual Hygiene Management. Poor hygiene facilities and access to water causes health problems, a lack of dignity and increased stigma for vulnerable women and girls globally. A lack of access to sanitary products is only part of the problem, as scarce or unclean water supplies increases risks of disease and often reduces the visibility of women and girls in communities.

The IFRC focus on menstrual hygiene management allowed it to deliver and support three essential areas:

1. Materials and supportive items
2. Private, safe and appropriate facilities
3. Information on menstruation and hygiene, including cultural beliefs and taboos

Providing vulnerable communities with the right materials and facilities reduces immediate health risks associated with poor sanitation, but a longer-term impact has been created by supporting communities with information regarding cultural beliefs and taboos directly relevant to their lived experiences.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION



AREAS OF FOCUS

When a country experiences a disaster or humanitarian crises, everyone is affected differently. During these times of shocks and crisis, violence against vulnerable, excluded and marginalized people is exacerbated. The IFRC assesses how pre-existing social inequalities and differences affect their vulnerabilities, capacities, opportunities and levels of exposure to harm. This contributes to understanding how people's diversity – such as gender, disability, age, ethnic origin, nationality or citizenship, language, religious beliefs, political opinion, social background, sexual orientation, physical appearance and colour – can cause barriers to meeting basic needs, being recognized and included, and being kept safe from harm.

Ensuring that services reach everyone who needs them, especially the most at-risk, the IFRC will continue to work towards breaking down barriers of exclusion and marginalization for vulnerable people.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk to marginalized and vulnerable people. The response has affected vulnerable people's access to services, and staff and volunteer's access to training and face-to-face support. Therefore, the IFRC has placed a significant focus on remote technical support, remote accompaniment, and online training for National Societies. It has provided toolkits, guidance notes, training, webinars and additional resources that enable National Societies to continue their protection, gender and inclusion work, and meet the increased demands for community education support. Particular attention was given to programming and training to **prevent sexual and gender-based violence** and create pathways for treatment and referrals.

The IFRC has continued to champion and support the educational programmes of National Societies during the lockdowns and developed an online version of its flagship initiative 'Youths as Agents of Behavioural Change' (YABC).

People reached
2,632,202



ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The IFRC's activities have focused on online training and support to staff and volunteers as a crucial link between the priorities in each country and the continuous delivery of services during the COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent lockdowns.

A new online training course was developed on **human trafficking** through a multi-disciplinary working group led by the British Red Cross and overseen by the IFRC. It has enabled volunteers working on trafficking to increase their skills. Feedback from National Societies has shown this to have been extremely useful.

The IFRC finalized and launched the [Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Emergencies](#) toolkit to build the skills of delegates and accompany the implementation of the *Minimum Standards on Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Emergencies (2018)* during an emergency response and recovery.

YABC was scaled up and adapted for online delivery, and new online YABC workshops reached 270 young people across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

In addition, the IFRC and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, through its Generation Amazing programme, designed and launched a joint pilot project, *Uniting through the Power of Football*. This project incorporates YABC and Football for Development curriculum in a hybrid package that was finalized in 2020 and will be rolled out in Argentina, Iraq, Myanmar and Uganda in 2021.

The IFRC released and widely promoted its global report *"We Need To Do Better"* on child protection in disasters and the need to strengthen disaster legislation and child protection.

It supported the development of policies on these topics of the Burundi Red Cross, Cameroon Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Eswatini Red Cross, Liberia Red Cross, Libyan Red Crescent, Namibia Red Cross, Nigerian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Samoa Red Cross, Serbian Red Cross, Solomon Islands Red Cross, Somali Red Crescent, Swedish Red Cross, Tanzania Red Cross and the Ukrainian Red Cross.

Of the National Societies supported in 2020, the Liberia Red Cross and Cameroon Red Cross adopted policies on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse to align with the IFRC's principles and guidance. In addition, National Societies supported in 2018 and 2019 (Australian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique Red Cross and South Sudan Red Cross) all adopted a **Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policy** in 2020.

The IFRC launched the *"Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Operational Manual"* that accompanies its policies in a global online event in September 2020. The manual supports National Societies to implement their policies with practical, measurable actions.

GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE TO ENACT CHANGE

The IFRC has seen the benefits of young people taking responsibility and having the ability to influence their peers in all regions of the world. Over the last ten years, it has rolled out the flagship initiative, Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change. The initiative works to bring about change through a peer-to-peer model. It supports vulnerable young people to engage with others in their age group and become knowledgeable, well trained, and able to support their communities. With the pandemic lockdowns, face-to-face training has had to be redesigned to go online. 2020 has seen more success in developing more online delivery of YABC and combining this with other programmes.



Training in every region

Among the numerous COVID-19 pandemic challenges has been the face-to-face access of IFRC to National Society staff and volunteers to provide sufficient technical support and training. For this reason, a significant focus was placed on providing new training on protection, gender and inclusion that is adaptable to remote delivery and suitable to the new challenges.

The implementation of the 2019 sex and gender-based violence appeal in the Americas included developing operational guidance, remote community-based sessions in Venezuela and online support for coordination, referrals and access to information in Peru. Online learning activities were held throughout the Americas to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based

violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, with particular support to Ecuador and Bolivia. Training was carried out and curriculums were developed on migration, internal displacement and trafficking.

Other types of support across Africa, Asia and Europe included training staff and volunteers to raise awareness, the distribution of dignity kits, and the development of training materials. These were carried out through webinars, in-person training, dedicated support to National Societies – coordinating with livelihood, cash and water, sanitation and hygiene sectors and projects to train volunteers. The IFRC developed communication materials including factsheets and videos for sensitization and awareness-raising.

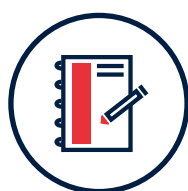
Types of remote training delivered globally by the IFRC



Remote sessions



Online learning activities



Newly developed curriculums



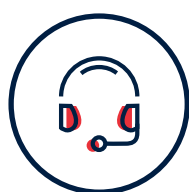
Technical support



Financial support



Webinars



Dedicated support



In-person emergency training



Factsheets and other materials for distribution



Guidance documents and briefing notes for operational support

270

children were reached in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa through the Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change initiative

60

people from National Societies, the ICRC and IASC attended webinars to develop PSEA policies in French, English and Spanish

100%

of the annual target of supporting 15 National Societies per year and supporting 45 National Societies from 2018 – 2020 has been met



CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES

During humanitarian crises, the need for child protection is both greater and more challenging to coordinate. The IFRC, therefore, implemented a global project on the prevention and responses to violence against children in emergencies, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In collaboration with UNICEF, the Area of Responsibility on Child Protection, and the Partnership to End Violence against Children, this project focused on Libya, Uganda, Mozambique, Philippines, Colombia, and Pakistan.

The project ensures that partnerships between governments and National Societies increase their capacity to implement and coordinate evidence-based strategies and interventions which contribute to better child protection.

Tailored and continuous support is provided to ensure children are included and engaged in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and all other preparedness planning. This includes response strategy and planning for multiple hazards, and improved quality and accountability in child protection by promoting and implementing the *"Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action"*.

Effective leadership and coordination in National Societies was also a focus of the project, allowing for increased responses in the child protection sector in humanitarian and early warning situations.

MIGRATION



AREAS OF FOCUS

The IFRC provides humanitarian aid and protection for migrants and displaced people in countries of origin, transit and destination, whatever their legal status. It provides support to National Societies for their work with migrants during emergencies and via community programmes. It also undertakes global and regional advocacy and diplomacy on their behalf.

The IFRC works for and supports migrants and displaced people, whatever their legal status, in countries of origin, transit and destination.

Millions of refugees and asylum seekers, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied children and labour migrants displaced are affected by disasters and the impact of climate change. Migrants are often among the most negatively affected people. A lack of access to basic services, alongside border closures, poor living and working conditions, financial instability, and risk of exploitation or abuse on route to their destination, contribute to their increased vulnerability.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected migrants and displaced people, the global response created opportunities for them to be included in National Societies' programming, even in contexts where migration was not seen as a priority area before the health crisis.

The IFRC supported National Societies to reach migrants during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing technical and policy support through global and regional webinars and developing guidance for National Societies. It also released the policy report [Least Protected, Most Affected: Migrants and refugees facing extraordinary risks during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

The IFRC is continuing to prioritize the needs of migrants, providing them with assistance and protection across borders and along migratory routes.

People reached

3,468,000



ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Strengthened support to migrants

In 2020, the IFRC strengthened National Society programming support to migrants, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. It established a new Movement Migration Leadership Model, comprising a Migration Leadership Group and renewed Global Migration Taskforce.

The Migration Leadership Group, co-chaired by the Australian Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross, comprises leaders from 25 National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC to develop a new Movement Strategy on Migration.

The Global Migration Task Force, which includes 48 National Societies, provides global technical leadership on migration. The terms of reference and workplan endorsed in 2020 focus on developing new guidance, advocacy, influence and the exchange of best practices.

The IFRC also developed a Global Migration Lab, hosted by the Australian Red Cross, supporting migration **research and trend analysis**. In 2020, the lab published a report entitled *Locked down and left out: why access to basic services for migrants is critical to our COVID-19 response and recovery* based on research carried out with eight National Societies. There was considerable interest in the report's launch, including a global Red Talk that reached more than 100,000 people.

A delegation from the IFRC, including the Colombian Red Cross, the Ecuadorian Red Cross, and The Gambia Red Cross, participated in the Global Forum for Migration and Development. The event, held in Quito, Ecuador, presented an opportunity to enhance the IFRC's profile in global migration discussions, improve migration policies and practices, ensure meaningful youth engagement, and promote knowledge sharing within the network and among stakeholders.

During 2020, the global policy debate increasingly focused on disaster and climate-related displacement. As a result of the IFRC's collaboration with the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, a high-level international event on the prevention of the conditions that lead to internal displacement was co-organized with the ICRC, profiling the work of National Societies in disaster, climate, and conflict-related contexts. The IFRC continued to engage with the Platform on Disaster Displacement and its membership of the UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement.

As part of the Climate: Red Summit, six sessions on *Migration and Displacement in the Context of Climate Change* took place. These sessions introduced the key issues, institutional frameworks and actions that the IFRC, National Societies, governments and intergovernmental partners take to address this humanitarian challenge profiling National Society work, challenges, and successes.

Additionally, the IFRC mobilized and invested financial and technical resources to make new tools and guidance available to National Societies in 2020. These included the *Toolkit for Humanitarian Service Points*, a training resource on climate and displacement, and a training module on migration and health.

The IFRC's online course, *Caring for Children Moving Alone*, has already reached 25,000 participants from over 150 countries around the world since its launch in May 2019.

The IFRC also strengthened COVID-19 capacities by releasing recommendations on *Reducing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Internally Displaced People*, and the *Practical Guidance for Risk Communication Community Engagement for Refugees, IDPs, Migrants and Host Communities Particularly Vulnerable to the COVID-19 Pandemic*.

8

National Societies engaged in global COVID-19 research

25,000

participants reached through the Caring for Children Moving Alone online course

84,000

instances of support provided to migrants in Humanitarian Service Points



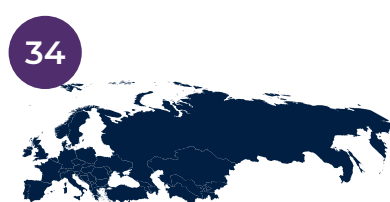
Africa

Mali **20**
South Africa **16**



Americas

Panama **1**
Ecuador **16**
Peru **6**
Chile **3**
Trinidad and Tobago **1**
Guyana **1**
Brazil **2**
Argentina **6**
Uruguay **2**



Europe

Greece **2**
Republic of North Macedonia **2**
Italy **3**
Bosnia and Herzegovina **11**
Turkey **16**

Humanitarian Service Points

Humanitarian Service Points provide essential services to vulnerable migrants during their journeys, irrespective of status and without fear of arrest or being reported to the authorities.

While National Societies and partners already provide a wide range of assistance and protection services to migrants and displaced people, Humanitarian Service Points have become important tools in helping staff

and volunteers to provide this support to migrants safely and effectively.

Through an ongoing partnership agreement with the Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center, the IFRC is scaling up these vital facilities, initially focusing on the Americas region. A toolkit has also been developed to guide National Societies on the establishment of Humanitarian Service Points.

AMIRA PROJECT

The three-year Action for Migrants: Route Based Assistance (AMiRA) project in the Sahel, implemented by the IFRC, the British Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, and INTRAC in collaboration with partner and host National Societies, has made considerable progress in 2020.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict, climate change, and the displacement crisis in the Lake Chad basin, northern Mali and Burkina Faso, the AMiRA

project has continually supported National Societies to assist and protect migrants in transit and returning migrants in increasingly difficult conditions.

More than 83,000 instances of support were provided to migrants in Humanitarian Service Points, with assistance and protection services available across all major migratory routes in the region. Additionally, more than 30,000 migrants were reached with safe migration messages.



VENEZUELA MIGRANT RESPONSE

By January 2020, more than 4.8 million people had left Venezuela for other countries, with approximately four million Venezuelans hosted in Latin American and Caribbean countries – the most significant migratory flow from a single country in the region in recent history.

Despite the closure of borders in neighbouring countries, the migratory flow of people from Venezuela to Colombia and Brazil regained strength through alternative and often unregulated routes, primarily due to the economic opportunities in countries where quarantine measures were easing.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC collaborated with the National Society in Venezuela on a contingency plan that included the provision of

WASH materials and medicine to be distributed to migrants. Alongside these measures, the IFRC coordinated the response to population flows in several other countries, ensuring that response activities in Venezuela were effective.

Acknowledging and supporting gender and migrants' diversity inclusion is essential for ensuring that people are safe from harm. The protection of people, gender and diversity, is at the core of the IFRC's work and guides programming in the region.

A technical health coordination group was established to coordinate and implement actions in public hospitals and support the IFRC and the National Society.

ON THE GROUND



AMERICAS



AFRICA



EUROPE



MENA

IFRC WORK



ASIA
PACIFIC

ON THE GROUND: IFRC WORK

AFRICA



Context

The IFRC network in the Africa region assisted 8 million people through emergency operations and 11million through thematic programmes, excluding the COVID-19 response. Africa delivered 44 emergency response operations in 2020 – the highest number of emergency operations in any region.

The region responded to multiple flooding incidents, an Ebola virus disease outbreak, food insecurity, civil

unrest, and population movement which all continued to pose severe challenges.

The COVID-19 response reached 313 million people across the region, with 48 National Societies responding to the pandemic to lessen the impact on vulnerable people. In many countries, the National Societies were the only Organizations able to act in local communities.

Pan-African Initiatives

The IFRC undertook a series of consultations with National Societies in Africa and, based on the feedback, developed an *Africa Agenda for Renewal*. The ambitious new 2021–2030 strategic direction focuses IFRC resources and large-scale Pan-African initiatives on significant challenges in the region. The initiatives contribute to global and regional commitments, including

the African Union Agenda 2063, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement. These initiatives centre on National Society Development and Sustainability, reaching Zero Hunger through improved food security and livelihoods, planting and care of 5 billion trees, and Red Ready to boost local disaster preparedness.

Examples from the field

Disaster risk reduction

African governments' restrictions to contain the spread of COVID-19 affected almost all plans for disaster risk reduction that required community engagement or physical meetings. Despite this, the IFRC adapted plans to align its critical activities with COVID-19 response efforts.

The IFRC launched 12 appeals in Africa to support exposed communities to prepare for anticipated climate-related disasters. The IFRC shared early warning information in advance of the expected threats so that communities could act before disasters happened.

National Societies in four countries vulnerable to floods – **Zambia, Mozambique, Niger and Mali** – put together **early action protocols**. These plans used meteorological forecast information and risk analysis to predict extreme flooding events that will require humanitarian assistance. Thanks to funding allocated by the IFRC, National Societies were able to take immediate action to prepare for the cyclone season and reduce the loss of life.

The **Mozambique** National Society showed outstanding resilience to multiple floods and cyclones in 2020. The IFRC supported the National Society to develop a large-scale simulation exercise to prepare for an anticipated cyclone, which triggered early action in December.

The IFRC also supported a proposal to the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, a multi-sectoral partnership

that finds practical ways to support communities to strengthen their resilience to floods. As a result of this proposal, the National Society in Mozambique received CHF 440,000 to reduce the country's vulnerabilities and save lives.

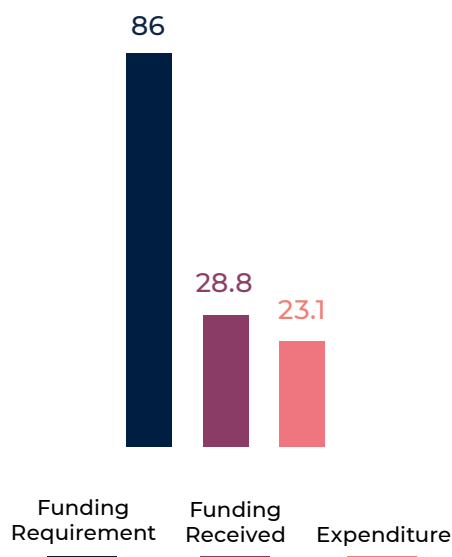
Shelter

Natural disasters and emergencies often destroy homes and force people to flee. As an example, the IFRC supported the National Society in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide humanitarian assistance in the shelter sector to 8,680 people affected by disaster. The National Society distributed 200 kits to those in need, including mats, cooking sets and mosquito nets, to households identified during the Kinshasa floods.

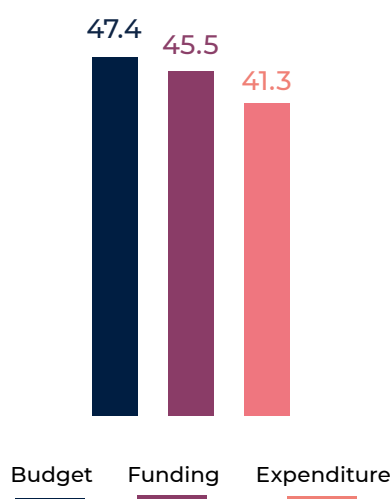
In addition, the IFRC's DREF provided support to people affected by floods in Sake, North Kivu. In total, 258 households received material assistance for the installation of emergency shelters, while National Society volunteers helped to construct more than 180 shelters in the affected community.

As part of its COVID-19 prevention efforts, the National Society built four isolation shelters, and volunteers undertook decontamination activities and provided water and sanitation services to affected communities.

