



EGYPT

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 7.8M**

Appeal number **MAAEG002**

In support of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society



27

National Society branches



360

National Society staff



33,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



150,000

Climate and environment



300,000

Disasters and crises



550,000

Health and wellbeing



150,000

Migration and displacement



50,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and resilience
 - Health
 - Migration and displacement

Capacity development

- Strengthening branches
 - Digitalization
- Protection gender and inclusion
 - Youth

Key country data

Population **104.3M**

INFORM severity rating **low**

Climate ND-GAIN Country rank **131**

Human Development Index rank **116**

Population below poverty level **32.5%**

Hazards



Climate change



Drought



Floods



Migration



Poverty



Civil unrest

Funding requirements

Total 7.8M CHF

Through the IFRC



Through Participating National Societies



IFRC Breakdown

500,000 CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

2M CHF

Climate and environment

500,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

3M CHF

Health and wellbeing

200,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

200,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

670,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross*

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

Founded in 1911 and admitted into the IFRC in 1929, the **Egyptian Red Crescent Society** is the only non-governmental organization with a permanent presence in all 27 of Egypt's administrative districts, giving it unique access to people within the country. It has a network of 38 local units, including 27 branches, with 395 staff and more than 33,000 volunteers. More than half these volunteers are women.

The National Society works as an auxiliary to the Egyptian Government in the field of disaster response, with preparedness, response and recovery forming the core of its disaster management strategy. In this capacity, the National Society responds to all national disasters, as well as many regional and international ones.

It also provides a range of other humanitarian services in the country, spanning health and social care. It currently operates five blood banks, eight hospitals, 35 polyclinics, 11 rehabilitation centres and five specialist kidney dialysis units. Through these facilities and supplementary services, the National Society contributes to primary health care, vaccination, health and hygiene promotion

across Egypt. In social care, the National Society supports urban and suburban development, with its integrated social centres providing vocational training and skills development for women and young people, and other specialist social services at branch level.

As part of its strategic plan, the National Society in Egypt has committed to a number of measures to improve its provision of humanitarian services in Egypt. These include the adoption of a more integrated approach, combining needs across the areas of health, social care and development, as well as building stronger partnerships at a national and international level to facilitate coordination and cooperation. It adopts a participatory approach to addressing humanitarian needs. It actively promotes volunteering opportunities, encourages youth empowerment, and works with local communities to encourage their inclusion and empowerment. The National Society is also focused on working towards longer-term disaster risk reduction, through both the development of action plans and building community resilience.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

A rapid increase in its population to 102 million people has seen Egypt become the most highly populated country in North Africa and the Arab world. This growth has placed significant pressure on the Government's provision of essential services, and there are critical gaps in education, health, economic support, housing and community development. As a result, there has been an elevation in the role of humanitarian organizations and NGOs in the country.

Egypt has been politically stable for several years, and it has made progress towards economic and social reform. However, it also remains vulnerable to global shocks, and is particularly prone to natural hazards and man-made disasters, including floods, fires, bombing and civil unrest.

Rising temperatures as a result of climate change threaten Egypt's water security, with an increased risk of both drought and floods. The coastlines and deltas of the Nile River – the country's main water source – are

prone to floods caused by rising sea levels, particularly in coastal cities such as Alexandria. Seasonal flash-floods have also increased in intensity. Any changes to the frequency of rainfall, or the reliability of these water sources, have a negative impact on agricultural and livestock production in Egypt, and could be a threat to food security.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has also created a number of challenges in Egypt. As the world's biggest importer of wheat, of which 59.7 per cent is sourced from Russia and 22.3 per cent from Ukraine, it has been left particularly exposed to the supply disruption and cost increases caused by the crisis. Wheat prices are currently at their highest level in 14 years. This situation has already prompted the Egyptian Government to respond, by announcing a plan to expand wheat cultivation to two million acres by the end of 2024. This is a viable medium-term strategy to bolster food security.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has also impacted the country's tourist industry, which had relied on visitors from Ukraine and Russia, and had only recently begun

its recovery from the removal of COVID-19 restrictions. Before the pandemic, tourism accounted for 12 per cent of Egypt's GDP and employed 10 per cent of its people.

The increase in oil prices driven by the conflict has directly affected Egypt, which is a major importer of oil – its import bill passed US\$1 billion in April 2022. Furthermore, Egypt is vulnerable to any decrease in humanitarian funding as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict – in June 2022, the IFRC predicted a decline in funding of between 25 and 75 per cent, across 10 countries in the region.

