NEPAL
2023 IFRC network country plan

In support of the Nepal Red Cross Society

77
National Society branches

422
National Society staff

126,640
National Society volunteers

People to be reached

375,000
Climate and environment

261,000
Disasters and crises

500,000
Health and wellbeing

13,000
Migration and displacement

75,000
Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs
- Disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action
- Climate change adaptation
- Health and WASH
- Migration-related needs

Capacity development
- Legal frameworks
- Governance
- Branch development
- Internal systems strengthening
- Financial sustainability
- Humanitarian diplomacy

Key country data

Population 29.1M

Long-term Climate Risk Index 10

Human Development Index rank 143

Population below poverty level 17.4

IFRC Country Delegation Nepal, Kathmandu
This document details IFRC network-wide figures and actions in areas agreed with the country National Society.

For additional information, see last page of this plan. * National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the past two years.
The Nepal Red Cross Society is one of the largest humanitarian organizations providing disaster response in the country. It was established in 1963 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1964. Students and youth volunteers comprise a large proportion of the organization. They regularly engage with the National Society through the Nepal Junior and Youth Red Cross Circles, active in schools, campuses and communities throughout the country.

As an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, the National Society in Nepal provides emergency and non-emergency services, such as response to the COVID-19 pandemic, earthquakes, floods, landslides and other disasters. Its 2021–2025 strategic development plan is articulated across four strategic directions:

- Governance and organizational development
- Disaster and crisis management
- Health and community care
- Humanitarian principles, values, international laws and diplomacy

The National Society's priority areas include disaster risk reduction, health and care, water, sanitation and hygiene, first aid, protection, gender and social inclusion. The National Society is also engaged in essential service provision, delivering first aid and blood transfusion services and operating an ambulance service with more than 240 active vehicles. The National Society provides logistical support and coordination in emergencies through its 12 in-country warehouses. In 2020, the Nepal Red Cross reached nearly 54,000 people through disaster response and early recovery services and 2.5 million people with long-term services and development programmes.

In recent years, the National Society has transformed its processes in response to the new federal administration in Nepal. A comprehensive planning process was undertaken in 2019–2020 to sustainably transform the organization, ensuring that it can continue to be relevant, efficient and accountable in serving vulnerable populations.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Nepal has a population of over 29 million people, with a diverse range of ethnicities, cultures, languages and beliefs. The country is experiencing one of the fastest rates of urban growth of any South Asian country. The Government is aiming to achieve middle-income status by 2030. More than 2.1 million Nepalese people are living and working abroad, a figure that is increasing every year and contributing to the decline of the rural population in the country.

According to the 2021 Human Development Index, Nepal is ranked 143 out of 189 countries, representing significant disparities in human development in the country. The caste system, which was officially abolished in 1962, remains one of the most influential factors in relationships, politics, economics and power, and it continues to underpin inequality. Despite the provision of constitutional and legal rights, factors such as power relations, ethnicity, physical access and the digital divide are still a barrier to equitable economic development, especially for women.

Nepal’s economy is gradually recovering from the COVID-19 crisis, with an estimated growth rate of 3.9 per cent in the 2022 fiscal year compared with 2.3 per cent in 2021. This is primarily due to wider access to vaccines and the normalization of economic activities in the absence of COVID-19 restrictions, particularly in critical sectors such as tourism, agriculture and remittances – all of which are key drivers of the economy.

In 2020, the World Bank reported that those living on the equivalent of CHF1.78 to CHF2.99 per day, representing 31.2 per cent of the population, were at risk of falling into extreme poverty. This was generally caused by reduced remittances, foregone earnings of potential migrants, job losses in the informal sector, and rising prices for essential commodities as a result of...
the COVID-19 pandemic. More recently, Nepal is facing sharp inflation driven by global trends of increased energy and transportation costs.

Nepal has experienced dynamic and unprecedented political and economic transitions since the proclamation of the constitution in 2015. The country now has a new federal structure in place with a decentralized multi-level political system at central, provincial and local levels. In line with the new constitution, the new Government structure operates with 77 districts, 7 provinces and 753 municipalities. With the Government’s commitment to the sustainable development goals, localization and upholding the ‘leave no one behind’ mission, federalism has created both opportunities and challenges for community resilience. However, there are still uncertainties about respective roles and responsibilities as the legal and administrative system is gradually defined and rolled out. This can create delays and challenges in coordinating humanitarian and development activities.

Nepal is highly vulnerable to natural hazards. Earthquakes can have devastating impacts. In 2019, Nepal was the 20th most disaster-prone country in the world and the fourth most prone to climate change-related disasters. An increasing number of people are affected by floods, landslides, droughts, heatwaves, cold snaps and vector-borne diseases. In 2021, the monsoon season triggered floods and landslides that affected about 10,000 households. These disasters also erode farmland across the country, with negative impacts on the livelihoods of vulnerable people.

### Strategic priorities

#### Climate and environment

The projected impact of climate change on Nepal greatly exceeds the country’s contribution to the problem through its carbon emissions. Temperature and precipitation extremes are likely to increase in frequency and severity, amplifying pressures on human health, livelihoods and ecosystems.

Climate change is already affecting the environment in Nepal; species ranges are shifting to higher altitudes, glaciers are melting, and the frequency of extreme precipitation is increasing. Natural hazards such as drought, heatwaves, river flooding and glacial lake outburst flooding are all projected to intensify over the coming years, potentially exacerbating disaster risk levels and putting human lives at risk. It is estimated that the number of people annually affected by river flooding could more than double by 2030 as a consequence of climate change, while the economic impact of river flooding could triple. Environmental degradation resulting from poor land use and land cover planning, uncontrolled urbanization, non-engineering and haphazard road construction, river pollution, poor sanitation facilities, and solid-waste management are aggravating the risks to the population.

The vulnerability of Nepal’s communities, particularly those living in poverty and operating subsistence agriculture, increases the risk posed by climate change. Many communities do not have access to important adaptation approaches, such as air conditioning, irrigation, water storage and new crop varieties. These changing patterns are also increasing internal displacements, introducing new humanitarian needs.

Vulnerable communities must be supported to adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risk. This includes community-based programmes, education, access to resources and essential services, improved shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, capacity development, and training. In parallel, the Nepal Red Cross and partners must adapt their response frameworks and tools to ensure that humanitarian action remains relevant in the changing context, including scaling up anticipatory action based on available science.

#### Main actions and areas of support

The Nepal Red Cross Society is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.
The National Society has experience in rural development and disaster risk reduction, having integrated climate risks into its community-based programming for many years. Leveraging the existing positioning of the Nepal Red Cross and the IFRC with authorities at all levels covering disaster risk reduction and other local development issues, the National Society and its network of branches and volunteers will address climate change across all the initiatives supported by the IFRC.