THEMATIC PROGRAMS CHF MILLION



EMERGENCIES CHF MILLION



PEOPLE REACHED BY THEMATIC AREA

2,075,938
Disaster
risk reduction

29,996
Shelter

522,025
Livelihoods

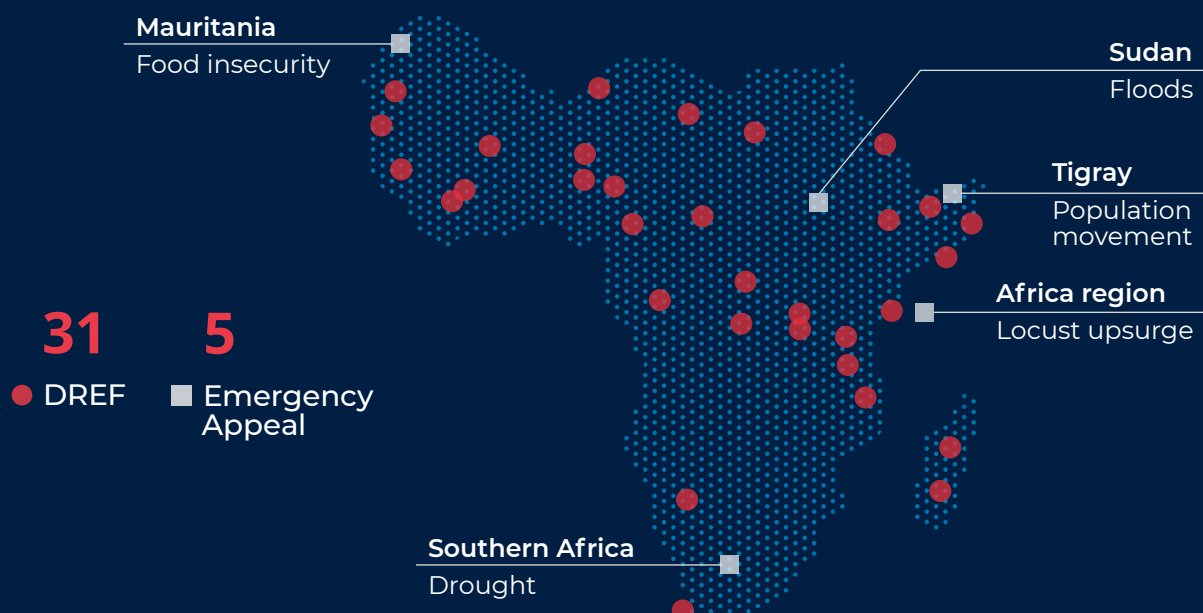
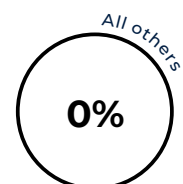
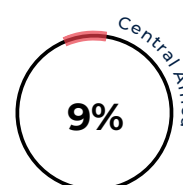
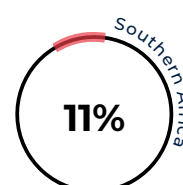
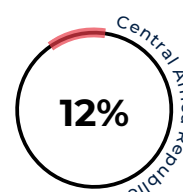
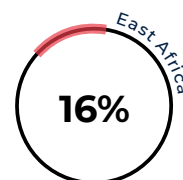
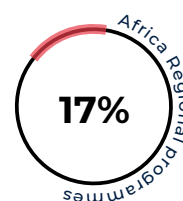
2,910,542
Health

961,735
WASH

3,600
PGI

158,000
Migration

TOP FUNDING BY LOCATION



Livelihoods and basic needs

Food insecurity is widespread in Africa and has a detrimental effect on people's ability to cope with crises. In 2020, the IFRC supported National Societies in Africa through several emergency appeals. With the support of these appeals, the National Society in Botswana was able to provide six months of food assistance to 300 households, while the Eswatini National Society delivered training in crop management, so communities can grow their own food and distributed seeds to almost 2,000 people. The National Society in Lesotho shared seeds and other gardening support with 2,005 households at seed fairs, and the Zambia National Society's cash transfer programmes provided food for nearly 1,900 families, and recovery programmes gave 2,000 families agricultural support.

The IFRC supported the Sudanese National Society through an emergency appeal to deliver livelihoods and basic needs to communities following significant flooding in South Sudan.

Health

In 2020, the Democratic Republic of the Congo was devastated by a resurgence of the **Ebola virus disease**. As the COVID-19 pandemic spread, the National Society responded to the extreme demands of both these outbreaks, as well as severe flooding. The National Society helped to contain the outbreak to 130 cases and 55 deaths. Volunteers reached more than two million people in the affected areas with prevention messages, and early detection and response for diseases with epidemic potential were strengthened through community-based surveillance activities.

As an example of **community health** in Africa, the Somali National Society ran an extensive network of community health clinics to help fill the gap in the country's health system and to reach remote communities. Thanks to this vast network, the National Society was able to actively support people with basic health care services, disaster risk management, and epidemic preparedness and response. Furthermore, the National Society was an indispensable partner to the Ministry of Health and other health sector development partners, including UNICEF and the World Food Programme, providing more than 300,000 people with health care from mobile clinics in 2020.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Access to safe water combined with basic sanitation and hygiene education is essential for good health. The One



WASH project in Ghana, which received funding from Nestlé, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and the IFRC, reached over 30,000 people with access to water and over 156,000 with hygiene awareness activities. The increased access to water, sanitation and awareness of WASH-related diseases will contribute to improving vulnerable communities' health, well-being, and dignity.

Protection, gender, and inclusion

Sexual abuse, domestic violence and trafficking, are often exacerbated by complex emergencies. Therefore, the IFRC developed an [information, education, and communication package](#) on **sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response**. This package seeks to address the needs of National Societies' front-line staff and volunteers when dealing with survivors and with wider communities through their outreach work. The information, education and communication materials include a 7-minute video, 17 poster messages, 11 stickers, a job aid booklet for frontline staff and volunteers, and a pocket guide.

Through the global appeal, the IFRC was able to support National Societies such as Burundi, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence during their COVID 19 responses. The three National Societies worked closely with the health and WASH teams to



ensure training of staff and volunteers on sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response in communities. The National Society in Somalia also distributed dignity kits to women and girls in internally displaced camps.

Equality and inclusion across the IFRC's and National Societies' operations are essential, and the network continues to advance gender and diversity, including in leadership positions. As such, the IFRC supported the Tanzania Red Cross Society to induct and train youth volunteers in leadership roles, including sessions on the importance of ensuring gender balance and diversity.

Migration

Sudan was one of the countries hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa. It also hosts around 60,000 migrants and refugees. Despite these obstacles, the National Society continued to provide humanitarian aid to people most in need.

The IFRC launched a new tool [Advocating to strengthen Disaster Laws and Policies to Protect Internally Displaced](#)

[Persons in Africa: A Guide for National Societies](#). The tool supports National Societies to advocate for access to internally displaced persons in the event of a disaster and for more robust disaster risk management and related laws that ensure legal preparedness for disasters and address disaster and climate-related internal displacement.

Strengthen National Societies

Strong and effective National Societies are critical to the provision of essential services to people in need and the response to humanitarian disasters and crises.

The IFRC provided National Societies in Africa with support to better manage disasters and improve their leadership and governance. It supported the National Societies in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to develop their strategic plans for 2021 and beyond and guided the Sudan National Society in developing a transformation roadmap to guide the reform of its governance systems. The IFRC also provided support so that National Societies in Burundi, Tanzania and Ethiopia could develop and implement effective policies.

Ensure effective international disaster management

National Societies in Africa launched 34 new operations in 2020, three emergency appeals for flooding in Sudan, food insecurity in Mauritania and the locust multi-country appeal in East Africa, and 31 DREF operations. National Societies received CHF 9.4 million from the DREF for these operations. Access to DREF for African National Societies was possible thanks to the support provided by the IFRC through 6 capacity strengthening webinars, held in English and French, on the use of the DREF and forecast-based action by the DREF. This is in addition to providing operational and financial support to all 49 National Societies of the Africa Region in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Influence others as leading strategic partners

In 2020, IFRC Disaster Law secured legal facilities to allow African National Societies to access people in need despite the restrictions on movement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The IFRC also developed advocacy documents to support National Societies to advocate for express inclusion in national COVID-19 response frameworks and necessary legal facilities to facilitate their work. They were presented to National Societies from Central Africa, including Niger in June, and the Delegation of National Societies at the South Africa Partnership for Red Cross Societies regional conference in November.

Additionally, mappings carried out in the region detailing the level of involvement of National Societies in national COVID-19 responses have contributed to a global report on Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, set to be published in 2021.

In line with the commitments in the Regional Common Position for the Global Platform on disaster risk reduction, the IFRC has continued to engage with the African Union and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in advancing reporting in the regional Sendai Framework Monitoring tool as well as promotion of Sendai Framework Target E through a regional webinar on policy coherence.



121M

people were helped by the COVID-19 response across Africa

44

humanitarian response operations assisted **12M people** affected by disasters and crises

ON THE GROUND: IFRC WORK

AMERICAS



Context

The Americas region is vulnerable to extreme weather conditions and the increasing effects of climate change. This vulnerability has had an immediate impact on health and livelihoods, including displacement, access to shelter, WASH and other health facilities.

In addition to natural disasters, 26 per cent of all global migration is taking place in the Americas. The cumulative

issues in the region provide significant challenges for National Societies, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Accessibility to communities has been a substantial hurdle to providing support, but the IFRC has refocused its efforts to create programmes and resources that best fit the needs of the region and that support its ongoing drive for resilience and preparedness.

Examples from the field

Disaster risk reduction

Vulnerable communities in the path of hurricanes understand that preparedness is vital to survival against the immediate impact of severe weather and the resilience needed in the aftermath. Therefore, it is essential to be prepared at all levels, from the IFRC down to the smallest communities. Ongoing volunteer training is crucial to this preparation, so the IFRC has developed training and resources for these needs.

The Central American Country Cluster office reached 13,300 people in disaster risk reduction related programmes. As a result, communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disasters. The cluster office reached the Costa Rican Red Cross, Honduran Red Cross and Guatemalan Red Cross with forecast-based action activities.

Also, approximately 5,600 people were reached in Central America with public awareness and education campaigns to reduce, mitigate and respond to identified risks. This included pilot sessions, webinars and live social media streams, incorporating celebrations for the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Additionally, through the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department's Disaster Preparedness Programme in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, more than 6,000 people were reached with disaster risk reduction and community resilience activities. All six National Societies have applied the preparedness for effective response approach to assess their Disaster Preparedness and Response capacity.

Shelter

The IFRC, and the American Red Cross in particular, supported National Societies in the region to help people made homeless or displaced following hurricanes in the Bahamas through the Hurricane Dorian Operation with strong efforts through the building back better programme. They used cash to support temporary rental facilities and the reconstruction of housing.

Following the Eta and Iota hurricanes in Honduras, the IFRC supported National Society volunteers to evacuate people and transfer them to shelters. This saved the lives of more than 4,900 people through water and air rescues.

Livelihoods

The IFRC supported the Bahamas Emergency Operation during its recovery phase with Livelihoods programmes in Grand Bahama and Abaco island.

The Grand Bahamas Livelihoods Recovery Program provided grants to 78 small businesses whose owners participated in online training sessions on disaster preparedness, financial management and marketing.

The Abaco Livelihoods Recovery Program provided grants to 68 small businesses which also participated in online training sessions for capacity strengthening.

13,300

people reached in disaster risk reduction related programmes

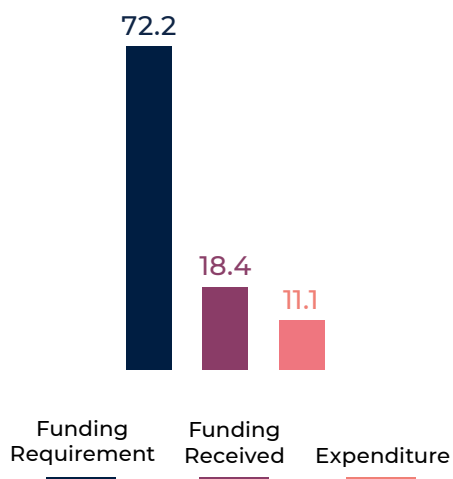
6,000

people were reached with disaster risk reduction activities in El Salvador and Guatemala

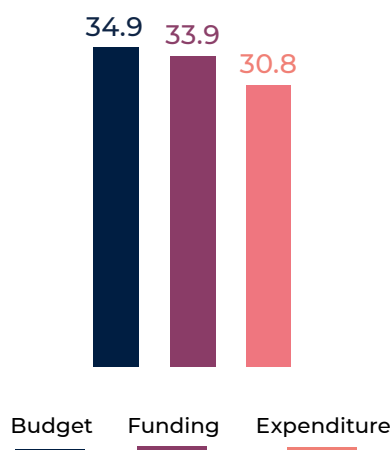
4,900

people rescued through water and air rescues during hurricanes in Honduras

THEMATIC PROGRAMS CHF MILLION



EMERGENCIES CHF MILLION



PEOPLE REACHED BY THEMATIC AREA

32,998
Disaster
risk reduction

42,840
Shelter

120,958
Livelihoods

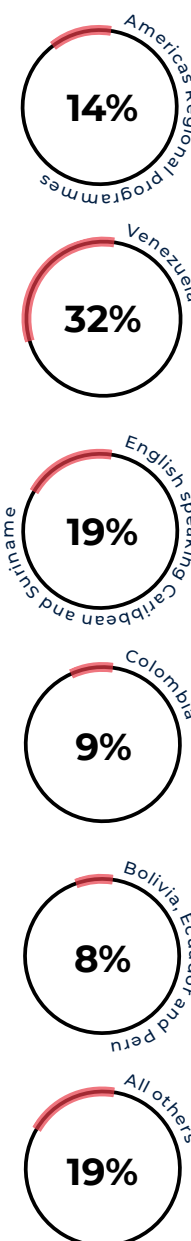
1,544,786
Health

1,663,781
WASH

122,622
PGI

871,562
Migration

TOP FUNDING BY LOCATION



Central America

Hurricanes Eta and Iota

13 ● DREF
1 ■ Emergency Appeal



Health

The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated apparent gaps in the access of communities to crucial information. Therefore, the IFRC supported National Societies with a return to traditional methods of communicating, including loudspeakers on trucks and an increase in radio broadcasts in their support of vaccination campaigns.

The IFRC provided support to all 35 National Societies as part of the COVID-19 response, including health care activities, triage stations, psychosocial assistance, community engagement activities and WASH programmes.

Despite COVID-19 lockdowns, civil unrest and flooding, the IFRC supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross to reach 57,480 people with health activities and 92,244 people in Venezuela.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

The IFRC supported all 35 National Societies with WASH programmes that provided essential tools to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In Venezuela, the WASH programme provided safe water and hygiene promotion to nearly 112,000 people. This also included the rehabilitation of the sanitation infrastructure in eight Venezuelan Red Cross Hospitals.

The IFRC also supported the emergency appeal in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua following the devastating Eta and Iota hurricanes, which together affected 1.2 million people in one of the worst hurricane seasons in recent years.

Migration

Twenty-six per cent of global migration is occurring in the Americas region. As a result, much of the IFRC's work on migration supports individual National Societies with appeals and specific programmes across the region.

The IFRC facilitated the creation of the One Movement Picture, One Movement Voice and One Movement Action regional plan for National Societies in the Americas to ensure greater coordination and opportunities for support. It also implemented the Regional Appeal for Migration for National Societies in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. This appeal allowed the IFRC to provide WASH and health services to migrants in temporary camps in the Darien Jungle, on the border between Panama and Colombia.

To support migrants that struggle to access essential public services and shelter in these areas, the IFRC developed and implemented a regional communication strategy that leveraged advocacy actions and provided access to health and legal services. It also created a dialogue between National Societies, partners and relevant organizations to enhance collaboration for migrant support. With the support of the Atlantic Council, migrants have been provided with essential services through humanitarian service points in Colombia, Guatemala and Ecuador.

The IFRC's Monarch Butterfly Programme provides regional migration protection, particularly on the border of Colombia and Venezuela. It supports migrants and host communities to protect the most vulnerable groups with health and protection resources in areas that continue to prove extremely dangerous for migrants in terms of health and high rates of kidnapping.

Strengthen National Societies

The current focus of National Society development in the Americas region has been on resource mobilization and financial sustainability but has also extended to prehospital care, emergency health preparedness, health programmes and protection for frontline staff and volunteers.

The effective use of resources has helped National Societies in 33 countries direct their capacities to support people vulnerable to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many trainings have become digital, allowing for more access to remote staff and volunteers across the region.

Ensure effective international disaster management

The National Society in Honduras supported the passing of a Disaster Law bill early in 2020, giving its auxiliary role high visibility. The Argentina Red Cross supported the passing of a Red Cross law in parliament, which has resulted in an increased engagement with the central and provincial governments and increased visibility of the work of volunteers and staff.

Influence others as a leading strategic partner

The intense work and disaster law achievements in Argentina have led to furthering resource mobilization and humanitarian diplomacy. The National Society has since joined the steering committee of the Virtual Fundraising hub.

The IFRC has also promoted Movement-wide resources under its Federation-wide Resource Mobilization Strategy for effective training globally. Four National Societies participated in the strategy for the Americas region – Honduras, Argentina, USA and Antigua and Barbuda.

Ensure a strong IFRC

The IFRC is leading a stronger and inclusive network through the Gender Equity in Emergency Operations Leadership programme. The programme, supported by Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo, aims to include women in leadership positions to increase gender equity in operational response and diversify the IFRC's talent pool. One of the programme's goals is to serve as a pilot that can be replicated in the National Societies and other regions.





ON THE GROUND: IFRC WORK

ASIA PACIFIC



Context

Even without the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was an exceptional year in the Asia-Pacific region, where the IFRC supported a total of 53 emergency operations – comprised of 40 DREF operations, the largest number of DREF activations for a single year, and 13 emergency appeals.

Contributing to this phenomenon, 2020–2021 was a La Nina year of atmospheric change resulting in many dry areas becoming drier, hot areas hotter, and wet areas wetter. There were new operations in response to 13 floods, eight cyclones, three cold waves, one drought, one *dzud* – a Mongolian word for a severe winter that causes the death of large numbers of livestock. Southeast Asia experienced one of the worst series of typhoons and floods on record. New and non-COVID-19 emergency operations and appeals aimed to

reach 1.1 million people in response to these extreme climate events.

The countries most affected by disasters in 2020 were also worst hit by COVID-19. India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Bangladesh accounted for 90 per cent of the confirmed cases and deaths in the Asia Pacific region. Half of all emergency operations took place in one of these five most-affected countries (27 out of 53).

The Asia Pacific region was the epicentre of the outbreak of COVID-19 and dominated the work of the IFRC throughout 2020. The 38 Asia Pacific National Societies mobilized 7.6 million volunteers to respond to the needs of those affected by COVID-19 in their own countries. COVID-19 operations alone targeted 60 million people in initial plans and reached at least 155 million people (total up to early 2021).

Examples from the field

Disaster risk reduction

In 2020, the IFRC supported the National Society in Bangladesh to build community resilience to climate-related disasters through disaster risk reduction programs. Over 871,000 people, including migrants and those in host communities, were reached through the **cyclone preparedness program**.

The IFRC supported the National Society in Bangladesh in the activation of 2 early action protocols based on **forecast-based action** for Cyclone Amphan and Floods, assuring fast support to vulnerable people.