The combination of these factors has directly affected Egypt's economy – with currency devaluation, an increase in inflationary pressures and rising unemployment – compounding the ongoing economic impact of the pandemic. The uncertainty in global markets created by COVID-19 led to the removal of significant investor capital from Egypt in March and April 2020, and intensified levels of poverty within the country. Prior to

the pandemic, 30 per cent of the population already lived below the poverty line. Now, labour participation and employment rates remain low, at 41.9 and 39 per cent of the working age population respectively.

Socio-economic conditions also remain challenging in Egypt, particularly for migrant and refugee families. Migrants and refugees live in some of the poorest areas of Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. They remain largely dependent on informal employment to support themselves, and the COVID-19 pandemic has made their economic situation worse, with declining access to essential services including food, health and education. They must also navigate lengthy bureaucratic processes when submitting documents and applications. In addition, migrants and refugees face incidents of gender-based violence, and barriers to accessing justice. As a result, refugee communities cited legal and physical protection among their biggest concerns, followed by livelihoods.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

A large and dense population leaves Egypt extremely exposed to the impact of climate change, with agriculture, fisheries, water security, human settlements and health all vulnerable. Rising sea levels increase this exposure along the delta of the Nile River, the source of 97 per cent of Egypt's water supply. It is expected that sea levels will rise by between three and 61cm by 2085 in the Nile Delta, and by 20 to 82cm in the coastal city of Alexandria. Higher temperatures and drier conditions are also expected to gradually increase by 2050, particularly between June and October. In line with rising mean annual temperatures, it is expected that more extreme heatwaves could last up to 77 days longer by 2085.¹

The combination of these climate stressors will reduce the reliability of water flow along the Nile River, as demand for water for crops, consumption and energy generation increases. The result could be more domestic and trans-boundary water conflict, reduced yields and available arable land, loss of agricultural and fisheries employment, saltwater intrusion, and damage to coastal infrastructure.

The global impact of climate change also threatens Egypt's food security, as 40 per cent of its food is currently imported.

Main actions and areas of support

The Egyptian Red Crescent is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

¹ Analysis in this section supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre: <https://www.climatecentre.org/>



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The Egyptian Red Crescent has made a number of commitments to mitigate the impact of climate change, which IFRC will support:

- The adoption and promotion of environmentally sustainable practices across its offices and branches – for example, ‘reduce, recycle, reuse,’ eco-friendly resource management for water and energy, and a reduction of plastic within its logistics, procurement and supply chain operations
- Community campaigns designed to raise awareness of sustainable and energy-saving practices, such as water conservation and the protection of ecosystems
- Improvements to the capacity of staff and volunteers to disseminate information on climate hazards, as part of their work on disaster risk reduction in schools and communities
- The production and distribution of educational training materials

Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Egypt](#)

Egypt is vulnerable to both natural hazards and man-made disasters, and has recently experienced flash floods, sandstorms and earthquakes. In March 2020, the country had the heaviest rainfall recorded since 1994, according to the Egyptian Meteorological Agency, and this led to flash floods that overwhelmed Cairo’s drainage system and displaced residents.

Building collapses and domestic fires are common occurrences in Egypt, and in April and May 2021, the National Society also responded to three separate train crashes in the administrative districts of Sohag and Qalyubia.

The position of Israel and Palestine to the northeast of the country can leave it exposed to the impact of ongoing volatility in the region, and in June 2022, the Egyptian Red Crescent responded to a crisis along the Gaza Strip.

Main actions and areas of support

The Emergency Operating Centre of the Egyptian Red Crescent was inaugurated in September 2021, following a soft launch in June 2019, and is now linked to all 27 branches in the country. This centre has enabled the National Society to provide timely and efficient responses to emergencies. In 2021, the IFRC supported the National Society with rolling out a cash and voucher assistance self-assessment initiative, which forms part of a wider cash preparedness plan of action for 2021–2023.

However, the National Society requires further capacity and resources, with IFRC support, to upscale these operations, and build its preparedness, including:

- Increasing the preparedness of communities to mitigate and respond to emergencies and to increase their resilience to evolving shocks and hazards
- Conducting field assessments in high-risk areas and training community leaders on the use of weather forecasting and early warning tools, flood response and first aid

- Developing a plan of action as part of the National Society's preparedness for effective response
- Training of staff and volunteers on emergency needs assessment, and cash in emergencies
- Further developing the Emergency Operations Centre
- Elaborating a multi-hazard contingency plan

Health and wellbeing

A rapidly growing population in Egypt has placed a strain on the ability of the Government to provide health care services. As a result, the Egyptian Red Crescent has gained a prominent role in this area, delivering a number of established programmes and projects in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population and other partners. These take an integrated approach to health, and span community, primary and secondary health care. The National Society now operates five secondary health care units, 53 polyclinics and 10 mobile clinics, as well as five blood banks across the country. First aid has also become one of its core activities.

