



SOMALIA

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 31.8M**

Appeal number **MAASO001**

In support of the Somali Red Crescent Society



19

National Society branches



1,105

National Society staff



5,200

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



560,000

Ongoing
emergency
operations



325,000

Climate and
environment



165,000

Disasters
and crises



2.4M

Health and
wellbeing



2,000

Migration and
displacement



63,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- hunger crisis including health, water and sanitation, cash and livelihoods

Longer term needs

- health
- recurring disasters • resilience
- protection, gender and inclusion

Capacity development

- innovation
- branch development
- financial sustainability

Key country data

Population **16.4M**

INFORM severity rating **very high**

Hazards



Conflict



Displacement



Drought



Floods



Food insecurity



Poverty

Funding requirements

Total 31.8M CHF

Through the IFRC

14.8M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

17M CHF

Host National Society

→ **14,000** CHF

IFRC Breakdown

12M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

245,000 CHF

Climate and environment

1.7M CHF

Disasters and crises

532,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

50,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

55,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

260,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Ongoing emergencies

MDRS0011

Hunger Crisis

*folded under MGR60001 Africa
Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal*

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

Bahrain Red Crescent Society*

British Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross

Red Cross Society of China*

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Icelandic Red Cross

Irish Red Cross Society*,

Italian Red Cross*

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Red Cross of Monaco*

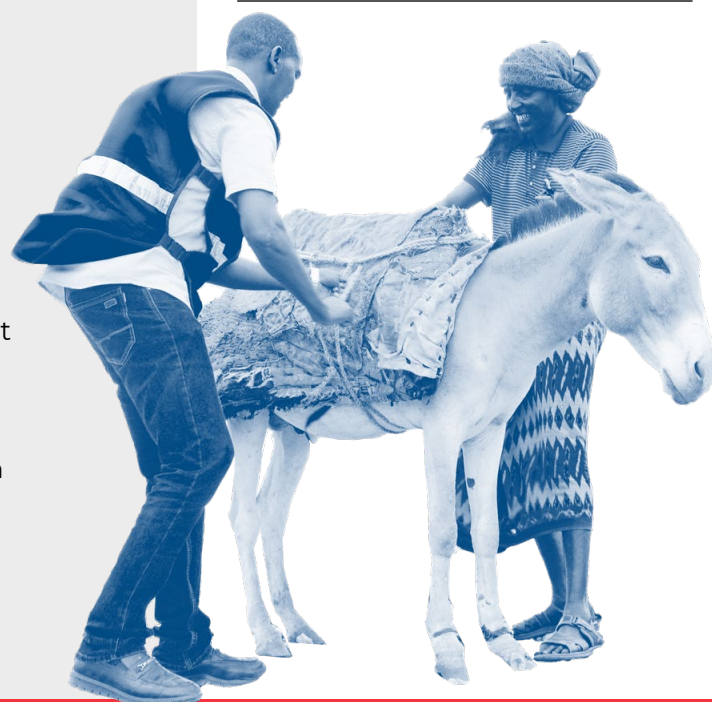
The Netherlands Red Cross*

Norwegian Red Cross

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Swedish Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent Society*



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Somali Red Crescent Society** is an independent, non-political humanitarian organization. It was established in April 1963 and became a legal entity following Presidential Decree No. 187 in 1965. The National Society operates through a network of 19 branches, with activities spread across the country. It has unique and continued humanitarian access to a country heavily impacted by inter-clan and regional armed conflict. The National Society runs 82 fixed and mobile clinics, and a hospital in Mogadishu. The fragile and fragmented political situation in Somalia limits the Somali Red Crescent Society's ability to effectively play its auxiliary role to the authorities. However, it continues to deliver humanitarian services across the country. Activities are managed from two coordination offices, which work together countrywide as one National Society.

Through its branches, more than 4,000 active Somali Red Crescent volunteers are able to engage communities, due to their diversity and the high degree of trust placed in them. As an established and well-networked national actor, the National Society plays a crucial role in reaching and delivering humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable populations throughout the country, including internally displaced people, and remote and hard-to-reach communities.

The Somali Red Crescent has a well-established working relationship with government ministries and the local

authorities. It plays a key role in addressing the climate and environmental crises that impact people's lives and livelihoods, through the integration of climate-smart approaches in its work, and 'greening' its own operations. The government authorities recognize and value the National Society's contribution to the delivery of humanitarian services countrywide, and its position as a leading national humanitarian actor. The National Society encourages actions that build preparedness, while promoting strong community systems and addressing the many factors that contribute to health, disasters and other evolving crises. Strengthening disaster risk management is one of the key pillars of the Somalia National Development Plan 2020–2024, and the National Society has positioned itself to lead on emergency response in an auxiliary role to the Government of Somalia.

