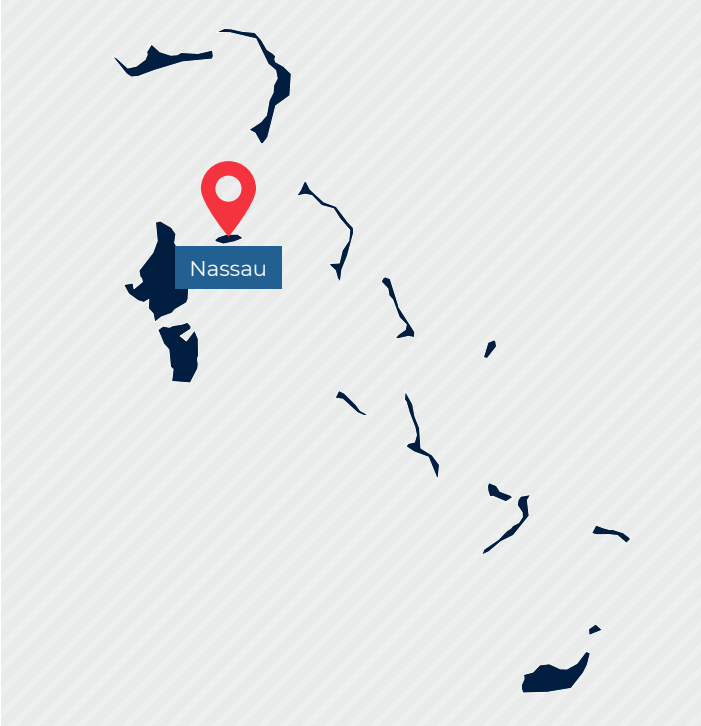
# BAHAMAS

## IFRC COUNTRY PLAN

2022 funding requirement in Swiss francs

**400,000**




National Society branches

**2**

National Society staff

**39**

National Society volunteers

**2,014**

People to be reached

**3,850**

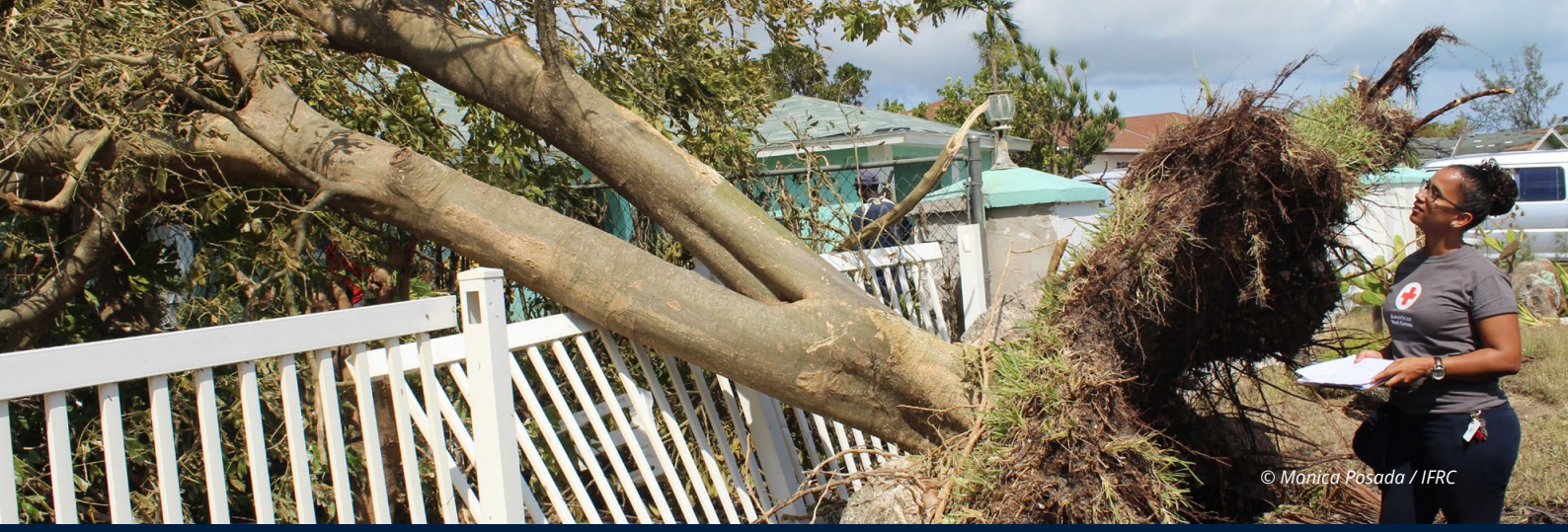
This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this plan, listed here as funding requirements. For information on the IFRC's emergency operations, please visit ifrc.org/appeals.

