

# Emergency Plan of Action Operations Update

## Mauritania: Floods

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| <b>DREF Operation No. MDRMR014</b>  | <b>GLIDE NUMBER: FL-2022-000286-MRT</b>   |
| <b>Operations Update no. 1: 15 December 2022</b>  | <b>Period covered by this mid-term report: 23 August to 30 November, 2022</b>           |
| <b>Date of launch of the operation: 23 August 2022</b>  | <b>Estimated operation timeframe: 6 months</b><br><b>New end date: 28 February 2023</b> |
| <b>Operation budget: CHF 248,039</b>  |   |
| <b>N° of persons assisted: 3600 persons (600 households)</b>  |   |
| <b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, ICRC, French Red Cross</b>  |   |
| <b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Local administrative authorities (governors, hakems, technical and state services, mayors) and communal.</b> |   |

### Summary of adjustments made to the emergency plan of action:

This update is published to inform partners and stakeholders about the progress of implementation since the start of the operation (end of August 2022), and to inform about the no-cost extension of the intervention period by 2 months.

Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) has experienced delays in the implementation of the DREF operation activities due to delays in receiving the funds and difficulties with the procurement process of shelters and NFI kits (one of the main actions of this appeal), challenges that have prevented the MRC from conducting all DREF activities within the initially planned period.



Picture: Immediate assistance to basic needs through CVA. Guerou, Source: MRCS

The objectives remain as planned in the DREF PoA and within the same allocation. The two-month extension will allow the MRC to carry out the remaining activities:

- PDM surveys (CVA distributions)
- The acquisition and distribution of shelters and NFI kits (wash, hygiene, and kitchen kits) which is currently being validated
- Training sessions (3) for 60 volunteers on distribution and shelter techniques
- Health and hygiene awareness sessions
- PDM surveys for shelter and NFI distribution

# A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

## Description of the disaster

From 25 July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022, heavy rains caused flooding in some parts of Mauritania, including Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba and Tagant in southern and central Mauritania. Among other things, the floods caused extensive material damage to 4,351 households, i.e., 28,926 people. Fourteen (14) deaths were reported, most of them being children. Across all the **7 affected regions, 3,817 houses were destroyed** and a loss of 766 heads of cattle was recorded because of the severe rains<sup>1</sup>.

Significant damage and loss of houses, food stock and household items were recorded across the affected regions, predominantly in N’beika, Siyassah and Ashram in Tagant region, Guerou and Boumidid in the Assaba region, and the municipality of Agjart and Sava in the Hodh El Gharbi region.

In general, there was extensive large-scale damage to infrastructure, including roads, bridges, dams, and protective dikes, as well as roads and commercial complexes that were flooded. Communication and electricity services were also cut off in most areas for three or four days, most notably in the departments of Moudjéria and Guerou.

Most of the businesses in the cities were flooded, as was the arable land which had been sown. Food stocks and hut breeding were also impacted. In some areas, people's drinking water sources have been submerged with rainwater. Access to safe drinking water has become difficult. Hygiene items are also rare, exacerbating the risks of contamination and spread of waterborne diseases.

Faced with this situation, local elected officials (local authorities) have appealed to the government and all partners working in the regions to provide assistance to these affected households who are in difficult conditions.

For more details, see [MDRMR014](#)

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of the Host National Society's action

The Mauritanian Red Crescent (MRC) launched the response to the flood disaster in August 2022, first with the setting up of a national monitoring unit, the Disaster Management Center Unit, to monitor the evolution of floods across the country.