The Somali Red Crescent remains a reliable stakeholder in the area of health and care in Somalia. According to the Ministry of Health, its health programme is one of the best at grassroots level and in hard-to-reach areas, and the government authorities in Puntland (in its Somali Red Crescent Society IHCP Mid-Term Evaluation Report October 2015) were of a similar opinion. The programme covers coordination, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, and community-based health surveillance linked with national health surveillance networks.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Somalia is still commonly identified as a fragile context. The North has seen relative security in recent years, though security continues to be a fundamental concern. Administrations are in the early stages of development and there are inevitable capacity shortfalls which hamper the rollout of state services, but good progress is being made in Somaliland.

Somalia's new internationally backed Government was installed in 2012, with the establishment of a Provisional Constitution. Since then, Somalia has made steady progress and achieved stability, despite mounting political, economic, and environmental challenges. However, its political process remains incomplete, marred by violence, clan disputes and insurgent attacks. Somalia

faces extreme poverty, with seven out of 10 Somalis living on less than US\$1.90 per day. The poverty rate is currently at 71 per cent and is expected to remain at the same level in 2023. Heavily in debt, the country recently embarked on a debt relief process, following the [Decision Point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries \(HIPC\) initiative](#) of 25 March 2020.

Remittances from the diaspora, which generates a significant proportion of household and public income, have declined since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. A reduction in livestock exports has also affected livelihoods, increased vulnerability and impacted levels of public sector investment in health.

As is the case across the Horn of Africa, Somalia is highly vulnerable to climate change and environmental hazards, including severe droughts and flash floods. This is causing the migration of entire populations, and the country's most severe humanitarian crisis in decades. For the past few years, the Horn of Africa has been impacted by extreme climate variations, unpredictable

rainy seasons, flash floods and worsened drought conditions. The loss of livelihoods, damaged infrastructure caused by successive droughts and severe floods, food shortages, and poor access to water, sanitation and hygiene cause chronic malnutrition, famine, vector-borne diseases, and massive displacements across Somalia.

Ongoing emergency response

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

- Appeal number MDRSO011 Somalia Hunger Crisis, folded under MGR6001 Africa Hunger Crisis
- Appeal launched: 18 July 2021
- Appeal end date: 31 December 2023
- People affected (at risk): 7.1 million
- People to be assisted: 560,000

In July 2021 the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal to support the Somali Red Crescent response to the critical food security situation in Somaliland and Puntland, due to an exceptional period of poor and erratic rainfall distribution, flooding, and desert locust infestation.

Following a further deterioration of the food security in a number of countries in Africa, the IFRC launched a regional [Hunger Crisis](#) Emergency Appeal in October 2022. The regional Appeal aims to scale up immediate and life-saving response to the crisis currently affecting the region, and Somalia is one of the priority countries supported. Under the regional Appeal, the Somali Red Crescent will expand action started since March 2022.

The Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal sits within the **IFRC's Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative**, which informs longer-term food security and livelihood plans of National Societies in Africa. This initiative takes a holistic approach to food security, accompanying rapid support for food and nutrition security and livelihoods with a long-term strategy working towards zero hunger and more sustainable development. The regional Emergency Appeal focuses on responding to the

immediate needs of those affected, and its approach assists the transition to longer-term programming. Upon the completion of the Appeal, the IFRC, together with the National Society, will continue the longer-term response through the Zero Hunger Initiative programming; these actions will be integrated into the 2024 Somalia country plan.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal intervention strategy aims to support the Somali Red Crescent in responding to this climate-induced hunger crisis, by saving lives, protecting livelihoods and promoting the early recovery of the most food-insecure people. In the proposed approach, the phases of intervention will overlap – from a life-saving humanitarian response to early recovery, and then strengthening communities against recurring climate-induced food insecurity.

All the operations are based on lessons learned from the previous food security responses Emergency Appeals, particularly Somalia Drought 2011–13 and Somalia: Complex Emergency 2016–18. The operation will implement life-saving and early recovery activities in livelihoods and basic needs, including multi-purpose cash, water and sanitation, and health and nutrition sectors. Protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability will be implemented across the interventions.

The operation will target six regions of Somaliland (Maroodijex, Sahil, Awdal, Togdheer, Sool, Sanaag) and the three regions of Puntland (Bari, Mudug, Nugaal).

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

According to the Köppen-Geiger Climate Classification, there is a range of climates in Somalia: arid (in the majority of land areas), semi-arid, hot desert, and tropical wet and dry (tropical savanna). Average temperatures across the country do not vary significantly with the season, and average annual temperatures remain between 25°C and 28°C. There are two main rainfall seasons from April to June (Gu) and October to December (Deyr).¹

The rainfall and temperature in Somalia are influenced by many factors, including the inter-tropical convergence zone, monsoonal winds, ocean currents, jet streams (including the Somali jetstream or Somali Current), easterly waves, tropical cyclones, the Indian Ocean's variable sea surface temperatures, and the El Niño Southern Oscillation cycle. During El Niño periods, parts of Somalia experience weather conditions that are wetter than usual, with drier than usual weather occurring during La Niña periods.