IFRC

Appeal number

**MAA49003**

www.ifrc.org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# SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

| Population | Human Development Index Ranking |
|---|---|
| **393,000** | **58/189** |

## Vulnerability to disasters

Climate Change

Floods

Hurricane

Disease

The Bahamas is vulnerable to a wide range of risks and has a limited capacity to respond when they occur. The region is affected by climate change, earthquakes and tropical storms. Recovery efforts related to hurricane and flooding events that occurred in 2019 continue.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are ongoing, and many lives and livelihoods are at risk and remain vulnerable. The pandemic has presented new challenges, highlighted fragilities, and deepened existing weaknesses in the country. Since early 2020, the pandemic has had severe economic impacts on tourism and resource exports.

Lifestyle diseases are a major cause of death, particularly non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and cancers. The prevalence of these and other chronic illnesses is higher in this region than in the rest of the Americas.

After sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean has the highest HIV prevalence. The spread of mosquito-borne diseases, especially dengue, chikungunya, and more recently, Zika, is of great concern with a high risk of widespread transmission due to the mobility of the population around the region.

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# ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

The main programmes carried out by the Bahamas Red Cross Society include Meals on Wheels, Red Cross youth, after school mentoring programme, assistance to refugees, first aid and CPR training, first aid service, disaster and emergency relief assistance and family island service. In September 2020, the National Society finalized its strategic plan with a vision to build a more resilient nation collectively, one person and one community at a time.

In September 2019, Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas and changed the National Society dramatically. The Dorian operation strengthened the capacity of the Bahamas Red Cross, including its headquarters in Nassau as well as its branches in Abaco and Grand Bahama. It also allowed the National Society to secure funding for its development programme. As a result, the Bahamas Red Cross is transforming from a welfare role into a humanitarian organization and updating its systems, policies and procedures.

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# MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

The Bahamas Red Cross Society in-country Movement partners include the Canadian Red Cross and the IFRC. The Canadian Red Cross is working on the Evolving Crises and Disaster strategic priority.

The National Society is formally partnering with Joyce Johnson, United Haitian Association of The Bahamas, National Crime Watch Committee Association and the University of The Bahamas. It has existing formal partnerships with Aliv (Together), Air BnB, The Nature Conservancy, Rubis Caribbean, Sigma and Zeta Fraternity and Sorority. It continues to partner with Baha Mar for group volunteering activities and also partnered with the Grand Bahama Port Authority for a small business recovery programme as part of its response to Hurricane Dorian.

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# GLOBAL FLAGSHIPS

## Global Cash Leadership

The IFRC will promote the establishment of working Memorandums of Understanding with local banking partners for the National Society to become "cash ready" in emergencies. This covers both Cash and Voucher Assistance programming and financial preparedness.

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# CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**
**30,000**

**People to be reached**
**500**

The Bahamas is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and this is a priority area for the IFRC, which will support the National Society to improve the country's resilience to climate and environmental crises.

In 2021, the IFRC supported the National Society to create a climate change policy, sign the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations and begin a Resilient Islands project in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy.

In 2022, the IFRC will provide technical assistance to support the National Society to define its carbon footprint target, understand where the knowledge gaps exist in targeted communities, implement measures to improve awareness of climate change and its impacts, and enhance the resilience of communities. The National Society is further developing its climate change policy and will create an environmental policy with targets in 2022.

The IFRC will support the National Society to secure funding for youth and climate change initiatives, including beach clean-ups, tree planting, awareness building and education. It will also help National Society staff and volunteers to participate in the e-learning, self-paced course on climate change and Small Island Developing States, other classes, webinars and the Climate Change Champions Network to increase knowledge and capacity.

## TARGETS

- 5 Family Island coastal cities protected from longer term climate change impacts.
- 1 National Society uses nature-based solutions to reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change.
- 1 National Society implements environmental/ climate change campaigns to effect behavior change.

## SUPPORT

- Build capacity for livelihoods to build community resilience.
- Engage with the Climate Centre to introduce anticipatory actions and possible uses in The Bahamas.
- Conduct Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Surveys in targeted communities to understand gaps that could be addressed through awareness campaigns.

