



#DREFinAction

CAT

IFRC's Disaster Response  
Emergency Fund  
Mid-Year Report

20  
23



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# Executive summary

01

# Executive summary

From January to June 2023, IFRC-DREF allocated

**CHF 30.9 million**

supporting

**68 emergency operations**

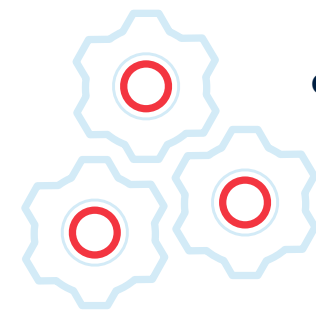
that affected over

**10.1 million people**

across all regions.

**From January to June 2023, IFRC-DREF allocated CHF 30.9 million, supporting 68 emergency operations that affected over 10.1 million people across all regions.** In collaboration with **57 National Societies**, the IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) has effectively provided emergency funding and support to National Societies anticipating and responding to small, medium and large-scale emergencies, from silent disasters to cross-border emergencies.

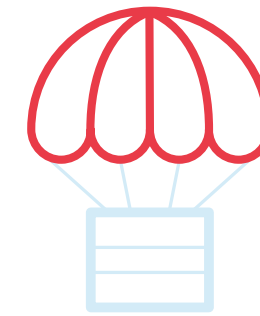
This exceptional period in the number of operations and amount allocated was driven by the changes of the **IFRC-DREF Evolution**, launched in September 2022, while in the first half of 2023, National Societies have put into practice the new operational parameters and modalities. **Fast and agile access to IFRC-DREF has enabled National Societies to provide early actions and humanitarian response to at-risk and affected communities, contributing to the mitigation of the adverse effects of disasters.**



**“IFRC-DREF for assessment” is aimed at funding detailed assessments of the humanitarian needs to develop more effective response plans.**

Since January 2023, 3 National Societies (Madagascar, Uruguay, and Ecuador) have implemented the “IFRC-DREF for assessment,” a new and leaner modality launched in September 2022. This new approach has been crucial in tackling various crises, ranging from localized emergencies to major catastrophes. Under the anticipatory pillar, the new Simplified Early Action Protocol (s-EAP) has been a new and leaner approach to National Societies working with anticipatory action. For the first semester of 2023, 4 new s-EAPs have been under validation, targeting floods in Pakistan, Yemen, and Ghana, and heatwaves in Greece.

The swift IFRC support to the National Societies response following earthquakes in Turkey and Syria through funding allocations stands as a **testament to IFRC-DREF’s ability to release substantial aid during large-scale emergencies.** With these allocations to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and Turkish Red Crescent Society, the Fund actioned, for the first time, its new ceilings for loans by allocating **CHF 2 million to each National Society to kick-start the emergency appeals and facilitate agile and efficient humanitarian assistance, including emergency shelter, healthcare services, and the provision of essential supplies to affected individuals.**



IFRC-DREF allocated  
**CHF 2 million**

to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and Turkish Red Crescent Societies to kick-start the emergency appeals

It is important to emphasize that between January and June 2023, all the IFRC-DREF requests and its respective operational updates and final reports have taken place through the **online application at the GO Platform.** This allowed for a faster application process, with a simultaneous review of the document - a joint effort between global and regional teams to provide effective and consolidated **feedback to National Societies.**

It will maintain its commitment to allocating funds promptly, enhancing readiness and anticipatory action, while also facilitating timely and efficient responses to emergencies of varying scales. IFRC-DREF remains committed to its mission of mitigating the effects of hazards as well as disasters and supporting at-risk and affected communities, as it continues its valuable work in the months ahead and in upcoming years.

**Looking ahead, the IFRC, through IFRC-DREF, will continue to strengthen its capacity to provide emergency funding for National Societies to effectively respond to emergencies.**



**IFRC-DREF’s mid-year achievements and the impactful outcomes of its operations underscore its critical role in ensuring the timely provision of emergency assistance to those most in need through National Societies.**

# Overview

02



# Overview

**TOP 5:**  
(January – June 2022)

- floods
- population movement
- drought – food insecurity
- epidemics

IFRC-DREF allocations in  
January – June 2022

**CHF 17.4 million**

**75% increase**  
in comparison to the  
same period last year

IFRC-DREF allocations in  
January – June 2023

**CHF 30.9 million**

**TOP 5:**  
(January – June 2022)

- floods
- earthquakes
- epidemics
- population movement

## IFRC-DREF results at a glance

In 2022 between, 1st January and 13th June, IFRC-DREF allocated CHF 17,397,584, mainly in response to floods, population movement, drought – food insecurity and epidemics.

For the same period in 2023, IFRC-DREF allocated CHF 30.9 million mainly in response to floods, earthquakes, epidemics and population movement. This shows a 75% increase in the amount allocated when compared to the same period in the previous year.

During the first semester of 2023, floods remained the most frequent type of disaster supported by IFRC-DREF. The amount allocated has more than doubled in comparison to the same period in 2022 (CHF 2.7 million), with a total of CHF 6.5 million allocated across all five regions, 67% of these emergencies taking place in Africa.

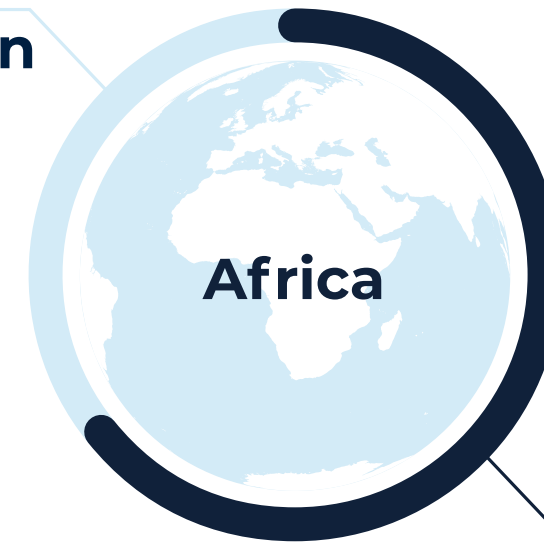
Allocations for disasters and crises in Africa have reached CHF 15.8 million in the first six months of 2023 – an increase of 80% in comparison to the same period last year (CHF 8.8 million). This significant growth can be attributed to complex large-scale events which impacted the region. For example, between February and March, IFRC-DREF allocated a total of CHF 2.3 million to support the response efforts of Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique Red Cross Societies following Tropical Cyclone Freddy.

Furthermore, since April, IFRC-DREF has provided a CHF 2.3 million loan to the National Societies of Chad, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic as kick-start funds for the Regional Emergency Appeal in response to the Population Movement caused by the ongoing civil conflict in Sudan. The Sudanese Red Crescent also received a CHF 1.6 million loan to start off the Sudan Complex Emergency Appeal, in response to the same crisis.

Between January and June 2023, IFRC-DREF allocations in response to earthquakes have already reached the highest ever for this type of emergency, making it the second-largest allocation by type of emergency for the period.

IFRC-DREF allocations  
for disasters and crises in Africa  
in January – June 2022

**CHF 8.8 million**



**80% increase**  
in comparison to the  
same period last year

IFRC-DREF allocations  
for disasters and crises in Africa  
in January – June 2023

**CHF 15.8 million**

This increase in allocations was driven by IFRC-DREF's response to the devastating earthquake in Syria and Turkey, for which IFRC-DREF granted a CHF 2 million loan as startup funds for the emergency appeals launched by each of the National Societies. Additionally, the Red Crescent Societies of Palestine, Iran, and Tajikistan also requested IFRC-DREF loans to address the humanitarian needs arising from these earthquakes and others – 58% of the total amount was allocated to MENA (Middle East and North Africa) National Societies.

IFRC-DREF 's support for epidemic outbreaks, particularly cholera, has been prominent during the reporting period. While 14 out of 16 allocations supported African National Societies, 6 of these were directed to the alarming outbreak of cholera in Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe – altogether receiving CHF 1.6 million.