Rainfall varies widely, with considerably less in the northern and central parts of the country than in the south, apart from in the Northern Plateau. Rainfall in some parts of the central semi-arid areas is as low as 50 to 150mm per year, while parts in the south can have more than 400mm. Rainfall is highest in the southwest with around 600mm per year.

Somalia is currently experiencing three consecutive years with below-average rainfall – or four in some regions – a significant climate shift which has led to the deadliest drought in decades. Across the whole Horn of Africa, seasonal variations lead to either extreme droughts or devastating floods. This is a growing trend that affects both rural areas and cities, the latter being particularly vulnerable to flash flooding. A report from Haile et al. (2020) predicts that the duration, frequency and intensity of droughts will increase by the end of the 21st century under all scenarios. Droughts are reducing the availability of ground and surface water resources, and increasing competition for available water. It is expected that water shortages and disputes over access will lead to tension and conflict, while poorer communities will suffer most as a result of increased water prices.

According to Gutiérrez et al. (2021), it is expected that average temperatures across the region will rise between now and 2050 by at least 1.5–2.5°C in a high greenhouse gas concentration scenario (SSP5-8.5), and by 1–2°C in a low greenhouse gas concentration scenario (SSP2-4.5). As global warming increases, there will be more extreme temperatures in Somalia, and heat-waves will intensify in duration. As the temperature goes up, the annual number of very hot days, where the temperature is above 35°C, is expected to increase.

Displacement in Somalia is increasingly climate-driven, with 75 per cent of all new displacements in 2020 attributable to climate events. 919,000 people were displaced due to flooding alone, which illustrates the variety of climate risks the country faces. In the first half of 2022, more than 745,000 Somalis were displaced by drought. UN DESA forecasts that climate-induced migration will fuel Somalia's already rapid urbanization rate, with 65 per cent of the population expected to live in urban areas by 2050.

In Somalia, where the capacity to manage water resources or respond to disasters is weak, extreme weather events have a devastating effect. Damaged crops and livestock, and deteriorated agricultural supply chains and trade, threaten livelihoods and force entire populations to migrate. Appropriate actions to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change are urgently needed at multiple levels. This includes building the resilience of households and communities, stepping up sectoral planning and investments in response to climate risks, and steering economic activity towards less climate-dependent sectors.

Main actions and areas of support

The Somali 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 most marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart

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

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.

The National Society in Somalia will support branch staff and volunteers to acquire knowledge and skills by delivering training on climate change adaptation, disaster reduction and resilience programming. It will also support communities in strengthening their ability to respond to climate-induced hazards and crises. It will advocate for the implementation of nature-based solutions and heat risk reduction, and support the development of new or improved heat action plans and heatwave 'early warning, early action' systems.

The Somali Red Crescent will engage in climate mitigation activities, including tree planting, reforestation and environmental advocacy. It will ensure that its humanitarian responses and recovery operations do not harm the environment, and minimize its emissions. While life-saving interventions remain the focus of the National Society's humanitarian response, it will mainstream green responses in its preparedness work, and in the assessment, planning and implementation of its humanitarian assistance.

IFRC network support in 2023

The IFRC will support the Somali Red Crescent with activities that increase the resilience of communities on the frontline of climate change. It will do this by using nature-based solutions and sustainable livelihood initiatives to address the causes of environmental degradation, enhance the robustness of ecosystems, and maintain their diversity. The IFRC will also support the National Society to carry out activities that support climate change mitigation and promote the adoption of environmental practices. It will enhance the capacity of staff and volunteers to use digital tools to collect data and insights on climate risks from community surveys, to inform programming. The IFRC will support the National Society in working with stakeholders, including the Government, to enhance knowledge-sharing. It will work to strengthen its auxiliary role on climate change and environmental crises, increasing its capacity to advocate in this area.

Canadian Red Cross has proposed a climate change project that will integrate traditional knowledge and science-based approaches into plans, and provide technical training for staff, volunteers, networks and extension workers. The project proposal includes a variety of interventions to existing natural and built

environments, addressing their changing climatic realities and bringing about sustainable improvements.

Danish Red Cross will develop a programme for branch and youth development to support the enhanced response capacity of National Society branches.

German Red Cross will support the Somali Red Crescent to strengthen its anticipatory action approach through forecast-based financing.

Norwegian Red Cross has been working with the National Society in Somalia to ensure more environmentally sustainable and greener health operations. One project planned for 2022–2023 involves 'greening' the health facilities that the Norwegian Red Cross supports in the Mudug region.

Disasters and crises

Somalia's diverse and varied geography means that it is exposed to a wide range of hydrometeorological and geophysical environmental hazards, and climate change is making it worse. Somalia's environmental hazards are caused by severe droughts, followed by flash floods – a climate anomaly increasingly prevalent across the Horn of Africa. The Government in Somalia declared a drought disaster in April 2021, following a failed Deyr rainy season between October and December 2020. After four below-average rainy seasons in a row, drought conditions worsened in June 2022, leaving more than 80 per cent of the country affected. The severity of this is comparable to the droughts in 2010–2011 and 2016–2017.