In 2020, the National Society's reach in the area of health care was expanded. The IFRC network has supported it in delivering health care in the framework of migration, including screening, overseeing the transfer of patients, and delivering expanded health care in the community.

Furthermore, the National Society now delivers health programmes in the context of COVID-19. This includes enhancing awareness – including a nationwide vaccination campaign – supporting hospitals and isolation centres, and the provision of mobile clinics to supplement the existing health infrastructure.

The Egyptian Red Crescent also has a water, sanitation and hygiene strategy in place, including for emergency response and on which 40 volunteers have been trained.

Main actions and areas of support

- Enhancing the National Society's health response in emergencies, through enhancing the development of its emergency clinic module (health emergency response unit type 1)
- Training of volunteers on public health in emergencies
- Working as an auxiliary to the Ministry of Health and Population for nationwide vaccination campaigns for polio and COVID-19

- Making efforts to achieve and sustain national targets on immunization, and promote fair and equitable access to new vaccines (including for COVID-19)
- Meeting the mental health and psychosocial support needs of communities, volunteers and staff, through scaling up peer-to-peer support in branches
- Integrating mental health and psychosocial support in the activities of community health workers as part of a project with the African Centre for Disease Control
- Increasing the frequency of voluntary blood donations, and supporting the rehabilitation of blood banks and the necessary equipment
- Providing communities with access to safe water, information on water treatment and its re-use, and adequate, appropriate and safe sanitation – particularly in two village development programmes

Migration and displacement

Egypt's location in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has made it a country of destination and transit for many migrants since the 1990s. There are more than half a million migrants currently living there, according to the International Organization of Migration. It is estimated that a considerable number of unregistered migrants also live in Egypt. There are no official statistics, possibly because they live mainly in the densely populated areas of Cairo, where the risk of detention and deportation is low.²

The inward flow of asylum seekers and migrants has been increasing since the mid-2000s in response to increasing conflict in the region. As a result, Egypt is now a transit and host country to many nationalities, including people from Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Yemen. In 2021 alone, it hosted nearly 350,000 refugees and asylum seekers.

Egypt has also experienced considerable and diverse patterns of emigration. It is the largest country of origin for labour migrants from the Middle East.

In the absence of organized camps, Egypt's refugee and migrant populations have largely settled in the poor and congested areas of Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta. They rely on established networks within host communities, or sub-groups, which are formed around a shared nationality, class or faith, irrespective of legal status.

² Analysis in this section supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab: <https://www.redcross.org.au/globalmigrationlab/>

A limited number of economic opportunities, and an inability to access assistance from organizations such as the UNHCR, leave unregistered migrants particularly vulnerable. Even registered refugees face challenges, due to a lack of funding, and must endure lengthy administrative procedures before gaining access to support. This is compounded by an overstretched public infrastructure in Egypt, due to its rapidly growing population. This affects all citizens, regardless of their legal status, but migrants and those in poverty most significantly.

The Egyptian Red Crescent provides a range of essential services to support the most vulnerable migrants and refugees, providing them with the support of both national and international organizations. These include the IOM, UNHCR, BMZ, the European Union, Swiss Development Cooperation, CRS, UNRWA, and WHO. It is also a member of the Supreme Committee of Irregular Migration.

The National Society is also part of the IFRC three-year Global Route Based Migration Programme, which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

Main actions and areas of support

- Support the Egyptian Red Crescent's participation in a number of IFRC regional and global projects and fora on migration and displacement (including the Children Red Initiative for Children on the Move in the MENA region, the MENA Migration Network and the Global Migration Task Force)

Values, power and inclusion

With 62 per cent of Egypt's population under the age of 29, there is huge potential for its young population to drive positive change and address many of the challenges faced by the country. The composition of the National Society's volunteer base is also relatively young, with more than 80 per cent under the age of 35, and more than 56 per cent are women. There needs to be investment in the health, education and well-being of this young demographic, to maximize its potential.

Main actions and areas of support

The Egyptian Red Crescent plans to scale up its programmes aimed at young people, equipping them with the skills and knowledge required to bring about positive change in their communities. It will achieve this through greater technical and financial support for youth-led education and action, building on its Youth Engagement Strategy and other youth-led initiatives, such as Climate Champions, Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change, and Limitless. Through the development of its e-learning platform, it will also seek to improve access and create greater standardization in the quality of education delivered.