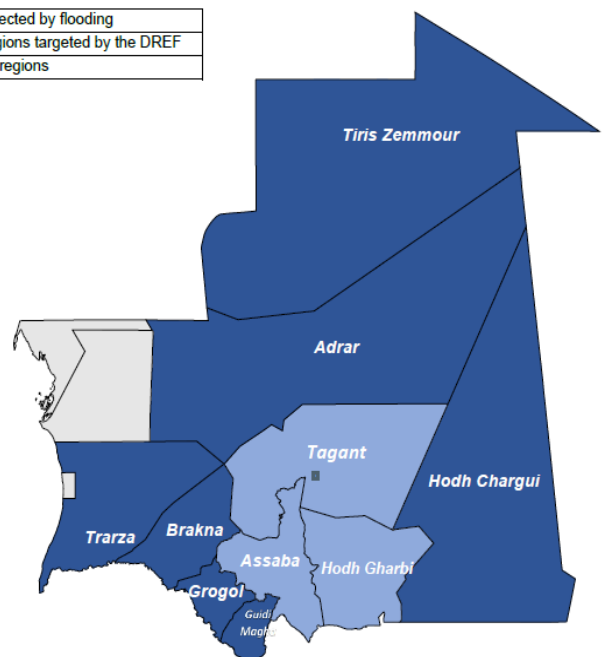
The MRC has supported monitoring and response since the beginning of the disaster, including:

- Collection of preliminary data and information on floods in the affected areas,
- Deployment of teams of volunteers to affected areas
- Participation in the tasks of evacuation and assistance of affected families,
- Distribution of NFI items (200 mattresses, 400 jerry cans (10l and 20l), etc.).
- Conducting a rapid assessment

(For more details, see [MDRMR014](#))



|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| Regions affected by flooding         |
| Flooded regions targeted by the DREF |
| Unaffected regions                   |



<sup>1</sup> Daily bulletin of the Technical Commission of the Department of Emergency Management: <https://ami.mr/fr/index.php/category/7/>

Within the framework of the DREF, the following actions carried out by the MRC so far, are:

- Rapid needs assessment (3 regions)
- Multi-sectoral needs assessment (3 regions)
- Cash Transfer Feasibility Study (3 regions)
- Deployment of 30 volunteers for 7 days to conduct a rapid needs assessment (3 regions)
- Deployment of 10 volunteers for 5 days to conduct a multi-sectoral needs assessment (3 regions)
- Training sessions for 60 volunteers on cash transfer and feasibility studies in the three areas
- Deployment of 10 volunteers for 5 days to conduct the cash transfer feasibility study (3 regions)
- Beneficiary selection in the three regions (600 households)
- Setting up of the feedback mechanisms (3 regions)
- Providing immediate assistance with basic needs for 600 households through cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in the three target areas
- Launch of shelter and NFI procurement process (under validation)
- Deployment of 10 volunteers for 5 days to support cash / CVA distribution (3 regions)
- CVA distribution (basic needs assistance) for 600 households (3 regions).
- Training sessions for 60 volunteers on WASH in emergencies (3 regions)
- Refresher training on CEA (community engagement and accountability) and PGI for 50 volunteers (3 regions)
- Launch of the shelter and NFI procurement process (under validation)
- Regular monitoring and coordination with partners.

### **ECHO field visit**

As part of the follow-up to ECHO-funded activities in Mauritania, an ECHO mission visited the National Society (NS) on 15 November in the Assaba region (Geourou and Kammour).

The objective of the visit was to follow up on DREF activities and meet with the target communities and the MRC implementation team. While in the field, the mission visited two CVA distribution sites in Geourou and Kammour, and a village targeted by the DREF intervention. The ECHO mission was received by the MRC's National President and the representative of the Regional Committee of Kiffa.

### **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country**

The MRC and the IFRC Dakar cluster team maintained this coordination of technical and financial support that has enabled the implementation of the activities of this PoA. The IFRC Cluster Delegation has transferred funds and deployed a Procurement Surge to Nouakchott, and a surge finance in Dakar for remote support.

At the beginning of the crisis, together with ICRC, as part of a joint intervention, the MRC distributed aid to 200 households (from the prepositioned stock of Households Items). The distributions reached the town of N'beika in the Northern part of Tagant.

As part of the assistance to the affected populations during the 2022 floods, with the support of ICRC and the French Red Cross (FRC), the MRC is providing food and NFI assistance for **400 affected households** in the Dar Naim department (Nouakchott Nord) among the most affected areas in Nouakchott.