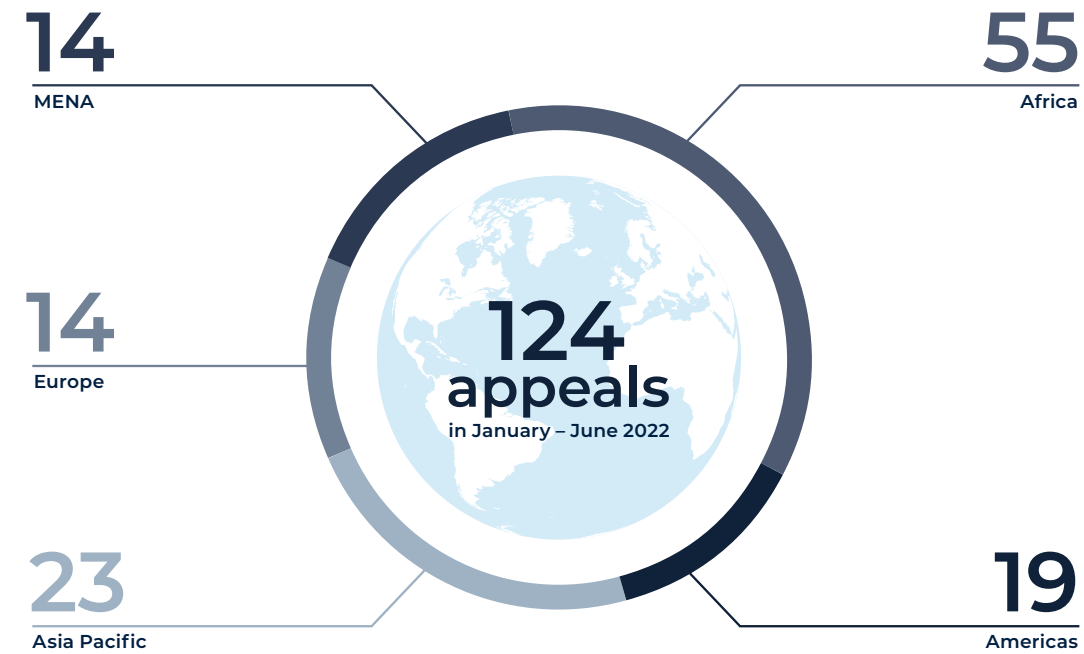
In terms of anticipatory actions, seven imminent IFRC-DREF grants in Africa, Asia Pacific, and the Americas provided CHF 1.4 million to National Societies anticipating epidemics, civil unrest, volcanic eruptions, and population movement.

Like in 2022, National Societies have continued to request support for epidemic preparedness during the first semester of 2023. The Red Cross Societies of Cameroon and Gabon sought IFRC-DREF grants to anticipate the cross-border spread of Marburg Virus Disease, which had emerged in Equatorial Guinea. In the Asia Pacific region, the Nepalese Red Cross Society requested an imminent IFRC-DREF grant to prepare for a Dengue outbreak. Also under the Anticipatory Pillar, two National Societies, the Colombian Red Cross, and the Philippines Red Cross, requested IFRC-DREF grants to anticipate the impacts of imminent volcanic eruptions.

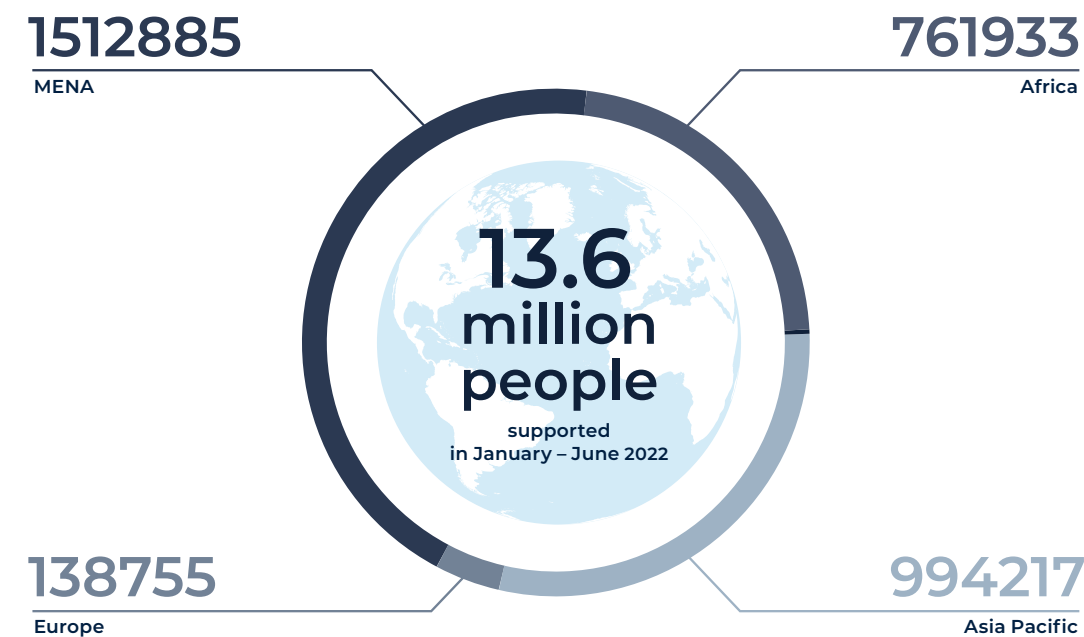
As of June 2023, the validation process is underway for an additional 11 new Early Action Protocols and Simplified Early Action Protocols. These protocols cover various hazards, including drought in Ethiopia, cold wave in Lesotho, floods in Costa Rica, Pakistan, Ghana, Yemen, Honduras, and Chad, heatwave in Bangladesh and Greece as well as population movement in Honduras. Additionally, the Early Action Protocols for heatwaves in Kyrgyzstan, volcanic ashfall in Ecuador, as well as Mozambique floods and cyclones, which were activated in previous years, are currently being revised for re-validation.

## Financial Overview:

Number of appeals



Number of targeted people



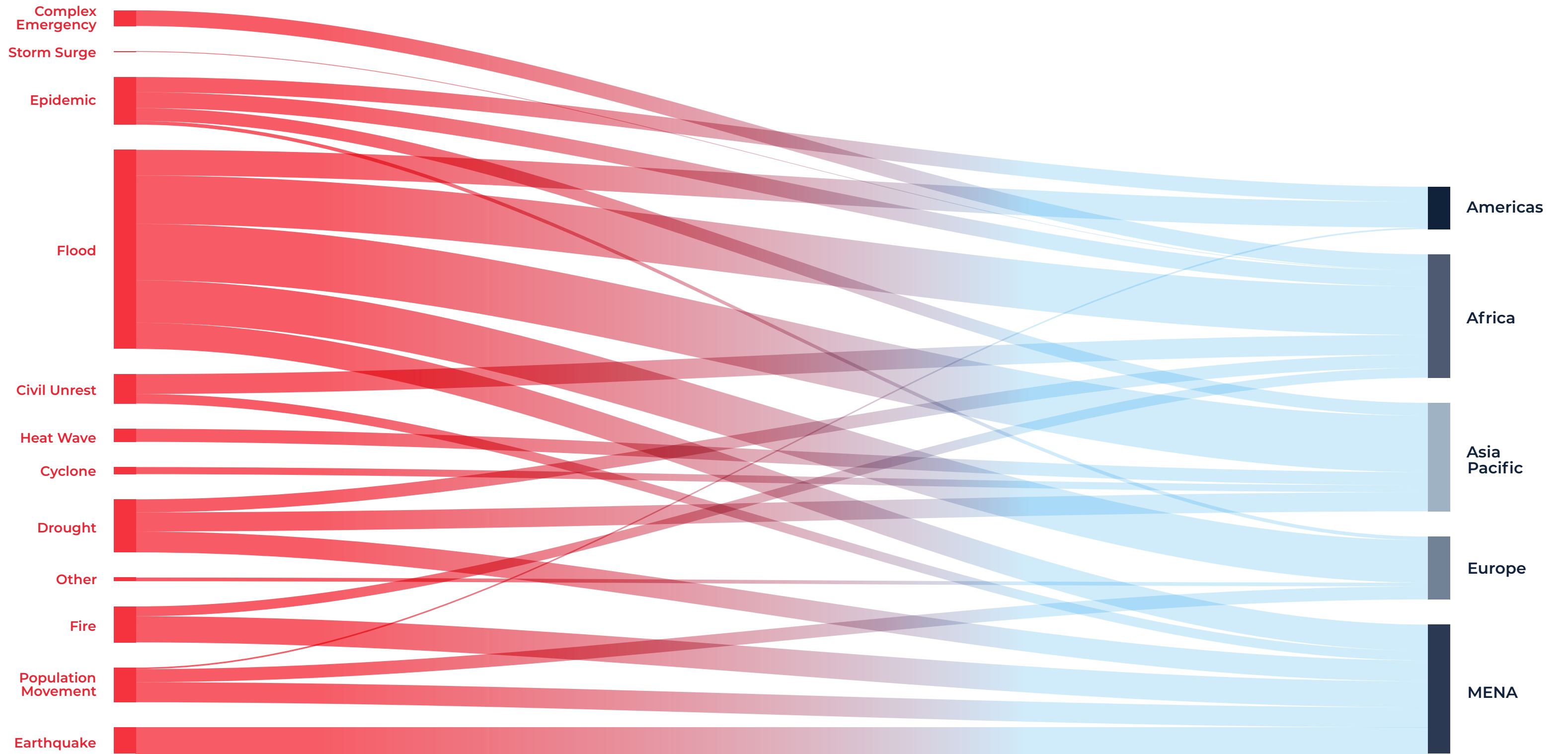
Total approved (CHF)

Disaster Definition	Africa	Americas	Asia-Pacific	Europe	MENA	Grand Total
Civil Unrest	760'520				368'582	1'129'102
Complex Emergency	598'232					598'232
Cyclone			271'035			271'035
Drought	499'422		730'100		799'070	2'028'592
Earthquake					1'000'000	1'000'000
Epidemic	607'642	580'939	493'367	139'117		1'821'065
Fire	376'327				998'815	1'375'142
Flood	1'854'248	980'873	2'154'915	1'625'731	1'000'000	7'615'767
Heat Wave			499'930			499'930
Other				140'330		140'330
Population Movement		60'229		498'752	767'308	1'326'289
Storm Surge	24'168					24'168
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4'720'559</b>	<b>1'622'041</b>	<b>4'149'347</b>	<b>2'403'930</b>	<b>4'933'775</b>	<b>17'829'652</b>