INDIA AND BANGLADESH: MILLIONS THREATENED AS CYCLONE SPELLS DOUBLE TROUBLE

Red Cross and Red Crescent teams helped people stay safe in India and Bangladesh as major cyclone threatened millions of people and devastating COVID-19 surges continued in both countries.

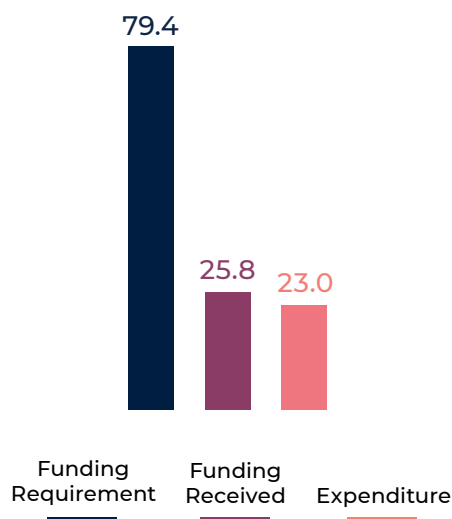
While India has been facing record COVID death rates, the eastern Indian states of West Bengal and Odisha braced themselves for severe tropical Cyclone Yaas, the second major storm to hit the country in two weeks.

Udaya Regmi, South Asia Head of Delegation, IFRC, said:

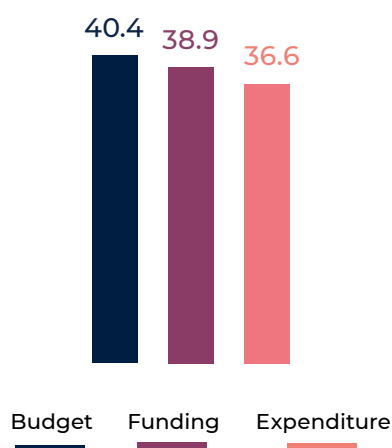
“This cyclone spells double trouble for millions of people in India as there is no respite from COVID-19. The country is being slammed by a second major cyclone in two weeks and hitting areas where COVID infections and deaths have been at record highs.”

While Bangladesh has also been grappling with recent record COVID-19 infections and deaths, thousands of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and cyclone preparedness programme volunteers are urgently supporting people to be safe from the cyclone.

THEMATIC PROGRAMS CHF MILLION



EMERGENCIES CHF MILLION



PEOPLE REACHED BY THEMATIC AREA

27,030,830
Disaster
risk reduction

1,370,596
Shelter

834,707
Livelihoods

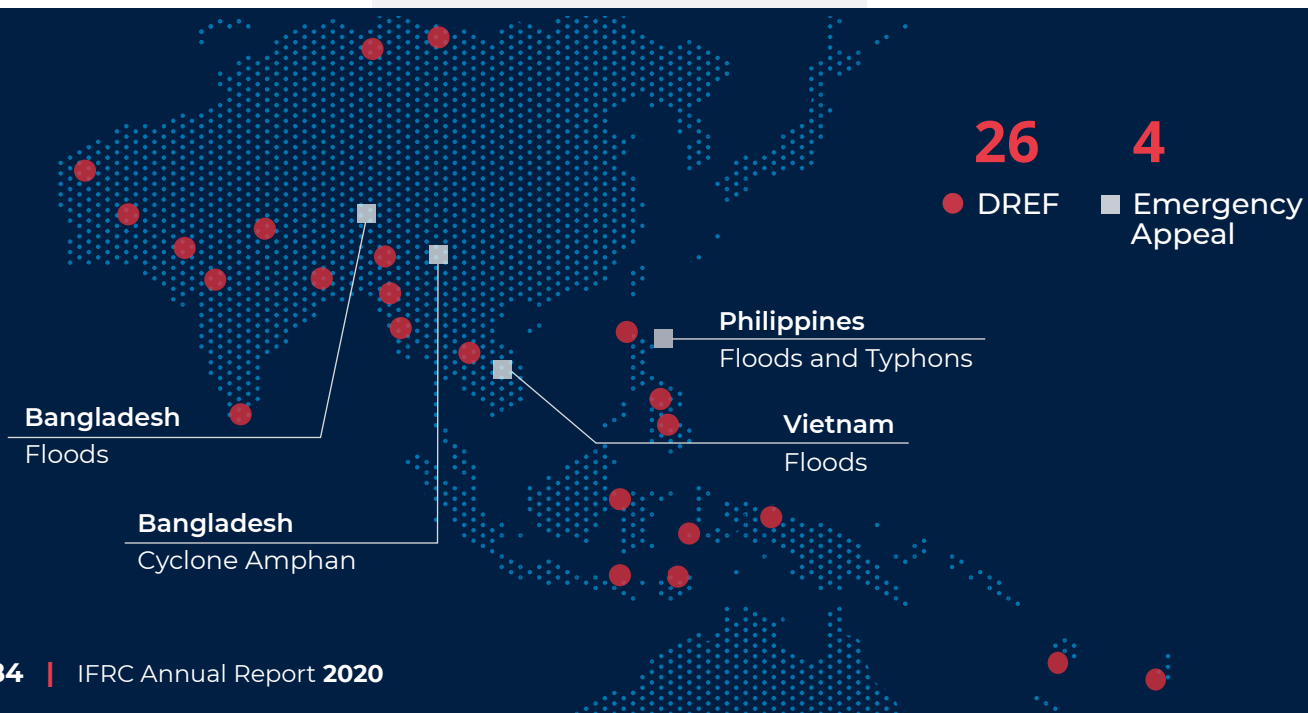
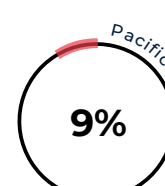
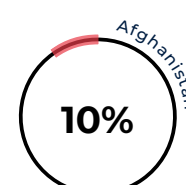
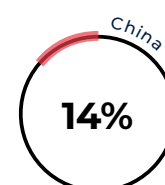
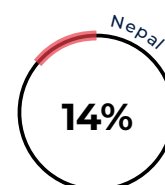
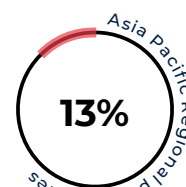
6,552,518
Health

1,636,875
WASH

2,133,200
PGI

94,528
Migration

TOP FUNDING BY LOCATION



Shelter

The IFRC supported the National Society in India with a DREF to enable it to respond promptly to the flood-affected communities in Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. As a result, the National Society was able to provide essential services to 37,500 people, including 7,500 families who were supported with shelter, 1,000 families who received clothing items, and 4,000 households that were supplied with kitchen utensils.

Health

In Indonesia, the IFRC supported the National Society to curb the **polio outbreak** in the urban area of Jayapura City, home to a high proportion of targeted children under 15 years old. The polio vaccination campaign was conducted through house-to-house social mobilization and community surveillance activities. This campaign was achieved through joint coordination between the Provincial and District Health Offices, Puskesmas, WHO, UNICEF and partners.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

In response to drought and saltwater intrusion affecting communities in Viet Nam, the IFRC triggered a DREF to support the National Society to provide access to safe water for more than 26,000 people.

Protection, gender, and inclusion

The Fund for Women's Economic Empowerment in Asia-Pacific was set up in 2019. The fund has continued to strengthen the economic and financial inclusion of women throughout the region. This work is closely aligned with the IFRC's support in livelihoods and basic needs.

Migration

The plight of people displaced from Myanmar continued to be a significant focus of emergency operations into 2020. The Bangladesh People Movement Operation, activated in response to the protracted crisis of displaced people from Rakhine State in Myanmar, is in its fourth year.

This remained the largest emergency appeal in the Asia Pacific during 2020, supporting 260,000 displaced people from Rakhine. Approximately 300,000 people living in camps and host communities were assisted with at least one intervention to support health, WASH, shelter, protection, gender, and inclusion needs.

FINDING NEW WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

In Pakistan, Soomri, a widow and mother of five, received a cash grant and bought a goat that produces two litres of milk a day. She reserves some milk for her children and sells the remainder.

"...now I will be able to bear the expenses of my children. The goat will deliver babies within five to six months. I will look after them for a few months and earn a substantial amount within a year."

Kasooan, who also lived in Pakistan with her family, lost her hand to cancer and started to see herself as a burden to her family as she could not contribute to the household.

"Now I am happy that I have already started selling milk and earning some money for my family. And I feel more confident to influence my husband in family decisions where needed."

In Bangladesh, Peyari Begum was interested in gardening but had no idea how to grow vegetables throughout the year. She received training in homestead gardening and can now use modern gardening techniques to produce vegetables that generate her household income.

"This season... I have sold these vegetables from my garden in the local bazaar and also met my family's needs of vegetables."



Strengthen National Societies

The IFRC continues to deploy a shared leadership model in the population movement operation in Cox's Bazar. Partners agree to take the lead in different thematic areas. In 2020, the American Red Cross led disaster risk reduction through the cyclone preparedness programme. This proved to be crucial in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which required adherence to strict safety protocols and duty of care for staff and volunteers so they could provide lifesaving humanitarian relief.

This was only possible through strong shared leadership and close coordination between the Bangladesh National Society, the IFRC, and partner National Societies, who, in turn, were able to benefit from each other's expertise and experience.

Ensure effective international disaster management

The Philippines was hit by several typhoons and tropical storms in 2020. The IFRC launched a DREF in response to Typhoon Vamco, the twenty-first tropical storm to

hit the country in 2020. To combat the impact of these climate disasters, the National Society launched an Emergency Appeal for Typhoons and Floods 2020 and supported 80,000 people.

Pacific island countries were also severely hit by several tropical cyclones in 2020. Fiji was hit by Tropical Cyclone Sarai, Tropical Cyclone Harold, and Tropical Cyclone Yasa. Neighbouring Vanuatu was also hit by Cyclone Harold, which caused widespread destruction. The IFRC launched DREFs for each of these cyclones to assist National Societies in their responses.

Influence others as a leading strategic partner

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for **effective legal preparedness** for disasters and crises. The IFRC supported National Societies on COVID-19, humanitarian access and advocacy related issues in 12 countries (Bangladesh, Afghanistan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Solomons, Samoa, Marshall Islands, Fiji, Tuvalu). This involved supporting

2.4M

people affected by Cyclone Amphan evacuated with the help of the IFRC and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

88,500

people were reached in response to the floods in Vietnam

37,500

people were provided with essential services, including shelter and settlement in India



National Societies with exemptions as essential service providers from curfews and no movement orders and to reduce the regulatory burden and costs associated with importation/exportation of humanitarian goods. This enabled the auxiliary role of the Philippines Red Cross to be strengthened as an essential humanitarian service in the country's COVID-19 emergency regulations.

The IFRC received an increasing number of requests to support governments with disaster law reviews, principally to consider how public health considerations should be better integrated into national and local disaster and emergency management laws and systems. It is anticipated that this demand will increase in 2021.

Legal and policy advice from the IFRC and National Societies supported the development, revision and implementation of national disaster law, policies and law reform processes in 12 countries in the Asia Pacific region, including Vanuatu, Nepal, Lao, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Kiribati, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nepal, Mongolia, India, Papua New Guinea, and Timor Leste.

The support of the IFRC and National Societies to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Pacific regional organizations Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) on humanitarian coordination and governance reform has influenced their legislation and helped to build greater visibility and partnerships.

Ensure a strong IFRC

The IFRC played a crucial role in shifting operational planning and reporting online in the Asia Pacific region to facilitate better decision-making in emergency situations. As part of the COVID-19 operations and with encouragement from the IFRC, Asia Pacific National Societies filed 290 field reports on IFRC GO, compared to just 95 the year before. IFRC GO enables all disaster information to be universally accessible to IFRC responders and National Societies.

8,000

people were supported with unconditional cash and animal care kits in response to the Mongolian dzud

80,000

people were targeted with support through the Emergency Appeal for Typhoons and Floods in The Philippines

ON THE GROUND: IFRC WORK

EUROPE



Context

Large numbers of migrants continue to travel to Europe via dangerous routes. The number of arrivals by sea and land was around 95,000 at the end of 2020 according to the UNHCR. While this number is less than in 2019, there was a significant increase in sea crossings across the Mediterranean from Libya into Italy and Malta, and from Morocco to the Canary Islands, in the spring and summer of 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only served to add to the vulnerabilities already faced by migrants arriving in

Europe. Despite COVID-19-enforced border closures and lower numbers of arrivals in 2020 overall, population movements continued and even picked up as restrictions were lifted in the summer.

Alongside the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis and response, infectious diseases including HIV and tuberculosis continue to affect communities in Europe. The IFRC is supporting National Societies to protect and advocate for people openly living with HIV, although there is a well-documented stigma against them.

Examples from the field

Disaster risk reduction

In 2020, the IFRC supported the National Societies of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine to establish **Emergency Operational Centres** and improve decision making processes during disaster response. These Emergency Operational Centres have helped to improve emergency response and strengthened National Society preparedness with better data collection and information management.

The IFRC also supported its members to build community resilience with national and local disaster **risk reduction strategies**, coordination with the IFRC Climate centre, and the development of research-led partnerships. As a result, the Ukraine National Society

has developed a vulnerability and capacity assessed Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) community plan of action to raise public awareness of key DRR activities.

Livelihoods

The IFRC worked with the Turkish Red Crescent Society on the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme in 2020. With a budget of EUR 500 million, the programme was aimed at the world's largest refugee population of circa 4 million people. Thanks to DG ECHO funding and the partnership between the IFRC, the Turkish National Society, and host government institutions, more than 1.8 million refugees have received humanitarian support through cash assistance.

CROATIA EARTHQUAKE

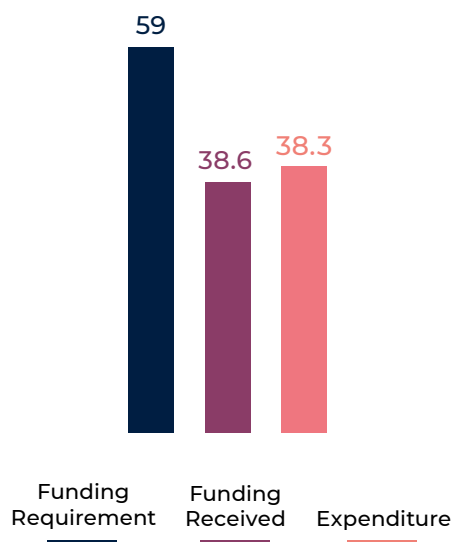
"It's part of my job to play out emergency scenarios in my head, but to think that we would see more than 50,000 buildings destroyed in Croatia, that was beyond imagination."

Matea Brizic, Head of Emergency Operations at the Croatian Red Cross, came to Petrinja on the morning of 29 December with seven other Red Cross colleagues. Around noon, they were meeting in the local branch office when a magnitude 6.4 earthquake hit the town. They ran out to the street, only to find a scene of chaos and destruction.

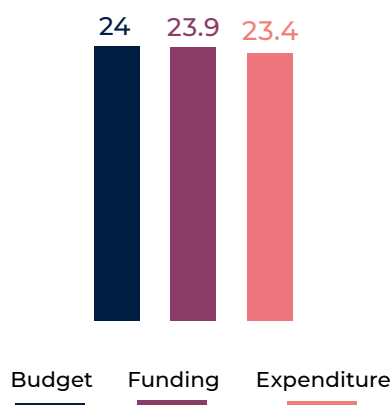
Matea did not have time to think about what happened, as she was called to the kindergarten, the roof of which had collapsed. There were about 30 children inside the building, sleeping in their beds, with no shoes or coats on. She helped bring them out to safety, only to immediately receive another call.

Matea says: *"I know for sure that we've done everything that we could possibly do – even if it wasn't always enough."*

THEMATIC PROGRAMS CHF MILLION



EMERGENCIES CHF MILLION



PEOPLE REACHED BY THEMATIC AREA

251,870
Disaster
risk reduction

94,932
Shelter

49,437
Livelihoods

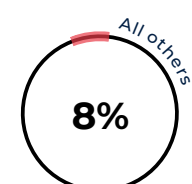
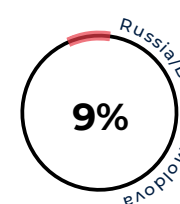
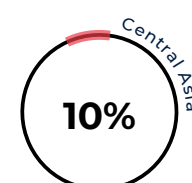
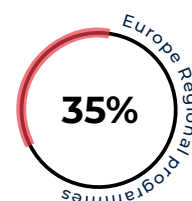
1,248,664
Health

121,598
WASH

19,449
PGI

215,750
Migration

TOP FUNDING BY LOCATION



Croatia
Earthquake

**Turkey, Greece
and other countries**
Population Movement

11

3

● DREF

■ Emergency Appeal

In cooperation with the National Societies of Armenia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Ukraine, the IFRC supported the implementation of **cash grant programmes**, assisting more than 15,700 people affected by disaster. Under the Global IFRC COVID-19 Emergency Appeal, 14 National Societies set up cash and voucher assistance to respond to the socio-economic impact of the pandemic and cover the immediate basic needs of vulnerable people.

Health

The IFRC advocated for vulnerable people living with HIV and tuberculosis in 2020, supporting them to obtain better access to health services and mental health support. The IFRC also participated in reducing stigma and discrimination through parliamentary-level discussions in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia. As a result of these activities, more than one million people became more aware of the discrimination that these groups face, during a period when the needs of vulnerable people have been even further amplified by Covid-19.

National Societies in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia were supported by the IFRC to strengthen their capacity to respond to health emergencies. Staff and volunteers were trained in **pandemic preparedness and control**, disease prevention, health, WASH, and hygiene promotion, reaching more than 530,000 people across 253 communities with information on the priority issues and needs in their communities.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

National Societies in Central Asia have been actively engaged in a series of virtual skills building training sessions organized by the IFRC. Throughout 2020, the IFRC continued to provide technical support for the implementation of WASH initiatives to raise awareness within communities.

The Global COVID-19 Response Emergency Appeal has dominated regional efforts, with the implementation of pandemic preparedness and response actions. A total of 41 National Societies implemented health-related COVID-19 response actions, including hygiene promotion, maintaining access to essential clinical, paramedic and community health services, WASH and epidemic control, and ambulance services. The IFRC provided technical support to all National Societies in the region for the implementation of health and care activities, including the development of information and guidance materials, epidemic control, screening, testing, contact tracing, risk communication, hygiene, WASH and health promotion, blood services, and others.



**Pandemic preparedness
and control reached more
than 530,000 people
across 253 communities
with information**



Migration

More than 50,000 of the most vulnerable migrants received support from the IFRC in 2020, including first aid and basic health services, psychosocial support, and information on measures related to COVID-19 prevention and protection. The IFRC also supported National Societies to develop their capacities, enabling them to better assist displaced people.

The IFRC continued to support the Hellenic Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent in 2020, enabling them to deliver vital assistance in shelter, livelihoods, water and sanitation, health, and migration to vulnerable people.