With the support from the Qatari Red Crescent, the MRC assisted 1685 affected families in the regions of Nouakchott Nord (Dar Naim and Teyarett departments) and in the Inchri region (Akjoujt Department). Each household received 25kg of rice, 10kg of sugar, 5 liters of oil, and 5 pieces of soap of 250g).

### **Overview of non-RCRC action in country**

In response to the floods in several regions, the government has provided urgent assistance to the affected populations in the different flooded regions through the distribution of food and non-food items via the Food Security Commission (CSA) and the cash distribution of the Taazur agency. The government's technical services remain mobilized and are implementing response activities in their areas of intervention.

To respond to the floods that have affected several regions, including Hodh el Gharbi, Assaba and Tagant, the Government has set up a unit in charge of monitoring the floods hosted by the Ministry of Interior. This unit plays a key role in coordinating emergency situations and collecting information related to the flood damage recorded in each area, in addition to publishing a weekly information bulletin to update information throughout the country.

The Mauritanian government participated in the response by providing immediate humanitarian assistance (tent, two blankets and a food kit) to 500 households in the N'beika region, and repairing bridges and protective dikes damaged

by floods, in collaboration with the Ministry of Equipment and Transport teams. The authorities have set up a damage assessment commission in each region.

(For more details, see [MDRMR014](#))

## **Needs analysis and scenario planning**

### **Needs analysis**

The torrential rains of this year have caused flooding in seven regions across the country, with various level of impact. (For more details, see [MDRMR014](#)).

Preliminary assessments in those regions indicate that around 3817 houses were completely or partially damaged due to the heavy rains. As a result, many families who have been displaced by the floods and whose homes have been destroyed cannot meet their basic needs, given the widespread impact of the floods on their livelihoods and sources of income.

Impacts on infrastructure have limited access to health services in a context where the presence of stagnant water on the one hand, and the difficulty of access to drinking water on the other, increase the risk of the spread of water-borne diseases and vector-borne diseases like malaria.

Finally, communities' sources of income, including those dependent on agriculture, livestock, and trade, have also been affected. The floods have had a direct impact on people's sources of income (loss of crops and livestock, damage to arable land and agricultural infrastructure, etc.) and on markets-links and supply opportunities, particularly to meet people's basic needs. Added to this is the loss of household food stocks.

The results of the preliminary assessments conducted by government authorities and MRC volunteers deployed on the ground indicate that the needs of flood-affected communities were as follows:

- Livelihoods and basic needs;
- Emergency shelter and NFIs;
- Health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

### **Multisectoral needs assessment**

Following the floods that affected the regions of Hodh el Gharbi, Assaba and Tagant, a multisectoral needs assessment was carried out by the Mauritanian Red Crescent with the aim of updating the data on the ground two months of after the onset of the disaster.

This evaluation allowed the MRC to determine the main lines of the intervention strategy to respond to the victims in three affected regions.

The multi-sectoral assessment conducted by the MRC as part of the DREF confirms that the affected households are still in need of assistance and that the needs in the three target areas remain the same: coverage of basic needs, including food, shelter, non-food items and hygiene kits.

After analyzing the results of the needs assessment, the Mauritanian Red Crescent will still assist the 600-beneficiary household initially planned out of all the households identified by the departmental commission in each region, i.e., 200 households per region. The identification of households in need of assistance was carried out in consultation with local authorities, and using information gathered through in-depth and multisectoral assessments.

Construction and rehabilitation of households are strongly needed based on observation and interviews (the majority of the families surveyed expressed difficulties in covering their shelter needs). This need became a priority in this "cold period" which also stems from the lesions identified during the rapid assessment conducted by the MRC at the onset of the crisis.

In terms of shelter, the analysis of the needs assessment data highlights the following:

| <b>General condition of the houses</b> | <b>Number of Households Surveyed</b> | <b>% of damage</b> |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Good condition                         | 120                                  | 20                 |
| Partially damaged                      | 270                                  | 45                 |
| Totally damaged                        | 210                                  | 35                 |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>600</b>                           | <b>100</b>         |

As part of the shelter assistance, the MRC has sized the intervention with the following distribution:

- Hodh El Gharbi Region: Ekjerit locality: 200 beneficiary households: Distribution of tents and blankets,
- Assaba region: Guerou and Kammour locality: 200 beneficiary households: Distribution of tents and blankets,
- Tagant Region: Localities of Ashram and Siyassa: 200 beneficiary households: Distribution of tents and blankets.