**17%**

**of the population is still affected by 2019 Hurricane Dorian (Grand Bahama and Abaco).**

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# EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**
**150,000**

**People to be reached**
**2,000**

A priority for the IFRC and the National Society is preparedness and readiness to respond to shocks and enhance community risk reduction and resilience. This includes early warning, early action and anticipation to mitigate risks, particularly for the most disadvantaged and hard to reach communities, emphasising the community disaster response teams and mechanisms.

In 2022, the IFRC will support the National Society with strategic approaches to conduct vulnerability capacity assessments. As part of the Alert Hub Initiative, the IFRC will increase the use of the Common Alerting Protocol and conduct an assessment and gap analysis of Common Alerting Protocols in the country.

The IFRC will provide the National Society with learning and knowledge for community response planning. Community Disaster Response Team revisions of materials for special needs populations will be shared. It will also work with the National Society to test online simulation tools for response and contingency dynamics of community plans.

The IFRC will support the National Society to implement advocacy and communications strategies, sensitize government and non-governmental stakeholders through critical messages and stakeholder workshops and collaborate with other disaster response actors.

## TARGETS

- Market and Basket Analysis is conducted to assist in CVA programming.
- One new community establishes a CDRT with training and proper equipment.
- The Legislative Advocacy Toolkit is used to train and build legislative advocacy capacity.

## SUPPORT

- Review current subvention from the Government and advocate for enhancements to carry out auxiliary role.
- Establish Memorandums of Understanding with local wholesalers and distributors to more quickly service the affected population in the event of an emergency.
- Train staff and volunteers in legislative advocacy principles and strategies to support their efforts to advocate for disaster laws, policies, plans and agreements.
- Provide technical advice to government authorities for climate-smart disaster-related legislation, policies and procedures that facilitate humanitarian relief.
- Explore direct relationships with local banks to service cash ready programming.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

# GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**
**120,000**

**People to be reached**
**850**

Like many other territories of the Caribbean archipelago, the Bahamas continues to be shaken in unprecedented ways by the global Covid-19 pandemic, occurring while the country is still rebuilding and recovering from the most catastrophic hurricane experienced to date.

Both historic events have affected progress towards the implementation of their sustainable development goals (SDGs), but while the Bahamas remains resilient, the health impacts of climate change are multiple and compounding.

Powerful tropical storms result in loss of life, severe physical injuries, and pervasive mental health consequences among storm survivors. Heat stress is an increasing problem and climate-sensitive water-borne and vector-borne diseases are on the rise. The Bahamas experiences climate-related water and food insecurity which interplays with the high prevalence of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Climate change also affects healthcare delivery as most healthcare facilities are located along coastlines, making them susceptible to structural degradation from saltwater and vulnerable to inundation from hurricane storm surge and wave action.

The health priorities of the Bahamas Red Cross (BRC) are developing its HR complement to build on health programme gains obtained through the previous Zika project, the Dorian emergency response, and current Covid-19 response activities.

The BRC are now focused on capacity-building for new staff, volunteers and community disaster response teams (CDRT) in community-based health and developing first aid and psychosocial support programmes.

The National Society plans to institute interventions in emergency WASH and establish activities in pandemic preparedness and climate change-induced health needs. The National Society also seeks guidance and/or examples of good practice on home care training and clinic services being provided by sister Caribbean National Societies.

**6th**

**The Bahamas rank as the 6th most obese nation globally with a 64 per cent prevalence of overweight and obesity.**

**45%**

**of adolescent females suffer from obesity, predisposing them to health risks such as diabetes and hypertension as they grow into adulthood.**

## TARGETS

- Design and develop WASH and Health Strategy to build capacity in the areas of First Aid, MHPSS, WASH, community-based health and epidemic surveillance

## SUPPORT

- Advocate for early, coordinated and sustained mental health and psychosocial support in response to critical and non-critical events for staff volunteers and community members.
- Develop a commercial First Aid programme and contribute to commercial First Aid tool development.
- Provide technical support to develop and update epidemic and pandemic preparedness contingency plans.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

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# VALUES, POWER AND INCLUSION

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**
**10,000**

**People to be reached**
**500**

The IFRC places great importance on protecting and promoting positive change for humanity based on humanitarian principles. To achieve this in 2022, the IFRC will enhance National Society capacity to increase awareness and actions through the role of youth and engagement with the education community. It will promote more inclusive working dynamics, greater diversity and the protection of people, their dignity, resilience and peaceful environments.

The IFRC will support the National Society to contribute to positive change in communities through broader understanding and ownership and the application of humanitarian values and principles. It will provide young people with skills and values-based humanitarian education.