Additionally, the IFRC successfully completed two EU AMIF funded projects: the IFRC-led Action of Red Cross for the Integration of Relocated and Resettled Persons, in collaboration with the National Societies of Bulgaria, Croatia and Germany, and the Amplifying Voices of Asylum-seekers and Refugees for Integration and Life skills, led by the British Red Cross in collaboration with the National Societies of Italy, Ireland and Latvia. Both projects promoted the integration of refugees and asylum seekers in receiving communities through innovative, community-based and participatory methodologies.

“The best part of the job is to be able to give the migrants what they really need. Whether it’s food or clothes. We always make sure that the quality is good and try to make the best out of it.”

— Zuhra, volunteer



Supporting her community

Masouma, a 32-year-old mother of two, is an Afghan woman living at the Kara Tepe Refugee Camp on the Greek island of Lesbos. Masouma dedicates much of her free time to volunteering for the Red Cross. As a hygiene promoter, she is helping her community to stay aware of the key public health risks, adopt safe hygiene practices and make the best use of WASH facilities and services.

“I feel it is my responsibility to care for my community. I would say that no matter who you are, you have the power to impact the lives around you through volunteering” said Masouma.

“I feel it is my responsibility to care for my community. I would say that no matter who you are, you have the power to impact the lives around you through volunteering”

— Masouma, volunteer



Providing the essential

Zuhra is the manager of the central warehouse of the Red Cross in City Bihac – the warehouse that, among other things, serves the nearby Lipa camp.

“The best part of the job is to be able to give the migrants what they really need. Whether it’s food or clothes. We always make sure that the quality is good and try to make the best out of it.”

Zuhra used to be a captain in the army, working with bookkeeping and logistics. As she retired from her job, she wanted to contribute to the community and signed up as a Red Cross volunteer in 2018.

“You got to love your job and your mission. It’s hard work with tight deadlines, but we make sure there’s room for jokes and laughter around here.

Strengthen National Societies

In 2020, the IFRC continued to support its National Societies to assess and develop capacities at headquarters and branch levels, including financial sustainability. It provided support to 15 National Societies for the development of domestic resource mobilization, focussing on unrestricted income generation in South Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, the Baltic States, and the Balkans.

The IFRC also provided technical support to National Societies, including market research in Ukraine and Romania, a digitalization project in Armenia and Russia, direct marketing campaigns in Belarus and Estonia, and corporate fundraising development in Kazakhstan and Georgia.

Ensure effective international disaster management

The IFRC made 41 surge deployments in the Europe region. These included both remote and physical deployments in operations management, community engagement and accountability, health and care, communications, livelihoods, and supply chain management. Despite posing unique challenges, the remote working modality proved to be a successful way of supporting IFRC operations.

Influence others as a leading strategic partner

The IFRC carried out research in support of advocating for better access to health, advocacy, and awareness campaigns in Balkan countries for migrants, in cooperation with the Healthcare Leadership and Management Development Institute and the WHO Collaborative Centre on Migrants Health, Pecs University.

The main objectives of the research included obtaining information on the accessibility of health services and their responsiveness, the accessibility of information regarding the use of health services, institutional collaboration at national levels, and key data on vulnerable groups. The National Societies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and North Macedonia participated in this study, showcasing the urgent need for vulnerable migrants to access basic health services in the short, medium, and long-term.

The COVID-19 response became the number one communications priority in Europe and worldwide and there was notable media coverage of the IFRC's response to the migration situations in Greece and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the post-election civil unrest in Belarus, and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The team's work resulted in a total of 246 media articles throughout 2020.

The number of people influenced by the IFRC directly online also increased. The number of followers of the IFRC Europe Twitter account grew by 70% to 8,000 in 2020, while the number of people reached increased by 100% to 4.5 million. New types of content were introduced, such as live broadcasts, quizzes, and polls, and a video series exploring COVID-19 and mental health was launched with the title 'Let's talk with Dr. Sarah', featuring British Red Cross psychologist Dr. Sarah Davidson. The activities of 49 National Societies were highlighted on the channel.

The IFRC Regional Office for Europe also supported the build-up and content creation process of the IFRC Russian language social media presence. Another 12 RED Talks streams were organized across IFRC global social media platforms with European National Societies.

3.5M

New funding generated by National Societies supported through the programme

2M

Funds generated by National Societies from corporate donors domestically in 2020

41

IFRC deployments in the Europe region, including both remote and physical deployments

Ensure a strong IFRC

Profile on Andrej Naricyn: Well-funded National Societies for a stronger network

Andrej knows that strong, effective National Societies need to be 'funding savvy'. His goal is to help them get there.

Andrej supports the IFRC's **Resource Mobilization Capacity Building programme**, strengthening National Societies' financial sustainability through voluntary income generation.

This successful peer-to-peer programme has grown to guide 15 National Societies to develop their resource Mobilization skills, towards unearmarked and predictable funding.

The IFRC supports:

- Market research and fundraising audits
- Fundraising strategy development and resourcing (including accessing seed funding)
- Fundraising team recruitment, development and upskilling
- Comprehensive technical support
- Maintaining Regional practitioner communities through dedicated annual events and forums

The programme benefits from collaboration, technical and financial support from other National Societies including the Swiss Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, and others. An increasing number of National Societies that participated in the programme are now providing guidance and assistance, including Belarus and Lithuania.

The results speak for themselves:

In 2020, National Societies supported through the programme since 2018 have generated more than CHF 3.5 million in new funding (CHF 1million of which was unrestricted).

Lithuania, from an initial grant of CHF 90,000 from the Swiss Red Cross in 2018, built a donor base generating more than **CHF 50,000 per month in unearmarked funding**. In 2020, they even contributed funds to the Australia bushfires and Beirut Port Explosions; they also ran a domestic Covid-19 fundraising campaign. Much of this would have been impossible, even just a few years ago.

Other examples include Belarus, Kazakhstan and Georgia, where National Societies generated in excess of CHF 2 million from corporate donors domestically in 2020. Newly established private partnership departments have demonstrated impressive growth, with recent ones now launched in Russia, Ukraine, and Lithuania.

For Andrej, his greatest reward is seeing the transformation that takes a National Society that is usually the recipient of funding, to one that can contribute to its network.

While challenges remain (seed funding and suitable technical experience in the local markets), Andrej predicts that this work will continue to develop exponentially due to growing demand, further exacerbated by the recent pandemic.

The IFRC's work is cost-effective and supports National Societies not only to fundraise for their immediate life-saving work, but also to become financially sustainable and adaptable for the future.

4.5M

People reached online directly through IFRC; an increase of 100%

15

National Societies supported the development of domestic resource mobilization, focussing on unrestricted income generation

ON THE GROUND: IFRC WORK

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



Context

The MENA region continues to be affected by humanitarian crises, with active armed conflict, several protracted crises and the COVID-19 pandemic all contributing to increased vulnerabilities in the region. These crises have had a profound impact on already marginalized people and communities, weakening national institutions and basic services and causing mass displacement among vulnerable communities.

Examples from the field

Disaster risk reduction

Following the explosions that took place in Beirut in August 2020, the IFRC supported the Lebanese Red Cross to reduce disaster risk through three main strategies: strengthening preparedness and capacity of communities so that they are in a better position to respond to disasters; promoting activities and actions that mitigate the adverse effects of hazards; and protecting development projects, such as health facilities, from the impact of disasters.

The IFRC supported the Yemen Red Crescent Society to roll out their plan of action for preparedness for effective response (PER) and for the National Society's national disaster response team training and disaster management annual meeting, which had to be delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Shelter

The IFRC supported the Lebanese Red Cross to create a safe and secure environment for those affected by the explosions in August 2020. By following a build back safer approach to **repair housing** units to minimum standards, the IFRC contributed to the long-term recovery of households and re-established safety and security, protection from the elements, privacy, and dignity.

The IFRC supported the Yemen National Society's distribution of essential household items that had been procured during 2018–19 to southern branches. A total of 1,000 household items were distributed to all branches in the country.

The explosions in Lebanon, alongside the conflicts in Iraq, Libya, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, and Yemen challenged countries in the region to take active steps towards strengthening their resilience in 2020. In this context, the complex needs of host communities, migrants, and refugees continue to be a priority for the IFRC and National Societies.

In Syria, the need for non-food relief items remained as critical as ever. The provision of these items to displaced people, returnees, and conflict-affected communities continues to be a priority for the IFRC. The core emergency shelter items funded through the Emergency Appeal included blankets, dignity kits, kitchen sets, and mattresses. This contribution from the IFRC Appeal enabled the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of **36,747 families**.

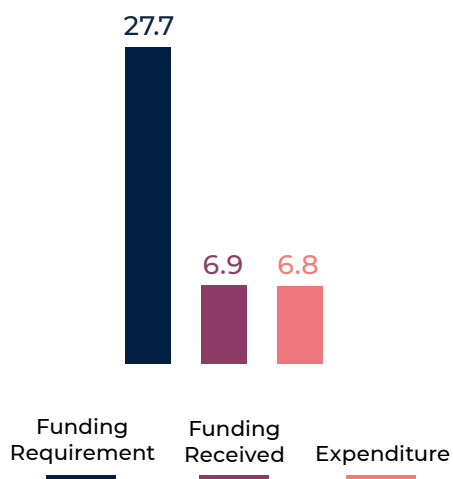
Livelihoods and basic needs

The IFRC supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's livelihoods interventions in six governorates, Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Damascus, and Latakia, as part of **vocational skill development** activities to improve income sources of families affected by the conflict. Of the 700 target households, 589 received vocational training and support for productive assets. 100 households were also selected from Latakia for training and equipment support.

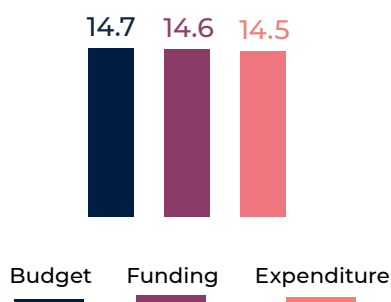
In rural Damascus and Hama, 300 female-headed households affected by the conflict were supported through the diversification of their technical skills in carpet manufacturing to reduce their vulnerability and improve their standard of living.

The impact of these programmes is not only on the learning of vital new skills but also on improving self-confidence and supporting vulnerable women to expand their social networks within their communities. The project positively affected the human, social, physical, and financial livelihood assets of these families.

THEMATIC PROGRAMS CHF MILLION



EMERGENCIES CHF MILLION



PEOPLE REACHED BY THEMATIC AREA

125,007
Disaster
risk reduction

146,778
Shelter

67,717
Livelihoods

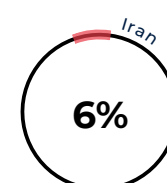
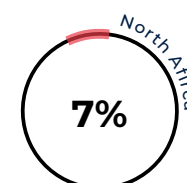
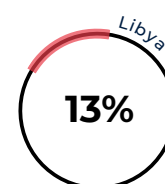
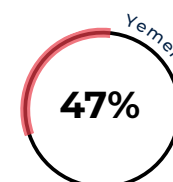
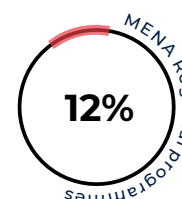
307,762
Health

1,619,251
WASH

353,331
PGI

304,295
Migration

TOP FUNDING BY LOCATION



Health

The IFRC has established the regional health forum, immunization sub-technical group and mental health and psychosocial support network, to create a peer to peer support mechanism and ethical information update platform. Especially for COVID-19 response and vaccination preparedness, the IFRC has collaborated with WHO and UNICEF to develop and utilize **risk communication and community engagement**, and social mobilization materials, tools and trainings in Arabic to reach out more with quality and standard information.

The community-based health and first aid approach supported the most vulnerable people in Libya in 2020. The National Society provided communities with services to identify and reduce health risks, while the National Society developed its own capacity to assess and provide relevant long-term health care support to vulnerable households. This approach proved extremely impactful long-term and sustainable support to communities to help them build their resilience.

The IFRC-led support in Yemen focused heavily on essential health and care services in the context of the critical situation and the lack of medical services provided by authorities. The IFRC supported rehabilitation through a health facility in Raymah, and the enhancement of primary health care services in Shabwah and Raymah. This included the provision of immunizations and vaccinations, dressings and contraceptives, reproductive health services, outpatient treatments, and financial support for the running costs of the two centres.

A **public emergency hospital** in the Hamadan district was also supported by the IFRC in 2020, including overall renovation and rehabilitation work and the implementation of sanitation utilities to enable the hospital to perform more efficiently. In addition, a hybrid Public Health in Emergency training was supported by the IFRC in-country and remotely to enhance YRCS' capacity on pandemic and epidemic control.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

The IFRC continued to support the National Society in Yemen to establish access to basic water and sanitation facilities including hygiene promotion in 2020, in view of the numerous and subsequent health crises that compound the effects of the ongoing armed conflict and the continuing threat of cholera. This support ensures that vulnerable people have increased access to appropriate and sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities. An IFRC WASH Delegate position was established with support from Swedish Red Cross



which increased significantly the WASH technical and programming support required to expand the National Society WASH programming in scale and scope at the country level.

Further WASH activities expanded in Iraq through IFRC support in funding and coordination with Movement partners in continuing existing WASH interventions. These included menstrual hygiene management and school level sanitation and hygiene (the CHAST methodology) from which tools in Arabic were formulated and shared with other National Societies in the Region. The scope of the work was broadened to include COVID-19 WASH activities in infection prevention and control, not only in Iraq, but by providing contextually appropriate tools and guidelines in English and Arabic to all National Societies in MENA active in the pandemic response. The materials included design of handwashing facilities, disinfection activities, hygiene kits adapted to country and pandemic contexts and vigorous media and awareness campaigns to limit the spread of COVID-19.

In Lebanon, the IFRC supported a research and innovation project in menstrual hygiene management and diversity suitable toilets as well as stepping up support during the response to the port explosion.

Technical expertise and innovation were regularly shared by the IFRC leading the MENA WASH Technical Working Group together with Movement partners.

Migration

The British Red Cross supported the Egyptian Red Crescent by funding a flexible migration programme for vulnerable migrants in Egypt, called the AMiRA project.

Many refugees and migrants were unable to pay their rent due to the impact of COVID-19, leaving them in danger of eviction and homelessness. The Egyptian National Society provided cash assistance to these vulnerable migrants, ensuring that they could pay their rent and continue living in their homes.

Additionally, the National Society supported migrants and refugees with the prevention and control of COVID-19, through the distribution of hygiene kits. A total of 1,075 hygiene kits for families were distributed to those who were identified as most in need. 233 mental health and psychosocial support kits were also distributed to vulnerable migrants who received psychological support services or attended mental health activities. The main achievements of the project included:

- Cooperation with community development associations to deliver health promotion activities and infant and young child feeding facilities
- Cooperation with community schools to provide psychological support and distribute mental health and psychosocial support kits to children
- Distribution of food vouchers to the most vulnerable beneficiaries
- Distribution of hygiene kits to migrant and refugee families
- Provision of rental assistance to migrants and displaced people
- Doctors provided onsite at the AMiRA Hubs until November 2020

Strengthen National Societies

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on National Society capacities, the IFRC continued to support National Societies to strengthen their preparedness in the MENA region. As a result of the ongoing health crisis, National Societies significantly

increased their services within their country settings in 2020, implementing systematic response readiness and preparedness to support vulnerable communities affected by the pandemic.

In Yemen, the organizational development plan for the National Society was revised, with an Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification planned to help shape the National Society's future development. Additionally, a roadmap of the National Society's strategic plan for 2021–2025 was developed and approved, following consultation with the IFRC, ICRC and partner National Societies.

The IFRC supported the National Society in Iraq to implement innovative approaches to ensure total quality management and operational excellence within their processes. This required clear analysis of the problems, targeted communities, geographical location, intervention strategy, roles and responsibilities, identified implementing partners, and outcomes.

To ensure quality and impact of activities outlined in its operational plan, the IFRC supported the Iraqi Red Crescent Society to strengthen the capacity of its staff and volunteers in the Nineveh, Muthana and Basra branches. This included strengthening knowledge and skills in results-based project management and communications, setting up monitoring and evaluation tools for proposed actions, narrative and financial reporting, monitoring and evaluation, and facilitating learning opportunities.

Ensure effective international disaster management

A network of **rapid regional response** focal points in each of the National Societies in the MENA region was established in 2020. The network was initiated to serve global rapid response mechanisms, including status, records, deployments, and the development of roster members. The regional rapid response network will have a role in the re-activation of the regional surge and peer to peer support, including modalities, protocols, and pools.

36,747

vulnerable families
supported with shelter
assistance

589

female-headed households
received vocational training
to secure their livelihoods

300

female-headed households
affected by the conflict in
Syria were trained in carpet
manufacturing

Influence others as a leading strategic partner

The IFRC supported country/cluster delegations and National Societies with humanitarian diplomacy, advocacy and advice, aiming to increase their impact, public trust, and understanding of their role and activities. Connected with the response to COVID-19, the MENA Regional Office designed and hosted regular regional dialogues with governments and intergovernmental organizations, supported by advocacy materials: including regular webinars with foreign embassies, policy briefs for both domestic authorities and foreign representatives, face-to-face meetings, and contributions to state dialogue platforms and other engagements.

Ensure a strong IFRC

Prompted by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, several **shared leadership initiatives** were launched in 2020. Regional meetings are held monthly with Movement partners to discuss the most pressing issues, as well as other strategic, longer-term points, under the joint chairmanship the IFRC and ICRC. Coordination between the IFRC, ICRC, and National Societies has been strengthened by the establishment of technical working groups, including on health; planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; and community engagement and accountability.

The IFRC's country offices participated actively at country level in Movement meetings at strategic, operational, and technical levels in 2020. The IFRC is supporting partners in an approach aimed at enhancing the collective impact of projects and programmes, based on technical capacities and expertise.



1,075


hygiene kits for families were distributed to those who were identified as the most in need

233

mental health and psychosocial support kits distributed to vulnerable migrants

CONCLUSION





The year 2020 will be remembered as unparalleled in recent history. The COVID-19 pandemic had an effect on nearly every person on the planet and over 1.7 million people lost their lives. Uncertainty reigned and poverty rose for the first time in 20 years, with millions of people experiencing increased vulnerability. All the while, other crises continued to impact vulnerable communities around the world.

The IFRC network came together as never before to face this crisis. Each National Society responded to their domestic needs, while coming together in a global approach to ensure new levels of information sharing, support and learning.

The value of supporting local organizations has become more apparent than ever. National Societies were at the front line of the response, reaching over 650 million people with health and hygiene programming. At the same time, they served their communities' needs stemming from the secondary impacts of the pandemic.

The IFRC supported and enabled their work through the provision of funding, information and technical expertise- bringing together the experience of the network for the benefit of all. Flexible resources ensured the network's ability to respond to a constantly changing situation.

During this crisis, the IFRC also supported National Societies in other major emergency operations such as the dual hurricanes, Eta and Iota that struck the Americas, and the explosions in Beirut.