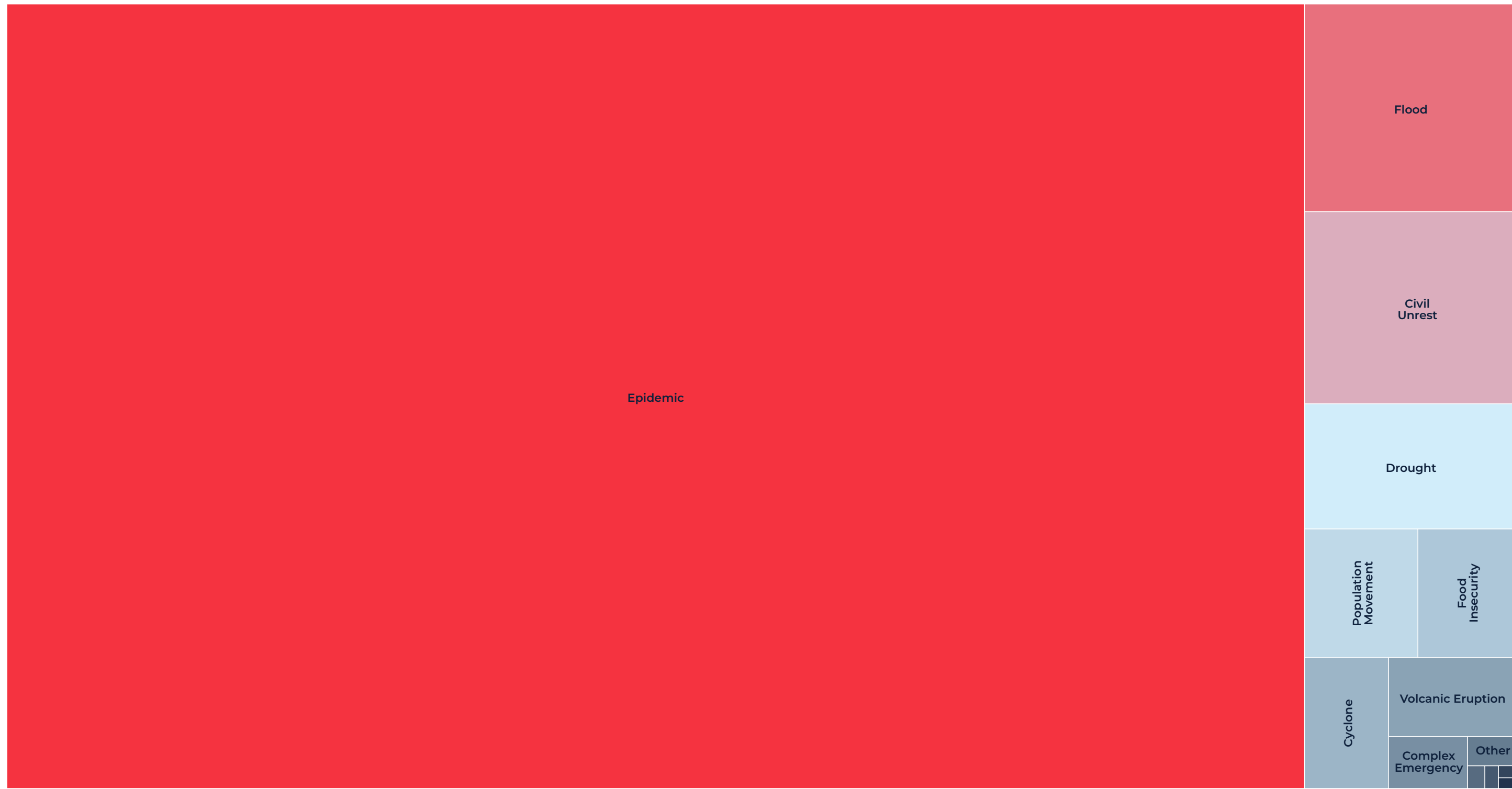
Targeted people

Disaster Definition	Africa	Americas	Asia-Pacific	Europe	Global	MENA	Grand Total
Civil Unrest	5437533	39830	643900	237181		403005	6761449
Cold Wave		16300	289410	217156		110390	633256
Complex Emergency	556813		211000	6000		20000	793813
Cyclone	1459945	673878	2981250	1298			5116371
Drought	3532812	165820	281149	18985		1851316	5850082
Earthquake	40620	340233	427548	478023		835636	2122060
Epidemic	135147727	10813550	3935212	3498922	26000	1855000	155276411
Fire	54364	13631	158426	208912		76212	511545
Flood	5894702	740865	3937931	1330637		4163182	16067317
Food Insecurity	1730390	10265	22129	3000		16000	1781784
Heat Wave			162993	19430			182423
Landslide	2845	4916	25500	600			33861
Other	199849	45785	455000	93340		79702	873676
Pluvial/Flash Flood	26335		65580	23556		4550	120021
Population Movement	1958916	709065	50922	556124		168605	3443632
Storm Surge	34231	29000		9870			73101
Tornado		1500					1500
Transport Accident	3694					1830	5524
Tsunami			15000				15000
Volcanic Eruption	1378610		141537				1602693
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>157459386</b>	<b>13687184</b>	<b>13804487</b>	<b>6703034</b>	<b>26000</b>	<b>9585428</b>	<b>201265519</b>

Funds distribution based on disaster definition







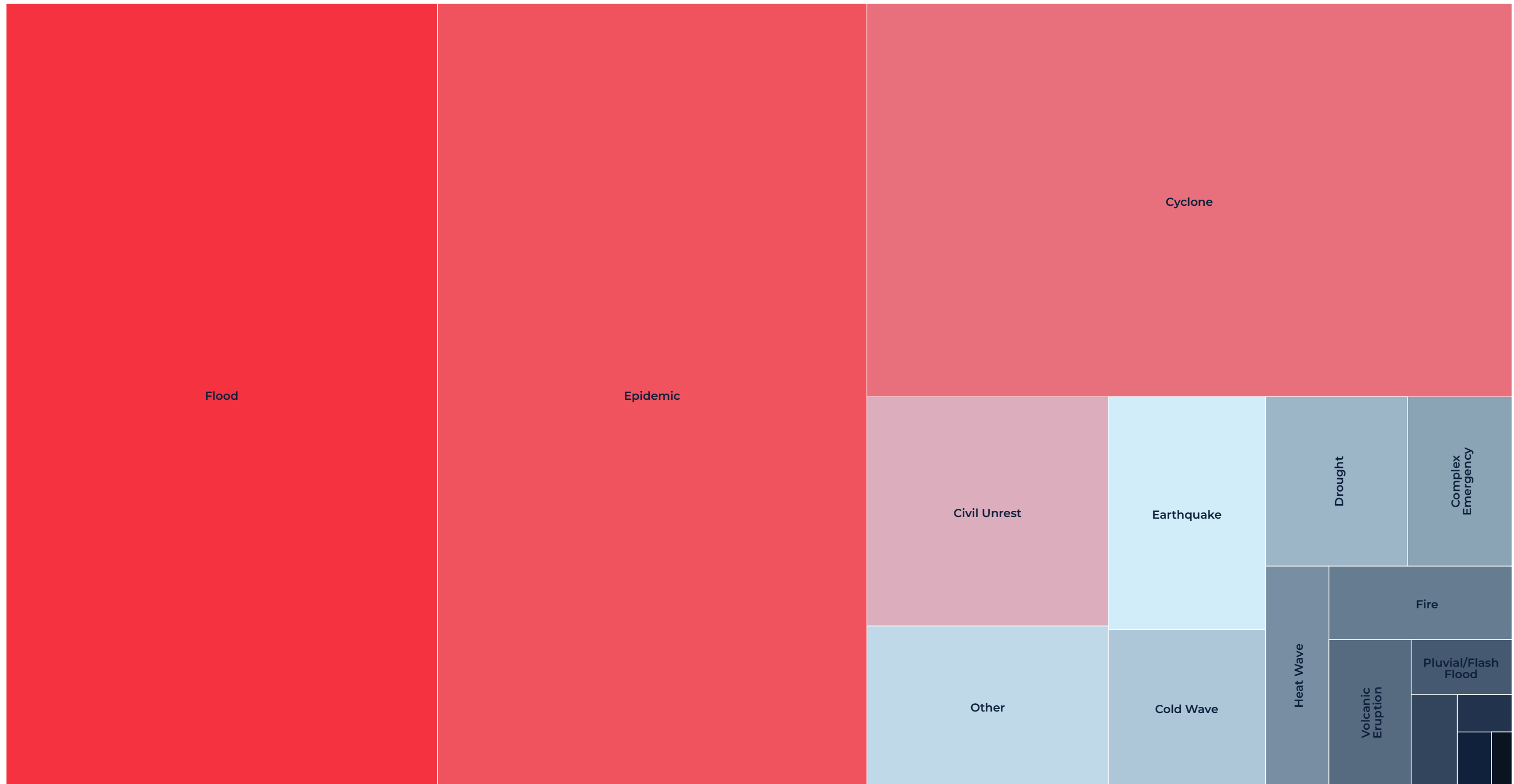
# Africa

- Fire
- Earthquake
- Storm Surge
- Pluvial/Flash Flood
- Transport Accident
- Landslide