The IFRC network will continue to support the development of policies and guidelines to implement climate change adaptation actions in National Society programmes, operations and services. This work will improve community resilience and climate-smart risk reduction, focusing on marginalized groups that are directly affected by the changing climate. The National Society’s adaptation actions will include the use of climate-smart technology such as solar energy; integrating nature-based solutions in community programming; preserving indigenous practices and technology; developing and/or improving heat action plans and heatwave early warning early action systems; engaging in urban planning and promoting people-centered approaches to adapt to the longer-term impacts of climate change; and biodiversity preservation.

The IFRC will support the National Society in Nepal together with its Climate Centre in building its capacity, including through training, integration of local knowledge, and inclusion of climate education into community-based programmes. The IFRC network will also support the Nepal Red Cross to establish early warning systems for anticipatory action, with forecast and real-time meteorological and hydrological data. The National Society will enhance its engagement at national, provincial and municipal levels to support Nepal’s national adaptation plan.

The Nepal Red Cross will integrate climate change mitigation across all programmes and services, supporting the reduction of carbon footprints in communities and in National Society operations. The IFRC network will support the National Society to develop an environmental action plan, providing promotion and training for sustainable practices and standards such as green response, sphere standards and nature-based solutions. The IFRC is also prioritizing youth engagement in climate change mitigation through a nationwide campaign launched in 2022, distributing grants to support youth clubs with developing and upscaling their ideas and innovations. This follows the global Limitless campaign, initiated by the IFRC in 2021. These actions will prioritize community experiences, as well as evidence and advice from scientific experts for the planning and implementation process.

Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page Nepal.

Nepal is a highly disaster-prone country, experiencing earthquakes, floods, landslides, drought, hot and cold waves and vector-borne diseases on a regular basis. Monsoonal floods and landslides affect the most vulnerable communities in hills and plains every year, while the impact of earthquakes is exacerbated by complex geology, building practices, remote communities and a lack of preparedness. Between 2010 and 2021, more than a million families were affected by floods and landslides. Among them, 988,000 were affected by floods and more than 60,000 by landslides.

The 2015 earthquake claimed nearly 9,000 lives and damaged 856,000 houses, with economic losses that amounted to around one-third of the country’s GDP. On 9 November 2022, an earthquake of 6.6 magnitude struck the Doti district in the far western part of Nepal. The epicentre was in the Khaptad Chhanna rural municipality of the Doti district. The shock from the earthquake was felt strongly in the adjoining districts, as well as in some parts of India. Aftershocks were also felt in the affected areas.

According to data from the Government of Nepal, six people were killed and eight were injured as a result of the earthquake. In the evening of 12 November 2022, another strong earthquake hit the Bajhang district. Those affected were in urgent need of emergency shelter, as well as improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, psychosocial support, and protection services.

In parallel to these natural hazards, urbanization and improved infrastructure has increased the use of vehicles, increasing the incidence of road traffic accidents as one of the major causes of injuries and death in Nepal. In 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that road traffic accidents will cause a total of 16,000 deaths per 100,000 people in the country.

Disaster management remains one of many priorities for all tiers of government in Nepal. The Disaster Risk Management Act was passed in 2017, capturing different dimensions of disaster risk management and.
encouraging a proactive approach in reducing and managing disasters through a ‘whole of society’ approach. This includes ongoing proactive response during a disaster, scaling risk reduction initiatives, and prioritizing recovery and rehabilitation.

A three-tier government system is established in Nepal, with dedicated structures at federal, provincial and municipal levels. The National Society is also represented within this structure. However, the Government is still developing its disaster risk reduction process by applying proper risk assessments, integrated planning and implementation.

Main actions and areas of support

The Nepal Red Cross Society is mandated by the 2017 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act to support authorities at all levels in disaster risk management, while also responding to local and widespread emergencies such as the latest earthquake in the far western part of Nepal. The National Society will aim to reach more community members with risk reduction initiatives and adapt its response mechanisms to evolving risks, as well as leveraging the power of volunteers and youth networks.

Between 2022 and 2024, the Nepal Red Cross will focus on the following areas:

Climate-smart community resilience and disaster risk reduction

The Nepal Red Cross Society is implementing community-based resilience and disaster risk reduction projects, in accordance with the four priority actions of Sendai Framework 2015–2030 and the IFRC's Community Resilience Framework. The IFRC and network partners will continue to support the expansion of interventions to reach more communities during this period. The multi-hazard community-based disaster risk reduction projects will enhance the capacity of vulnerable communities to conduct multi-hazard risk assessments, develop effective risk reduction planning and integrate this into local government development plans, promote early warning systems, and conduct mitigation works. In particular, the Nepal Red Cross will:

- Establish and strengthen community institutions for disaster preparedness and response
- Conduct IFRC vulnerability and capacity assessments with communities to measure their vulnerability to hazards and identify options to mitigate them
- Conduct disaster risk reduction and management planning with communities
- Promote local early warning systems, linking with the national early warning system
- Expand disaster risk reduction education, school safety and awareness-raising initiatives, ensuring that vulnerable groups (including people living with disabilities and people with a low level of education) have access to materials, which are produced in the local language
- Conduct climate-friendly prevention, adaptation and mitigation activities in vulnerable communities
- Build community capacity to respond to extreme weather and environmental hazards, such as cold and heat waves, lightning and windstorms
- Support targeted families with adaptive livelihood services
- Support communities to build access to social protection schemes and promote and initiate early action protocols, forecast-based financing and shock responsive social protection activities
- Mobilize local resources and provide emergency funds to support the implementation of mitigation plans
- Build the capacity of National Society volunteers and community response teams

Anticipatory action and timely emergency response

The IFRC network will continue to support the Nepal Red Cross Society to develop plans, policies, strategies and systems in support of anticipatory action, targeting the most vulnerable communities facing floods and heatwave risks. Additionally, the Government of Nepal has a large number of existing social protection schemes in place, such as allowances for specific groups that can be leveraged to improve the efficiency and timeliness of the National Society's response to crises. The Danish Red Cross is supporting the National Society to pilot forecast-based financing and shock responsive social protection initiatives in partnership with local authorities, the UN and other technical organizations, which will be expanded in the coming years.