Somalia is vulnerable to river and flash floods. River floods typically occur along the Juba and Shabelle rivers in Southern Somalia, and flash floods are more common in northern areas. There has been an increase in the severity and frequency of floods in recent years. These floods resulted in major damage, economic hardship and human casualties. According to the Government, higher rainfall and run-off is expected in the Deyr season across all possible climate scenarios, which will lead to more flooding.

Food insecurity is widespread in Somalia. The [Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit](#) reports that most of the country's internally displaced people and urban poor are experiencing food shortages, because of poverty, low incomes, the rising price of staple food items, and diminished household purchasing power. The localized depletion of pastures – with 10–30 per cent affected – is causing the loss of livelihoods and forcing the migration of livestock. Moderate crop loss affects agro-pastoral and river-based livelihoods, and 20–50

per cent of the cereal harvest lost in the Gu season is due to desert locusts. Between five and 30 per cent of Gu season cereal harvest is lost due to flooding in riverine areas. An estimated 10-30 per cent of agro-pastoral households are unable to cope on their own, while 10-30 per cent of rural internally displaced people are threatened by famine.

In Puntland, the regions of Bari, Gardafuul, Nugaal, Sool, Sanaag and Karkaar have been impacted the most. The Mudug region and its Hawd areas, and the Galkacyo, Galdogob and Jariban districts, were the worst hit, causing livestock to migrate out, and an increase of migration into Puntland. The failed rainy season caused a significant shortfall in crops and livestock, while declining employment and local conflicts ruined livelihoods and jeopardized access to food in rural areas.

Since 2012, when the new internationally backed Government was installed, Somalia has been moving slowly towards stability, but its authorities still face challenges from Al-Qaeda-aligned Al-Shabab insurgents. Despite being ousted from most of its key strongholds in south and central Somalia, Al-Shabab continues to launch deadly attacks against the Somali Government and African Union forces across large parts of the horn of Africa nation. According to ACAPS, clan disputes, political tensions, national and foreign military campaigns against Al Shabaab, and continuing Al Shabaab attacks on civilians, cause insecurity and instability across the country. Al Shabaab controls parts of southern Somalia, particularly rural areas, and has attempted to disrupt the electoral process through targeted attacks. National and foreign security forces are also reported to have carried out human rights abuse against civilians, including arbitrary killings and arrests.

Main actions and areas of support

The Somali Red Crescent has strengthened its preparedness, response and recovery services, which have saved lives and reduced the impact of disasters and crisis. It will continue to strengthen the capacity of branch staff and volunteers through training in disaster management, develop sustainable early warning systems, and use tools such as vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) for community resilience. With support from the IFRC network, it has established warehousing in each branch and pre-positioned emergency stocks of humanitarian items, and this will continue in 2023. It has also developed a disaster management strategy and policy for disaster preparedness and response plan implementation.

The Somali Red Crescent will work with the Government to implement existing policies, laws and regulations in response to evolving crises and disasters. Where there are insufficient laws, policies and regulations, it will call upon its extensive experience to help develop them. The National Society also plans to train its staff and volunteers in disaster law, and the organization's auxiliary role.

IFRC network support in 2023

The IFRC will support the National Society with its Zero Hunger initiative and incorporating climate-smart livelihood activities into its operations. They will work together on activities that address basic needs, prevent asset depletion and protect livelihoods. The IFRC will support the National Society in designing medium-term food security and livelihood programmes that will increase preparedness, enable recovery, and strengthen resilience in post-emergency and chronic food insecurity settings. It will also work on building capacity in disaster law leadership.

Danish Red Cross will develop data-informed decision-making and support forecast-based action, to enhance the National Society's capacity to respond effectively.

German Red Cross will continue to support the Somali Red Crescent to provide humanitarian assistance, including relief, livelihoods and water, sanitation and hygiene, and to strengthen community resilience. It will also support in strengthening its auxiliary role in resilience, disaster risk management and anticipatory action.

Health and wellbeing

Three decades of poor governance, a weak economy, continued armed conflict and the disintegration of the health system and other public services are taking their toll on Somalia. About 6.5 million Somalis are in urgent need of life-saving health care and nutrition assistance. High mortality rates and increased morbidity are caused by malnutrition, conflict and diseases such as COVID-19, cholera, measles and malaria. Access to health care is precarious, and only 19 per cent of Somali districts benefit from appropriate primary health facilities. Secondary health care centres that respond to complicated medical cases are all located in cities, making access difficult for rural communities. The outbreak of COVID-19 has led to a decline in the availability and use of health services, reversing earlier gains made in Somalia's health sector.