# Americas

- Cold Wave
- Fire
- Food Insecurity
- Landslide
- Tornado



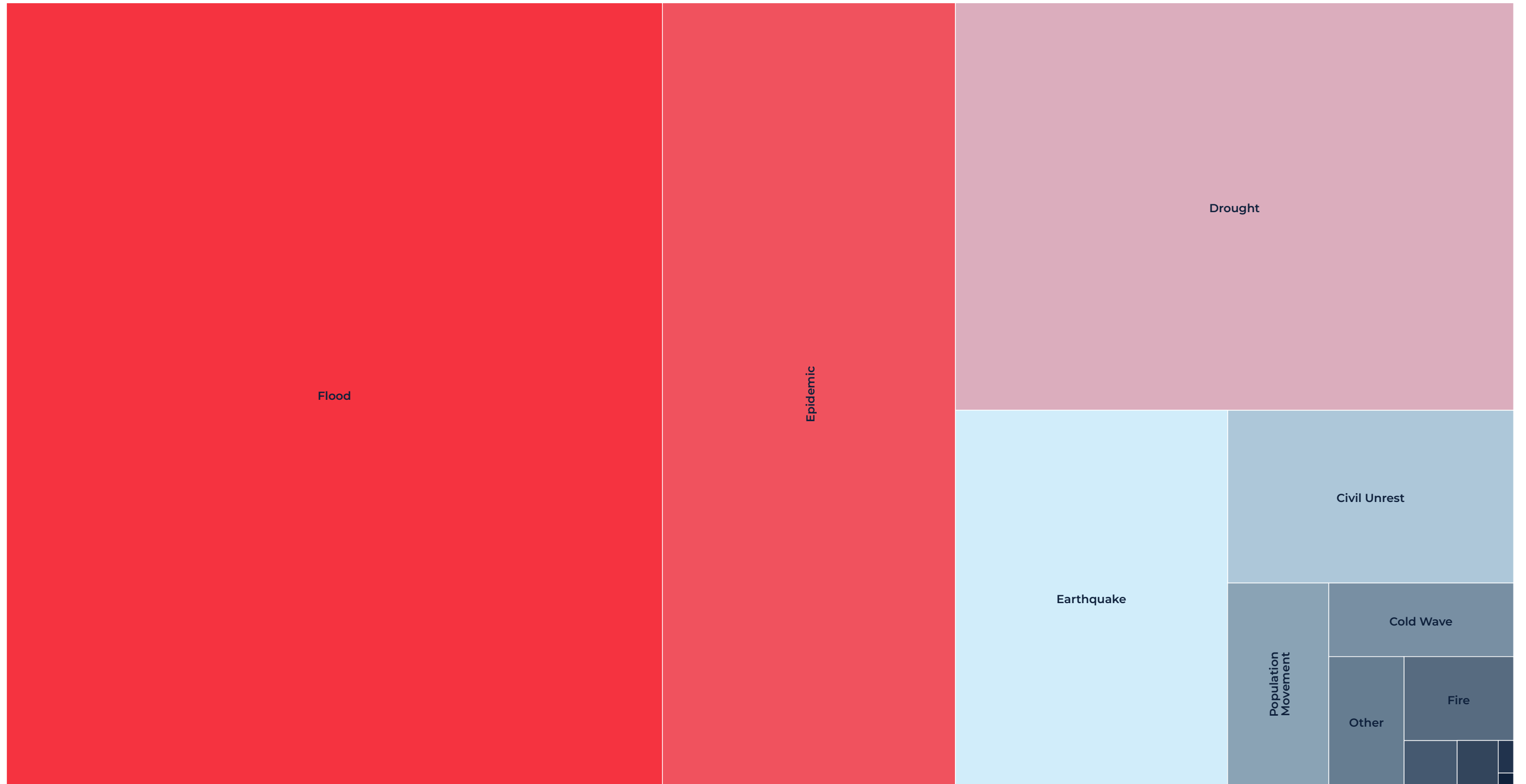
# Asia-Pacific

● Population Movement ● Landslide ● Food Insecurity ● Tsunami



# Europe

- Complex Emergency
- Food Insecurity
- Cyclone
- Landslide



# Middle East and North Africa

● Complex Emergency ● Food Insecurity ● Pluvial/Flash Flood ● Transport Accident





## Global Operational Challenges:

The first half of 2023 was marked by several challenges noted within the implementation of IFRC-DREF-supported operations.

Overdue final reports of IFRC-DREF-supported operations continue to constitute a risk for the Fund, with outstanding allocated amounts and operation activities remaining unreported. **At the end of the first half of 2023, a total of 32 final reports are overdue. This includes 1 final report pending for a 2020 operation, 9 final reports from 2021 operations, and 22 final reports from 2022 operations.**

Due to the type and level of risk exposure for the Fund (particularly for long overdue final reports), IFRC-DREF is strengthening its efforts to monitor, alert and raise awareness to IFRC Regional Offices, Delegations, and National Societies on the need for timely reporting on IFRC-DREF-funded operations.

The first half of 2023 has also seen a steep increase in the number of IFRC-DREF requests requiring an exceptional approval: when the requests do not respect the core IFRC-DREF eligibility criteria for IFRC-DREF Operations, therefore approved based on the humanitarian imperative of providing immediate assistance to people at risk and communities affected by disasters. A total

of **15 exceptional approvals were granted** from January to June of this year, surpassing the total number of exceptionally approved operations granted in 2022 (14 approvals).

The most frequent justifications for the exceptional approvals are late requests (requests being submitted after an operation had already closed or being late after trigger date), pending final reports for previous operations, delayed procurement and noted procurement issues in recent operations, implementation of a repayment plan, and booking of expenses after an eligible timeframe. The increasing frequency of these requests highlights the need for support, capacity, and coordination to be enhanced with National Societies to minimize instances of requests requiring exceptional approval.

Additionally, **34 IFRC-DREF-funded operations requested timeframe extensions between January and June 2023**, a significant increase compared to 2022, when only 20 timeframe extensions were granted within the whole year. Common reasons for timeframe extensions are need to scale-up of the response (including geographical extension), adjustments to activities, finalization of remaining activities, initial delays in the launch of activities, delayed fund transfers, delayed signing of

Project Agreements, delays due to procurement issues and delays in personnel recruitment.

IFRC-DREF has continued to note instances of delayed signing of Project Funding Agreements for the operations that it is supporting. These delays have been ascribed to rather lengthy internal validation steps at a local level, that need to be implemented (including legal validation) for the signing of the agreements.

As IFRC-DREF supporting to anticipation and response of epidemics remains the third most frequent disaster type, one challenge of such operations has been delayed procurement and clearance of Safe and Dignified Burial kits for Ebola Virus Disease or Marburg Virus Disease. This tends to prevent the implementation of other activities within such operations, and which have required extensions of operations. These challenges pose an operational as well as reputational risk as they can hamper the whole readiness part of the IFRC-DREF operation, as well as undermine the relevance of implementing readiness and anticipatory actions.

**A coordinated effort with the movement is essential to overcome these bottlenecks and ensure that these processes are addressed for future operations.** The IFRC-DREF Team is closely working with other departments and units to find modalities to overcome these delays and make processes more effective and timelier.

**While always considering humanitarian needs as a priority and demonstrating flexibility to allow access to the Fund to all National Societies, IFRC-DREF also needs to ensure compliance and maintain accountability and transparency. Efforts are being undertaken to resolve outstanding issues and support the National Society to be better prepared for the management of IFRC-DREF operations.**

# Performance indicators

03



**Key Performance Indicators**



Number of operations

**66**



Number of National Societies accessing the IFRC-DREF (INFORM - from high-risk countries)

**12**

Number of new National Societies with simplified EAPs and EAPs

**1**

Number of National Societies accessing IFRC-DREF for imminent events

**7**



Total Allocations (Anticipatory and Response Pillar)



**CHF 30,911,447**

Number of Allocations

**85**



Amount of funds mobilized through the IFRC for National Society responses to crises and disasters each year



**CHF 22,053,890**



National Societies supported with increased IFRC-DREF application capacity strengthening (training, mentorships, materials, and others)

**14**



Total annual allocations that go towards operations funded by the Anticipatory Pillar

**9%**

DREF allocated to Anticipatory Action

**CHF 2,728,961**



Number of IFRC-DREF-funded operations reviews conducted

**2 reviews**

covering 7 countries, in Africa and Europe Regions



The average number of days for IFRC-DREF allocations approved from trigger date

**10.6 days**



Timeliness of allocation approvals (grants)

**6.8 days**

Allocations that go to yellow emergencies

**56%**



Continuous engagement with the IFRC-DREF Advisory Group

**2 meetings in 2023**





# Progress towards outcomes

04





## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Enabling local action - enough funding as direct as possible

### Enhanced collaboration with IFRC-DREF partners and management structure

IFRC-DREF has continued its strategic engagement with the IFRC-DREF Advisory Group, with one online meeting in Q1 2023 and an in-person meeting in Q2 2023, in Budapest. The latter was strategically scheduled to input on the upcoming IFRC-DREF Council Agenda (which took place in May 2023).