Even, during uncertain times, the IFRC, ICRC and the Climate Centre looked to the future with Movement Ambitions to Address the Climate Crisis, setting out how the Movement will collectively address the climate crisis. It carried out the largest single programme in its history, the ESSN programme, with the Turkish Red Crescent Society and the support of ECHO, bringing monthly cash assistance to more than 1.8 million of the most vulnerable refugees in Turkey.

The IFRC continued to strengthen its focus on supporting National Societies, with a focus on their development as strong, accountable, and capable local organizations. Through this, the IFRC continues its commitment to strengthening the localization of humanitarian assistance.

Strong National Societies are needed more than ever. The IFRC continues to work in partnership with them, supporting them, to ensure they can serve their communities today and tomorrow.



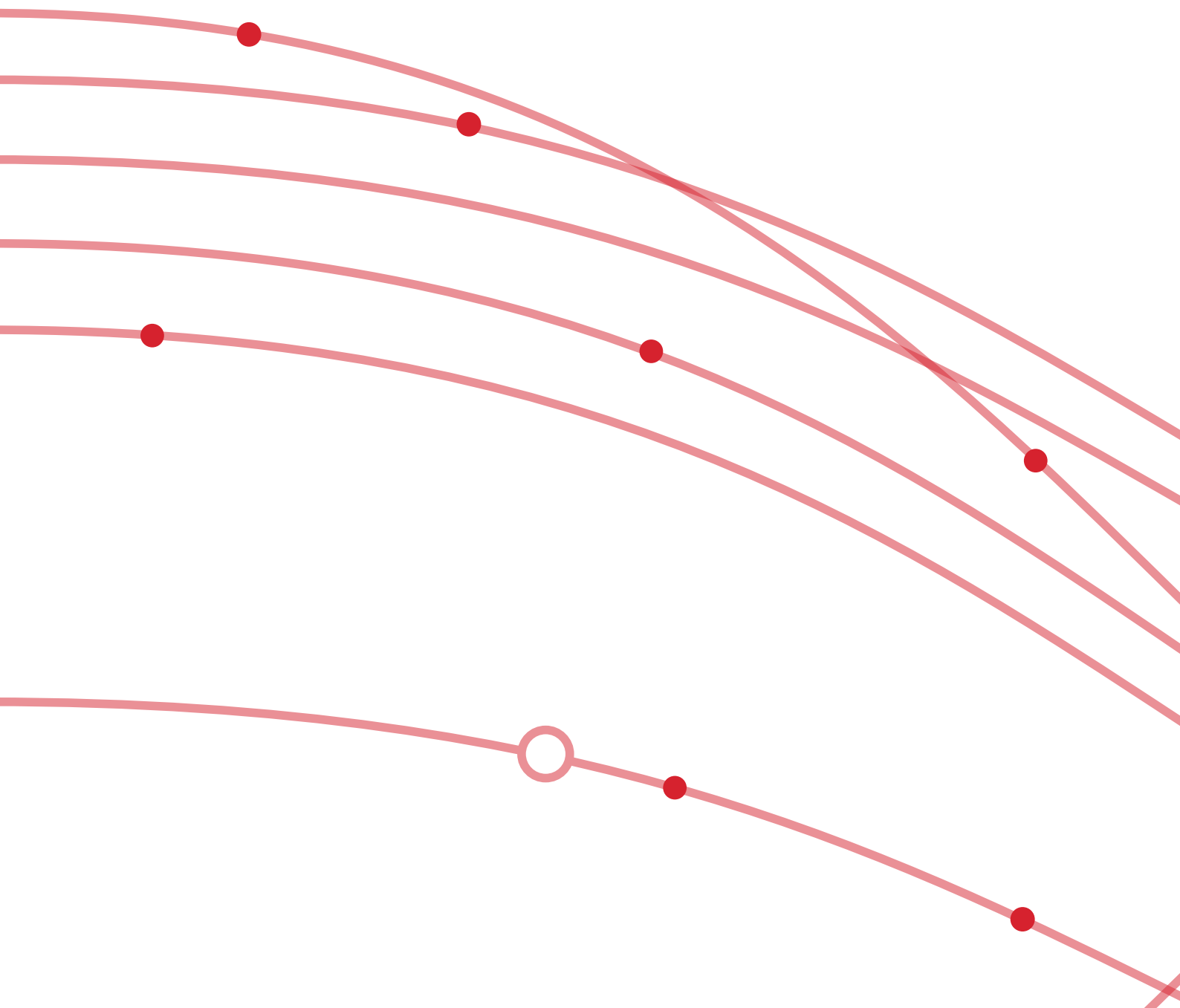
GAINING INSIGHT

IFRC NETWORK PERSPECTIVE

The background is a solid red color. It features several thin, white, curved lines that sweep across the frame. There are also several small white circles and dots scattered throughout, some of which are part of the curved lines. The overall aesthetic is modern and minimalist.

The global impact of
National Societies and
examples of their work

KEY DATA FROM NATIONAL SOCIETIES



ABOUT THE DATA

The Federation-wide databank and reporting system (FDRS) collects annual data from the IFRC Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (NSs) on their activities. In this report, we provide an overview of key data on National Societies' governance and structure, finance and partnerships, and people reached by various types of programmes and activities for the year 2019. The report shows key figures on a small set of indicators, disaggregated by sex and age.

164 National Societies submitted their data to the FDRS. Data from 2018 was used for the remaining National Societies who did not report, in order to calculate global totals. The definition for each indicator can be found in the FDRS user guide available on the [FDRS website](#).

Other sectors and initiatives of the IFRC (e.g. the CashHub and 3W) often have their own data collection systems, which may have more detailed data. Data is based on projects, could cover multiple years, and is usually reported by National Societies' technical focal points. The FDRS uses standardized definitions across National Societies and technical IFRC departments and works with all to ensure that the data collected is complementary and not contradictory. The FDRS data covers all domestic activities of each National Society regardless of the funding source.

In addition to the annual data collection process, the FDRS team has been leading the COVID-19 Federation-wide reporting, collecting quarterly financial and programmatic indicators to monitor the global and local response efforts. All collected and verified data is published and available through [operational updates](#) and [interactive dashboards](#) for further engagement and analysis, most importantly providing evidence of the COVID-19 impact, reach and effectiveness.

Further analysis of the data collected by the FDRS can be found in its flagship publication: [The Everyone Counts report](#).

ACTIVITIES

69.9 million

People reached by disaster response and early recovery services (DRER)¹

91.7 million

People reached by long-term services and development programmes (LTSDP)



HEALTH
165.1M



¹ The number of people reached by DRER increased significantly from previous years, mainly due to one specific National Society report.



14.1 million
People trained in first aid



20.9 million
People donating blood



WASH
38.3M



LIVELIHOODS
13.8M



**SOCIAL
INCLUSION**
14M



DRR
19.6M



MIGRATION
8.6M



SHELTER
7.8M



CTP²
4.1M

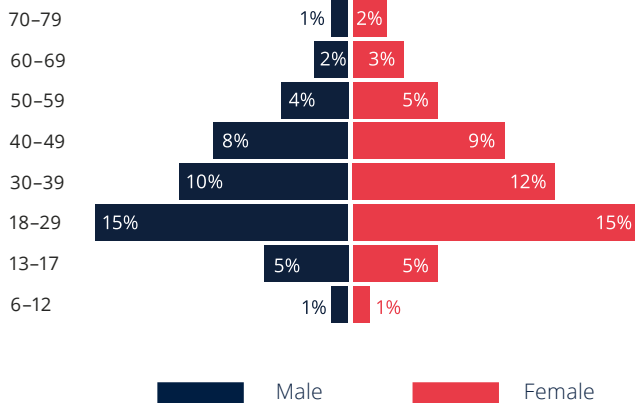
Many National Societies disaggregate their figures by sex, age and disability – and some have reported using the Washington Group Questionnaire for disability disaggregation.

² Cash transfer programming.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers by age and sex

Age



12.1M

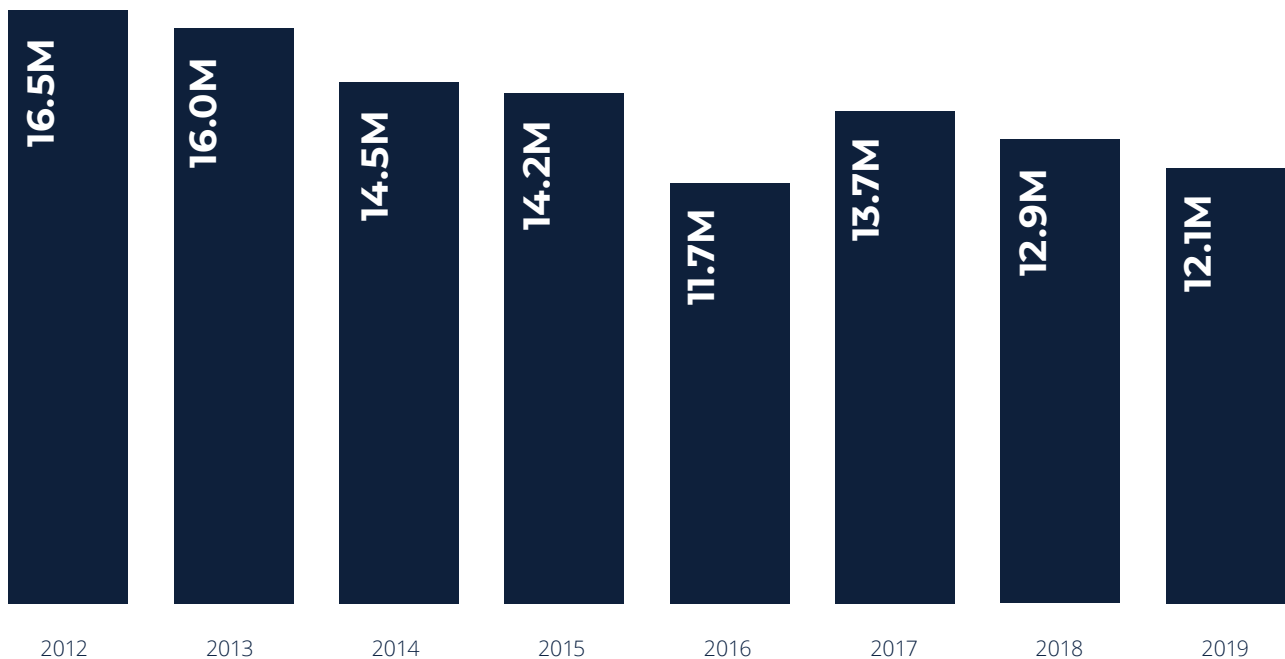
people have given their time voluntarily for at least four hours during 2019. About 20 National Societies have more than 100k volunteers and collectively represent 83% of the total number of volunteers (over 10 million).

Total number of NSs reporting: **180**

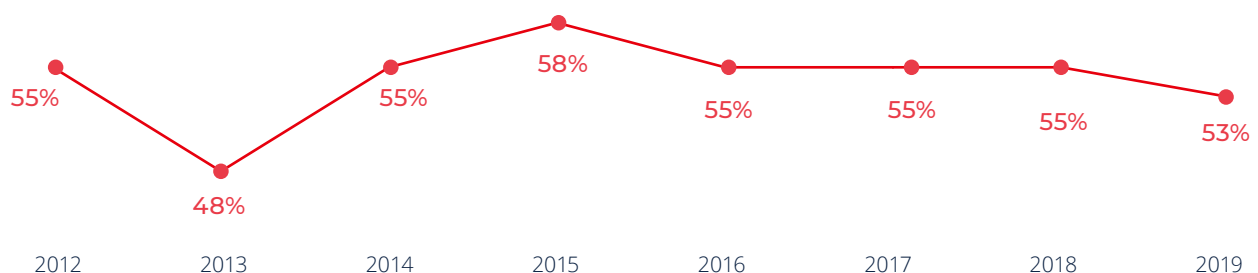
Disaggregated by sex: **120**

Disaggregated by age: **94**

Number of volunteers by year

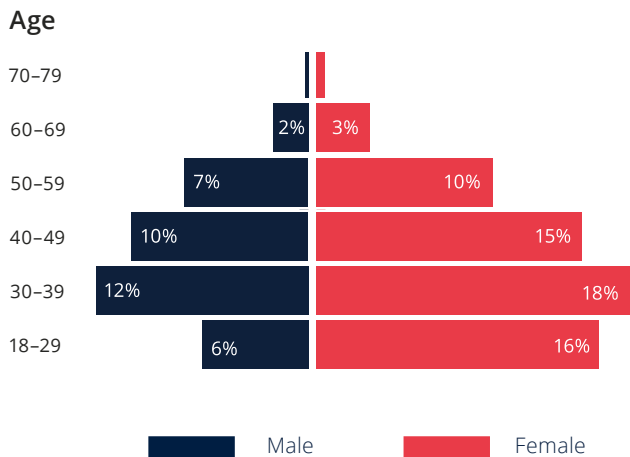


Percentage of female volunteers



STAFF

Staff by age and sex



492K

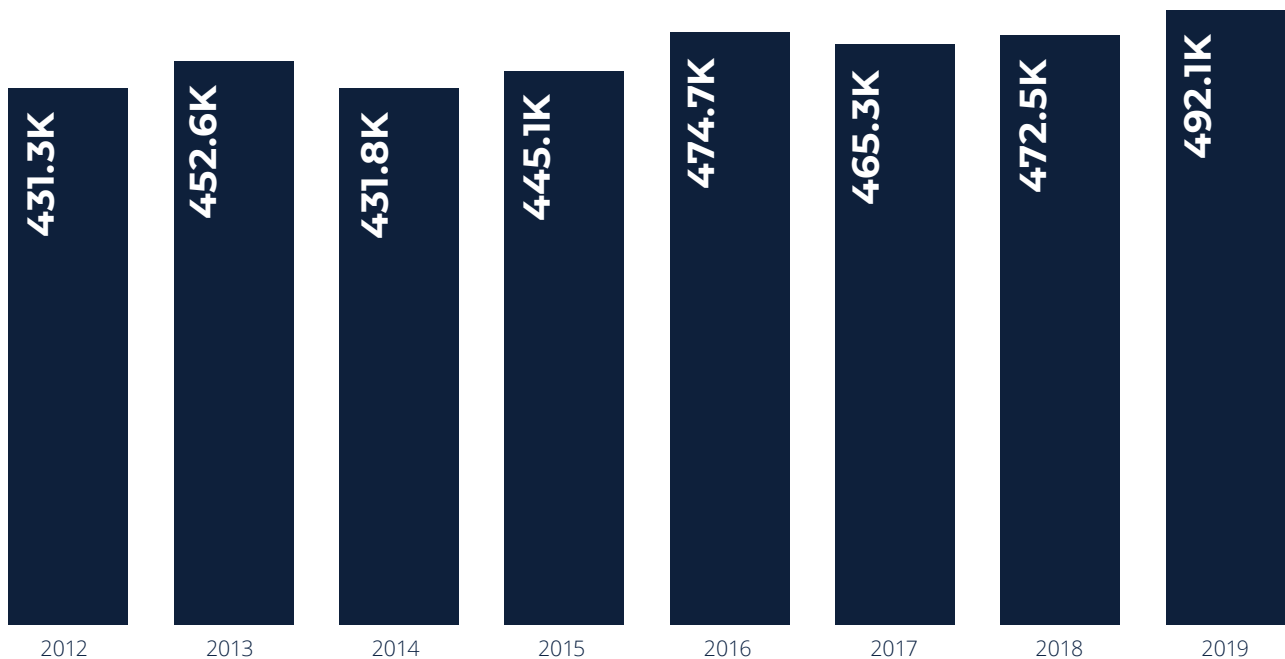
people who are contracted by the NSs for at least three months in 2019 and are remunerated. 37 NSs reported engaging more than 1000 paid staff, representing 94% of the total.

Total number of NSs reporting: **179**

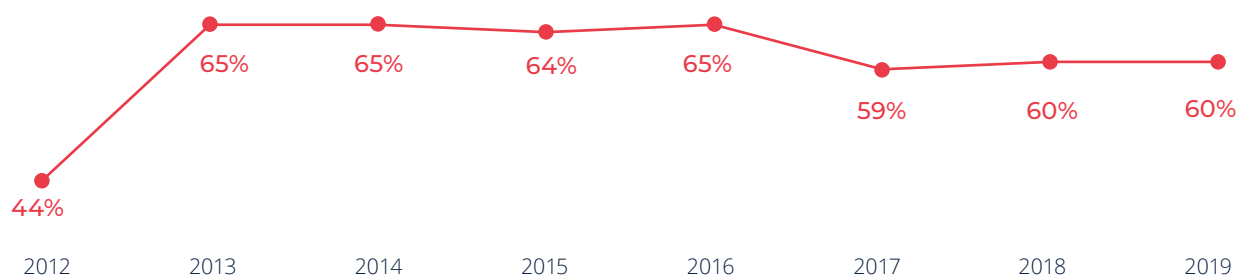
Disaggregated by sex: **144**

Disaggregated by age: **117**

Number of staff by year



Percentage of female staff



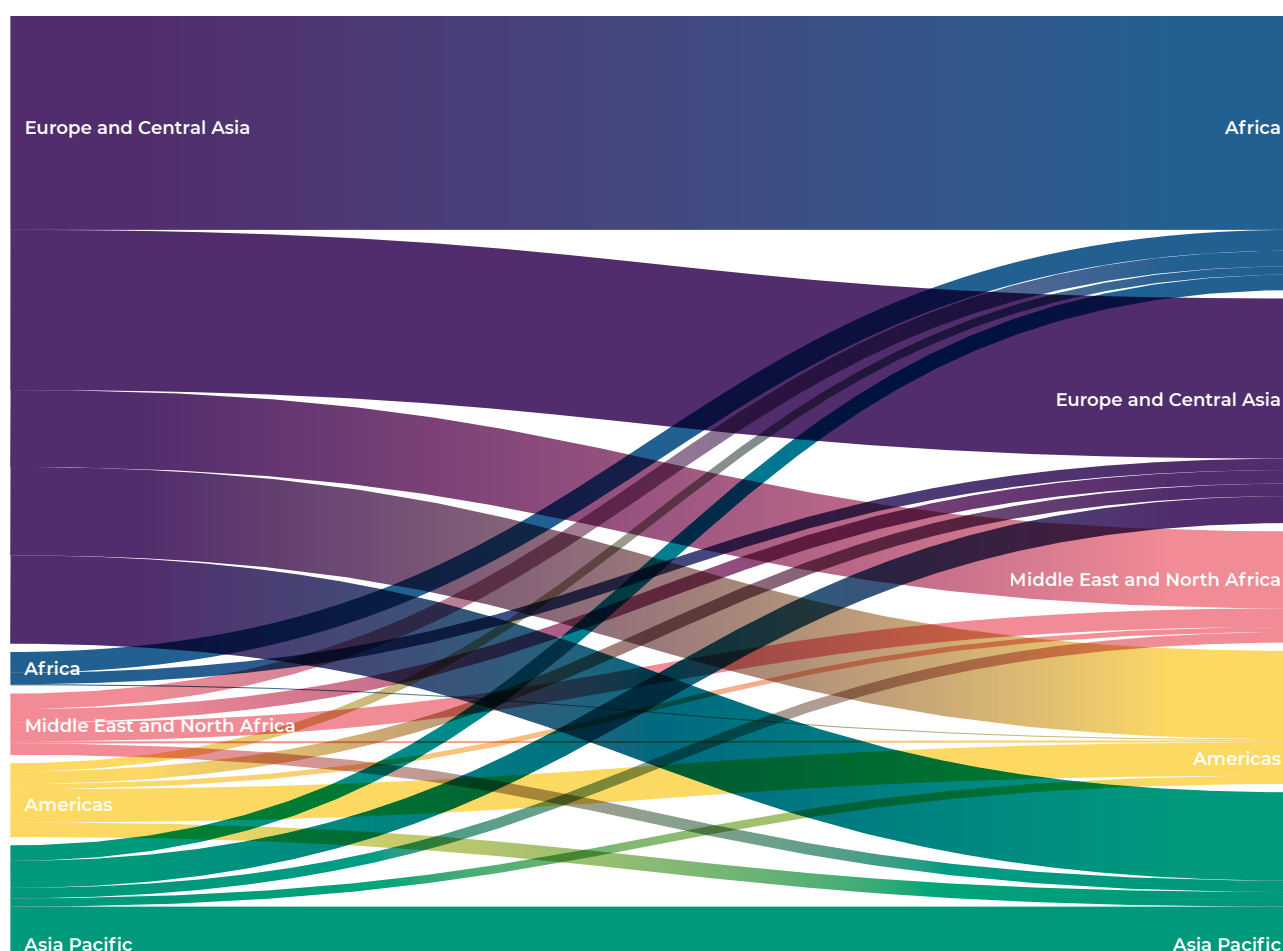
NETWORK

National Societies report support links among them, i.e. who provided support and who received support, helping us map collaborations within the network, whether financial, human, or technical. The chart below shows the aggregation of this information by regions. The left side of the graph contains the “origin” of the support and the right side its “destination”. For example, most of the support originated by the Americas in 2019 (35 links) was directed to region itself, however, the majority of the support received by the region (89 links) came from Europe and Central Asia. The table at the bottom of the page provides additional details.