With support from the IFRC network, the National Society in Nepal will ensure that the needs of people affected by crisis are met through humanitarian assistance and support that is timely, adequate and flexible. This will be achieved by:
• Providing immediate humanitarian relief services across shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, food, health, and protection, gender and inclusion to affected families in line with national and international standards
• Supporting affected people to maintain their livelihoods in case of disaster through cash and voucher assistance and in-kind support
• Conducting timely assessments of multi-hazard events – including needs analysis, selecting people affected in times of disaster, and building leadership and capacity in National Society chapters and sub-chapters
• Providing restoring family links services to those who are isolated from their families
• Conducting recovery activities to support displaced families, in line with government guidelines
• Using the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for early action and response to emergencies
• Conducting capacity building training of first responders on livelihoods, needs assessment and cash and voucher assistance
• Decentralizing the pre-positioning of relief items in proximity to the most vulnerable areas and working collectively with local authorities, corporate sectors, humanitarian agencies and communities to develop integrated response services, using local resources
• Revising and standardizing non-food relief items, ensuring that essential sector-specific items for shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, and protection, gender and inclusion are integrated into packages in line with national and global standards
• Developing the National Society’s recovery and resilience frameworks

Preparedness for effective response
The IFRC network will support the Nepal Red Cross to strengthen its response mechanisms at national headquarters, provincial and district levels of the National Society, linking with government-level authorities to work collectively. Expanding teams of first responders will be a priority, as well as strengthening and expanding emergency operation centres in provinces and districts, standardizing response tools and strengthening coordination and collaboration with local municipalities and corporate sectors for local resource mobilization. The IFRC, along with the American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross, will also support the National Society to deliver cash and voucher assistance.

The IFRC and the Danish Red Cross are supporting the Nepal Red Cross Society to strengthen its emergency operation centre and form emergency response teams at national headquarters, enabling effective and efficient emergency response. Additionally, empowering youth volunteers and increasing their engagement in emergency response is an essential component of the National Society’s activities. The National Society will also digitalize its processes and upgrade its disaster information system to support effective data and information management.

During 2022–2024, the IFRC network will support Nepal Red Cross preparedness and ensure that its auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognized, with a focus on:

• Strengthening the leadership of the National Society’s local units within disaster risk reduction programming and response
• Conducting joint simulations and drills and developing and updating policies, guidelines, strategies, contingency plans, standard operating procedures and manuals
• Standardizing training curriculum and disaster risk reduction and response tools and advocating for government endorsement
• Collaborating with academic institutions for the standardization and accreditation of the curriculum
• Working collectively with local authorities and stakeholders for policy and disaster risk reduction and management planning at municipal, district, provincial and federal levels
• Updating and maintaining a volunteer database and linking with authorities to include in the volunteer bureau
• Strengthening local level resource centres, learning centres and emergency operation centres
• Strengthening local disaster governance
• Maintaining regular coordination and collaboration with humanitarian cluster systems for planning and relief services

Disaster law and disaster risk reduction advocacy
The Nepal Red Cross Society has been actively participating in the formulation of policies, strategies,
Advocating for the development of a clear cash and voucher assistance policy, strategy or guideline for use during emergencies, linking with the existing social protection systems in Nepal

Engaging and participating in the development and revision of government-level policies, frameworks, guidelines and plans at federal, provincial and municipal levels

Developing disaster response and preparedness plans, including local disaster and climate resilience, disaster response and recovery and contingency plans

Maintaining effective coordination and collaboration with local authorities, line ministries and provincial and municipal authorities to develop response systems and form collective relief services

Fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of the Nepal Red Cross, as envisaged in the 2018 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, the National Disaster Response Force, and other policies, plans, standard operating procedures and guidelines

Advocating for the development of a clear cash and voucher assistance policy, strategy or guideline for use during emergencies, linking with the existing social protection systems in Nepal

### Health and wellbeing

The 2019 Nepal National Health Policy seeks to bring government services closer to communities, restructur- ing the health system by promoting local level initiatives. It has a strong commitment to achieving the sustainable development goals through universal health coverage, in line with Constitution of Nepal which states that good health is a fundamental right of every citizen. The COVID-19 pandemic has jeopardized gains in access to health care and social development over past deca- des – as a result, Nepal must sustain and upscale any achievements in the health sector, starting from the local level.

Nepal suffered one of the highest death rates in the Asia-Pacific region during the COVID-19 pandemic, based on country population, with 12,000 lives lost. A fourth wave of the virus from July to August 2022 resulted in positive cases reaching 501 per day, and by September 2022, there had been more than 1.1 million COVID-19 cases. Most people have since recovered. The pandemic deepened existing inequalities in Nepal, causing widespread socio-economic impacts that affected vital health care services. Access to water and hygiene services suffered, while mental health issues increased among the population, with more suicides reported. Incidences of gender-based violence also increased, and a rise in misinformation and disinformation has hindered the vaccine rollout. A lack of access to education for children and young people is also prevalent.

Despite great progress in rolling out vaccination pro- grammes throughout the country, the virus continues to spread, exacerbating pre-existing health inequalities and vulnerabilities across the country. As of 4 September 2022, 77 per cent of the total population had received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination and another 74 per cent received their second dose. However, vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities remain unreached by the vaccine rollout, halting Nepal’s progress in vaccinating all eligible populations.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, authorities in Nepal had made significant improvements to health indicators, particularly among child survival and maternal mortality rates. However, the situation has worsened in recent years. Health indicators such as the infant, maternal and under-five mortality rates have improved when compared with the period 2010–2019. The infant and under-five mortality rates were 37.79 and 46.98 per thousand live births in 2010 and 24.28 and 28.2 per thousand live births in 2022 respectively. The maternal mortality rate was 281 per 100,000 births in 2006, decreasing to 239 per 100,000 in 2016. These param- eters clearly worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the Lancet Global Health, newborn deaths increased from 13 per 1,000 live births before lockdown to 40 per 1,000 live births during lockdown. Institutional stillbirths increased from 14 per 1,000 total births before lockdown to 21 per 1,000 total births during lockdown. Adolescent pregnancy is another serious problem in the country. The 2016 Nepal Demographic Health Survey stated that 17 per cent of adolescents are either mothers or pregnant. The sexual and reproductive health behaviour of adolescents has become a social concern in Nepal, with unmet family planning needs higher in adolescent women than that of the national level.

Malnutrition remains a concern in Nepal. More than 40 per cent of Nepalese children younger than five years of age are stunted in their growth and 10 per cent suffer
from wasting as a result of acute malnutrition. Pregnant and lactating women also suffer from malnutrition, as well as micronutrient deficiencies. Forty-one per cent of women in Nepal suffer from anaemia.

Non-communicable diseases are a major public health issue in Nepal, accounting for around 65 per cent of the total annual deaths in 2021. The health problems that account for the majority of deaths include cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, oral diseases and mental disorders. Mental health remains a much-neglected area, despite the fact that mental illnesses alone count for 18 per cent of the current non-communicable disease burden.