Moreover, the IFRC-DREF team has been working to increase its two-way communication with the IFRC-DREF Advisory Group, through a Microsoft Teams Channel and shared facilitation of the meetings. Notably, the engagement with the IFRC-DREF Advisory Group partners has allowed the team to advance a range of strategic activities in the first semester of 2023. This includes:

- Remote technical support from the British Red Cross surge IM (Information Management) team, who supported IFRC-DREF with the complete review of the Fund's data collection tools. This includes merging both response and Anticipatory Action data and the development of a IFRC-DREF Operational dashboard, to be made public at the IFRC-DREF webpage.
- The IFRC-DREF Advisory Group also supported the finetuning of the IFRC-DREF Operational Review Framework and actively participated in the IFRC-DREF Operational Review of the Africa Hunger Crisis ToRr (Terms of Reference), providing support in both financial and human resources. The Swedish Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, and British Red Cross provided altogether 5 staff who have been fully engaged in this activity.
- The IFRC-DREF Advisory Group has been actively engaged in the development of an approach to maximizing the presence of Partner National Societies at the country level, as well as how to seek opportunities and synergies around IFRC-DREF implementation and coordination to increase the impact for affected communities. Based on the discussion, an initial concept note has been drafted and is currently under review.
- As a follow-up of feedback from the IFRC-DREF council and discussion with the IFRC-DREF AG in November 2022,

the IFRC-DREF AG has worked on reviewing its ToR, mainly considering two main points: inclusivity and engagement. Discussions were held on how IFRC-DREF user National Societies can be included in the IFRC-DREF AG meetings and what contribution is expected from them. Based on this discussion the IFRC-DREF AG ToR is being revised and will be shared with partners.

- On the scope of the IFRC-DREF Anticipatory Pillar, the efforts for external collaboration were leveraged with three bi-monthly calls to coordinate Red Cross Red Crescent partners working on anticipatory action.
- At the start of 2023, the voluntary contribution of the Anticipatory Pillar's Validation Committee members was acknowledged by the Head of DCC (Disaster, Climate, and Crisis) in personalized messages to their respective National Societies (as well as the Climate Centre and Livelihoods Centre). In the first half of 2023, the IFRC-DREF team has collaborated with IFRC's National Society Development team, specifically the managers of the capacity development fund which include the Capacity Building Fund (CBF), the National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA), and Empress Shôken Fund (ESF). This new engagement aims at exploring the integration and synergies between various tools. The initial engagement resulted in a webinar held in June, open to IFRC Staff from all regions. During the webinar, the teams presented the initiative's significance in linking IFRC-DREF-funded operations and shared valuable insights that National Societies can derive from these experiences. Additionally, the teams discussed potential proposals for the capacity development funds, while also promoting these funds among operational colleagues. Currently, the IFRC-DREF team is actively working on another component of this project: the development of a desk review focused on IFRC-DREF Operations in Armenia. This case study aims to enhance our understanding of the connections between using lessons learned from operations and developing proposals for development funds.





## IFRC-DREF Insurance

During the first half of 2023, the final version of the Value for Money report from the Center for Disaster Protection (CDP) was released, allowing the IFRC-DREF team and Insurance project team to finalize the insurance terms and conditions with the AON management consulting company and reinsurers. The IFRC-DREF insurance structure and Management agreement were drafted and are being finalized. **To date, the IFRC has fundraised CHF 2.9 million for the insurance premiums which includes CHF 500,000 from IFRC's own funds, as well as contributions from UK FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office) (CHF 797,800), ISF (CHF 725,082), Nestle (CHF 500,000), British Red Cross (CHF 281,400 and Danish Red Cross (CHF 133,272).**

The Decision Paper to allow the signature of the Insurance contract has been approved and signed. Outstanding points on the insurance agreement (reinsurance contract and sanctions clauses) are currently being addressed and the final signature is expected to take place at the beginning of Q3 2023 – but will be in place for the full year of 2023. Additionally, ToRs (Terms of Reference) for an evaluation of the insurance project and ToRs for a communications campaign to promote the IFRC-DREF and Insurance Tool have been finalized. Additionally, the web team has created an insurance dedicated page that is part of the [IFRC-DREF website](#).



## IFRC-DREF Pledging Conference

Since 2021, the IFRC-DREF Pledging Conference takes place yearly, to connect and engage IFRC-DREF Donors on a two-day fundraising event in Geneva. The preparation for the IFRC-DREF 2023 Pledging Conference started during Q2 in coordination with PRD and Communications departments. The event is expected to take place on **17th November 2023**. As part of the event, a panel discussion will be organized, while content, thematic, and keynote speakers are still being selected at the moment.

For the upcoming conference, the IFRC-DREF and Communications Teams are preparing a series of engaging animated shorts. These will feature 6 distinct stories from IFRC-DREF users across different regions, underscoring the significant impact of IFRC-DREF. Notably, one of these shorts will highlight Anticipation Action. Each story will be presented as a brief animated video, perfectly tailored for sharing on social media platforms. The primary goal is to demonstrate to donors the tangible achievements and impact of IFRC-DREF.





## Advancing IFRC-DREF Communications and visibility

In April 2023, IFRC-DREF completed the hiring process of the IFRC-DREF Communications Officer, based in Budapest. A bridge between the IFRC Communications' and the IFRC-DREF teams, the IFRC-DREF Communications Officer has been implementing the communications strategy (developed in 2022) and increasing the Fund's engagement and reach on social media. The **@IFRC\_DREF** Twitter page currently gathers posts for each IFRC-DREF allocation, disclosing the type of disaster, contribution amount, and the number of people reached. The hashtag **#DREFinAction**, allows users to follow the latest allocation announcements.

Additionally, efforts are underway to gather stories from the field to enhance the content and increase engagement. **Since April, IFRC-DREF has witnessed a growth of over 230 new**

**followers on Twitter, while the engagement rate has improved from 2.0% to 3.4%.** These developments signify the rising interest and active participation of the audience.

During the first part of 2023, the IFRC-DREF Newsletter was launched and has been distributed monthly via email and the IFRC-DREF Twitter account. In May, we conducted a survey targeting key internal and external stakeholders to gauge interest and tailor the newsletter's content and distribution. Based on the feedback, we've refined our approach to better serve our audience. For those interested in regular updates, you can subscribe to the IFRC-DREF Newsletter [here](#). Monitoring key performance indicators (KPIs) such as open rates, click-through rates, and subscriber engagement will enable the IFRC-DREF team to continuously enhance the newsletter's effectiveness.