According to the results, the majority of households surveyed applied survival strategies to cover their basic needs, which increased their vulnerability and impacted their recovery capacity.

The analysis of the data collected during the multisectoral assessment (October 2022) confirms an urgent need for support in terms of **shelter**, **WASH**, and immediate assistance to cover **populations' essential needs** (basic commodities), where the response provided by the MRC through this DREF operation was crucial.

When it comes to hygiene, sanitation, and water treatment, according to the assessment, the most common method of water treatment is done using bleach. Behaviors related to home water conservation are generally good in communities and that most families use buckets with lids for home water conservation.

The assistance provided to flood-affected families under this DREF operation is structured around two main activities: cash distribution (CVA) and distribution of shelter, NFI and hygiene kits to 600 families in the three areas.

This intervention will also contribute to the local economy and host populations indirectly affected by the disaster.

## Operation risk assessment

With respect to security risks, the situation in Mauritania remains stable, notably in the targeted areas (south and centre-east of the country) which are accessible by road. The MRC has local committees with a network of trained and available volunteers, but coverage in the regions targeted by this DREF will be strengthened by this operation.

The intervention area is a low-risk area in terms of security, but the MRC has included security measures to ensure smooth implementation. As part of the implementation of the DREF's activities, the MRC strengthened the security system by respecting the rules and safeguards of their implementation teams and partners to conduct the planned activities in a timely and secure manner.

Road access: On the main axis that connects the capital to the extreme region of the country and that crosses several regions targeted by the DREF intervention, there are some road works causing access difficulties that are not hampering the circulation of people and goods.

All other risks identified in the reference document ([EPoA Emergency Action Plan](#)) remain valid.

## B. OPERATION STRATEGY

### Proposed strategy

The strategy of Operation DREF remains as described in the Emergency Action Plan. For more details, see Section B. of the initial plan [MDRMR014](#). For details of remaining, ongoing, or achieved activities, please see below in section C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN.

**Objective:** Provide emergency assistance to affected households in flooded areas, following a detailed needs assessment, in three (3) identified regions of intervention: Hodh El Gharbi, Assaba and Tagant.

### Specific objectives

- Provide emergency shelter kits, NFIs and household and washing items to 600 affected families;
- Distribute unconditional cash to 600 households (2,400 MRU/household) to help the beneficiaries meet their basic needs for one month;
- Strengthen the capacity of the volunteers' network and the National Society by training 60 volunteers in safe shelter, hygiene promotion, water, sanitation, and cash as well as conducting assessments and awareness campaigns;
- Ensure complementarity, coordination, and synergies with planned interventions by the Government on the one hand, and humanitarian actors on the other.

## C.DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



### Shelters

**People targeted: 3,600 (600 households)**

Male: 1764

Women: 1836

**Shelter 1 outcome: Affected communities in affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being, and long-term recovery by addressing shelter and habitat issues**

| Indicators:                                  | Targets | Real |
|--|---------|------|
| # of households receiving housing assistance | 600     | 0    |
| # of households receiving non-food items     | 600     | 0    |

**Shelter Output 1.1: Affected households receive short-, medium- and long-term shelter and habitat assistance.**

| Indicators:  | Targets | Real |
|--|---------|------|
| # of rapid needs assessments completed             | 1       | 1    |
| # of multi-sectoral detailed evaluations completed | 1       | 1    |
| # of rented storage units                          | 3       | 0    |
| # of trained volunteers                            | 60      | 0    |
| # of PDM conducted                                 | 1       | 0    |

### Progress towards outcomes

As indicated in the EPoA, the needs remain unchanged, the MRC is assisting 600 households (3600 people, 1836 women and 1764 men) whose houses were completely destroyed by the floods, through the provision of emergency shelter, non-food items and hygiene kits.