The health of Somali children is rapidly deteriorating, with 20 per cent of children not surviving past the age of five. More than one third are underweight, and nearly half experience stunted growth due to factors such as malnutrition and repeated infections. The under-five mortality rate in Somalia is among the highest in the world, and acute malnutrition has been prevalent for decades. It is estimated that more than half of the deaths in children under five are caused by malnutrition. Other diseases, such as diarrhoea, pneumonia and neonatal illnesses, affect a large proportion of Somali children.

Climate-related crises will lead to a rise in heat-related health conditions, psychological stress, and increased food insecurity and malnutrition. It is expected that the population affected by heatwaves will increase by 21.1 per cent by 2030, while heat-related deaths will increase from 1.3 to 3.2 deaths per 100,000 people annually until then. Hunger and malnutrition, especially in the central and southern regions and particularly among children, are expected to increase, as the changing climate disrupts agricultural production.

Rising temperatures and flooding will increase incidences of water-borne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea. Breeding areas for mosquitoes, which spread vector-borne diseases, will expand into previously uninhabitable areas. Skin diseases and respiratory infections, such as pneumonia, asthma and other lung infections, are also expected to increase.

Other climate-induced water risks include decreased water quality, rising water prices as it becomes scarce, infrastructure damage, and the salinization of coastal aquifers caused by rising sea levels. Somalia lacks proper drinking water systems, and more than 33 per cent of people lack access to drinking water. Furthermore, 42 per cent of households do not have appropriate water and sanitation facilities.

Main actions and areas of support

A key priority area for the Somali Red Crescent is the provision of primary and secondary health care. It aims to provide quality and affordable services, through its fixed and mobile health facilities network, promoting good health while preventing and treating illness and disease. In 2021, the National Society ran 59 fixed and 23 mobile clinics, which provided comprehensive primary health care and nutrition services to over two million people, the majority of whom were women and

children. Nearly 1.1 million patients were treated for disease. Common diseases that were treated included acute respiratory infections (26.4 per cent), diarrhoea (eight per cent), anaemia (12.3 per cent), skin infections (nine per cent), urinary tract infections (11.4 per cent) and eye infections (5 per cent). The IFRC supports 10 clinics in Somaliland and Puntland, while the ICRC supports 34, including some mobile clinics across the country.

The Somali Red Crescent is involved in the COVID-19 response through the provision of vaccinations in all its static and mobile clinics, along with risk communication and community engagement. The IFRC is currently supporting the National Society in providing basic health care services, within the context of community health, under the IFRC Health and Care Framework 2030. Women and children are the primary focus of health services that are designed for the most marginalized, vulnerable, rural, nomadic and hard-to-reach communities, including internally displaced persons.

The Somali Red Crescent will enhance and strengthen the capacity of its health professionals and volunteers as frontline health service providers. It will provide secondary health care by providing quality surgical care, and obstetric and neo-natal services through referral facilities. It will enhance the skills of first aiders, and provision of adequate first aid services, equipment and materials. It will also support community-based health awareness and health monitoring activities, equipping community members with knowledge and skills to identify and reduce relevant health risks.

The National Society will support the rehabilitation and community involvement of people living with physical disabilities and other needs. It will support survivors of sexual and gender-based violence by utilizing the existing referral pathway, delivering refresher training to clinic staff on the clinical management of rape, providing initial psychosocial support and treatment for survivors of sexual abuse, and procuring rape kits for clinics supporting survivors of sexual abuse.

Based on monitoring and assessments, the National Society will also support the construction and rehabilitation of household sanitation, the proper maintenance of water sources, and improved health and hygiene management in schools and communities. This will be supplemented by the distribution of menstrual hygiene management kits.

IFRC network support in 2023

The IFRC will support the National Society with:

- 10 clinics in Somaliland and Puntland
- Capacity building and training in many aspects of health and water, sanitation and hygiene services
- Mainstreaming mental health and psychosocial support across other sectors, through training and workshops
- Reviewing its water, sanitation and hygiene strategy
- The rehabilitation and construction of water sources and provision of household and institutional latrines
- Effective networking and building links with other actors like UNICEF, WFP, CDC and DG ECHO around health, nutrition, immunization and public health
- Increasing its visibility and representation on coordination platforms

Canadian Red Cross, in partnership with the Icelandic Red Cross, will continue to support the Somali Red Crescent through its proposed project, Strengthening the health emergency preparedness and response capacity of Somali Red Crescent in Somaliland. This project will focus on improving its response to health emergency needs, by strengthening its capacity for epidemic scenario planning (the EPPR contingency plan) and structured safety protocols for staff and volunteers.

Danish Red Cross aims to support the development of tools to increase inclusion of the elderly and people living with disabilities, through innovative data collection approaches.

Icelandic Red Cross will support activities to ensure appropriate gender responsive health services.

The Norwegian Red Cross will support the National Society with:

- Seven static and two mobile clinics in the Mudug region of Puntland, three clinics in Nugal, and three in Sool, Somaliland
- Health care in danger
- Expanding its capacity to address sexual and gender-based violence through health projects, ensuring the safe referral and proper medical treatment of sexual and gender-based violence survivors
- Cash for Health – a new project addressing the barriers faced by vulnerable communities in accessing health care

- Maintaining added value and strong relationships with the Ministry of Health
- Community-based surveillance – an area where the National Society has established itself as a lead with the government authorities

Qatar Red Crescent Society will support two clinics in Somaliland.

