In support of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society

- **12** National Society branches
- **21** National Society staff
- **850** National Society volunteers

People to be reached

- **7,500** Ongoing emergency operations
- **20,000** Climate and environment
- **50,000** Disasters and crises
- **20,000** Health and wellbeing
- **5,000** Migration and displacement
- **500** Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

- **Longer term needs**
  - Protection, gender and inclusion
  - Disaster risk reduction and response
    - Health and care
    - Climate change adaptation
- **Capacity development**
  - Financial sustainability
  - Branch development
  - Digital transformation
  - Internal system strengthening

Key country data

- **Population**: 9.1M
- **INFORM Severity rating**: medium
- **Long-term Climate Risk Index**: 99
- **Human Development Index rank**: 156
- **Population below poverty level**: 39.9%

IFRC Country Delegation Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby
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.

### Participating National Societies

- Australian Red Cross*
- New Zealand Red Cross

### Funding requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Requirement (CHF)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 1.2M CHF</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Through the IFRC</td>
<td><strong>1.1M CHF</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Through Participating National Societies</td>
<td>~100,000 CHF</td>
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</tbody>
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### IFRC Breakdown

1. **154,000 CHF**
   - Ongoing emergency operations

2. **150,000 CHF**
   - Climate and environment

3. **150,000 CHF**
   - Disasters and crises

4. **150,000 CHF**
   - Health and wellbeing

5. **50,000 CHF**
   - Migration and displacement

6. **50,000 CHF**
   - Values, power and inclusion

7. **350,000 CHF**
   - Enabling local actors

### Hazards

- Violence
- Floods
- Landslides
- Volcano eruptions
- Earthquakes
- Disease outbreaks
Established by an Act of Parliament in 1976, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society acts as an official auxiliary to the Papua New Guinea Government on delivering humanitarian services, complementing the role of authorities and providing humanitarian assistance where needed. It has a Disaster Management Unit which coordinates closely with the National Disaster Committee Team. The National Society was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 1977, and ensures that the seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are used to guide all its operations.

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is headquartered in Port Moresby with a network of 12 branches, one interim and one sub-branch. This gives it a presence in 13 of the country’s 22 provinces. The National Society is made up of a council with nine members (seven male and two female) and 28 employees, 19 of whom are based at its headquarters, four at its Special Education Resource Centre and five across its branches. In addition, it has 850 volunteers nationwide.

During COVID-19, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society has distributed personal protection equipment to medical facilities and organized community awareness-raising activities, which focused on safety protocols and promoting vaccination. In 2022, in response to election violence, the National Society has mobilized its staff and volunteers to provide first aid and psychological first aid, as well as emergency shelter and essential household items to people displaced.

In 2021, the National Society reached 95,000 people with its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Situated in the southwestern Pacific, Papua New Guinea is the largest Pacific Island state, with a diverse landscape of geographic and natural resources. It shares a land border with Indonesia and occupies the eastern half of New Guinea island, four additional islands (Manus, New Ireland, New Britain and Bougainville) and 600 smaller islets and atolls to the north and east.

The country’s population is approximately nine million, with more than 800 languages spoken across more than 1,000 different ethnic clans, plus numerous clan sub-groups, many living in outlying regions. Eighty-seven per cent of the population live in rural areas with little access to markets, services and employment. It is estimated that more than 39 per cent of citizens live below the poverty line. Agriculture, fishing, forestry, artisanal and small-scale mining are the primary sources of income in these rural areas, while minerals and energy extraction is the largest export industry and the biggest contributor to GDP.

Poor economic growth is considered a direct result of inconsistencies in Papua New Guinea’s governance, inadequate land reforms and a continued breakdown of law and order. In 2021, the country’s economy contracted by two per cent because of COVID-19.

However, a modest rebound of 2.7 per cent growth is expected in 2023.