Support links between National Societies

Origin

Destination

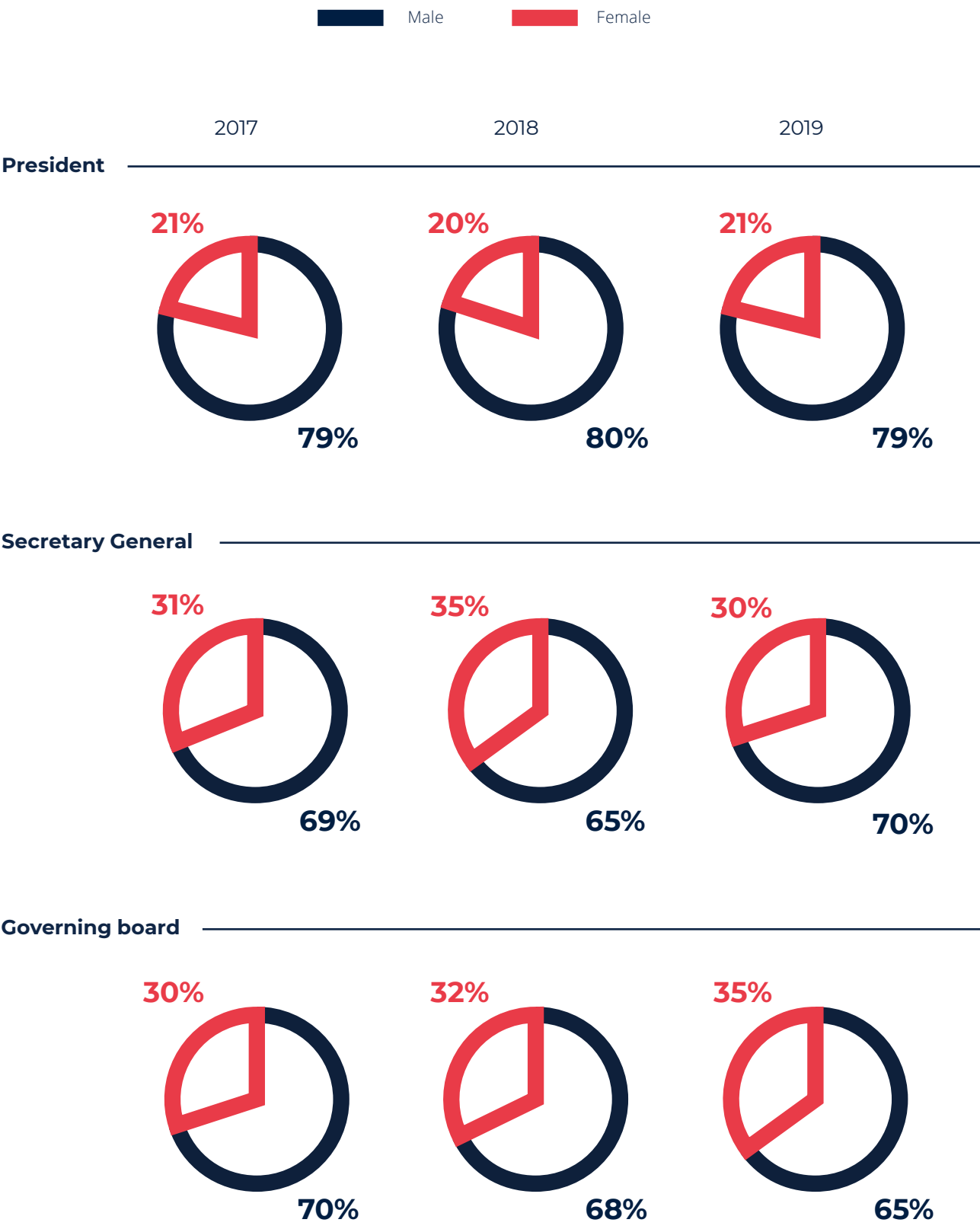


Details

Origin/ Destination	Europe and Central Asia	Africa	MENA	Americas	Asia Pacific
Europe and Central Asia	162	214	78	89	97
Africa	10	23		1	
MENA	12	20	25	4	13
Americas	15	11	5	35	13
Asia Pacific	17	17	8	8	77

GOVERNANCE

The FDRS collects data about National Societies' leadership structure. This data is disaggregated by sex, allowing us to provide an overview of the proportions of males and females among the leadership of National Societies.

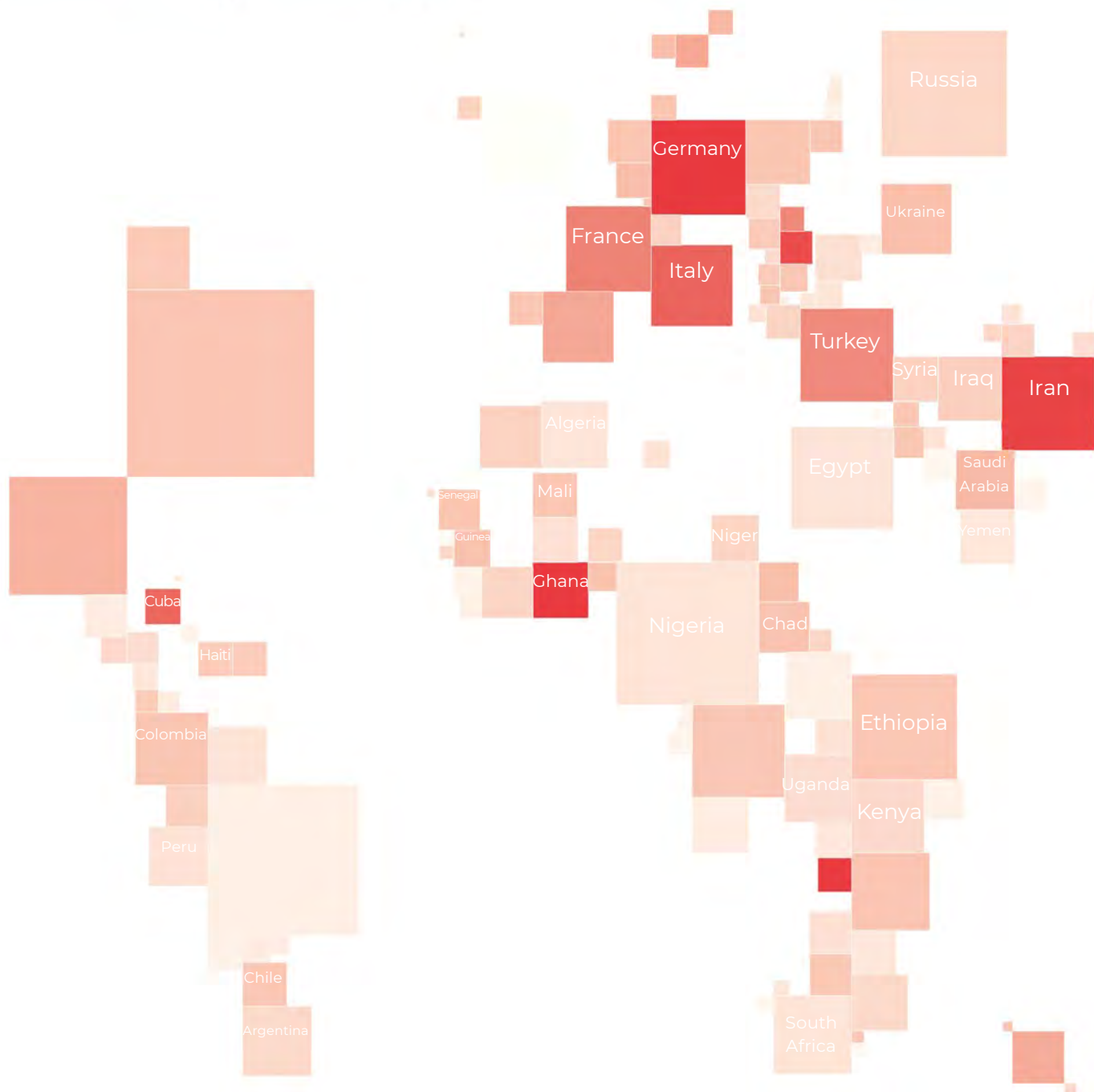


LOCAL UNITS

164.2K

This visual is a choropleth cartogram and each square's size is proportional to the country's population. The colours represent the number of local units per National Society. Only 15 National Societies have more than 1000 local units – representing 88% of the total.

1 900 96.08K





11K

Africa



3.7K

Americas



128.4K

Asia Pacific



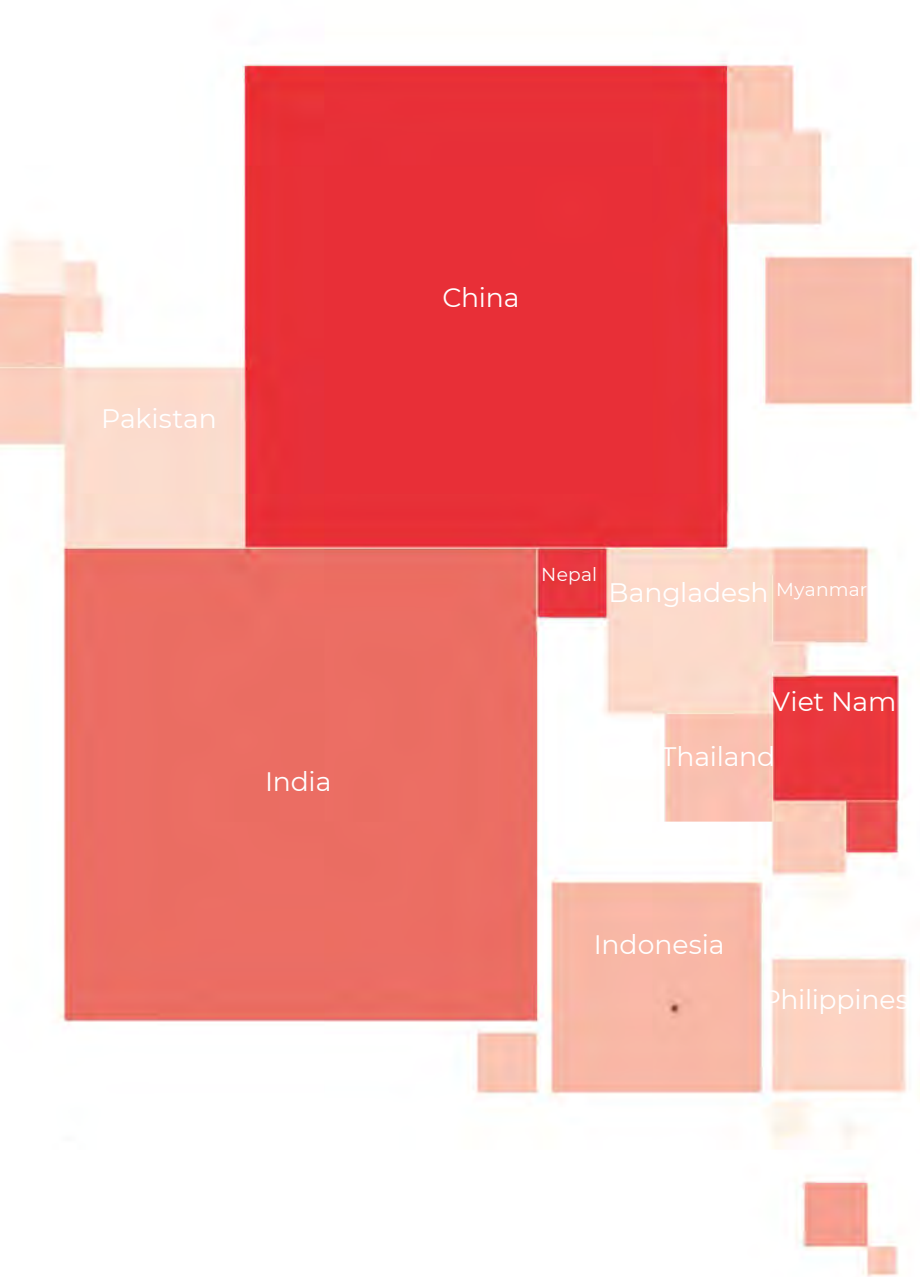
17.3K

Europe and
Central Asia



3.7K

Middle East and
North Africa





EXPENDITURE

Documents

The FDRS also collects key documents from National Societies (annual reports, strategic plans and audited financial statements) on an annual basis. The availability of these availability may depend on internal processes of National Societies, which might not coincide with the FDRS data collection cycle and thus can be reported in following years. In 2020, the FDRS received:

112 annual reports

138 strategic plans

102 financial statements
(of which **80** were audited)