Migration and displacement

While displacement in Somalia is mostly caused by conflict, other drivers include drought, flooding and cyclones. Somalia has three million internally displaced people, as well as approximately 30,000 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Ethiopia and Yemen. Successive droughts have driven many people to leave their homes and settle in urban or peri-urban areas such as Baidoa, outside of Mogadishu, home to approximately 400,000 internally displaced people.

According to the International Organization for Migration, nearly 32,000 migrants arrived in Somalia in 2021, and 104 deaths and missing persons have been reported along the eastern route. With little or no access to life-saving assistance such as food, health care, water, sanitation and hygiene, migrants find themselves destitute and vulnerable, unable to continue their journey or return home.

By taking certain migratory routes across conflict zones, people on the move – particularly women and girls – are at increased risk of abuse and gender-based violence. Internally displaced people face undignified and hazardous living conditions, either on migratory routes or in overcrowded camps.

Due to limited humanitarian access, they experience a lack basic services, such as health care, food assistance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. Internally displaced people, refugees, returnees and asylum seekers are often in need of emergency shelter and non-food items. Overcrowded camps mean that many households are forced to gather in informal, makeshift shelters, often built on private land. These sites lack basic facilities and privacy, they do not protect against bad weather conditions, and there is a risk of eviction. Other life-threatening hazards include exposure to vector-borne diseases, unsanitary and unsafe makeshift shelters, tensions with host communities, unlawful evictions, and the occasional exposure to arms and explosives.



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Main actions and areas of support

The National Society in Somalia supports migrants and displaced people through its country-wide humanitarian services. With support from the IFRC, it aims to design a strategic approach to population movement, and provide more tailored services and humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants and displaced people. It will explore durable solutions and resilience building programmes, such as enhancing its presence at migration entry points and effective need-based interventions.

Values, power and inclusion

The protection environment in Somalia is characterized by lack of basic services and access challenges to people in need. The legal and policy frameworks in place are stalled by weak judicial and law enforcement institutions. This is coupled with an overall lack of public awareness on basic rights, that is exacerbated by displacement and structural discrimination based on gender, ability, and clan affiliation.

Somalia is the fourth-worst country in the world for gender inequality. Sexual and gender-based violence is a common occurrence, and women and girls are at a high risk of being forced into exploitative situations such as child marriage and child labour. To address some of the challenges, the Federal Parliament introduced the comprehensive Sexual Offences Bill in 2018. If it is approved during the 11th Parliament, it will offer greater protection for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and represent a significant step towards ending the culture of impunity in Somalia.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about an increase in child marriage, physical violence, stigmatization and female genital mutilation. This is having a serious impact on the mental and social wellbeing of women. There is a high level of female genital mutilation in Somalia, affecting 99.2 per cent of women and girls aged 15–49. This practice has life-long physiological, sexual and psychological repercussions.

Children in drought-affected areas face protection risks, such as early marriage, abuse, neglect and child labour. According to [ACAPS](#), 2.4 million school-aged children have been affected by drought, 1.7 million have dropped out of school, and 720,000 are at risk of dropping out. 250 schools across the country have closed due to a variety of challenges, including water shortages.

In 2020, **five per cent of the Somali population was known to be living with disabilities**, according to a Government survey.

Main actions and areas of support

The Somali Red Crescent adopts a comprehensive protection, gender and inclusion approach across all its operations and programmes. The National Society will contribute to increasing knowledge and building awareness in communities, and advocate with public authorities and religious and community leaders to eradicate harmful practices. It will ensure the participation of women in the planning and implementation of its programmes and projects. Sexual and gender-based violence interventions are being incorporated through the health programme, while protection, gender and inclusion activities are being carried out in schools to promote an environment that encourages and improves girls' access to education.

The National Society will integrate the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's commitments on community engagement and accountability into its priority programme areas, and its operational procedures, policies and plans for change. It will strengthen community engagement by fostering community participation, scaling up feedback systems, and prioritizing the use of local knowledge and capacities to build trust and encourage effective local action. It will collect and analyze community insights, and use them to inform policy and programming decisions and measure their impact. Wherever possible, the National Society will contribute to the global Community Trust Index – an evidence-based tool to measure and foster trust in the communities that the Movement serves.

IFRC network support in 2023

The IFRC will support the Somali Red Crescent Society in institutionalizing protection, gender and inclusion, through an organizational assessment that will lead to the development of a dedicated action plan.

Community engagement and accountability will also be built into the National Society's strategy. The IFRC will continue to support the National Society with the collection, analysis and reporting of community feedback. It will design programmes for hygiene, and protection, gender and inclusion services in schools.