This growth forecast is despite chronic political instability, and a high level of social unrest that followed the July 2022 elections. Elections in the country often incite volatility and violence, a cycle that sparks substantial demand for humanitarian services. The violence following the election in 2022 forced many people to disperse to mountainous regions and neighbouring communities. Indeed, according to the UN’s International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix, nearly 16,000 people were displaced across 94 locations in Hela and Southern Highlands. As the situation escalated, houses were burnt down, and gender-based violence against women and children was reported. This included abductions and accusations of sorcery made against women following the unexpected death of a prominent local businessman. These incidents are most common in the Highland provinces. In the province of Chimbu, supply chain disruption caused by the violence also caused greater food insecurity.

This violence has put further constraints on the country’s limited public health care system. Hospitals and health facilities were left without adequate supplies or
staff to cater to patients, with a risk that some could be overwhelmed. This created a high demand for first aid in affected areas. Arduous geography in Papua New Guinea makes the provision of health care even more challenging. This is compounded by a high prevalence of malaria and dengue in the Highland provinces, the impact of COVID-19 and rising levels of unemployment.

Papua New Guinea is exposed to several natural and man-made hazards. These include floods, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, cyclones, diseases such as measles and polio, as well as ethnic and tribal conflict. Security and access are key challenges in providing emergency responses to these incidents, while COVID-19 has further fueled discontent across the population by worsening poverty and inequality, as well as driving surging inflation.

Successive governments have made efforts to reduce the impact of these disasters through various initiatives. The Government Vision 2050, launched in 2010, and the Development Strategic Plan for 2010–2030 outline steps by the current Government to create a prosperous middle-income country by 2030. Currently, the country’s GDP sits well below the average for Pacific countries. It is classified as a low-income economy, with around 40 per cent of the population below the poverty line. The Human Development Index currently places Papua New Guinea at 155 out of 189 countries, far below other Pacific countries. While the island state has considerable natural resources, this is yet to benefit its population. The development benefits in Port Moresby, for example, have not filtered down to rural areas, where more than 80 per cent of the population reside.

### Strategic priorities

#### Climate and environment

Papua New Guinea has a predominantly tropical rainforest climate, with the weather hot and humid all year round, and divided into a wet season (from December to March) and a dry season (from June to September). Small areas in the southwest comprise tropical monsoon and tropical savannah climates. The topography of the land plays an important role in shaping the climate, with locations in the Central Highlands experiencing overnight temperatures close to freezing. The annual mean temperature therefore varies between 18°C in the Highlands areas and above 26°C in the rest of the country. This has increased by approximately 0.2°C from 1961 to 2015 and is projected to rise by at least 1.5°–2°C by 2050. The country is also one of the wettest in the world, with annual rainfall that exceeds 4,000mm in the Highlands and on the island of New Britain.\(^1\)

Several hydrometeorological hazards, including floods, droughts, cyclones and landslides, affect Papua New Guinea, all of which will be magnified in both frequency and intensity by climate change. In 2021, about 53,000 people were displaced because of high tide levels. El Niño conditions can severely affect the southeast Pacific, causing drought and significantly affecting those parts of the population that rely on subsistence agriculture. In addition, the South Pacific Convergence Zone can affect the climate of Papua New Guinea and surrounding regions. The combination of these contrasting weather elements produces regions with extreme wet and dry seasons that receive less than 2,000mm rainfall. These include Markham Valley, Bulolo Valley, Maprik-Angoram, Eastern Highlands, and coastal areas near Cape Vogel, Port Moresby and Daru.

High temperatures and humidity can also have a negative impact on agriculture, upon which 85 per cent of the population rely. Crops may deteriorate quickly post-harvest and increasing temperatures can cause the spread of pests and vector-borne diseases. Floods and landslides can affect soil fertility, while drought can reduce or even destroy crop yields.