Vector-borne diseases such as malaria, leishmaniasis and dengue are endemic in certain tropical regions of Nepal and increasingly in the hills as well, including in the populated Kathmandu Valley. This is due to increasing average temperatures and poor urban sanitation practices. Though sporadic, outbreaks of endemic diseases, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis co-infections, and infections combined with drug-resistant microbes have created a serious public health crisis in Nepal. The threat of common communicable diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery, tuberculosis and cholera remain concerning for people’s health, particularly during monsoon period and among groups at risk due to social marginalization and/or limited access to health services.

In June 2022, a total of 17 cases of cholera were reported in the Kathmandu Valley, rising to 76 cases by 4 September 2022. These cases were identified in densely populated main cities. Alongside cholera cases in the Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts, dengue cases were also rising rapidly. As of 7 September 2022, a total of 6,700 dengue cases had been identified in most of the districts in Nepal, with the highest number of cases recorded in Lalitpur (2,500) and Kathmandu (1,400). According to a report from the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division of the Ministry of Health and Population, the drastic increment of dengue cases is primarily due to the rainy seasons. This trend started midway through 2022, with cases increasing steadily since June.

Nepal was declared an open defecation free country in late 2019 but ensuring hygienic use of latrines and equitable access to safe water for all remains a challenge. This is particularly prevalent in fast-growing urbanized areas with a lack of proper infrastructures, where communities have recently experienced cases of cholera and other acute watery diseases. Under the sustainable development goals, Nepal will aim to provide 99 per cent of households with a basic water supply and 90 per cent with a piped water supply by 2030; however, accessibility and sustainability of water supply remains a challenge due to changing climate patterns, particularly in remote areas.

The disability, morbidity and fatality rates resulting from road traffic accidents pose a major health and safety concern in Nepal, with a total of 54,000 road accidents causing 12,000 deaths, primarily in the 15–40 age group. These incidents have a long-term economic impact on families and communities.

**Main actions and areas of support**

The Nepal Red Cross Society will continue to support the Nepal Health Sector Strategy 2017–2021, the Nepal Health Policy 2019, and the Nepal Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector Development Plan 2016–2030. The National Society is managing flagship health services, including blood transfusion services, pre-hospital care services (with more than 240 ambulances in the country), first aid services and two eye hospitals. The first strategic intention is to ensure such services increase in quality and reach and become sustainable. Second, the National Society has an opportunity to scale up its wide range of community-based initiatives in Nepal in partnership with health authorities, focusing on those groups that have less access to health services. Finally, learning from the COVID experience, enhancing the health emergency preparedness capacities of the organization is critical, also because of the emerging health risks linked to changing climate patterns. The Nepal Red Cross has been responding to the latest dengue and cholera outbreaks, including with the support of a DREF allocation.

In 2022–2024, the National Society, with support from IFRC network, will ensure the health and well-being of communities are protected through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate and quality health and water and sanitation services. This will be achieved through a focus on:

**Ensuring quality and sustained flagship initiatives**

The National Society in Nepal will strengthen its flagship services, including ambulance, first aid, blood transfusion and eye care services. The National Society will focus on improving the quality and scale of care through mobilization of highly trained human resources, infrastructure and equipment, and implementation of global and national quality standards and frameworks.

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**Country plan • Nepal**

[IFRC network action in 2023]
The Nepal Red Cross will strengthen its ambulance, pre-hospital care and first aid capacities by expanding its ambulance network to the most remote areas and ensuring that they are aligned with the new standards of the government-required B-category ambulances. The National Society will also build the capacities of volunteers and staff to carry out pre-hospital care, resuscitation and first aid services. The Nepal Red Cross will strengthen the quality of its blood transfusion services and, simultaneously, promote voluntary non-remunerated blood donation through awareness-raising and motivation campaigns within communities. The National Society will also increase its use of digital tools to raise awareness of blood donation, building on experience from the COVID-19 operation. Finally, the National Society will continue to provide quality eye care appointments through established hospitals in Janaki and Surkhet, with the aim of upscaling these services.

**Scaling up community health programmes, focusing on the most vulnerable**

Community health programmes are one of the key areas of expertise for the Nepal Red Cross. It will aim to reach more people with its programmes, based on a trusted working relationship with public health authorities at all levels.

The National Society will support national and local government to deliver primary health care services, engaging in local level planning processes and supporting community awareness and referrals for sexual and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health. This will include strengthened routine immunization, ante-natal and post-natal care and safe institutional delivery, and maternal and childhood nutrition.

It will collaborate with the Government to implement national health and water, sanitation and hygiene-related campaigns, including promoting first aid at community level. It will also ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation for communities.

Based on the Nepal Government’s priorities, the National Society is promoting technological innovations to support communities amid changing climate patterns, such as solar energy.

The National Society will scale up its footprint on road safety, delivering awareness-raising campaigns and first aid, leveraging its youth network, and using partnerships with education institutions and security forces across the country.

The National Society will recognize the mental health and psychosocial needs of the population, including menstrual hygiene management, ageing health, substance abuse and violence. It will also strengthen its role and capacities on mental health and psychosocial support by engaging government officials in advocacy, building the capacities of health care service providers, volunteers and community members, ensuring early detection and supporting referral and treatment of mental health-related issues.
Enhancing health and water, sanitation and hygiene emergency preparedness and response

Learning from the COVID-19 response, the Nepal Red Cross will strengthen its emergency capacities in close cooperation with health authorities and other actors at all levels, empowering youth and volunteers within communities. The National Society will focus on pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response by training volunteers and staff on epidemic control and investing in community-based surveillance and public health in emergencies. The National Society will engage communities to address misinformation and rumours that negatively affect vaccination and immunization rollout, while reinforcing positive health and well-being strategies. In parallel, it will continue to build its capacity to support water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in emergencies, including the prevention of vector-borne diseases. The National Society will deliver sanitation services and safe drinking water.

Migration and displacement

Migratory trends in Nepal are dominated by Nepalese people leaving the country to seek foreign employment. According to the 2021 census, more than 2.1 million Nepalese people are living and working abroad, a figure that has continued to increase in the last decade despite recent COVID-19 restrictions. While this labour migration has a significant positive effect on Nepal’s economy, it also has a series of socio-economic impacts on the welfare of Nepalese nationals and their communities.

The exploitation of migrant workers is rife, with many aspiring labour migrants finding themselves in a situation of irregular migration or trafficking, particularly where migration routes are informal. Nepal’s environmental vulnerability also has an impact on the scale of internal and international migration. Climate change, climate-induced disasters, health issues and economic vulnerabilities cause displacement and dislocation from the land, forcing many Nepalese people to migrate to ensure a sustainable livelihood. Many migrants flee rural areas in favour of new urban centres, or from the hills to the plains.