Icelandic Red Cross is supporting the Somali Red Crescent on protection, gender and inclusion, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. It will work on menstrual hygiene management activities, including education and the distribution of hygiene kits for women and girls, improving girls' access to education and decreasing their absence levels. It will train volunteers on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation, to improve awareness of the impact of such practices on health and wellbeing. Health staff training will be based on a survivor-centred approach and will include the appropriate clinical management of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

Enabling local actors

The Somali Red Crescent is committed to strengthening its institutional standing, and in 2019, it carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process. This is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of a National Society as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Somali Red Crescent is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the work plan phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and take the necessary action to improve it.

The National Society in Somalia, with the support of its Movement partners, is committed to a One National Society Development Plan, which prioritizes policy and strategy development, financial development, compliance and risk management, branch and volunteer strengthening and other issues. It has already taken a number of critical steps in this direction, including an evaluation of its National Society development initiative, an internal audit, and a policies compliance assessment. It is currently working with its network partners to identify key priorities for the coming three to five years.

Engaged

The Somali Red Crescent will focus on engagement with partners in and outside the Movement, and on effectively advocating to influence public behaviour and policy change in the domestic, regional and global arena. The National Society will strengthen its auxiliary role and positioning in the humanitarian and development sectors. It will use innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate, adapt and change complex humanitarian challenges and opportunities, including the digital transformation of its operations.

The IFRC network will advocate for and uphold the principle of accountability, through transparent, joint, country-level planning processes, monitoring, reporting and evaluation. These will be aligned with the Somali Red Crescent's goals. **The IFRC** will also support the National Society in its auxiliary role to the Government, to obtain certain privileges, and work with it to develop an onboarding leadership training package for branch and national level governance. It will assist with the building of digital volunteer systems.

The **Norwegian Cross's** regional innovation delegate will support any potential innovation activities that the Somali Red Crescent proposes. The **Danish Red Cross** aims to support the development of tools to enhance the inclusion of the elderly and people living with disabilities, through innovative data collection approaches.

Accountable

The National Society aims to develop systems, strategies and plans for ensuring integrity in the delivery of services, such as a complaints and whistleblower system, and putting a risk management framework in place. It will develop systems for expanding the mobilization of resources that will drive humanitarian responses and project implementation.

The IFRC will support the National Society to ensure quality and timely delivery, in line with its commitments to donors on implementation and reporting.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** has been supporting the Somali Red Crescent Society in finance development for many years and will continue in 2023 and beyond. This includes the drafting of administrative and financial manuals and policies, the implementation of accounting software, capacity building activities for staff, and the provision of technical expertise through the Norwegian Red Cross regional finance development delegate and logistics officer.

Trusted

The Somali Red Crescent will work on its strategic and development plans to better address the sustainability of its services. It will focus on improving its financial sustainability through investment in its three pillars of accountability and systems development, resource mobilization, and vision and mandate. The National

Society will develop and enhance its systems for ensuring inclusivity and diversity in its activities, and for the communities it serves. It will offer equal opportunities for employment. This includes orientation sessions on gender and diversity for all staff and volunteers. It will also develop community engagement and accountability systems to be integrated into all programming, according to the IFRC's strategic priority of values, power and inclusion. This will enhance the quality of accountability to the communities it serves.

The National Society is in the process of approving its policy on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. It offers training to volunteers and will ensure that all volunteers sign the code of conduct.

The Somali Red Crescent will implement innovative initiatives, including campaigns, projects and programmes, using technology and social media to target the country's youth and volunteers. The intention is to attract and involve young people in all aspects of the National Society's activities.

The IFRC plans to increase localization through branch development, and it will support the National Society as it explores new ideas for attracting and involving young people. In times of disaster and crisis, the IFRC will lead and facilitate a collective and coordinated membership approach, with the National Society's domestic response plans at the centre.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Somali Red Crescent with a focus on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, humanitarian diplomacy, and the reinforcement of its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. Operationally, IFRC support is centred in Somaliland and Puntland. In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Somali Red Crescent through numerous Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations in relation to drought, floods, storms and tropical cyclones, disease outbreaks, population movement and accidents. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global Appeal, has supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response, including immunization.

The IFRC supports the Somali Red Crescent in the implementation of a broad range of services. These include health, disaster management, community engagement and accountability, communications, logistics and finance. Additionally, the IFRC supports the capacity building of the National Society, which includes health, risk communication, community engagement and volunteer management. The IFRC has also been providing technical support to the National Society's Puntland branches on cash preparedness – undertaking a fast-track cash and voucher assistance preparedness assessment, and connecting the National Society to the Netherlands Red Cross digital 510 group on cash information management.

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
British Red Cross	CHF 0.22M								
Canadian Red Cross	CHF 3.86M								
Danish Red Cross	CHF 2.77M								
Finnish Red Cross	CHF 1.26M								
German Red Cross	CHF 1.18M								
Icelandic Red Cross									
Italian Red Cross	CHF 0.10M								
Norwegian Red Cross	CHF 7.49M								
Qatar Red Crescent	CHF 0.10M								
Swedish Red Cross									

Total

16.98M

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.