#### Main actions and areas of support

The focus of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society for the next two years is building and strengthening climate-resilient communities through climate change adaptation, youth education on climate change, and partnerships on climate change mitigation. The IFRC Red Ready project will support this process of climate-related preparedness and community engagement.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

- Hold a community level awareness session regarding climate change related topics (i.e., sea level rise, floods, landslides, cyclones, deforestation, drought)

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\(^1\) The analysis for this section has been supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre: [https://www.climatecentre.org/](https://www.climatecentre.org/)
Country plan • Papua New Guinea

- Conduct climate change adaptation activities with communities
- Introduce drought-resistant crops
- Promote community-led solutions to address challenges, improve behaviour and promote climate action
- Roll out community-led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and nature-based solutions activities (such as for floods and landslides, and using mangrove and tree planting) and document the learnings
- Increase youth education and awareness on climate change, including through schools
- Train staff and volunteers on Y-Adapt, a curriculum for young people consisting of games and playful activities which helps them to both understand climate change and to take practical action to adapt to the changing climate in their community
- Train staff and volunteers on community engagement, with a focus on behavioural change
- Build upon knowledge and capacity of the National Society’s operations and programming staff within the field of environmental sustainability
- Engage with key stakeholders in promoting environmentally friendly programmes and operations, such as promoting multi-use, recyclable goods, vernacular shelter materials, and packaging for emergency relief items, exploring guidelines from other partners and international NGOs

To support these activities, the IFRC will provide technical support, standardized global materials, funding through the Red Ready project until August 2023, and support on humanitarian advocacy. It will also help build staff knowledge and capacity in environmental sustainability at the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and coordinate with the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre on risk analysis.

The Australian Red Cross will provide technical support on green responses and make itself available to help the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society to adapt its response preparedness measures to meet the challenges of a changing environment. This includes development of green response actions or updating scenario plans.

Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is prone to frequent disasters, including earthquakes, volcano eruptions, floods, drought and sea-level rises. Like many Pacific countries, it experienced drought due to El Niño in early 2016, and later in 2021–2022 because of La Niña, El Niño’s colder counterpart, with both drought and floods in the Highlands and east New Britain. Papua New Guinea is particularly vulnerable to climate change, with unexpected weather events and declining rainfall, required for both crops and drinking, amplifying the challenges of its population as regards income, health and migration.

From November 2017 to 2018, the country suffered a string of disasters. An outbreak of measles in Vanimo was followed by a volcanic eruption on the island of Kadovar, then an earthquake in the Highlands and finally a polio outbreak across three provinces. Since 2020–2021, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the region significantly with long-term economic implications.

Civil unrest and conflict between different ethnic groups is common in Papua New Guinea, with efforts required by both the Government and all stakeholders to minimize the ensuing violence. This includes drawing on the well-documented lessons learned from the violence that followed elections in 2022 in both Mount Hagen and Port Moresby. From May to July 2022, incidents following the election escalated significantly, especially in the Highlands region, and communities in the provinces of Southern Highlands, Hela and Enga continued to experience sporadic violence up until early September. Food insecurity and other socio-economic effects felt by these communities was amplified by the impact on schools and health facilities in affected areas, which were closed, with supply networks still not fully recovered.

Estimated figures for the number of Papua New Guineans affected by this violence remains uncertain; however, the overall population of affected districts is estimated to be just over 529,000 people or 98,000 households, according to the UN. The Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster estimates that around 50 per cent of this population, 265,000 people, may have been affected. It further estimated that one-third of those may have been displaced from their homes. Sporadic violence was expected to be ongoing even after the Government had been fully formed in September.

Main actions and areas of support

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society has been responding to numerous disasters and crises across the country with the support of the IFRC’s Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF). As regards the
violence that followed the 2022 election, it has focused its emergency response on shelter and distribution of household items, as well as health and first aid.

Looking ahead, the National Society will aim to create resilient communities in Papua New Guinea through effective disaster risk reduction and management. This includes carrying out IFRC integrated vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA), creating strategies for preparedness and early action, logistics and warehouse management and carrying out emergency response. The Australian Red Cross is keen to support on disaster risk reduction and the IFRC will support via its global tools for emergency response, including the Emergency Appeals and DREF mechanisms.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