Nepal’s open border with its neighbour India is another defining and unique migratory trend in the region, characterized by its seasonal and largely informal nature. In the past 20 years, labour migration to the Gulf countries and Malaysia has also significantly increased. A large number of migrants from Bhutan, Myanmar and Tibet are living in Nepal, each with specific needs and interests.

Remittances from Nepalis working outside of Nepal contributed around 25 per cent of the country’s total GDP between 2017 and 2019. According to a 2020 report published by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, approximately 55.8 per cent of households in Nepal depend on remittances. While profitable, labour migration also poses significant challenges for those who partake in it, including the increased risk of falling victim to trafficking. Social characteristics have evolved within communities, causing shifts in gender roles among family members. Long separation of spouses, death and injury of migrant workers, and mental and psychological stress can lead to a breakdown of the family, as well as violence against women and children, and sexual exploitation and abuse of young women at home and abroad. The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated the needs of migrants, while also creating new trends and humanitarian needs to ensure their well-being and dignity both at home and in their host countries. Migrants continue to experience stigma and discrimination from communities.

Labour migration governance is complex and multi-dimensional. In Nepal, while the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security leads on policymaking, other key government institutions include the Department of Foreign Employment for regulatory tasks, the Foreign Employment Board for welfare-related tasks, and the Foreign Employment Tribunal for access to justice. Nepal has also signed Memorandums of Understanding with the main countries of destination for labour migrants. Key stakeholders within the migration sector include provincial and local governments and private stakeholders, particularly recruitment agencies.

Main actions and areas of support

Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic and new global trends, migration remains at the core of Nepal’s development, bringing both challenges and opportunities. The Nepal Red Cross Society has an historic tradition of supporting migrants, from catering to Tibetan and Bhutanese migrants, to providing health awareness to seasonal migrants from India in the early years of the 21st century and, most recently, operating points of entry in the country during the COVID-19 crisis.

In its 8th Development Plan, covering the period 2021–2025, the National Society has identified a need for specific attention to the humanitarian needs of migrants, linking to the wider protection agenda. This will require an investment in National Society policies and capacities, and enhanced partnership with authorities
and other key stakeholders to design and implement innovative approaches for the benefit of migrants, their families and their communities, based on the following strategies:

**Scaling up restoring family links services as a unique mandate of the National Society**

Since 2012, more than 300 trained Nepal Red Cross volunteers have carried out specific activities targeting migrants as part of its restoring family links initiatives, mainly through the production and distribution of leaflets and broadcasted radio messages promoting safe migration across the country. The Nepal Red Cross is also conducting regular visits to detention centres to offer restoring family links services to Nepalese and foreign citizens in detention throughout the country. Such services must be further disseminated by the National Society, not only in Nepal but also in destination countries through cross-border collaboration. The National Society will leverage the strength of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its volunteers to deliver this.

**Raising awareness for safe and dignified migration**

Through the COVID-19 response, the National Society has scaled up its presence at points of entry, migratory holding centres and quarantine sites, providing logistical and psychosocial support, food, water and sanitation services and restoring family links services. There is an opportunity to build from this experience and continue raising awareness about safe migration, focusing on bordering districts with India as well as international airports. This action could be coupled with anti-trafficking initiatives and risk communication and stigma reduction campaigns at community and school levels, as well as increasing youth involvement and empowerment in the process.

**Addressing the social impacts of displacement linked to climate change and other factors**

The National Society must understand the specific needs of displaced populations to be able to mainstream such issues within existing programmes and services, as part of its community resilience approach. This could result in the delivery of livelihoods programmes targeting newly returned migrants and their host communities, youth-led campaigns to promote social inclusion and harmony within communities, psychosocial support for displaced families, health camps focusing on slum areas in urban centres, and ensuring that displacement-related needs are met in emergency programming.

**Leveraging opportunities linked to migration**

The National Society and the IFRC network must seize the opportunities offered by Nepalese migrants by leveraging the Nepali diaspora in support of the National Society's humanitarian agenda. In addition, the National Society must agree new partnerships with local and federal authorities to expand commercial first aid and other technical training as part of the onboarding process for prospective migrants. This is intended to reduce fatalities among migrants, while also providing a more stable income source for the National Society. There are a growing number of innovations linked to returnees in Nepal, providing a source of inspiration for the National Society and potential local partners to shape new ways of providing services to those in need.

**Values, power and inclusion**

Nepal is a uniquely diverse country that faces a wide range of challenges due to its geographical and social features, with communities facing a number of transformations in their daily lives. Humanitarian values and education are becoming more relevant in the promotion of dignity, inclusion, non-violence and peace in the country. The National Society's application of such values within the humanitarian and development agenda, including through the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles, is critical in the priorities of this plan.

Communities in the country are facing multiple power dynamics that affect their well-being, including local governance, control over resources, unequal decision-making within families, and a lack of access to health, livelihoods, education and social rights. Nepal has a Gender Inequality Index value of 0.452, ranking 110 out of 162 countries in the 2019 index. Only 29.3 per cent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education, compared with 44.2 per cent of their male counterparts. Additionally, while Nepal has a majority youth population, young people face considerable challenges in influencing the country’s social and economic development. As the life expectancy of people in Nepal increases, authorities will need to focus on the specific needs and interests of an ageing population in the coming years.

In emergencies, women, children, people living with disabilities, senior citizens and socially excluded groups are exposed to additional risks when families and service providers are not able to provide appropriate support, care and protection. Child marriage, child labour, isolation during menstruation, human trafficking, child
victims and witnesses of domestic violence, corporal punishment, sexual abuse and exploitation are among the most common forms of violence in Nepal.

Gender-based violence and incidences of violence against children are increasing due to poverty, ignorance, negligence and lack of appropriate care, as well as ineffective implementation of laws and policies. Marginalized groups experience low governance participation, low access to services, and low employment and asset ownership. They also exhibit less positive health and education outcomes.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, extended lockdown periods disproportionally affected women and adolescent girls. The National Women Commission reported that lockdown increased harassment and domestic violence against women. As a result, women are forced to resort to negative coping strategies at a much higher rate than men. People living with disabilities in Nepal are more likely to test positive for COVID-19, as well as suffering more severe consequences from the virus. People living with disabilities also experience greater socio-economic impacts as a result of the infection.

School buildings are generally the first choice for emergency shelter to support affected people during crises, preventing children from attending their lessons during emergency situations. In families affected by disasters, the education of young children is often neglected due to loss of income and increased expenditure to cope with the impact of the emergency. Education is not considered a priority for emergency services, leaving young people without vital educational resources for the entirety of the emergency response.