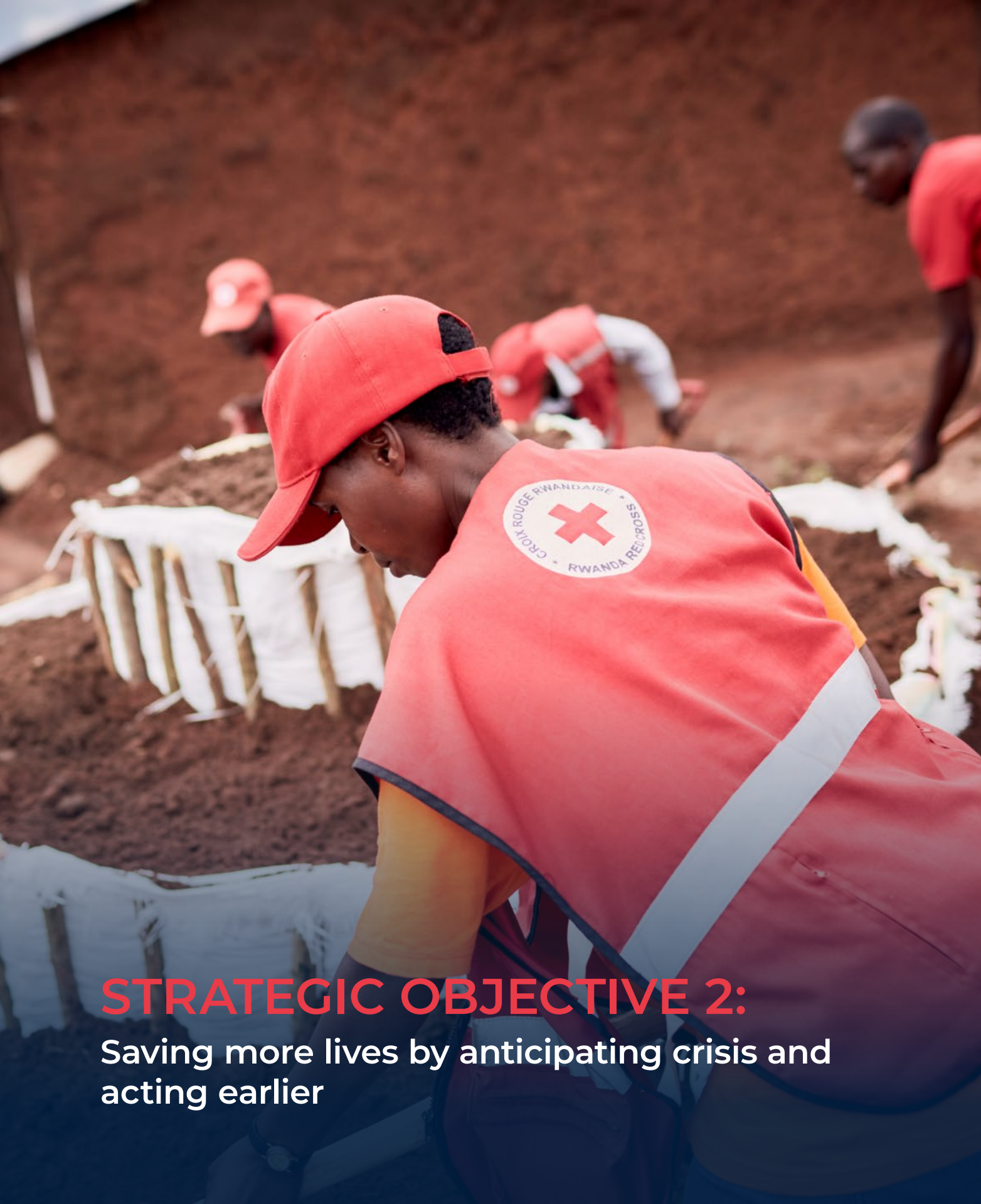


## IFRC-DREF story - Cholera Outbreak

**It took Faiza one awareness session to realize that she had cholera**

Amidst the turmoil of conflict, a new adversary emerged in Syria – cholera. It was September 10, 2022, when the Syrian Ministry of Health sounded the alarm. Interrupted vaccination programs, crumbling healthcare facilities, and soaring prices of hygiene materials worsened the situation. It took Faiza one awareness session by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in Lattakia to realize she had cholera. She learned about the symptoms of cholera, returned home, followed the volunteers' guidance, and rushed to the hospital. Thanks to the quick measures, she recovered. With the help of IFRC-DREF, these sessions reached over 188,000 people, and over 2.8 million individuals across 11 governorates learned crucial prevention methods. With the assistance of IFRC-DREF, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent brought hope and healing to those in need.





## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

Saving more lives by anticipating crisis and acting earlier

### Scaling-up Anticipatory Action

At the end of 2022, funding was agreed for IFRC and the Italian Red Cross from the Italian Government to scale up anticipatory action in Africa. The grant for the regional program, of EUR 5.2 million aims to scale up anticipatory action under two pillars: pillar one aims to develop EAPs for six African National Societies, namely, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Tanzania. The second pillar will target an additional 14 National Societies to develop simplified EAPs and imminent IFRC-DREF using appropriate forecasts and triggers for readiness and early actions. The program will be operational for just over two years from now.

The second quarter of 2023 saw the initial recruitment of personnel and the kick-off workshop which was held in Maputo on 14 & 15 June for 8 National Societies and IFRC delegations targeted by pillar one of this program and with the support and participation of the IFRC-DREF global team and regional officers. Pillar two National Societies will be onboarded in the coming months.

This semester also saw the recruitment and induction of four new Validation Committee members, with representatives from Bangladesh Red Crescent, Mongolia Red Cross, Myanmar Red Cross, and Uganda Red Cross. One quarterly Validation Committee meeting was facilitated in this reporting period as well as one ad hoc meeting to review the quality criteria for non-weather-related hazards (population movement).

In addition to the Staff on Loan support received from the Finnish Red Cross, the recruitment of the IFRC-DREF Senior Officer Anticipatory Action has been completed. The selected candidate will start in July 2023.

One new Early Action Protocol was approved in 2023 – for droughts in Honduras. This protocol was activated in July 2023.







### **EAPs and S-EAPs online application:**

The first semester saw little traction on presenting Early Action Protocols (EAP) and simplified EAPs (sEAP) on the GO Platform. While the wireframes were prepared and finalized in 2022, work was paused while the IFRC-DREF online application – including online simultaneous review – has been tested, piloted, and refined. As soon as the IFRC-DREF online application functionality is finalized, work will resume on presenting the EAPs and sEAP on the GO Platform. During this period, work continued with the ERP team, to ensure that EAPs are accurately and appropriately reflected as well as collaboration

with the British Red Cross on a merged data collection tool (for IFRC-DREF Anticipatory and Response Pillars) and the IFRC-DREF Operational dashboard.

Between January and June 2023, all EAP and sEAP applications and reporting templates were reviewed and aligned, with IFRC branding and with the planned operation and enabling approaches. Since the budget cap was increased in November 2022, 12 EAPs have been submitted and resubmitted for validation, 11 EAPs have taken advantage of the increased budget from CHF 350,000 to CHF 500,000, this equates to 91%.



### **Technical Support and Capacity Strengthening to National Societies:**

Individual and tailored support on Anticipatory Action was provided to the following National Societies: Greece, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania, Ghana, Cameroon, Burundi, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Yemen, Morocco, Philippines, and Bangladesh. The sessions were also provided to the respective IFRC delegations, responsible to support those National Societies.

Additionally, three webinars were organized for the Americas Region on the simplified EAP, one for IFRC staff and one for National Societies and partners in Spanish and in English (other regions were already reached with this exercise in 2022).

Jointly with the American Red Cross, a double analysis is being conducted to support data-driven decision making and improving how we work. Firstly, a review of the planned versus actual of the activations to date (15 since the launch of the Fund in 2018) and secondly, a cost-benefit analysis of anticipation vis

a vis response. Initial findings should be completed in time to present at the Global Dialogue Platform in October 2023.

Another study is also being carried out with Netherlands Red Cross, following the activation of the Floods EAP in Zambia in early 2023. The purpose of this study is twofold: 1) understand the extent to which the Floods Anticipatory Actions have been relevant, and effective to the communities and if they were implemented efficiently; 2) learn how the transition from anticipatory action to emergency response went and what we can learn from this. The preliminary findings will also be presented at the Global Dialogue Platform.

During this reporting period, a case study was produced on population movement in Central America, based on IFRC-DREF requests for imminent events. In June, the Anticipatory Pillar received the first EAP for a non-weather-related hazard: population movement from Honduran Red Cross.





## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

Increasing the value of IFRC-DREF in protracted, slow onset and complex event

### IM Analysis Framework and Impact of previous operations

During the first half of 2023, small coordination and discussion took place with the IM team, with specific attention to Iran Earthquakes in March, Cyclone Freddy in the Indian Ocean, the forecasts for floods in Africa and high-risk countries, and the monsoon season in Asia Pacific and possible risks to specific countries. During the Sudan crisis, the IM team provided

inputs and analysis on the possible effects on neighbouring countries as well. These analyses are necessary to be reviewed with lessons learned from previous operations as well.

A systematic analysis will be further consulted in the second half of 2023.

### IFRC-DREF Feedback collection process

The IFRC-DREF Team has been working on the development of a feedback collection mechanism targeting external and internal key stakeholders, such as donors, user National Societies, IFRC Global and Regional staff, among others. The questions (to be developed) will address topics in three main areas:

- The impact of the IFRC-DREF-funded operations: focus on the effectiveness of the IFRC-DREF-funded support in meeting the needs of the communities affected by the disasters, and areas for improvement.
- The IFRC-DREF Evolution: the effects of the package of changes launched by IFRC-DREF on the activities of stakeholders, both

in terms of operational processes, activities, and delivery of the IFRC-DREF-supported operations.

- The IFRC-DREF Tool: will gather comprehensive feedback on the functioning of IFRC-DREF as a funding tool, from the start of the request process to the final reporting of the IFRC-DREF-supported operations.

The concept note for the process has been already developed and reviewed by the IFRC-DREF and CEA Teams. As of June 2023, the process is in the stakeholder analysis stage.





## **ENABLER 1:** **A lean, efficient fund**

### **Accountability, Compliance, and Risk Management**

In the first half of 2023, the IFRC-DREF team advanced its efforts to strengthen accountability, compliance, and risk management, through the development of new tools and the optimization of existing tools and processes. Moreover, a new priority has been the utilization of data that is being tracked by IFRC-DREF related to accountability and compliance to alert and raise awareness and improve decision-making processes of IFRC-DREF.

Since the beginning of 2023, IFRC-DREF is preparing the IFRC-DREF Quarterly Compliance Review, a report prepared quarterly that analyses compliance and accountability issues linked to IFRC-DREF-supported operations. This report aims at raising awareness of IFRC-DREF compliance and accountability for Regional Offices and Country/Cluster Delegations to help ensure better control, accountability, and risk management. This compliance is key to guaranteeing the steady growth of IFRC-DREF and ensuring that we maintain the trust of our partners and donors.

Recent efforts also include the utilization of the data from IFRC-DREF Issue and Risk Register together with the data from the IFRC Country Risk Dashboard and presentation in IFRC-DREF Risk Analysis One-Pagers. The IFRC-DREF Risk Analysis One-Pagers are concise documents that provide an

overview of a National Society's current standing in relation to several relevant IFRC risk indicators and any issues and challenges related to accountability and compliance noted within IFRC-DREF operations. The one-pagers are prepared based on risk assessments and are sent to the regions by IFRC Leadership following approvals of IFRC-DREF requests that meet the risk assessment criteria. These recent efforts aim at supporting IFRC's overall commitment to transparency, integrity, and ethical conduct.