- Improve community resilience through VCAs and create a community resilience plan. This process includes community mapping, identification of hot spots and identifying the capacity of branch volunteers
- Deliver education on disaster risk reduction and install alert systems for earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions and drought
- Take early action for seasonal disasters, such as floods and drought
- Host call-in radio shows discussing disaster risk reduction with communities and document their input
- Document community suggestions on improving access to shelter, including marginalized groups
- Stock up on non-food items at the National Society’s warehouse, headquarters and branches to enhance its disaster response
- Hold an awareness session on lessons learned from previous crises
- Strengthen National Society response capacities with a focus on competency mapping and national response teams
- Enhance the skills, knowledge and practices of National Society staff and volunteers in participatory community development
- Build the capacity for community engagement and accountability by ensuring it is integrated into the National Society Strategic Plan and standard operating procedures
- Plan community engagement activities across seven branches to follow up on the results of the 2022 assessment
- Set up community feedback systems and participatory approaches for all operations
- Improve its preparedness for effective response (PER) capacity. This includes consideration of epidemics, finalizing policies on disaster risk management, a PER work plan and pre-disaster planning meetings with stakeholders
- Enhance the National Society’s logistics capacity, including procurement, warehousing and fleet management, while developing a logistics plan incorporating approaches for early action ahead of future disasters
- Recruit and train the disaster response team to mobilize and manage local responder capacity
- Enhance disaster management coordination through the Papua New Guinea Disaster Management Team
- Develop pre-agreements with both private sector and the Government
- Increase engagement and participation of the National Society in civil, humanitarian and development networks to enhance cooperation and collaboration with local and national stakeholders
- Increase financial capacity, including the ability to access, manage and report on resources in a timely manner
- Ensure Safer Access Framework elements and action plan recommendations are included in all preparedness and response activities for disasters and crises
- Hold a civil-military relations awareness session for leadership, HQ and branch staff
- Engage with key stakeholders in climate and disaster-related law reviews and policy formulation

The IFRC will provide technical and financial support to the National Society through its Red Ready project until August 2023, as well as funding and forecast-based action through its DREF. It will also conduct a workshop on both this fund and Early Action Protocols (EAP) to ensure the National Society’s familiarity with the process. In addition, it will carry out training for the Papua New Guinea Red Cross national disaster response team on managing local disasters, and help developing methods to recruit and retain both staff and volunteers. The IFRC will support the National Society with sustaining
a presence and participating in relevant country clusters and coordination mechanisms, and highlighting potential auxiliary roles and mandates to ensure its collaboration with other stakeholders. This includes working with the Papua New Guinea Government to review current laws on disaster management by linking to the IFRC Disaster Law team. Finally, it will support the National Society in any peer-to-peer sharing to enhance advocacy and promote change.

Where there is alignment with forthcoming plans by the National Society, the Australian Red Cross will also provide technical and financial support, to strengthen its preparedness for effective response at both headquarters and branch level. This will include enhancing or developing systems for staff and volunteer training, revising standard operating procedures and contingency plans, developing logistics capacity and other key preparedness measures. This support extends to assistance with the implementation of priorities set out in relevant assessments, such as PER assessments. It also includes support with the IFRC Disaster Law Programme, working to involve the National Society in a review of national laws on disaster management in the country.

Health and wellbeing

Papua New Guinea faces several health challenges, including malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and cancer. A lack of routine immunization also fuels occasional epidemics of diseases like polio and measles. The impact of these is compounded by gaps in the country’s health infrastructure.

Rates of child mortality remain high in the country, with more than 50 per cent of deaths among those under the age of five due to malnutrition. More than 50 per cent of children aged six months to five years old are stunted for the same reason. Maternal mortality is four times higher than on other Pacific islands, making it the highest in the Pacific region and second-highest in the Asia Pacific region, with 215 deaths per 100 thousand live births. Immunization coverage has been stagnant for a decade at around 60 per cent.

In addition, COVID-19 continues to spread. As of 21 August 2022, there were more that 44,000 cases of the virus in Papua New Guinea with 664 deaths, a fatality rate of 1.5 per cent. Many asymptomatic and mild cases of the disease are not reported to health facilities, and testing rates are low. This contributes to the challenge of tackling the spread. On top of this, hesitancy and stigma around vaccines keep total vaccination rates at just 3.4 per cent. All of these problems are compounded by a highly fragile health system.