Despite these interruptions to their education, Nepal’s young population is striving to take more leadership in local development, developing their own citizen engagement and self-organized initiatives with the help of social media platforms and digital tools. Influencing local level decision-making and giving feedback is often complex due to existing power dynamics and inequalities, but there are many opportunities for young people to engage in the Nepal Red Cross’s work. The National Society must shift the way it is perceived, from an external humanitarian organization to a volunteer-based organization that is active and engaged in the communities it serves.

Main actions and areas of support

Due to changing power relations and shifts in access to resources, the National Society has a critical role to play in promoting harmony and peace within communities. These are environments where people share resources, include all groups and individuals in decision-making processes, and come together in times of crisis to protect the most vulnerable people. To achieve this, the Nepal Red Cross Society must transform its systems and procedures to remain relevant and engaged with the components of a diverse Nepalese society, particularly through the promotion of women and young in the National Society’s work. With the support of its partners, the National Society will aim to apply humanitarian values across its programmes and operations.

Promoting and practicing the humanitarian values and Fundamental Principles

The Nepal Red Cross, as an auxiliary to public authorities in humanitarian assistance, is committed to supporting the most vulnerable communities based on the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The IFRC network will support the National Society to disseminate the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values among communities and decision-makers as a critical component of its programmes and operations. Aside from its contributions to community well-being, such humanitarian education will also build the reputation of the National Society as a credible and principled organization, close to people’s needs and efficient in providing services with relevance and timeliness.

Ensuring inclusivity across all sectors of intervention

The IFRC network will support the Nepal Red Cross to address protection, gender and inclusion-related challenges, with the aim of enhancing gender parity, diversity and inclusion in its programmes and services. Ensuring dignity, access, participation and safety across all programmes and services will be a central part of the National Society’s programmatic support under this strategic priority. The National Society will strengthen its child protection and sexual and gender-based violence prevention work in line with the IFRC’s strategy on violence prevention, mitigation and response, as well as the IFRC’s protection, gender and inclusion policy and the minimum standard commitments for protection, gender and inclusion and related tools.

The Nepal Red Cross will continue to implement a twin track approach to address the specific needs of vulnerable communities, as well as addressing these needs through its thematic programmes. The National Society will implement multiple protection, gender and inclusion programmes with financial and technical support from the IFRC, Australian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross
Society, the Hong Kong Branch of Red Cross Society of China, Danish Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross, along with UN agencies UNICEF and UNFPA.

Learnings from these projects will be adapted in new and ongoing programmes to improve dignity, access, participation and safety, with the aim of reaching specific marginalized groups such as women, children, people living with disabilities, the LGBTQI+ community, migrants and displaced people, elderly people and ethnic minorities. The National Society will address the specific needs of these groups during emergencies and within development programmes.

Education in emergencies
As part of its community-based programming, the Nepal Red Cross has worked extensively with schools and education authorities. Building on this legacy, the National Society will aim to enhance its engagement in the education sector through the consideration of formal education in future emergency responses. The National Society will strengthen its engagement with education actors and education clusters at national and provincial levels and build its capacity to deliver an effective response in this sector.

Empowering women and young people within the Nepal Red Cross
As part of the Nepal Red Cross’s consolidated National Society development plan and ongoing review of its Constitution, it must provide more space and opportunities for women and youth representatives to contribute at all levels of the organization, including in leadership positions and decision-making processes. The National Society will review and contextualize its internal policies and tools to ensure that it remains fit for purpose, given the evolving social context in Nepal. Through this plan, the IFRC will support the National Society to play an active role in promoting and mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion strategies and female leadership at all levels, including among young people. This work will include the promotion of gender parity in management and governance at all levels, establishing a gender-responsive budget to address the specific needs of diversified and vulnerable groups, mitigating the risk of gender inequalities, and enabling diversity at all levels.

There is a set of community engagement and accountabil-
ity processes and tools that ensure quality humanitarian services based on community needs, acceptance and image-building among target groups and stakeholders. Although National Society programmes and services are community-based by nature, there is a constant need to review the Nepal Red Cross’s engagement with community members, taking advantage of the digital era and new information technologies that can support better and more efficient programming based on feedback from community members. The National Society must take the time to listen to communities, particularly those who are marginalized and therefore less likely to have a public voice.

By providing mechanisms to listen and respond to those voices, the National Society must put processes in place to ensure that feedback from communities is listened to and acted on. Existing National Society tools are supported by the IFRC and its membership, such as the Namaste Red Cross toll-free hotline and dedicated social media platforms, which will be further expanded.

Enabling local actors
The Nepal Red Cross Society is committed to pursu-
ing its institutional strengthening and has carried out the self-assessment part of the IFRC’s Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2014. The self-assessment part of the process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Nepal Red Cross is also committed to the IFRC Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is currently at the workplan phase. The PER Approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze strengths and gaps in preparedness and response mechanisms and ultimately take necessary action to improve.

The IFRC network is committed to supporting the Nepal Red Cross in its institutional strengthening according to its 2021–2025 strategic development plan and consolidated National Society development plan. The IFRC has supported the formulation of these plans in collaboration with in-country participating National Societies.

The National Society development plan covers nine priority areas and calls for a comprehensive transformation of the National Society, with a new legal base, modernized structures and systems, and enhanced
community engagement and humanitarian diplomacy. It comprises the following thematic areas:

- Contextualized transformation of structures, systems, rules and policies based on the new internal and external environment
- Resource mobilization to ensure financial sustainability for effective and efficient service delivery
- Strengthened financial management systems at all levels of the organization for transparency, accountability and financial discipline
- Strengthened planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and information management systems to promote organizational learning, accountability and compliance
- Logistics management for effective and efficient service delivery and emergency response
- Effective management of staff and volunteers for organizational efficiency
- Empowering young people as leaders, volunteers and beneficiaries
- Strengthened communication in image-building, promoting acceptance, humanitarian diplomacy, representation, and community engagement and accountability
- Implementation of protection, gender and inclusion in social development processes

Engaged

The National Society’s visibility and image will be enhanced through better investment and strengthened capacity across communication, humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy at all levels. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the National Society has the potential to be a valuable partner in supporting the public authorities to achieve their humanitarian and developmental goals.

By complementing the humanitarian activities of the public authorities, the National Society has an important role to play in establishing community-based functions in core areas like health, disaster management, and informal education through youth engagement and leadership, which can be of invaluable support to public authorities during emergencies and in sustainable development. This is evidenced by the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises; however, it must be further institutionalized by securing a Red Cross Law for Nepal. Additionally, the IFRC network in Nepal fully support the Nepal Red Cross’s innovation and digitalization initiatives, which have been specifically well articulated in its 2021–2025 strategic development and consolidated National Society development plans.

