



NATIONAL SOCIETIES PREPAREDNESS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies success stories

Institutional preparedness enables effective response

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has demonstrated amazing resilience and adaptability as an organization and a humanitarian network during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies have quickly adapted their way of working, building on local solutions, leveraging their auxiliary role, and striving to meet the growing demands of local communities facing social and economic consequences of the pandemic. In many cases, such consequences have increased and compounded local vulnerabilities caused by climate-related hazards and other crises.

These experiences show that a strong preparedness for response mechanism is crucial and will continue to become even more important as we face the global consequences of climate change, the continued impacts of COVID-19 and future global health threats.

Key lessons from COVID-19 response

- 1. Preparedness Planning:** National Societies that had a capacity to develop preparedness plans based on an analysis of hazards, context, and risk, demonstrated a stronger capability to respond.
- 2. Coordination with Authorities:** National Societies cited their close coordination with authorities, often attributed to having well established auxiliary role, as a significant enabler to their response.
- 3. Provision of Services:** National Society staff and volunteers who already had experience of outbreaks such as malaria, dengue or Ebola were better prepared to respond to the pandemic. In addition, National Societies with community-based activities including disaster risk reduction; water, sanitation and hygiene; and community health and care were also better prepared to more easily integrate COVID-19 specific activities.
- 4. Coordination of support and resource mobilization:** Regional and international support should be mobilized based on an analysis of local hazard, risk and capacity assessment and local preparedness and response plans.

Success stories

- Cameroon:** "The Cameroon Red Cross partners with local radio stations in the fight against COVID-19". [Link](#)
- Costa Rica:** "A National response plan for a global pandemic". [Link](#)
- Indonesia:** "Strong relationships with community and government partners are key in epidemic preparedness and response". [Link](#)
- Indonesia:** "Preparing a hospital for COVID-19". [Link](#)
- Lebanon:** "Multi-hazard scenario planning: Ensuring effective response in complex disasters and crises". [Link](#)
- Sierra Leone:** "From Ebola to COVID-19: Coordination with local authorities for effective response". [Link](#)
- Somaliland:** "Community-Based surveillance for COVID-19". [Link](#)
- South-Eastern Europe:** "Enhancing emergency operations coordination". [Link](#)
- Spain:** "Ensuring the safety of volunteers: Preparedness for procurement of protective equipment". [Link](#)
- Trinidad and Tobago:** "Volunteers on the front line of the response". [Link](#)
- Vanuatu:** "Disaster response: as local as possible - as international as necessary". [Link](#)



For more information:

- National Society Preparedness COVID-19 success stories repository [Link](#)
- National Society Preparedness: www.ifrc.org/disaster-preparedness
- Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness: www.ifrc.org/epidemic-and-pandemic-preparedness