To respond to COVID 19, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society started risk communication and community engagement activities across 12 provinces with support from the IFRC through its global Emergency Appeal. This approach is also required to address the new public health threat of monkey pox.

Basic needs such as water and sanitation are often not met in the island state. Eighty-seven per cent of the population live in rural areas and, of these, only 39 per cent have access to basic water sources and less than 15 per cent to basic sanitation. Only 46 per cent of schools have basic water supplies and basic sanitation.

Gender equality remains a concern in Papua New Guinea, with sexual and domestic violence rates extremely high and an estimated 69 per cent of women experiencing assault at some point during their lifetime.

Main actions and areas of support

An effective public health programme will be facilitated by the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society through advocacy, the implementation of a health and WASH strategy, community-based health and first aid, epidemic control training for volunteers, risk communication and community engagement, and the delivery of first aid. The IFRC’s Red Ready project will support community-based engagement and activities, while community engagement and accountability will be integrated, including the use of feedback mechanisms.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

- Support branches to roll out epidemic control training and toolkits for volunteers
- Provide mental health and psychosocial support and psychological first aid to support affected parts of the population
- Enhance community health resilience through the integrated VCA process and create a community resilience plan with participatory monitoring and evaluations built in
- Carry out activities that support social and behavioural change, such as feedback mechanisms to monitor perceptions of a disease, or mobile cinemas and radio shows that encourage healthier and safer practices
- Organize systems that support rapid sharing of information with communities in the event of a disease outbreak
• Conduct health awareness sessions in the community by trained volunteers on topics such as malaria prevention
• Build capacity of staff and volunteers on community-based health and first aid, epidemic control and risk communication, and community engagement on malaria, acute watery diarrhoea, cholera, skin diseases, seasonal flu and COVID-19
• Develop community-based first aid capacity and roll out at branch level, including expansion of first aid trainers in active branches (Mount Hagen, Bougainville, Aida)
• Develop a first aid business plan and engage key stakeholders in its implementation
• Engage with relevant networks, including the Pacific First Aid Road Map, and leverage peer-to-peer support
• Engage with the health cluster and participation in the national preparedness plan
• Build National Society capacity in risk communication and community engagement on immunization and vaccine hesitancy
• Hold regular Facebook live events to address feedback
• Distribute exit surveys that allow for community feedback to be addressed
• Develop key public messages on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to raise awareness of water-borne diseases
• Develop emergency and technical skills and training related to WASH through training, peer-to-peer review, and engagement with the wider risk communication and community engagement network
• Support development of the National Society’s own WASH strategy by crafting key messages that align with national government strategy and policy, and engage with relevant stakeholders
• Engage with key stakeholders such as the health cluster and Department of Health at national and provincial levels on health-related plans, strategies, policies, and/or law reviews
• Advocate for and sign a Memorandum of Agreement and/or Understanding with respective government departments to support on public health

The IFRC will provide technical support, both from Papua New Guinea and its regional office. This includes: community-based health and first aid; volunteer training in epidemic control; introductions to the IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre on the International First Aid Attestation, and the provision of materials necessary to support both these initiatives and those for risk communication and community engagement, and COVID-19 responses. It will also provide assistance in setting up feedback systems and responding to both community concerns and the spread of misinformation during public health emergencies. Finally, it will help the National Society actively participate in collective and coordinated approaches to risk communication and community engagement to ensure their recognition, engagement and support.

The Australian Red Cross continues to support the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society in working with The Difference Incubator to review its commercial first aid programme business model and identify opportunities to increase revenue. Where there is alignment, the Australian Red Cross will also provide technical and financial support on emergency health with a focus on prevention and detection of, and response to, infectious disease. Specifically, support will focus on building the capacity of local volunteers to play an active role in epidemic control.

Migration and displacement

With a heterogenous indigenous population that consists of thousands of different communities, tribal warfare and conflict remains an endemic challenge in Papua New Guinea. This has the potential to displace both families and communities, with one-third of internally displaced people in the country displaced by conflict. This puts women and children particularly at risk of harm.