Main actions and areas of support

Coordination

Based on the auxiliary role of the Nepal Red Cross, enhancing the National Society’s partnership with authorities at all levels will be a key focus, either through standalone initiatives such as the community-based disaster risk management platform or embedded within supported initiatives. The IFRC will continue to leverage its status agreement to engage with the diplomatic community, the humanitarian country team and other key donor forums on key humanitarian and development issues in Nepal. The IFRC will coordinate with the National Society and participating National Societies to ensure united communication.

The humanitarian diplomacy agenda

A key focus for the Nepal Red Cross Society’s policy engagement with authorities in 2023 and beyond will be ongoing negotiations for a Red Cross Law for Nepal, paving the way for clarified auxiliary roles and enhanced National Society visibility and credibility. To achieve this, the National Society must enhance its capacity to demonstrate the collective impact of its work at community level in line with government policies and plans, particularly in key mandated areas such as disaster response, blood transfusion, community health and youth engagement.

In addition, internal National Society capacities in humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy must be strengthened in support of strategic engagement with authorities, media and other key stakeholders. This must be based on sound evidence-based and harmonized messaging, using high-quality communication products. Aside from the Red Cross Law, the National Society in Nepal is also engaging with authorities on a wide range of policy issues that affect community resilience. The Nepal Red Cross will maintain continuous engagement with the community-based disaster risk management platform, as well as numerous humanitarian clusters led by relevant line ministries in Nepal. This includes the shelter cluster co-led by the IFRC and the Nepal Red Cross and the cash working group, to which the Nepal Red Cross and in-country partners contribute.

These working groups present critical opportunities and platforms for the National Society, the IFRC and active partners in Nepal to advocate on behalf of communities
at risk, promoting humanitarian values and ensuring that policies, plans, best practices, community perspectives and inclusive approaches are taken into consideration.

**Innovation**

The Nepal Red Cross Society has developed successful initiatives to promote innovation and use the skills and knowledge of its youth volunteers, particularly during the COVID-19 response. Such innovation can be visualized on social media platforms and other communication channels, promoting youth leadership, engagement and digital volunteering.

In late 2021, eight Nepal Red Cross youth volunteers were selected in the global Limitless competition organized by the IFRC's Solferino Academy. One of the volunteers came second in the competition, thanks to her innovative approach. Following this, a youth-led climate action campaign called Paribartak Nepal will be launched in late 2022 and will be a key area for additional support in 2023 and beyond, engaging young people and developing their leadership skills.

The National Society will develop partnerships with technological and research companies, think tanks, faculties and organizations, with the aim of deepening volunteer and staff knowledge, and cultivating a culture of innovation and trust among people to do something new that benefits the National Society and the people it serves. The involvement of young people in these initiatives will be a key priority for the National Society to further expand and practice innovations at different tiers of the organization.

The Nepal Red Cross continues to benefit from digitalization in some areas, including its accounting system and planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and information management processes. Some of the key digital transformations include infographics and an online dashboard for COVID-19. National Society data is fragmented due to the lack of a centralized digital database system that allows improved accessibility across organizations and externally. The National Society is gradually implementing a management information system to increase understanding and use of organization-wide data and its connection with programmes and operations. This data can also be used to communicate accountability to concerned stakeholders.

Through Nepal's COVID-19 operation, the National Society developed initial processes to digitalize some of the key areas of its blood transfusion services, which need continuous support and engagement across the country. In this and other similar initiatives, the key objectives are to ensure accountability in daily operations; allow Red Cross Red Crescent leaders to use and understand data in their work, drawing on evidence and research to guide humanitarian action; and to collect best practices and feed them into further programming for continual learning and improvements.

**Accountable**

Due to instability within the Nepal Red Cross Society's governance and other related legal issues, the IFRC and integrated partners adopted temporary operational modalities in 2022 to ensure business continuity across all programmes and operations, working more directly with provincial and district branches and ensuring continuous technical coordination with the national office of the Nepal Red Cross. The IFRC took a leading role in ensuring the accountable and timely procurement of goods and services with the support of the National Society's technical focal points throughout the process.

In 2023, based on the evolving context, these modalities will be adjusted and/or discontinued. The IFRC will strive to ensure that administration and financial procedures are in place, updating and revising these systems to maintain compliance by all the relevant IFRC and participating National Society staff members through orientation and training. The IFRC will also ensure the strict application of compliances, with a zero tolerance of fraud and corruption. The scale of the support service structure will be readjusted from the beginning of 2023, depending upon the office structure and support requests from in-country partner National Societies.

**Main actions and areas of support**

**Human resources – inclusion, engagement and learning**

The IFRC's human resource's function will continue to ensure that gender and diversity are included in all recruitment processes, with the aim of increasing representation and inclusion in IFRC teams. Likewise, the human resources team will work with the Nepal Red Cross to ensure equitable access for training and learning opportunities for all, in line with job requirements.

**Management frameworks, finance and audits – efficiency and compliance**

Together with participating National Societies, the IFRC and the Nepal Red Cross will align logistics, finance and HR practices across programmes and partnerships to streamline the management of funds transferred to the National Society and related compliances, while also reducing fraud risks. Across the various functions, the
IFRC will ensure that financial resources are safeguarded, and quality financial and administrative support is provided to all stakeholders. Finally, the IFRC will strive to establish a risk management culture at all levels, with a clear link to accountability and quality assurance.

Resource mobilization – focus on domestic and sustainable sources of income

Similarly to many other National Societies, the Nepal Red Cross is still dependent on a small number of income sources and project funding, despite the fact that it has had several opportunities to grow a solid and sustainable income base by leveraging its land and building assets. The National Society also has access to partnerships with authorities in a federalized context and income from the Nepali diaspora across the globe.

The National Society must secure domestic and sustained funding to cover its core functions and domestic priorities: namely its flagship initiatives, such as blood transfusion services, pre-hospital care, disaster relief and first aid services. The IFRC will continue to support these processes in coming years, providing targeted investments to provincial, district and local branches and brokering partnerships in Nepal. The IFRC will support the National Society to make significant changes to its systems in line with the consolidated National Society development plan, including the development of cost recovery mechanisms, partnerships, finance development, donor reporting and digital engagement. Finally, the IFRC will support and encourage the Nepal Red Cross to identify funding opportunities through mechanisms such as the National Society Investment Alliance, the Capacity Building Fund and the Empress Shôken Fund.