The activities already conducted, at the time of preparation of this report, are the following:

- Deployment of 30 volunteers for 7 days to conduct a rapid needs assessment (3 regions)
- Deployment of 10 volunteers for 5 days to conduct a multi-sectoral needs assessment (3 regions)
- Launch of the shelter and NFI procurement process. The procurement process of the kits is underway (a call for tenders has been launched and the entire selection process has been completed with the support of the Procurement Surge deployed and IFRC-Dakar cluster Logistics team. The file was sent to Nairobi for validation).

### Challenges

One of the main challenges was the procurement process, which together with the delay in receiving DREF funds in the field delayed the implementation of planned activities.

The following activities are yet to be implemented:

- The acquisition and distribution of shelter and NFI kits (wash, hygiene, and kitchen kits) which is currently being validated
- PDM surveys (for shelter and NFI distribution)
- Training sessions for 60 volunteers on distribution and shelter techniques.



### Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 3600 (600 households)

Male: 1764

Women: 1836

**Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods.**

| Indicators:  | Targets   | Actual |
|--|-----------|--------|
| Percentage of households that received money for food                                | 100 (600) | 100    |
| Percentage of households confirming the use of cash for their livelihoods/food needs | 80 (480)  | 0      |

**Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities.**

| Indicators:  | Targets | Real |
|--|---------|------|
| # Number of cash assessment conducted, include cash risk       | 1       | 1    |
| # Number of market assessments conducted                       | 1       | 1    |
| # Number of households receiving cash assistance               | 600     | 599  |
| # Number of sage committee's consultation held (2 per region). | 2       | 2    |
| # Number of feedback mechanisms in place (1 per region).       | 1       | 1    |
| # Number of volunteers and staff trained on cash               | 60      | 60   |

#### Progress towards outcomes

MRC targeted 600 households (3,600 people) who lost all or most of their food stock. These households received unconditional cash assistance (CVA) to meet basic needs, after validation and following the modality identified through an initial feasibility assessment.

To this end, the following activities have been carried out:

- Training sessions for 60 volunteers on cash transfer and feasibility studies in the three target areas;
- Deployment of 10 volunteers for 5 days to conduct the cash transfer feasibility study (3 regions);
- Beneficiary selection (600 households);
- Refresher training on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI) for 50 volunteers (3 regions)
- Set up a feedback mechanism;
- Cash distribution to 600 households (3 regions);
- Deployment of 10 volunteers for 5 days to support cash distribution activities (3 regions)

PDM surveys yet to be carried out.



### Health

People targeted: 3600 (600 households)

Male: 1764


Women: 1836

#### Outcome 1:

**Health Outcome 1.3: Target population benefits from community-based disease prevention and health promotion.**

| Indicators:  | Targets | Real |
|--|---------|------|
| # Number of people sensitized to health prevention | 3600    | 0    |

|  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
| # Number of households receiving sufficient mosquito nets  | 600 | 0 |
| <b>Progress towards outcomes</b>   |     |   |
| <p>Affected populations are exposed to health problems due to precarious conditions, including stagnant water, mosquito proliferation, poor access to latrines and restricted access to health facilities.</p> <p>For health activities, as for WASH ones, the MRC response focuses on the distribution of NFIs (specifically mosquito nets) and awareness raising. These activities could not be carried out yet due to the challenge of preparing the call for tenders. Procurement of support for awareness and HHI is still ongoing.</p> <p>Ongoing activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of the NFI procurement process. The procurement process of the kits is underway (a call for tenders has been launched and the entire selection process has been completed with the support of the Procurement Surge deployed and IFRC-Dakar cluster Logistics team. The file was sent to Nairobi for validation).</li> </ul> <p>The following activities are yet to be conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition and distribution of mosquito nets (under validation).</li> <li>• Awareness sessions.</li> </ul> |     |   |