The island of Bougainville, which voted to secede from the island state in 2019, poses an additional threat. Lengthy discussions between the autonomous Bougainville Government and the National Administration in Papua New Guinea are ongoing and there remains the risk of conflict.

Other than conflict, internal migration in the country is fueled by development-induced displacement and environmental migration, with a recognized urban drift towards the capital, Port Moresby. This has led to high unemployment and large informal settlements in the city, with 45 per cent of its population – and 50 per cent of the total unemployed – living in these settlements. Uncontrolled migration has also led to population growth, amplifying the challenges of a lack of affordable housing, poor planning, infrastructure and lack of urban services in the city.
Main actions and areas of support

Over the coming years, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross will improve its knowledge and capacity on migration and displacement through the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Migration Network and setting up of humanitarian service points. These are safe, welcoming and strategically located spaces where migrating and displaced people can access reliable support from National Societies.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

• Provide safe water and shelter to those internally displaced because of conflict
• Build its capacity in migration and displacement, including on the running of humanitarian service points, through training and peer-to-peer support via the IFRC regional migration network and the mental health and psychosocial support services network
• Develop a strategy to ensure quality humanitarian assistance and protection to vulnerable migrants and displaced people
• Engage key stakeholders and taking on diplomacy work to streamline inter-agency engagement on migration
• Coordinate with the IOM

The IFRC will support analysis and provide technical support on migration and displacement work from its Asia Pacific regional office and Pacific country cluster delegation.

The Australian Red Cross will also play a brokering role to support the National Society on humanitarian diplomacy skills within the Asia Pacific Regional Migration Network.

Values, power and inclusion

Papua New Guinea is among the lowest-ranked countries on the UN Gender Equality Index, at 140 out of 155 countries in 2014, and 161 of 162 countries in 2019. Only 10 per cent of adult women have had a secondary level education, compared with 15.2 per cent of adult men.

Rooted in gender inequality, gender-based violence is commonly faced by women in the country. In fact, it is the most common crime experienced by women and takes place at an alarming rate, with women several times more likely to be attacked at home than on the streets. In particular areas, such as the Upper Highlands, this situation is even worse. Research in 2010 found that there were 117 cases of rape and sexual offences reported, out of 316 reported crimes in total. This figure has since increased.

Gender roles and norms as determined by varying cultural, ethnic and religious beliefs in Papua New Guinea are persistent in the country. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that almost 80 per cent of women living in the Highlands have been physically abused by their husbands.

Main actions and areas of support

To be effective, a protection, gender and inclusion programme will need to reach marginalized populations in Papua New Guinea. In the next two years, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society will raise awareness of
this issue by deploying the Youth as agents of behaviour change (YABC) programme and policies on prevention of, and response to, sexual exploitation, with technical support from both the Australian Red Cross and the IFRC. YABC is the flagship initiative of the IFRC on the promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace. It empowers young people to take up an ethical leadership role in their community.

In 2023, the National Society plans to:

- Strengthen the YABC flagship initiative in Papua New Guinea
- Use YABC peer educators to deliver YABC sessions in targeted communities
- Develop community feedback mechanisms, prioritizing vulnerable and marginalized groups
- Reinforce the application of the Fundamental Principles as a tool to guide decisions, actions and communications
- Integrate protection, gender and inclusion within all operational planning and programming
- Create awareness on the collection of disaggregated data using the Washington Group questions
- Establish partnerships with local, national or regional disability organizations to improve the accessibility of the National Society’s community health services
- Ensure that all feedback data collected is disaggregated according to age and sex

The IFRC will support the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society in integrating education across its response, recovery strategy and strategic plan. It will also build up the National Society’s capacity in protection, gender and inclusion through training, peer-to-peer support and provision of technical resources from its Asia Pacific regional office. It will support the National Society with reviewing its assessment results, monitoring forms, and ensuring its database incorporates sex, age, and disability disaggregated data. Feedback mechanisms will be clearly linked to referral systems as part of action on the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation standard operating procedures.