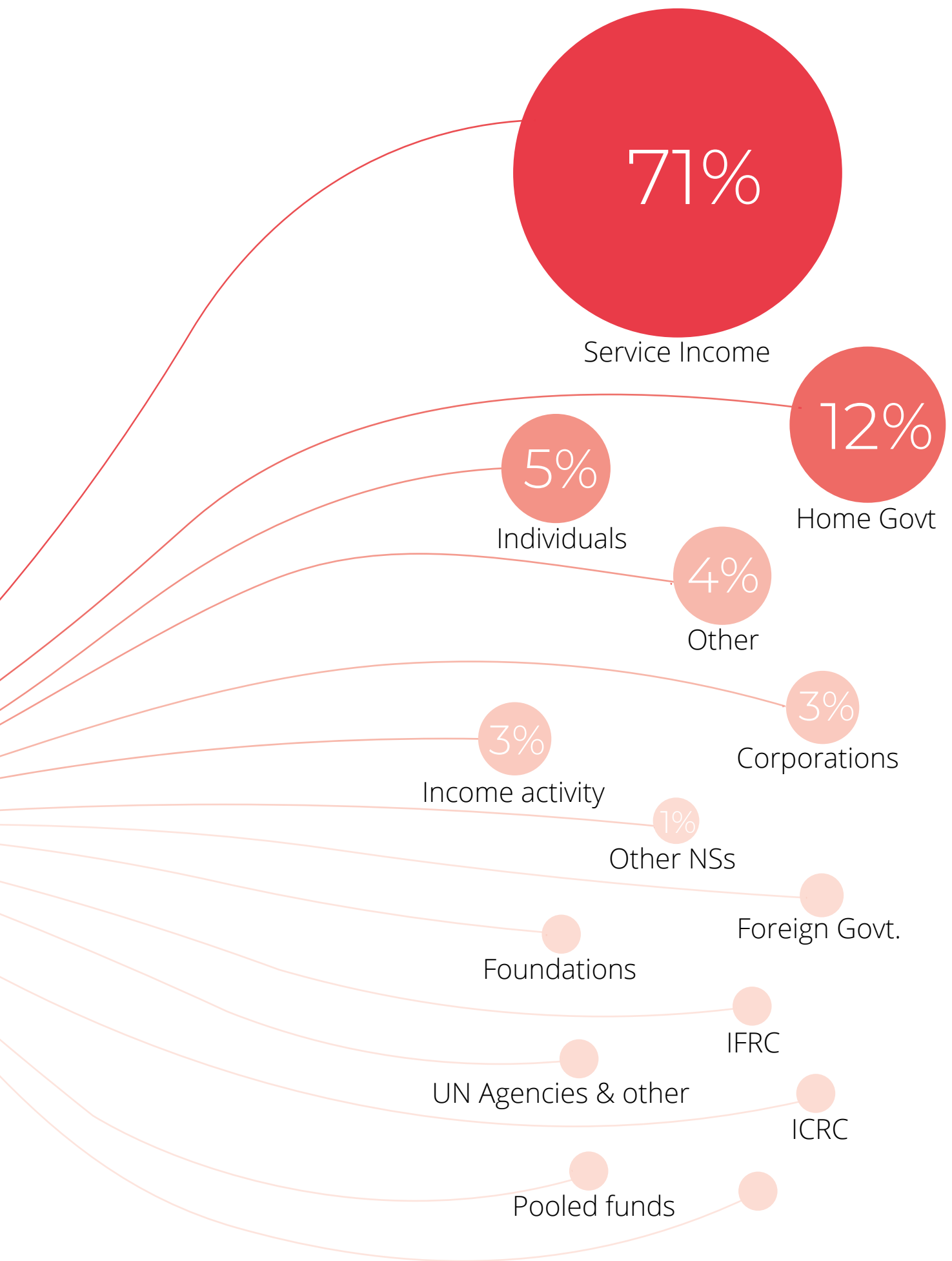


33.8B
CHF



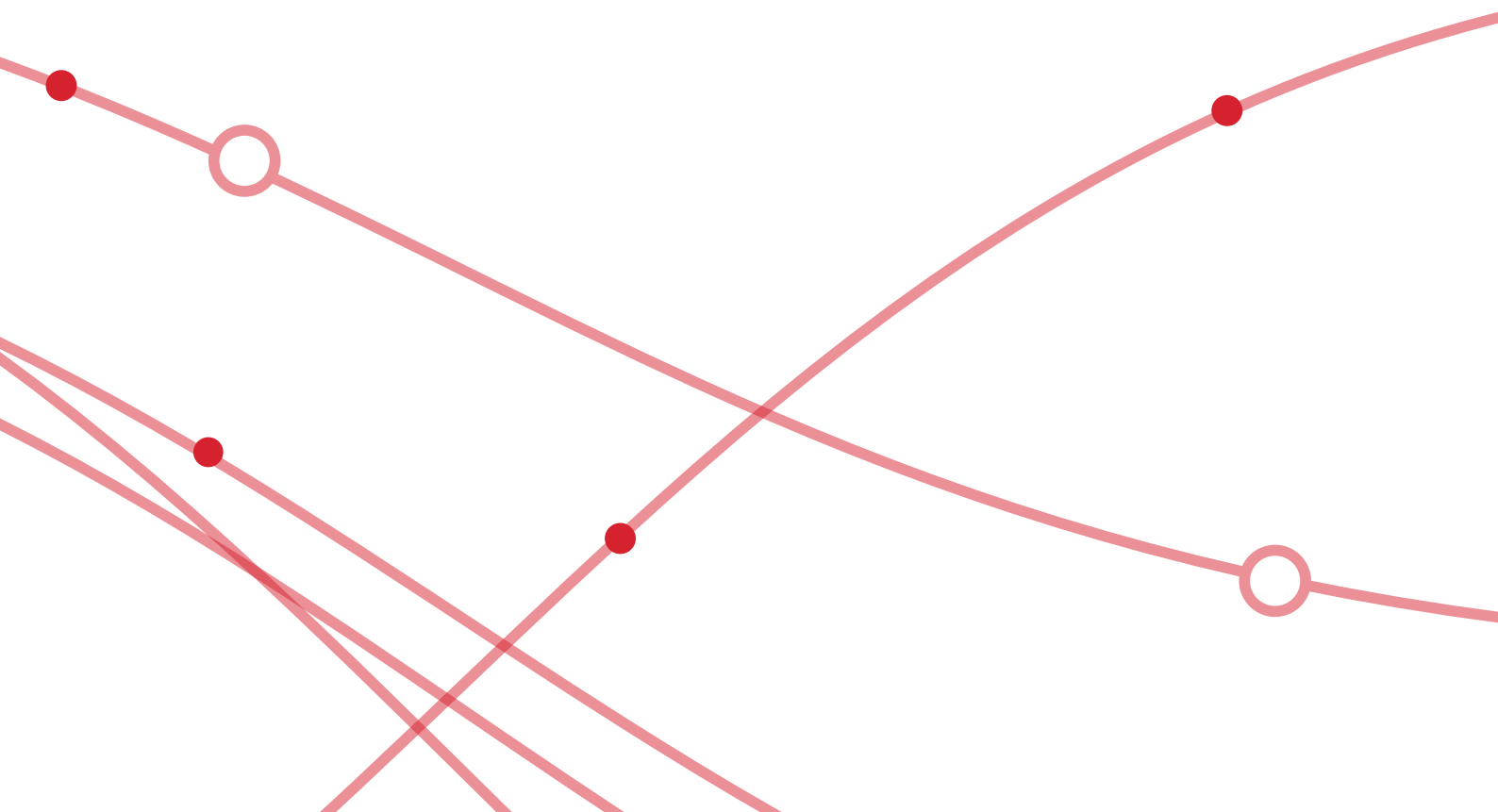
34.1B
CHF

INCOME



EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES' WORK

The IFRC often communicates about the power of the network and the important work that National Societies carry out on the ground – saving lives and changing minds. The following section provides examples from just a few of our member National Societies. These examples very clearly show the difference they are making locally and globally. Each National Society works within a distinct context, facing different challenges and responding to different needs. The IFRC would like to thank the National Societies presented here who agreed to provide this insight into their work. It is important to note that these examples may cover 2019 and 2020. For examples of National Society responses to COVID-19, please visit the COVID section in Part one of the report, starting on page 61.



AFRICA



African National Societies are facing the brunt of climate change- floods, drought, rising temperatures, extreme weather shifts, and their impacts on health and livelihoods. National Societies are increasing their capacity for programming at scale and improving transparency and accountability.

Ethiopia

In 2020, Ethiopian Red Cross Society mobilized tens of thousands of its active volunteers, staff as well experts from sister National Societies to provide emergency response and build resilience. These humanitarian interventions included natural and human made calamities relating to locust swarm, flood, landslides, fire, conflict, ethnic based violence, returnees and refugees, etc.

Emergency response activities

6 million people were reached in areas such as emergency health community mobilization and sensitization; sales of essential pharmaceutical/drugs at affordable price for vulnerable communities; distribution of water trucking and water purification chemicals; distribution of general and supplementary food, non-food and essential shelter; provision of basic lifesaving ambulance and first aid services; psychosocial support; and community support through animal restocking/during drought.

Resilience building and Disaster risk reduction activities

Over half a million vulnerable people were reached through food security, income generation, recovery, livelihoods rehabilitation, community reintegration and psychosocial support activities for returnees and refugees in Ethiopia and for other vulnerable members of communities. Production and distribution of energy saving stoves, beekeeping and farm tools; policy and strategy advocacy and awareness enhancement on integrated disaster management, environmental and social impact assessment and disaster risk management; community training on weather forecasting and on early warning early action; provision of integrated child mortality reduction health care for children under five; construction of improved household and public latrines with separate kitchens, solid waste pits; facilitation of family health insurance coverages; construction and maintenance of potable water and hygiene facilities, awareness raising on/ and installation of WASH facilities. Empowerment of women, health and equity; rehabilitation of degraded land, soil and water conservation; as well as restoring/maintaining family contact through different tools.



Mali

The Mali Red Cross is going through a transformative process, even in the midst of the pandemic. The Mali Red Cross Secretary General retired in December 2020. The mandate of the current governance body is coming to end in 2021 in the midst of a decade-long protracted conflict in the country. Despite these challenges, the National Society has worked together with the IFRC, ICRC and sister National Societies to establish a roadmap to update its strategy and policies, to revise the Movement Cooperation Agreement and to revise the statutes of the Mali Red Cross. This process, together with some other capacity-building initiatives (establishment of an Emergency Operations Centre for the National Society, preparedness for floods, Forecast-Based Financing, etc.) will help the National Society and the sister National Societies present in country to better address the vulnerabilities of the affected population in Mali.

PIROI

21 years of cooperation in the management of disaster risk in the south-west Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI), of the French Red Cross carries out a regional programme of disaster risk management. Its base in Reunion Island (French Department island between Madagascar and Mauritius) is determined by the strong risk exposure faced in the south-west Indian Ocean, to natural, health and climate change hazards.

Recognized as a valuable partner to the IFRC to reduce the impacts of disasters and strengthen the capacities of National Societies, the PIROI carries out interventions across the disaster management cycle.

Since its creation 21 years ago, the platform has conducted more than 70 disaster risk management projects and supported Indian Ocean National Societies in 57 emergency operations, assisting over 1.8 million people. In fact, it ensures the prepositioning of emergency materials in 8 warehouses throughout the zone.

Accompanying National Society action on the ground

Despite the disturbances caused by the global health crisis in 2020, National Society members of PIROI have pursued their mission to reduce the vulnerabilities of communities and public authorities faced with natural and health crises. In 2020, the support provided to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Indian Ocean focused on two main areas:

- Community level – supporting National Societies in the creation of tools and the organization of trainings on natural and health risks for communities
- Institutional level (national and local) – at the Red Cross / Red Crescent level and in support of disaster risk management actors, ensuring the organizational development of National Societies and strengthening their disaster preparedness and response capacities through the prepositioning of emergency equipment, training or methodological support

Coordination at regional level

The PIROI provides technical and financial support, coordination and facilitates knowledge sharing between National Societies. This support takes place at the regional level through the organization of thematic workshops, training (face-to-face or distance), seminars, and by carrying out studies and developing technical tools for the benefit of humanitarian actors in the region.

To adapt to growing challenges in a context marked by increasing impacts of climate change, the PIROI has been developing its structure towards becoming a **Regional Centre of Expertise , training and innovation dedicated to disaster risk management and climate change: The PIROI Centre**. This new regional workspace, the construction of which will begin in 2021, will aim to promote the pooling of knowledge and skills of all stakeholders in the areas of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

AMERICAS



Natural disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes strike the Americas frequently. National Societies respond to these, an ongoing humanitarian crisis in migration, violence and the impacts of income disparity. They are increasing regional cooperation mechanisms to respond to common challenges.

Trinidad and Tobago

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society has capitalized on its auxiliary role over the last year and supported their Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development to fill gaps in the delivery of their services. The National Society has developed several new and unique programmes including the provision of basic primary health care through their new Henry Dunant Clinic, which provides medical services to persons afraid to seek healthcare. The clinic also provides psychosocial support to affected persons via three methods: 1) in person, 2) via phone and 3) via videoconferencing. As part of their continued commitment to supporting the national health system, the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society continues to provide PPE and have taken measures to ensure their ambulances are compliant with new standards including installation of a barrier between driver and patient compartments and installation of improved equipment. Additionally, in preparation for the partial re-opening of schools in January, handwashing stations have been installed in 11 schools directly reaching over 6,500 students and 487 staff. This was complemented by the distribution of handwashing posters to all schools reaching over 100,000 students and teachers.

Supporting livelihoods and addressing socio-economic needs is a priority for the National Society. Food parcels have been provided to 175 families in mandatory home and state quarantine and 97 food vouchers to vulnerable families. Also, working in partnership with the Country Medical Offices of Health, a total of 135 food and hygiene parcels were prepositioned for distribution to people in need identified by the Country Surveillance.

One of the most innovative actions of the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society over the period is the Garden to Kitchen Initiative which was further developed with the completion Headquarters Urban Garden as well as the Aquaponics Demonstration Site at the Tobago Branch. These two sites serve as learning points for communities to learn about agriculture through video and webinars. As a supplement to the Garden to Kitchen Initiative, 30 groups and organizations were supported with 200 commodity vouchers, redeemable for essential gardening supplies such as fertilizers, soil, seedlings, tools or chemicals. These vouchers help the organizations reward the development of these small-scale projects and empower participants to maintain or expand depending on their individual needs.

Handwashing stations for schools



11

schools have had handwashing stations installed before schools re-opened



6,500

students and 487 staff have access to the handwashing stations



100,000

students and teachers were reached by handwashing posters in schools

Dominica

The Dominica Red Cross Society serves on the Health Subcommittee of the National Emergency Planning Organization and as part of its collaboration with the Government, identified needs and areas for support including education on COVID-19, psychosocial support to assist persons suffering from anxiety, or who have difficulty coping, and livelihood support to persons who experienced loss of income due to varying lockdowns or restrictions. Vulnerable families were also supported through the provision of vouchers to over 200 persons, and food and in-kind assistance to over 400 persons. Over 100 persons in home isolation also received material support.

Over the last year, the National Society has supported improvements in WASH, through hygiene promotion initiatives in vulnerable communities. It provided enhancement, (proper water access) of public conveniences and has reached 852 persons with community wash and hygiene activities. Six primary schools and one secondary school benefited from DRCS Health and Hygiene promotion activities. Schools were also presented with hygiene products (rubbing alcohol, soap bars, hand sanitizers, and facemask) along with information on COVID-19 prevention measures. Twenty (20) of the most vulnerable students were provided with personal care packages. The NS also reported reaching 20,000 with their very creative RCCE via social media such as Facebook, WhatsApp, banners, and airing of PSAs.

Dominica Red Cross has also placed an emphasis on training to maintain communities' access to essential health services. Students and staff members from the Centre where Adolescents Learn-to Love and Serve (CALLS) were taught life-saving skills in First Aid. This training has prepared them to respond to emergencies and will add value to their advancements in the fields of agriculture and fishing. To date, a total of 139 fisherfolk and farmers have been trained. The National Society also completed two days of Emergency Response, Care, and Treatment Training for ambulance drivers and first responders. Training was facilitated by the Dominica Fire and Ambulance Department. The Basic Knowledge course is designed to provide the participants with the basic skills and knowledge needed to identify and provide care and safety procedures to persons in need of medical response or problems in a work or home environment while waiting for professional help to arrive.

Honduras

Disaster Law

Since 2016, the Honduran Red Cross has been engaging with national authorities to assess the policy framework of Honduras relating to incoming disaster relief, against the benchmark of the *IFRC IDRL Guidelines* and in the light of lessons learned from past disasters response, including the response to Hurricane Mitch in 1998. An IDRL, published in 2019, formulated recommendations to improve the regulation and facilitation of the entry of international humanitarian aid and assistance. Among those, the development of a stand-alone instrument that would address all IDRL-related issues in a comprehensive way was highlighted. The process also involved the establishment of a national working group comprising 16 governmental institutions, United Nations agencies and representatives from civil society. This working group was led by the National Society and the "civil protection system" of Honduras, benefitting from technical advice on IFRC Disaster Law. A joint commitment was made to integrate a group of experts accompanied by an adviser to the National Congress, who would begin drafting a preliminary bill based on existing disaster laws and the *IFRC IDRL Model Law*.

- The new law, entitled "[Law for the facilitation of humanitarian assistance in case of disasters and initial recovery](#)", was adopted by the Honduran Congress in 2020, amid response to Hurricane ETA that devastated portions of Central America. It was subsequently endorsed by the Honduran President, Juan Orlando Hernandez. Providing for special and transitory provisions to ease the response to Hurricane ETA, the law provides for special facilities to eligible humanitarian actors, including a humanitarian visa, tax exemptions and customs priority treatment for the import of humanitarian goods and equipment.
- The law is the first law based on the IDRL Model Act ever adopted in the Americas. It also institutes a permanent IDRL Advisory Group, composed of key government representatives (Ministries of Disaster Risk Management, Migration, Foreign Affairs, and Customs, among others), as well as the Honduran Red Cross and IFRC. The HRC is currently leading the process of developing the Regulation that will support the implementation of the IDRL Law.



Argentina

In January 2020, a few months before the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, Northern Argentina was going through a Social and Health Emergency. The declaration of social emergency by the State was in response to the death and hospitalization of children due to malnutrition, gastrointestinal and respiratory diseases aggravated by almost no access to water in the area. One of the origins of this situation was the seasonal drought that began in mid-2019 and intensified in February 2020, directly affecting the quality of life of people with shortness of breath and impact on livestock.

The Argentine Red Cross responded to the emergency in the town of Santa Victoria Este, located 540 km from the city of Salta. A base camp was set up in the Misión Grande area, about 15 km from Santa Victoria Este. More than 50 communities of Wichis, Chorotes and Tobas indigenous peoples were reached, a total of 800 families. Before launching the operation, the field team met with more than 35 caciques and community leaders to inform them of the actions to be carried out and to explain the Movement's mission and fundamental principles.

From the beginning of the operation, the Argentine Red Cross worked together with OCHA, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, the Argentine Army and ECHO. The National Society provided support and healthcare through the base camp, with more than 200 volunteers mobilized, an M15 water treatment plant installed, distribution of community and family filters, food modules, community health kits and assistance to all people in the affected communities through nutritional control and healthy eating programmes.

Uruguayan Red Cross

During 2020, the Uruguayan Red Cross was part of a market study conducted by the consulting firm Astarita, Aldrich & Ward. This study was aimed at evaluating the potential in Uruguay to generate income for the National Society, understanding the opportunities and barriers in developing income-generating activities in the domestic market (individual donations, private sector, public sector, foundations, and business opportunities), and assessing the NS's business and fundraising capabilities under COVID-19.

It is worth mentioning that since the beginning of the emergency, the Uruguayan Red Cross has generated alliances with multiple private companies to improve the response, which included different resource mobilization strategies articulated with technical areas of the National Society for the acquisition of financial and in-kind resources.

The Uruguayan Red Cross has valued the recommendations of the study as very positive and expressed the political will to move forward and grow in this direction, to be financially sustainable and strengthen the humanitarian work in the communities. The NS has consequently requested technical assistance from the IFRC to generate a roadmap and contribute to the operationalization of the study recommendations. This study has certainly provided the basis for strengthening the capacities of the Uruguayan Red Cross in partnership and resource mobilization.

Chilean Red Cross

In early 2020, the Chilean Red Cross developed a Resource Mobilization Campaign named "*Todos con la Camiseta*" in support of communities impacted by the pandemic. Renowned Chilean soccer players Arturo Vidal and Gary Medel participated in the campaign that invited the community, corporations and private and public sector organizations to support the most in need. The Chilean Red Cross has focused on shelters for migrants and homeless people, health and psychosocial support for host and migrant communities, food and hygiene kits, as well as education on prevention and care for COVID-19 and other diseases. Some of the companies that supported the campaign were: Enel, Ford, Banco Santander, Nestlé, Kotex, Rappi, Mercado Libre, JetSmart, and Clorox. Through the campaign the National Society was able to raise over 1.5 billion Chilean Pesos (CLP) (CHF 1.8 million).

With this campaign, the National Society was able to raise CLP 1,520,800,000 (CLP 1,294,000,000 of monetary resources and CLP 226,800,000 of in-kind donations). After the campaign, the National Society developed a resource mobilization report to show the results of this effort and the companies that support the communities through the NS interventions.

Chilean Red Cross support



Homeless and migrant shelters



Health and psychosocial support for host and migrant communities



Food plates and food boxes



Hygiene kits



Education on prevention and care for COVID-19 and other diseases

ASIA-PACIFIC



Asia-Pacific is often referred to as the most disaster-prone region in the world. National Societies respond to cyclones, volcanic eruptions, cold waves and other emergencies each year. There is a strong common ambition to strengthen disaster risk reduction and engage in forecast-based action.

Indonesia

Under the forecast-based action and forecast-based financing programme, the Indonesian Red Cross Society (PMI) has been leading the way on driving this innovative approach in Indonesia bringing key national disaster risk management stakeholders, including the national disaster management agency (BNPB) and the national meteorological agency (BMKG) on board to develop a forecast-based action model for flooding in the country.

Understanding of the potential to reduce loss of life and livelihoods has been enhanced, using this anticipatory approach, and cooperation agreements have been signed with both agencies, which will facilitate the sharing of data and allow data from BMKG's own forecasting (Signature) platform to be integrated into InaSAFE, BNPB's software which can produce realistic natural hazard impact scenarios for better planning and preparedness.

PMI has also undertaken research at the community level to understand common preparedness actions that are regularly undertaken by local government and communities to reduce likely impacts of floods in the coming year. PMI will engage a national hydrometeorological expert to support the development of the model with the triggers and thresholds which will then be integrated into InaSAFE.