The IFRC-DREF Risk Appetite Statement was developed in early 2023 and generated increased collaboration between IFRC-DREF and the IFRC Risk Management Unit. The IFRC-DREF Risk Appetite Statement constitutes the first such document developed at IFRC and is considered a pilot which can inform and contribute to the development of other similar strategic processes across IFRC. The development of the IFRC-DREF Risk Appetite Statement has been a crucial step in framing IFRC-DREF's risk appetite and formalizing the provision of direction on how and which risks can be addressed, accepted, or tolerated. This not only enables us to be clearer about when to escalate and delegate risks across different levels at IFRC (Secretariat, Regional Office, Delegations, National Societies, etc.) but also helps to support and drive decision-making at the different levels at IFRC.

### **IFRC-DREF Online Application**

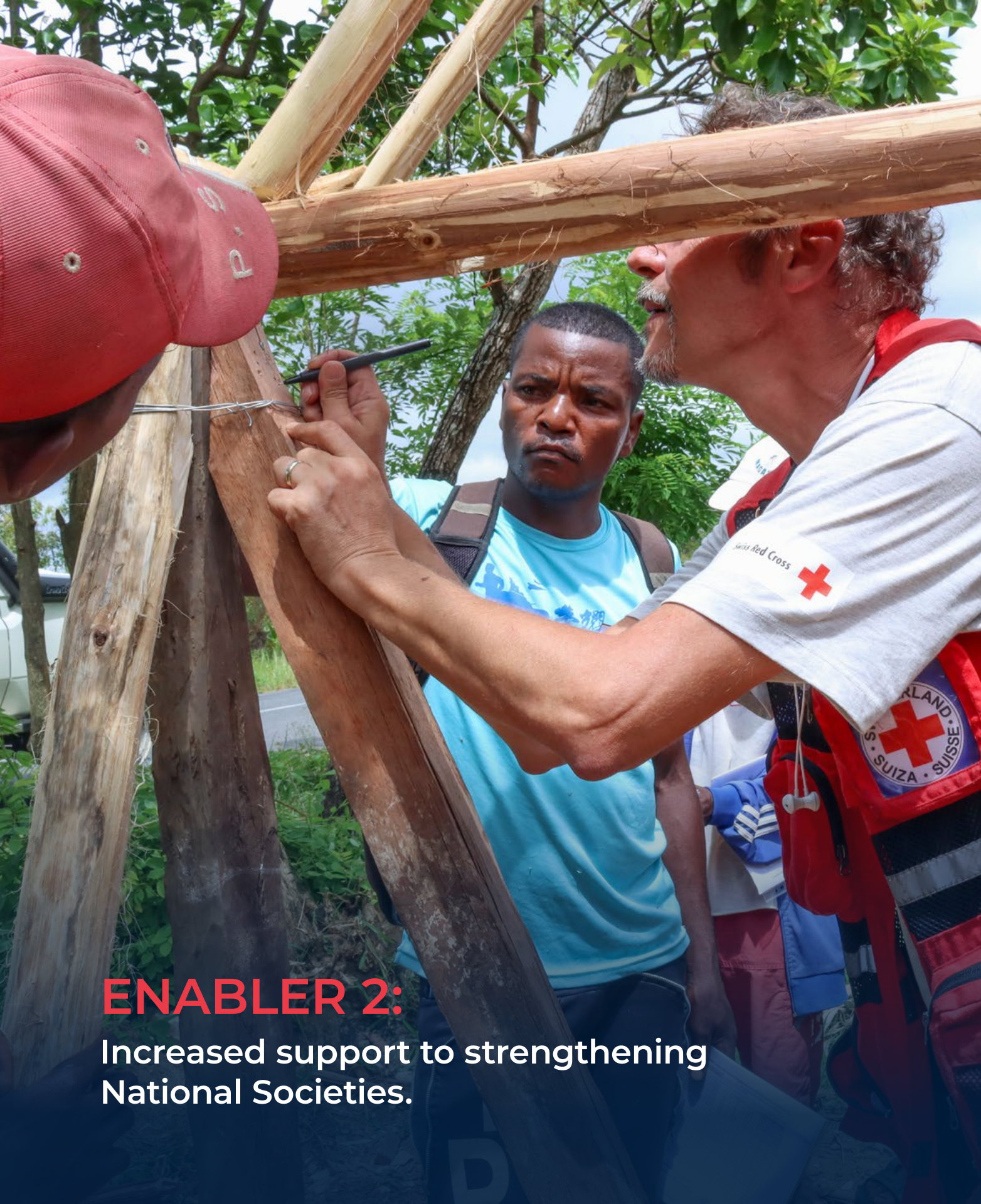
All first iterations of the IFRC-DREF request templates have been completed in the GO platform, including the application form, operational updates, and final reports. The testing period for the IFRC-DREF Evolution was closed at the end of April 2023 and with it, the feedback collection process around the new application. As the next step, the feedback was analysed for bug corrections and improvements to all templates. Some of the major developments in the first half of 2023 for IFRC-DREF in GO include:

- The exclusive permissions for the IFRC-DREF Regional Focal points, which allow administrative rights on the management of the applications in their regions.

- The rework on the My IFRC-DREFs tab in the GO account page, displays a more intuitive user interface.
- Inclusion of the IFRC-DREF loans modality to the IFRC-DREF Application forms.

Establish regular working relationships with finance, audit, and risk management colleagues to enable an increased level of risk awareness and preparedness.





**ENABLER 2:**  
Increased support to strengthening  
National Societies.

## Anticipatory action training and capacity strengthening

During the reporting period, a comprehensive learning framework and two training packages were developed with resources from the ECHO Programmatic Partnership: an online foundation tier training package, as well as a level one tier face-to-face training package. In the first month since the launch of the online foundation tier, 500 people registered for the course, 50% of which have completed it.

In addition, two face-to-face tier one trainings have been facilitated. The first one took place in February 2023, in Panama,

for 9 National Societies (American, Guyana, Chilean, French, Panamanian, Belize, Dominica, Mexican, and Paraguayan Red Cross), Regional IFRC staff, and staff from IFRC's Caribbean Disaster Risk Management (CADRM) Reference Center, with 22 participants. The second training was facilitated for IFRC staff supporting National Societies on anticipatory action in Budapest in May 2023. The training reached 18 participants from delegations and regional offices as well as the Geneva Secretariat.

## IFRC-DREF Trainings and Training Resources

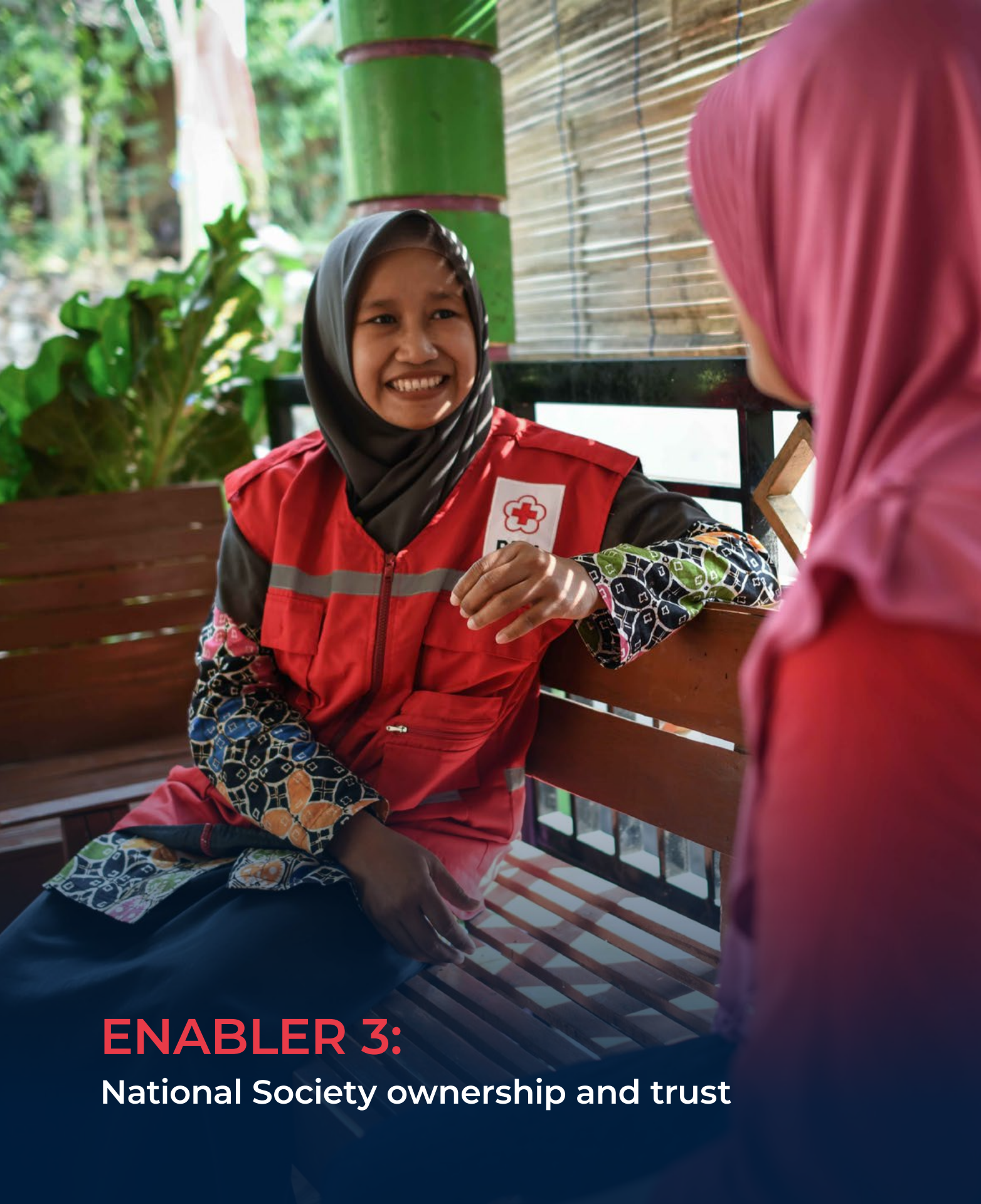
In the first half of 2023, 11 face-to-face training have been conducted in all five regions: In Africa for DRC and Niger, in the Americas for El Salvador, in the Asia Pacific for Laos and Mongolia, in Europe for Tajikistan and the Balkan countries (In Bosnia and Herzegovina), and in MENA for Iran, Algeria, and Iraq. All these sessions utilized the IFRC-DREF Training package revised during the IFRC-DREF Evolution in Q3 2022, which includes dynamic sessions on both anticipatory and

response pillars, simulation exercises on the IFRC-DREF Online Application, and good practices on the project management of IFRC-DREF Operations.