Where there is alignment with forthcoming plans, the Australian Red Cross will also provide technical and financial support in this area, to mainstream protection, gender and inclusion into the National Society’s programmes, and increase the knowledge and skills of its staff and volunteers. This extends to technical support on child protection, and protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

### Enabling local actors

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is committed to its pursuit of becoming a strengthened institution. To that end, it has carried out assessments as part of the IFRC Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in both 2013 and 2019. The self-assessment part of this process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is currently at the workplan phase. This is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, and ultimately take necessary action to improve.

The aim of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is to function well, at national and branch level, through increased partnership and networks, and a more sustainable base of resources to support its humanitarian services. This vision for its development includes significant adjustments to the existing strategic plan, human resource structures, including youth involvement, information management and technology, resource mobilization, business development, and international and public relations.

The IFRC and network partners are committed to supporting the National Society in its development.
Main actions and areas of support

- Maintain and strengthen coordination with key partners both inside and outside the Movement
- Develop an integrated annual operational plan for 2023 and a long-term strategic plan
- Create and share timely and high-impact visibility on emergencies
- Be first to market with media, communications content and social media on crises and disasters
- Increase the visibility of the National Society via effective news media engagement, social media, digital media and news opinion articles, influencing key donors and partners and complementing the humanitarian diplomacy efforts of National Societies and the IFRC
- Strengthen communications and media coaching to strengthen the public position of the National Society, and highlight the achievements of its services and humanitarian assistance during disasters and pandemics
- Enhance awareness at relevant government ministries on Red Cross activities
- Engage key humanitarian actors through available coordination platforms, such as the disaster management team and country clusters
- Develop and implement a strategy for strengthening the National Society’s auxiliary role in the country, including through reviewing the Red Cross Act
- Work with government bodies on exemption to duties and taxes to increase efficiency
- Ensure all staff take online training on cybersecurity
- Improve information management through a series of online or face-to-face workshops, including mobile data collection, leading emergency assessment and planning, data literacy, using the IFRC’s GO platform, data visualization and mapping, data readiness and evidence-based planning
- Improve data use and protection, ensure appropriate IT equipment is in place at headquarters and branches, and develop sustainable and relevant connectivity technologies to reduce the digital divide
- Conduct brand organizational capacity assessment at remaining branches
- Develop and approve a strategic plan beyond 2021 and a branch development plan
- Implement a finance development plan according to the IFRC Working with Project Partners finance systems assessment tool
- Engage an external auditor to carry out annual financial audits
- Develop forms and institutionalize internal controls
- Customize mind your own business (MYOB) software with tailored templates for invoices, receipts, purchase orders, custom reporting formats for income and expenditure statements, balance sheets and cash flow statements
- Set up payroll using reliable financial system
- Review the National Society’s core costs
- Assess structure and roles within the current finance team
- Deliver refresher training for branch and headquarters staff on finance procedures and roll out simple financial recording and reporting tools to branches
- Carry out asset verification and update the asset register at headquarters and branches
- Identify new ways to boost volunteer engagement, e.g., documented success stories
- Ensure National Societies have an updated volunteer information management system that documents and records youth, volunteers and members, including disaggregated information on gender
- Ensure that the volunteer recruitment process considers differences in diversity, gender, youth and cultures
- Ensure volunteers are insured annually with the IFRC volunteer’s insurance scheme
- Develop a volunteer retention and recognition system
The IFRC

The IFRC’s support to the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. Accountability is a theme that cuts across these different areas of intervention. It also helps to strengthen the National Society’s auxiliary role in the country by regularly meeting with key stakeholders at government level. This has been facilitated by the re-opening of its country office in December 2016, which is a now a full-fledged delegation.

Additional technical resources come from the IFRC Asia Pacific regional office based in Kuala Lumpur, the IFRC country cluster delegation for the Pacific based in Suva and other IFRC members. Specifically, the Papua New Guinea society has been supported through National Society development schemes, the Red Ready project, the Core cost and financial sustainability initiative, and the IFRC Capacity Building Funds.