|   |                |             |
|---|----------------|-------------|
|  <p><b>Water, sanitation and hygiene</b><br/> <b>People targeted: 3600 (600 households)</b><br/> Male: 1764<br/> Women: 1836</p>   |                |             |
| <b>WASH Result 1: Immediate reduction of risk of waterborne diseases in targeted communities (benefiting 6,000 people)</b>  |                |             |
| <b>WASH 1.1: Detailed assessment of the water, hygiene and sanitation situation is conducted in targeted communities.</b>   |                |             |
| <b>Indicators:</b>  | <b>Targets</b> | <b>Real</b> |
| #Nombre of volunteers trained on WASH in emergencies and key thematic messages  | 60             | 60          |
| #Nombre of people affected by hygiene promotion   | 3600           | 0           |
| #Nombre of hygiene kits, containers and buckets distributed   | 600            | 0           |
| Percentage of households acknowledging that household items received were useful to them (100%)   | 600            | 0           |
| Percentage of feedback processed (100)  | 100            | 0           |
| <b>Progress towards outcomes</b>  |                |             |
| <p>Apart from the distribution of NFI (hygiene kits, and buckets), health and hygiene awareness sessions will be organized in all regions as needed. These sessions will focus on household water treatment, water storage, mitigating risks associated with open defecation, and waterborne and vector-borne diseases, while promoting proper handwashing.</p> <p>The activities conducted at the time of preparation of this mid-term report are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of 60 volunteers (from the three target regions) on the WASH programme in emergencies and key messages;</li> <li>• Launch of the NFI procurement process. The procurement process of the wash kits is underway (a call for tenders has been launched and the entire selection process has been completed with the support of the Procurement Surge deployed and IFRC-Dakar cluster Logistics team. The file was sent to Nairobi for validation)</li> </ul> <p>The remaining activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition and distribution of WASH kits (currently being validated)</li> </ul> |                |             |

- Awareness sessions
- PDM survey

## National Society Capacity building

**S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated so that National Societies have the legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, skills and capacities required to plan and implement activities.**

**Output S1.1.7: Strengthened capacities of NS to support disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness at the local level**

| Indicators:  | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| # Number of insured volunteers   | 60     | 60     |
| # Number of visibility items purchased   | 60     | 0      |
| # Number of staff deployed to support implementation and monitoring at the section level | 7      | 7      |
| # Number of monitoring visits by MRC headquarters  | 4      | 1      |
| # Number of lessons learned workshops organized  | 1      | 0      |
|  |        |        |

### Progress towards outcomes

The DREF operation was implemented in an area that is often the most difficult to access and the most isolated, especially during the rainy period. The NS was able to mobilize volunteers at community level to support the implementation of activities.

The following activities have been conducted:

- The deployment of the MRC team
- Follow-up mission from MRC headquarters
- A monitoring / follow-up visit

As mentioned, there has been also a visit from ECHO (15 November) that was interesting in terms of DREF activities follow-up and, visit to target communities.

The following activities are yet to be conducted:

- Volunteers' insurance (in progress), at the time of drafting this document the volunteers' insurance has already been made.
- Procurement of visibility equipment (in progress)
- Follow-up missions
- Lessons Learned Workshop

## International Emergency Response

**Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured.**

**Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.**

| Indicators:                      | Targets | Real |
|----------------------------------|---------|------|
| # Number of surges deployed (01) | 1       | 1    |

### Progress towards outcomes

With the support of the IFRC Cluster Office in Dakar, the NS received technical support from a Surge-Procurement and the support of a (remote) Finance Surge.

## D. Financial Report

The budget and allocation remain unchanged at **CHF 248,038**. For now, the expenses are mainly made up of the payment of financial service providers fees, the travel of teams on the ground, training (CVA, WASH, etc.) and refresher on the CEA. The initial budget remains unchanged as approved in the EPoA.

## Reference documents

Click here to view:

- Previous calls and updates
- Emergency Action Plans (EPoA)

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## How we work

The International Federation strives to implement the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief Operations and is committed to complying with the **Humanitarian Charter and the Minimum Standards for Disaster Response (Sphere Project)**. as part of its assistance activities for the most vulnerable people. The overall purpose of the International Federation is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and advance at all times and in all its forms the humanitarian action** of National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering** and thus contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives,**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence and peace.**