As the IFRC-DREF Procedures and Guidelines are being re-developed following IFRC-DREF Evolution, IFRC-DREF face-to-face training package and other capacity enhancement resources are expected to be revised later this year.







## ENABLER 3: National Society ownership and trust

### Develop an IFRC-DREF Operational Reviews Framework:

With the changes brought by the 2022 IFRC-DREF Evolution, the need for operational reviews became even greater. During the first half of 2023, the IFRC-DREF Operational Reviews Framework was developed to streamline and promote a consistent and more systematic approach to conducting operational reviews.

This framework aims at providing guidance to different stakeholders (IFRC Global and Regional Staff, Partner National

Societies, and External Partners) on how to conduct operational reviews of DREF-funded operations, while at the same time defining core parameters such as when an operational review should be conducted, triggers which should lead to an operation being reviewed; steps to be followed; roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in reviews; suggested duration of operational reviews; who is the targeted audience; and how to disseminate and utilize review outcomes.

### Develop an annual plan for Reviews and Conduct Operational Reviews for at least 10% of IFRC-DREF allocations:

An Annual Plan for Operational Reviews for 2023 was also developed accompanying the development of the framework. **Overall, a total of 12 operational reviews or analyses are planned for 2023, of which six have been prioritized, covering at least 15% of IFRC-DREF recipient countries.**

**Six reviews have been prioritized for the first half of 2023**, while progress has been noted on four reviews/analysis covering at least 22 recipient countries: one process review (analysis) has been completed, one thematic review including field visits is in its reporting phase, one analysis is underway and one thematic review with planned field visits is in ToR finalization phase. Highlights of these reviews/analyses are as seen below:

In terms of process reviews, in the first half of 2023, the IFRC-DREF Team analysed the impact of exceptional approvals of allocations and non-compliance to Procedures on IFRC-DREF Fund. This analysis was carried out after noticing a steep increase in the number of IFRC-DREF requests requiring exceptional approval so far in 2023 (15 by April 2023), compared to 2022 (14 for the entire year). Please, refer to the Global Operational Challenges section of this report for a summary of this analysis.

The Africa Hunger Crisis Review was implemented from March to June 2023, aiming to assess the support provided by IFRC-DREF (either as grants or loans) towards operational and strategic goals of the regional response to the Africa Hunger Crisis. The review was a combination of desk analysis of the Africa Hunger Crisis Appeal operations in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe, coupled with an analysis and field visits to Angola, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Nigeria and Somalia. **A total of 14 countries are being covered under this review.** While being co-led by IFRC-DREF and Swedish Red Cross, the AHC review was conducted by representatives' staff from the Partner National Societies, including the British, Canadian, and Swedish Red Cross Societies with support of IFRC and National Societies staff of the countries targeted by the field visits. All the support provided by the Partner National Societies was crucial to ensuring the successful implementation of this review. This review is in its final stages and the report is expected to be finalized in July 2023.

In addition, the IFRC-DREF Team is cooperating with the IFRC capacity development funds, on a case study on the Armenian Red Cross. This desk review looks at the linkage of the IFRC capacity development funds [CBF (Capacity Building Fund), NSiA (National Society Investment Alliance) and ESF (Empress Shôken Fund)] with the operational learnings drawn





from IFRC-DREF operations resulting from lessons learned workshops. Armenian Red Cross requested IFRC-DREF support yearly since 2019, while also requesting support from IFRC capacity development fund. This review emphasizes the need for ensuring alignment between the findings of operational learnings and the works being undertaken as part of the National Society Development initiatives. The learnings from various IFRC-DREF operations can be used to guide institutional development by identifying the areas where the National Society needs to improve its capacity, incorporating the learnings into longer-term development plans, and improving its response capacity during emergencies, therefore strengthening their overall institutional capacity. This case study is entirely desk-based and will be finalized within Q3 of the ongoing year.

**An operational review of Epidemic Preparedness in Africa is being planned for the second half of 2023,**

**focusing on 7 countries** for a desk review (Uganda, Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Gabon, Tanzania, and Côte d'Ivoire) and planned field visits to Côte d'Ivoire and Tanzania. This review will assess the effectiveness and efficiency of epidemic preparedness operations supported by IFRC-DREF since 2018 (loans and grants), to develop actionable recommendations to inform the strategic and operational directions of IFRC-DREF, adapting to the current context of increased disease outbreaks. This exercise will primarily focus on Ebola Virus Disease and Marburg Virus Disease, which are the two main disease outbreaks for which epidemic preparedness operations have been launched in the last 5 years and for which it is crucial to ensure timely readiness. The terms of reference for this review is currently being finalized and the Review Team is being set up so that the Review can be launched by the end of the 2023 summer period.



## **IFRC-DREF story - Uruguay**

### **Race against time to find fresh water for Uruguay**

Uruguay's National Institute of Meteorology reports that over 20% of the land is experiencing "extreme drought," while temperatures remain consistently higher than usual. Responding to the Uruguayan government's call for evaluation and potential responses, the IFRC has harnessed the capabilities of IFRC-DREF by allocating CHF 43,000 for comprehensive assessment. This innovative use of IFRC-DREF, typically reserved for immediate responses, showcases its adaptive potential in aiding preemptive humanitarian efforts. IFRC-DREF operation assisted the Uruguay Red Cross in conducting assessments in the most-affected areas, with a special focus on over 5,000 people who may lack drinking water. This prioritization encompasses single-parent or female-headed households, the elderly, children, the disabled, and migrants.





### Operational Learnings

Since 2020, the challenges and lessons learned from IFRC-DREF-funded operations are digitalized and made available on the **IFRC GO Platform**, to support analysis of National Society preparedness and more evidence-based decision-making when planning interventions.

Currently, the platform displays **6,478 learnings from 426 operations in 118 countries**, each associated with an area from the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) mechanism. Moreover, each IFRC-DREF Training includes one session on Preparedness and another on Operational Learnings, to promote the ownership of the tool to National Societies and highlight the links between strong preparedness and efficient anticipatory actions/response.

The IFRC-DREF Operational Learnings collected are also being used by the **IFRC's Capacity Building Fund (CBF)** to bridge the gaps in the identified challenges and learnings in the IFRC-DREF operations. The IFRC-DREF learnings are now used to enable the National Society to access that CBF fund that could allow them to work on identified challenges, gaps, and recommendations, aiming to increase the scale and quality of their services and program delivery within their communities.



### Hiring and managing IFRC-DREF focal points for each Region

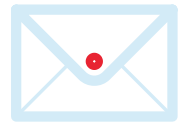
**To ensure proximity communication between IFRC and the IFRC-DREF, all Regional IFRC-DREF focal points are now in place: one each in the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe, and MENA Regions, while due to the high volume of operations in Africa, this region has two IFRC-DREF focal points.**

Finnish Red Cross has seconded a Staff on Loan for a minimum period of one year to support the ambition of the IFRC-DREF Anticipatory Pillar by providing technical assistance to the IFRC-DREF team and directly to National Societies engaged in the development of EAPs and Simplified EAPs. The Staff on Loan will start their assignment in July 2023, based for 6 months at the IFRC Africa Regional Office (Nairobi) and

subsequently being outpost to the IFRC Delegation in South Africa for 6 months.

In a bid to foster exchange and diversity of experiences between the regions to better serve the multiplicity of needs from National Societies, peer-to-peer support is highly encouraged amongst the focal points. An example is the direct support that is currently being provided by the Asia Pacific IFRC-DREF focal point by co-leading the Africa Hunger Crisis IFRC-DREF operational review with IFRC-DREF Advisory Group Member (Swedish Red Cross). More such initiatives are being discussed for the second half of the year, to ensure good cohesion and the use of experiences from other regions to better support National Societies.

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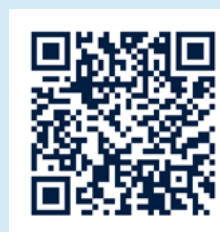
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