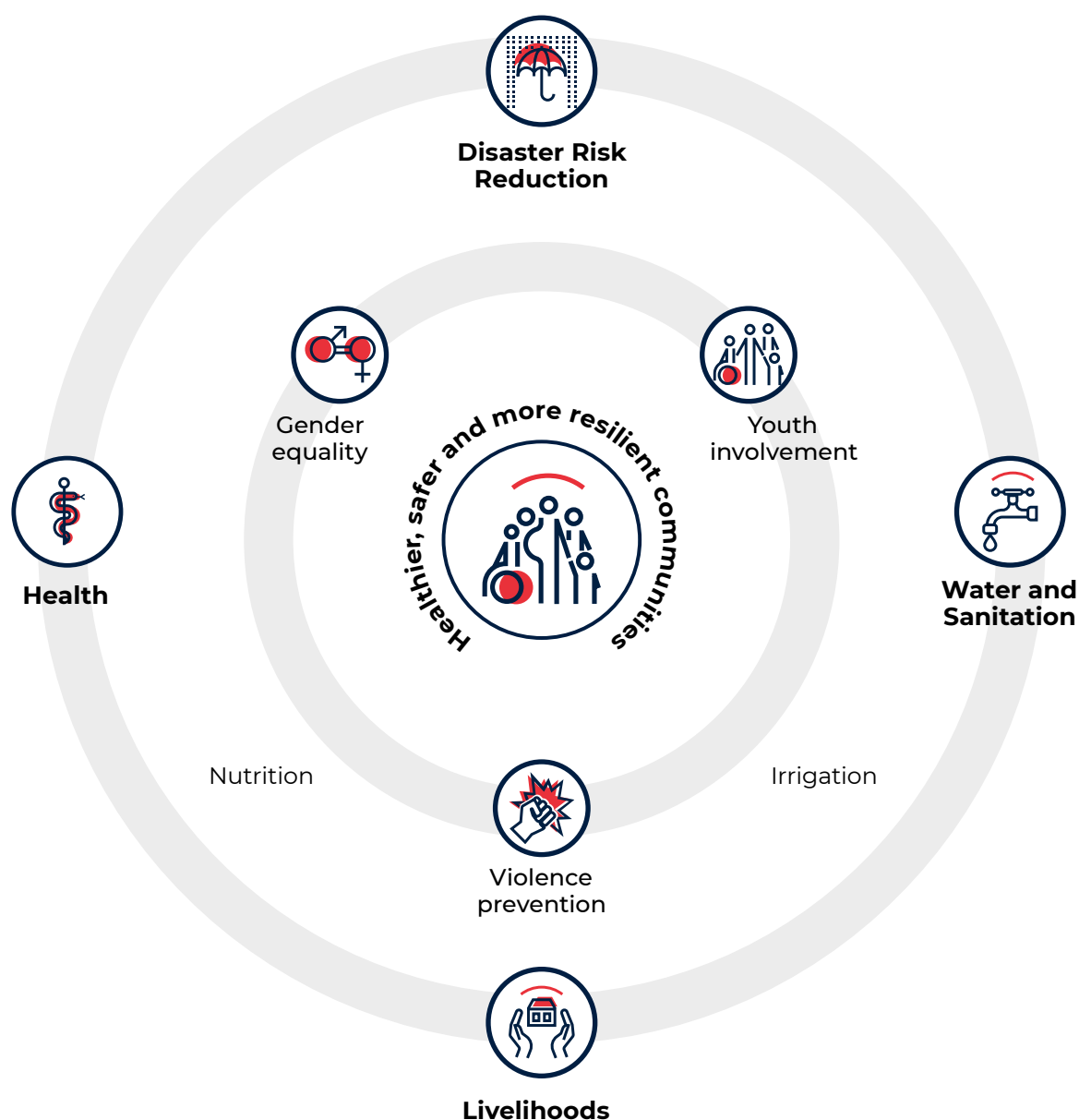
The approach supports the decentralized governance approaches of PMI and the Indonesian Government and builds a forecast-based action architecture that embraces the expertise and local knowledge found at a community level. In the words of one PMI community-level volunteer, *"locals know what locals need"*.



Timor-Leste

The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society's Integrated Community Based Risk Reduction Program aims to increase the resilience of 27 local communities in 13 municipalities through the improved provision of clean and protected water; promotion of community health, sanitation, and hygiene knowledge and practices of the vulnerable communities; supported the livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities, reduce the disaster risks of the most vulnerable communities; and promote youth activities. Out of these 13 municipalities, with the support of The Republic of Korea Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2018, the IFRC is working together with the programme in five sucos in three municipalities, namely Selo Kraik and Fatrilau in Aileu; Holpilat and Beco in Covalima, and Macadique in Viqueque. Up to January 2021, 2,764 families (10,637 people – 5,404 women and 5,233 men) were directly reached through the programme, while the skills and knowledge of a total of 298 National Society personnel – 178 women and 120 men – were strengthened to assist with the programme.

Timor Leste's Integrated Community-Based Risk Reduction Programme



EUROPE



Many National Societies in Europe continue to bring aid to the migrants risking their lives to arrive in Europe. They work to limit and respond to the spread of infectious diseases, while providing psychosocial care to vulnerable communities and supporting an aging population.

Belarus

The Belarus Red Cross Society provided assistance to people in detention units of the Republic of Belarus. In 2020, more than 8,000 hygiene kits, more than 1,500 food kits, more than 2,200 litres of drinking water, more than 2,400 items of clothing and footwear, as well as more than 2,800 other items (books, antiseptics, etc.) were donated to 35 detention facilities to provide humanitarian assistance to detainees.

In addition, the Belarus Red Cross continued its activities to provide assistance to detained migrants who are under the administrative process in 23 temporary detention facilities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus: 141 visits of Belarus RC representatives to the detention facilities, 616 people were provided with humanitarian assistance by food and hygiene kits, clothes, footwear, access to phone connection”.

Germany

Humanitarian assistance in the urban context

As cities sit on the brink of becoming the home to most of the world’s population, climate change, migration, and rapid urbanization increasingly contribute to the insecurity of the most vulnerable. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly shown cities can quickly become disaster hotspots with thousands put at risk, and social protection capacities strained. Responding to these disasters is complex, given that cities are dense, diverse, and dynamic, making responses much more difficult to coordinate than in rural areas.



To respond to these challenges, a clear understanding of the urban context is critical. Fortunately, the localized nature of National Societies and volunteers, as well as our auxiliary role to the government, ensures the Movement is well placed to assess and understand urban environments. In cooperation with Movement partners, the German Red Cross has set out to support this understanding of urban areas through improved context and capacity analysis, as well as information management that harnesses the knowledge of the many, supported through machine learning. Through this work, we as a Movement are better equipped to address the challenges of the urban context, to support the most vulnerable, improve the resilience both of at-risk communities and their cities, all with a sustainable and environmentally-aware approach. Find out more about the [Urban Project](#).

Anticipation Hub and Dialogue Platforms

The [Anticipation Hub](#) is a platform for practitioners, scientists and policymakers that facilitates knowledge exchange and evidence-based learning on anticipatory action, launched in December 2020 at the Global Dialogue Platform. This is a joint initiative between the German Red Cross, the IFRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre with funding support from the German Federal Foreign Office. It brings together a growing number of diverse partners (73 as of April 2021) across the Movement, universities, research institutes, NGOs, UN agencies, governments, donors, and network initiatives. The three strategic priorities of the Anticipation Hub are to: 1) stimulate innovation, learning and exchange, 2) provide guidance and support, and 3) promote policy and advocacy on anticipatory action. The features of the Anticipation Hub include a library of learning resources (research publications, guidance materials, case studies and lessons learnt), a global map of anticipatory action initiatives, database of early actions, training opportunities and key policy messages. The Anticipation Hub is working in close collaboration with initiatives like the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership to advocate anticipatory action, for example through co-chairing a sectoral community on Linking Risk Financing and Anticipatory Action hosted by the InsuResilience Global Partnership.

The Anticipation Hub acts as a continuous space to enhance the vibrant interaction and knowledge exchange taking place yearly through the Regional and Global Dialogue Platforms on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action. The Global Dialogue Platform, took place virtually in 2020. Together the Anticipation Hub and the Dialogue Platforms are rapidly expanding and strengthening the anticipatory action community.



Greece

In 2020, the Hellenic Red Cross remained at the forefront of the response to the multiple challenges related to Population Movement. The National Society, supported by the IFRC, the ICRC and Partner National Societies, has continued meeting migrants' and refugees' needs through the provision of primary healthcare, psychosocial support, basic necessities, restoring family links, legal support, supportive training, and protection, both in accommodation sites across the country and in urban areas.

Within this context, the Hellenic Red Cross continued to operate five Unaccompanied Minors centres in Volos, Athens & Kalavryta, providing beneficiaries with accommodation, nutrition, basic health services, psychosocial support, and Greek/English language. At the same time, the Hellenic Red Cross runs two Multifunctional Centres for migrants and refugees in Athens and Thessaloniki, in which visitors receive information, counselling and guidance services and participate in activities to enhance social inclusion and integration.

Additionally, with its deployed Mobile Health Units in accommodation sites in New Malakasa (Attica), Kleidi (Serres) and Korinthos, and in the Kara Tepe (Lesvos) R.I.C. as well, the Hellenic Red Cross was able to deliver multidimensional medical services, such as medical and nursing care, first aid, health and hygiene promotion. On the other hand, pivotal HRC Health Sector programmes, such as the three (3) Educational Health Stations based in Attica, and the 28 Nursing Services operating in numerous local branches in the region, have evolved to respond to the needs of vulnerable people such as migrants, unaccompanied minors and people without AMKA, while empowering them to follow healthy behaviours and hygiene practices.

The Accompaniment Referrals Programme (ACCREF), consisting of cultural mediators with relevant language skills that accompany migrants to medical appointments, assisted them in health procedures, and effectively guided them through the Greek health system structure.

Finally, the HRC Tracing/RFL Sector helped refugees get in contact with their missing family members, in close cooperation with the ICRC, which financed most of the activities provided.

Accommodation, support and social inclusion services for migrants



300

minors accommodated
in unaccompanied
minors shelters



44,167

services provided by the
Multifunctional Centres,
including legal counseling



7,313

people received relief
assistance including winter
and personal hygiene items

Health Services for migrants



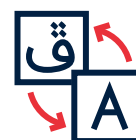
12,003

migrants and refugees
attended Health & Hygiene
Promotion activities



3,826

migrants and refugees
received vaccinations



7,929

migrants and refugees who
received ACCREF services

Sweden

Face shield production

"Can you help produce 300 protective face shields?" When the Red Cross in Lindesberg received this inquiry from the intensive care unit in Örebro, they did not hesitate. *"The dedication has been incredible,"* says Katarina Löwenbrink, chair of the local branch. The work started quickly and by mid-March, the premises were transformed into a combined coronavirus information centre and sewing workshop. With the strong support of volunteers, over 2,600 face shields were produced for health services, the municipality and the correctional system. New and younger volunteers joined and volunteers in risk groups could participate, since tasks were carried out taking coronavirus safety into account, for example through telephone services and pricing of products from home. Others donated contributions or came up with ideas. *"There are many ways to participate without being physically present,"* says Katarina Löwenbrink.

Sustainability ambassadors make a difference

Volunteer sustainability ambassadors have worked regionally in Sweden since 2016. The ambassadors, who worked remotely in 2020, support the local branches in their sustainability work. Since the beginning, 79 local branches have completed our internal sustainability training programme and several second-hand stores cooperate with the ambassadors to highlight sustainability work in the community. *"The ambassadorship is my most constructive tool. Since the organization's mission of preventing and alleviating human suffering is also in line with my aims in life, I feel at home in the Red Cross,"* says Maja Vahlberg, sustainability ambassador in Dalarna.

Anticipate and Act

A summary video: <https://youtu.be/q9O8mqH262c>

The report *Cost of Doing Nothing* that was published in 2019 was well received in Sweden and the Swedish Red Cross has been supporting the Swedish Government to push the question of humanitarian consequences of Climate change higher up on the global agenda. One effort for this purpose, together with Swedish MoFA, UNDRR and WFP, was to organize a high-level conference – Anticipated and Act. There were two panels. Panel 1: Food insecurity as a consequence of climate change – examples from the Horn of Africa; Panel 2: Solutions – how to reduce and anticipate risk.

The main point discussed was the need to strengthen partnerships at international, regional and local levels, investing in anticipatory action to build resilience and improve risk-preparedness to ultimately stabilize climate-related disasters and minimize the funding gap. Donors were urged to act collaboratively and to extend financial support. Recommendations were agreed by the co-hosts to shift the focus to forward-looking and anticipatory risk management that may reduce further vulnerability. Climate change as a risk multiplier exacerbating food insecurity in several economies was also emphasized, with a focus on the need for humanitarian actors to integrate disaster risk reduction, early warnings and safety nets approaches, particularly for the most vulnerable.



"See? You can't lift it either. So I guess it's neither of our problem."

Pat Byrnes / CartoonStock.com



MENA National Societies continue to respond in some of the most conflict-affected areas of the world with lifesaving humanitarian assistance in the face weakened national institutions, a lack of basic services and mass displacement.

Iraq

Humanitarian efforts shifted in 2020, as the world confronted the COVID-19 pandemic. Iraq also experienced other crises, including protests, floods, explosions, fires, which affected access to food, water, basic needs and increased unemployment. Iraq Red Crescent Society coordinated with IFRC and other Movement partners to mitigate and alleviate suffering, and meet needs with appropriate, relevant and timely support.

Activities

- Provided almost 340,000 medical consultations through the Doctor Programme and clinics Iraq Red Crescent Society clinics
- Food distribution – provided food parcels to over 58,000 families
- Cash- was distributed to 654 families
- Over 23,000 people reached through disaster risk reduction programme
- Over 370,000 families reached through disaster management programmes
- Trained 900 people to implement household health awareness and hygiene promotion, reaching over 5.2 million people
- Distribution of over 9800 hygiene kits and over 133,000 PPE

To limit infections and reduce spread, a disinfection campaign was carried out in all provinces in the most crowded places such as mosques, holy shrines, schools, universities, institutions, roads, prisons, and neighbourhoods. Over 54,000 locations were disinfected.

Nearly 1.8 million people were reached with WASH services including provision of water, rehabilitating health centres, hygiene promotion, school rehabilitation, cleaning campaigns, distributing material in camps, hospitals, and schools.

Despite COVID-19 altering plans for 2020, capacity-building was still provided for over 1300 staff and volunteers in many fields such as information management, reporting, and planning.

Jordan

During 2020, the Jordan Red Crescent continued to provide support to vulnerable groups of Jordanian society and refugees alike, despite the repercussions of the Coronavirus pandemic. The Jordan Red Crescent was able to carry out health, relief and community programmes in cooperation with its humanitarian partners, reaching over 338,000 people.

Jordan Red Crescent Hospital

The Jordan Red Crescent undertakes continuous efforts to modernize and develop its hospital for its primary role in providing medical services to citizens and refugees alike. To this end, eight outpatient clinics of the hospital have been established, including internal, pediatric, gynecological, dental, orthopedic, nose, ear and throat clinics, in addition to heart and surgery clinics, bringing the number of hospital beds to 130.

Health programmes

Health services benefiting over 121,000 people were provided. The most significant of these were medical services provided for over 44,000 refugees inside the clinics of the Zaatari camp, with the support of the Qatar Red Crescent. Therapeutic services were not limited to the refugee camps, but continued outside the camps, where 95 Syrian refugees were able to benefit from the dialysis programme that is also supported by the Qatar Red Crescent. 51 Syrian refugees were able to undergo surgery with the support of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent, and 124 Iraqi refugees received various treatments at the Jordan Red Crescent Hospital with the support of the Iraqi Red Crescent.

Relief programmes

The orphan sponsorship programme, benefited over 3,000 Jordanian orphans with the support of the Emirates Red Crescent, and almost 500 Syrian families benefited from the cash support programme in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

As for the restoring family links programme, which the Red Crescent implements in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the number of families benefiting from the services provided by this programme reached 7,326 families.

Food parcels



3,800

families received food parcels and sacrificial meat in cooperation with the Kuwaiti counterpart



2,500

families benefited from the distribution of food parcels and shopping cards with the support of the Qatar Red Crescent



233

families benefited from the cash support programme in the Aqaba governorate with the support of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority Takaful Fund



672

Syrian families were reached with food parcels in partnership with the Hashemite Charitable Organization

Palestine

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Society was keen to continue implementing its services during 2020 within its various facilities in the homeland and diaspora.

Response to emergencies

- **Improving the response of the ambulance fleet:** With 24 hours a day monitoring, ambulance services provided to over 2,200 injured persons in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in cooperation with the World Health Organization. A development plan for a Central Dispatch system was initiated in the Gaza Strip.
- **Providing relief services:** Relief was provided to those who suffered from the repercussions of the occupation and climate practices. Nearly 6,000 people received relief materials, in addition to over 16,000 people who were reached through a warm winter campaign in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the field of health and social services

- **Community health:** through its volunteer network of about 1,700 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, over 91,000 people were reached with community initiatives.
- **Primary health care services:** through 28 centres in the homeland and diaspora, nearly 270,000 people were served (West Bank 45,384, Gaza Strip 93,853, Lebanon 26,049 beneficiaries, and Syria 104,562 beneficiaries).
- **Secondary health care services / hospitals:** Through its 14 hospitals in the homeland and diaspora, the National Society provided services to 713,000 people (395,567 from the West Bank, 232,818 from the Gaza Strip, 75,078 beneficiaries from the region of Syria, 10,531 beneficiaries from the region of Lebanon).

Volunteering and youth

7,582 youths have been trained, in addition to the participation of 105 volunteers in various virtual meetings and sessions. About 437,006 individuals from various social groups in the West Bank and Gaza Strip benefited from the volunteer activities during the year.

Gender, protection and social inclusion in the association's programmes

The National Society completed the construction of a school for the hearing impaired in Ramallah, which will be inaugurated during in 2021. It participated in a working group within the IFRC, to develop a strategy for protection, gender and inclusion for the years 2021–2025.

Saudi Red Crescent

Emergency medical service

- Ambulatory services
- Non-ambulatory transport services
- Emergency centres
- Ambulances

Volunteer work

The volunteer teams participated in a number of volunteer activities and opportunities; the number of volunteer opportunities during the year 2020 reached (3165) volunteer opportunities, implemented by (28527) volunteers.

Training and community awareness

Among the tasks of the Saudi Red Crescent authority is to contribute to training community members in the most important first aid practices and how to deal with juveniles before the arrival of the ambulance teams.

The National Society worked to educate community members and increase their awareness. Eighteen training programmes were offered during the year 2020 reached nearly 670,000 participants.

Restoring family links

The launch of the family links programme between detainees and their families was initiated through family letters, search requests for missing persons from all countries, and phone and visual communications for detainees outside the Kingdom, including Saudis and other nationalities whose families are in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, so that families can communicate with their children. In cooperation with the ICRC, in accordance with the strategy approved for this programme by the legislators.

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.