Trusted

The level of trust in National Societies depends on their core strengths as institutions, including sustainability, predictability and good governance. The Nepal Red Cross is currently experiencing instability in its governance, although communities and authorities at all levels continue to trust the organization and its humanitarian work. The National Society will continue to localize its humanitarian response and development initiatives during Nepal’s transition to a more federalized structure of government.

Main actions and areas of support

A national Red Cross Law is currently being drafted, and this is a critical path for the National Society to become fully accepted in Nepal. It must also localize its National Society development agenda and empower its branches at provincial, district and local levels to plan for the dissemination of their services to communities, while leveraging their trusted partnerships with local people. The IFRC and participating National Societies will support the nine priority areas of the consolidated National Society development plan for 2021–2025, promoting a comprehensive transformation of the Nepal Red Cross Society.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Nepal Red Cross Society to enhance its strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, humanitarian diplomacy, and accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC also supports the National Society to strengthen its auxiliary role by meeting key stakeholders at government level on a regular basis.

In recent years, the IFRC supported the Nepal Red Cross through DREF and Emergency Appeal operations in response to earthquakes, floods, landslides and disease outbreaks. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC has supported the National Society to respond to COVID-19 through its global appeal.

IFRC membership coordination

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

In Nepal, there is a strong focus on strengthening cooperation and engagement within the IFRC membership, to ensure a participatory and collective planning process with the Nepal Red Cross at the centre. With seven National Societies maintaining a presence in the country and supporting Nepal Red Cross programming, the IFRC is implementing an Agenda for Renewal plan of action, drafted in late 2022, intended to create synergies and efficiencies, promote the IFRC’s collective impact and support local action.

All in-country partners provide coordinated support across several initiatives, including the implementation of the National Society’s COVID-19 preparedness and response plan and its National Society development plan. Other sectoral areas include the three-year cash preparedness initiative established in mid-2021, bringing together the American Red Cross, the Austrian Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross and the IFRC. The IFRC also harnessed the expertise of the Danish Red Cross and the IFRC’s Climate Centre to support the Nepal Red Cross to strengthen its annual monsoon preparedness and response activities.

Other participating National Societies support the Nepal Red Cross from a distance. This can exist via a bilateral relationship, as with the Australian Red Cross, Red Cross Society of China, Austrian Red Cross, the Hong Kong branch of Red Cross Society of China, the Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross and The Thai Red Cross Society.

National Societies can also support the Nepal Red Cross from afar through the IFRC or through other partners. Such support has been provided by the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, the Hong Kong Red Branch of Red Cross Society of China, Italian Red Cross and The Republic of Korea National Red Cross.

The National Society’s longer-term partners support the Nepal Red Cross through specific focus areas:

The American Red Cross supports the National Society in Nepal to deliver community-based disaster risk reduction in the Sudar Pachim province and provides

### Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Partner NS</th>
<th>Funding Requirements</th>
<th>Climate</th>
<th>Disasters and crises</th>
<th>Health and wellbeing</th>
<th>Migration</th>
<th>Values, power and inclusion</th>
<th>Engaged</th>
<th>Accountable</th>
<th>Trusted</th>
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**Total**

5.30M
technical support within planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and information management activities. The British Red Cross coordinates with the Swiss Red Cross to support the National Society in Nepal to deliver integrated programming in Lumbini and Karnali. It also supports climate-smart water, sanitation and hygiene activities with the Finnish Red Cross and the IFRC, as well as livelihoods, cash and voucher assistance preparedness, migration, community engagement and accountability, and branch development.

The Canadian Red Cross Society supports the National Society in Nepal to deliver pre-hospital care and community-based health activities.

The Danish Red Cross supports the National Society in Nepal to deliver activities across inclusive disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, shock-responsive social protection, piloting, protection, gender and inclusion, and youth engagement.

The Finnish Red Cross supports the National Society in Nepal to strengthen its climate action, early warning early action, protection, gender and inclusion, water, sanitation and hygiene, and community engagement and accountability.

The Japanese Red Cross Society supports community-based disaster risk reduction and youth action for water, sanitation and hygiene in Nepal.

The Swiss Red Cross supports the National Society in Nepal to deliver community health activities and strengthen branch development and community-based disaster risk reduction.

Movement coordination

Strong Movement coordination among the Nepal Red Cross Society, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at country level will continue into 2023 and beyond through formal tripartite meetings and more informal or ad hoc discussions, as well as continuous information-sharing. This coordination is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0. A critical area of cooperation is the joint advocacy and support for a Red Cross Law for Nepal, a process that started in 2019 and will continue given the current context, challenges and opportunities in the country.

In Nepal, the ICRC continues to address the consequences of the internal conflict that ended in 2006, and helps people affected by unrest. It supports the Nepal Red Cross, local government and other bodies to boost their emergency capacities, and promotes international humanitarian law. The ICRC carries out most of its work in coordination with the National Society. Nepal is covered by the ICRC regional delegation in India.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Nepal Red Cross Society coordinates closely with public authorities for disaster management and health and works with government-led relevant platforms and mechanisms. This includes line agencies of the Ministry of Home Affairs, such as the National Emergency Operating Center and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority. The National Society is coordinating with government agencies at provincial and local levels, including local governments, district disaster management committees and national clusters.

In response to disease outbreaks, the Nepal Red Cross coordinates with the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division of the Ministry of Health and Population and the National Health Education Information and Communication Centre, and actively participates in water, sanitation and hygiene and health cluster meetings. The Department of Water Supply and Sewage Management is coordinating the water, sanitation and hygiene cluster.

The Nepal Red Cross and the IFRC coordinate with other humanitarian stakeholders that are active in the country, such as UN agencies. In times of emergencies, the National Society and the IFRC coordinate with the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office.

In Nepal, the coordination of shelter cluster member agencies is one of the Nepal Red Cross and the IFRC’s regular activities at country level, as part of the wider Humanitarian Country Team and under the leadership of the Ministry of Urban Development. In line with the cluster system in place in the country, the shelter cluster
is chaired by the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction under the Ministry of Urban Development, while the IFRC is co-chair in coordination with the Nepal Red Cross.

The global shelter cluster is an inter-agency standing committee coordination mechanism and the IFRC has been leading the shelter cluster in disaster contexts since the establishment of the cluster approach in 2005. This critical mandate places the IFRC as one of the lead agencies in the international humanitarian coordination system. The IFRC leverages its leadership position in the global shelter cluster to advocate for improved coordination, stronger policies and standards across the sector, and better support for affected people in their recovery. In Nepal, the shelter cluster was most recently activated in response to the far western earthquake which occurred on 9 November 2022. The Nepal Red Cross Society is contributing to the response with support from the IFRC through a DREF allocation.
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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