Somalia is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between DG ECHO and the IFRC. The National Society benefits from the support of the Finnish Red Cross (the lead EU National Society), the Danish Red Cross and the Norwegian Red Cross in the implementation of activities in disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and

response, and cash and voucher assistance. Risk communication, community engagement and accountability is a cross-cutting theme, integrated in the main pillars of intervention.

The Somali Red Crescent is part of the four IFRC Pan-African Initiatives focusing on: Tree planting and care; Zero Hunger; Red Ready; and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

Many IFRC network partners support the National Society through IFRC Emergency Appeals, surge capacity deployments, and bilateral and financial contributions.

The following participating National Societies are providing long-term support to the Somali Red Crescent:

British Red Cross has been supporting the Somali Red Crescent since 2018 in developing the technical expertise and resources to implement the National Society's development strategy.

Danish Red Cross will continue in its multi-fold partnership with the Somali Red Crescent, initiated in 2020, and will support in carrying out feasibility studies for non-communicable disease care.

Canadian Red Cross supports the Somali Red Crescent on the Climate Change Adaptation in the Greater Horn of Africa Programme – a multi-country project initiative that aims to increase the resilience of pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and smallholder farmers to climate change and climate-related disaster. It focuses on women and young people in rural and semi-urban communities in Somaliland, as well as in Ethiopia and South Sudan (subject to approval).

Finnish Red Cross supports integrated health care and a community-based initiative to improve health, hygiene and sanitation, and the rights and dignity of women and girls. It also advocates for gender and inclusion. The Finnish Red Cross also supported the initiation of the Pilot Programmatic Partnership in Somalia.

German Red Cross continues to work on building the resilience of the National Society and communities, in addition to supporting water, sanitation and hygiene, disaster risk reduction and forecast-based financing projects.

Icelandic Red Cross supports the Somali Red Crescent in assessing its capacity for protection, gender and inclusion. This includes strengthening its capacity for protection mainstreaming, including the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, safeguarding, and sexual and gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response.

Norwegian Red Cross works in community-based health interventions in Somalia, including community-based health surveillance, protection mainstreaming and health care in danger. It also supports National Society finance and resource mobilization development, the 'greening' of operations, and water, sanitation and hygiene services. The Norwegian Red Cross supports the Somali Red Crescent with its health programme – with seven static and two mobile clinics in the Mudug region, three static clinics in the Nugal region, and three in Sool – and with its health care in danger and finance development.

Qatar Red Crescent Society supports the National Society with institutional development, well-equipped office facilities and staff training.

Swedish Red Cross supports the National Society's integrated health care programme.

Movement coordination

The IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) coordinate regularly on the situation in Somalia and supporting the Somali Red Crescent Society. A steering committee, chaired by the Somali Red Crescent President, comprising the IFRC, the ICRC and network partners, supports the National Society development initiative. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The IFRC's Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal is organized along similar lines, enabling a collective response to the

needs of vulnerable people and communities affected by the climate-induced food crisis in Somalia.

The ICRC is present in the South Central Zone, Hargeisa in Somaliland, and Garowe in Puntland, and focuses primarily on economic security, health, water and habitat programmes. It works alongside the National Society in areas affected by conflict, responding through rapid assessments, cash and voucher assistance, and water, sanitation and hygiene. The ICRC also works with the IFRC, in collaboration with Somali Red Crescent, to strengthen the National Society.

Coordination with other actors

The Somali Red Crescent Society has close relations with the relevant government ministries. This includes the National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserves Authority (NADFOR) in Somaliland, which is responsible for coordinating all activities directly related to the

monitoring, preparedness, response and mitigation of emergencies in Somaliland. The National Society also works closely with the Ministries of Health in Somaliland and Puntland, and the Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management Agency (HADMA) in Puntland.

The National Society also works with other national stakeholders and international agencies, so that its efforts are aligned and mutually reinforcing, maximizing effectiveness and efficiency. It engages and coordinates with other humanitarian partners by participating in joint assessments, attending coordination meetings – in some cases leading working groups and clusters – and filling gaps that are raised by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), coordination platforms or clusters. The National Society has, for a long time, been a strategic and preferred partner of the leading UN agencies in Somalia, such as UNICEF, World Health Organization and the UN World Food Programme (WFP). According

to a WFP official, “the Somali Red Crescent is an invaluable partner in facilitating targeting of services to those in need, being the largest local humanitarian actor in terms of staffing, knowledge, skills and coverage”.

For the Hunger Crisis response and to improve synergy and optimize the efforts of all humanitarian actors, the IFRC is also actively participating in inter-agency coordination, and through humanitarian diplomacy with various aid stakeholders, particularly UN agencies and major NGOs. The UN, INGOs, and NGOs have been responding to the drought emergency, and the Somalia food security cluster is currently activated.

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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