To achieve this, the IFRC will support the National Society to:

- Strengthen collaborative efforts on the delivery of educative programmes, including the delivery of humanitarianism courses at universities
- Enhance volunteer training, adding a virtual element to the curriculum
- Create a child safeguarding policy, and adopt minimum standards and training on protection, gender and inclusion – encompassing dignity, access, participation and safety
- Develop and implement policies on the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, for staff and volunteers

Enabling local actors

The primary strategic direction of the Egyptian Red Crescent involves building capacity for the continuous improvement of its services, at an institutional and operational level. It is committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is currently implementing its work plan.

Engaged

The IFRC will work with the Egyptian Red Crescent to strengthen its engagement with partners both inside and outside the network. This will include forging connections with partner National Societies, private sector stakeholders and new or non-traditional partners. Doing so will help generate and deliver more collaborative responses to the key challenges that face communities in Egypt, and increase the profile and resources of the Egyptian Red Crescent.

The National Society will also engage in government-led platforms actively working towards humanitarian and development goals, and enhance its participation in IFRC-led campaigns, as well as regional and global events and networks.

The IFRC will support the National Society in adopting the digital maturity model outlined by the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy. It will enhance the capacity of its staff and volunteers to handle newly developed digital systems, including the digital volunteer management system and the e-learning platform, and provide training on information security. It will also support the National Society in designing and implementing a risk assessment calculation tool, to be used in the initiation phase of projects to highlight potential digital and data risks.

Accountable

The IFRC will support the National Society in broadening its mobilization base through effective communication tools and products, enhanced data management, monitoring and reporting. It will also develop longer-term partnerships with a variety of international organizations, to benefit from funding only available to them. The IFRC will provide support with pilot innovative and social financing schemes, and the development of digital global fundraising campaigns. It will provide technical support to staff who are developing funding proposals and mechanisms.

Trusted

The IFRC will support the National Society in rolling out branch organizational capacity assessments (BOCA) to targeted branches. This will enable the development of action plans at branch level, and inform the National Society's overall approach to branch development.

The National Society will ensure a culture of accountability across leadership teams and the organization as a whole, by the mainstreaming and dissemination of fraud and corruption policies, and the establishment of clear feedback mechanisms.

The IFRC will also support the National Society in its implementation of youth-led programmes, ensuring that young people in both Egyptian communities and its own volunteer base inform decision-making and innovation across the domestic network. The National Society will put in place a new digital volunteer management system, and carry out community-based volunteer engagement work.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has not yet established a legal and official presence in Egypt; however, it is currently working through the IFRC's regional office in Beirut. It works closely with the Egyptian Red Crescent on coordinating responses to emergencies within the country, and also supports the National Society with its capacity building programmes.

In recent years IFRC supported the Egyptian Red Crescent through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations in relation to floods, violent attacks and accidents, and neighbouring instability. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global Appeal, has supported the National Society for its COVID-19 response, including immunization.

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
German Red Cross	CHF 0.35M								
Italian Red Cross									
Swiss Red Cross	CHF 0.35M								
Total									0.70M

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The National Societies of Egypt, Iraq and Jordan met in 2021 to discuss common challenges and areas of collaboration, in parallel with a similar meeting between the governments of the three countries. This culminated in a tripartite agreement between the respective National Societies, focusing on peer exchange in disaster management, health, National Society development and volunteering capacity building.

In addition to IFRC members channeling overall support to sister National Societies through the IFRC, participating National Societies providing long-term support to the Egyptian Red Crescent are the following:

German Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross: Both National Societies are represented in Egypt and work alongside the Egyptian Red Crescent in responding to needs in health care, migration, disaster risk reduction and disaster management. This includes the implementation of a project which began in 2021 and aims to strengthen protection and resilience building in the country. The initiative aims to improve access to health services in the country, in particular among African migrants, refugees and their host communities, and is expected to run until mid-2023.

The Italian Red Cross also supports the Egyptian Red Crescent in protecting children at risk of being recruited into child labour. This project is expected to run until March 2023.

Movement coordination

The Egyptian Red Crescent works in harmony with all the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and a number of participating National Societies. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and

Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0.

From its delegation in Cairo, the ICRC has been working to promote humanitarian law in Egypt, assisting people fleeing from conflict in neighbouring countries, such as Libya, and supporting the National Society's capacity to respond.

Coordination with other actors

The National Society works closely alongside a number of government ministries as an independent auxiliary. It has representatives on the National Committee for Crisis Management and Disaster Risk Reduction, the National Taskforce for volunteering, and the National Committee for addressing mental health in emergencies.

The National Society has also developed working relationships with a number of organizations at a local and international level. These include UNICEF, UNHCR, UNRWA, IOM, WHO, EU, SDC and USAID, as well as private sector and civil society partnerships.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



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

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