The IFRC will support the National Society to adopt a comprehensive Protection, Gender and Inclusion approach across operations and programmes, implementing the gender and diversity policy and demonstrating tangible progress against agreed institutional and programming targets, including equal gender representation at all levels of leadership. It will also guide the National Society to promote and support equitable access to quality education for all boys and girls affected by disaster, crisis or displacement.

## TARGETS

- A microproject with a focus on protection, social inclusion and violence prevention is designed.
- Awareness-raising sessions on Anticipatory Action and Child Protection are promoted.

## SUPPORT

- Provide training to support disability inclusive shelter programming through the “All Under One Roof” initiative.
- Provide training opportunities for key child protection standards such inter-agency Minimum Standards on Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

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# ENABLER 1 – ENGAGED

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**

**10,000**

In 2022, the IFRC will identify partners to collaborate with the National Society in key thematic areas and support the National Society in developing advocacy strategies and strengthening its engagement with partners to work collectively on critical challenges facing local communities.

The IFRC will prioritize modernizing and upgrading working methods to keep pace with the rapidly changing world by innovating, embracing and fully deploying digital technologies.

The IFRC will support the National Society to engage in a digital transformation assessment and to prepare a digital transformation plan that can be used to access funding and build partnerships with the IFRC network.

## SUPPORT

- Provide technical assistance to develop legislative advocacy capacity for leadership and staff.
- Provide access to a learning management system that offers online and blended learning to communities, staff and volunteers.
- Provide technical assistance in Instructional Design to convert existing and other face-to-face courses to online using learning management system (LMS).
- Support the implementation of digital transformation plans.
- Support National Societies to develop domestic advocacy and/or public communications strategies aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy and/or public communications strategies.
- Support National Society to prioritize innovation in their plans and budget.

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# ENABLER 2 – ACCOUNTABLE

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
**50,000**

The IFRC will emphasize eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy and creating the right conditions to increase financial resources to reach more people in need. It will develop a new financing architecture to increase financial resources for the benefit of the National Society, including a new program of improvements.

The IFRC will support the National Society to invest in its development through mechanisms such as the National Society Investment Alliance, the Capacity Building Fund, the Empress Shôken Fund and other innovative approaches. It will support the National Society in identifying global fundraising business insights, mobilising resources in emerging markets, and utilising the Virtual Fundraising Hub.

The IFRC will support the National Society to develop a core cost recovery policy and methodology. It will ensure the National Society's leaders and finance teams have a clear understanding of the funding structure, funding gap, and the funding requirements for humanitarian action. This includes the National Society's core costs and percentage of overall funding.

## TARGETS

- The National Society submits an externally audited financial statement to the IFRC.
- The National Society has a functioning data management system that informs decision making.
- The National Society has a feedback mechanism across programmes and services.

## SUPPORT

- Support the National Society with a training microsite for blended learning in different languages.
- Support the National Society in the use of brainstorming techniques to come up with commercial ideas to transform income structure.
- Support the National Society to create an innovation lab with youth volunteers from the University of Bahamas.

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# ENABLER 3 – TRUSTED

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**

**30,000**

In 2022, the IFRC will strengthen the ability of the National Society network of branches to co-design activities and plan local action. It will promote registration and engagement on the National Society virtual platform to showcase humanitarian work, encourage peer-to- peer knowledge sharing and improve connectedness.

The IFRC recognizes the power of youth and volunteer contributions to decision-making and innovation and its potential for strengthening the National Society domestic network. With this in mind, the IFRC will implement a Youth Engagement Strategy across the Bahamas, support more effective coordination among volunteers via a volunteer management system and strengthen communication channels.

The IFRC will coordinate with Movement partners and allies on the coverage, scope and thematic priority areas of the National Society Strategic Development Plan to determine how their support could add value to its development efforts.

The IFRC will support the National Society in developing public communications strategies, content, media coverage and campaigns to position it as a trusted partner of choice.

## TARGETS

- Integrity and reputational risk mechanisms are strengthened.
- A youth engagement strategy is created and implemented.

## SUPPORT

- Engage youth and volunteers in innovative idea generation activities and support their implementation and execution.
- Develop and implement youth-led initiatives within communities.
- Develop and implement public communications strategies.
- Support National Society in aligning external support in National Society Development (NSD) with the principles of the NSD compact.
- Develop a leadership competency model and develop and deliver training, coaching, and support to leaders.

**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers.** Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

## Contact Information

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