In recent years the IFRC has supported the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society through several DREF operations in relation to volcanic activity, earthquakes, disease outbreaks and most recently civil unrest. The operation linked to civil unrest was launched in September 2022 and extends until the end of March 2023. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global appeal, has supported the National Society for its COVID-19 response.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the wider humanitarian context, identify humanitarian situations and needs, agree common priorities and co-develop common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging and monitoring progress. This also ensures that strategies and programmes have clarity around their humanitarian action, development assistance and the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

In Papua New Guinea, there are no in-country participating National Societies. However, the Australian Red Cross is a long-term partner, and the New Zealand Red Cross has provided targeted support. The Italian Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross Society have also been involved with membership coordination and contributed to the Core cost and financial sustainability initiative, youth projects and COVID-19 response in Papua New Guinea.

The Australian Red Cross has a Pacific team, spanning Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, that manages engagement with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society across all levels of the organization, drawing on additional technical advisers as required. This partnership spans decades and has included bilateral and multilateral support for the National Society’s organizational, strengthening and programming needs. It focuses on disaster management and health, as well as emergency responses.

In recent years, the Australian Red Cross’s technical and funding support has focused on National Society development and emergency response. The former has been guided by the key priorities of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and has included assistance on resource mobilization as well as financial, strategy and policy development. For the past two years, the Australian Red Cross has funded the IFRC’s National Society development manager to work alongside the Papua New Guinea leadership in progressing these key priority areas. In 2020–2021, it also contributed to the COVID-19 response by supplying additional technical resources, funding and partnership brokering: for example, with Coca-Cola. This partnership is guided by the Australian Red Cross 2019–2024 International Programme design. The overall goal is to achieve stronger, more resilient communities with increased capacity to prepare for, anticipate, respond to, and recover from, disasters and crises.

Guided by these outcomes, this partnership has the potential to extend across the following areas, as identified by the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society:

- Contributions to funding for core operating costs through the Core cost financial sustainability initiative
- Enhancing National Society development through a focus on foundational infrastructure, finance development and financial sustainability, including resource mobilization, business development, information management and humanitarian diplomacy
Support with disaster risk management programming, including building institutional preparedness for disaster responses and anticipatory action, cash-based programming, provision of public health services in emergencies and epidemic preparedness, emergency shelter and shelter coordination.

Mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion across all programming.

Improvements to safeguarding, including child protection and protection of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Improving humanitarian diplomacy and regulatory frameworks.

The New Zealand Red Cross has no presence in Papua New Guinea but supports the National Society through a first aid programme, humanitarian technology and participation in the Core costs and financial sustainability initiative. In 2022, it provided support through the IFRC Capacity Building Fund for digital engineering to improve media conferencing kits available to the National Society.

### Movement coordination

Coordination meetings are regularly held at a managerial level involving members of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, the IFRC, the ICRC and the Australian Red Cross. Regular contact between the IFRC, ICRC and the Australian Red Cross facilitates further operational and technical cooperation and coordinates support, including for the National Society Core costs and financial sustainability initiative. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0.

The ICRC has a Papua New Guinea Mission based in Port Moresby, a sub-delegation in Mount Hagen, and an office in Bougainville. It also works closely with the National Society at provincial branches in Mount Hagen and Bougainville. In Mount Hagen, the ICRC provides training for volunteers on topics that include water and shelter, economic security, health, mental health and psychosocial support. It works alongside the Mount Hagen provincial branch to carry out these services as an operational response to violence in a challenging environment. The ICRC supports the Bougainville provincial branch in various ways, including support for its first aid programme. At the National Society headquarters, it provides assistance on various organizational priorities. This work extends to increasing acceptance, security, and access to affected populations through the application of the Safer Access Framework. It is also offered to the two branches where this is of concern.
Coordination with other actors

The Government at both national and provincial level recognizes the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society as one of the partners in its National Disaster Risk Management Plan. It recognizes that the National Society is instrumental in providing humanitarian assistance to communities affected by disasters, and contributes to disaster risk reduction by building community resilience and response readiness. As a result, the provincial administrative office has provided some space for the National Society to make use of container storage.

The National Society is a member of the Papua New Guinea Disaster Management Team, with the IFRC and ICRC acting as observers when needed. This team is a coordination mechanism for preparedness and response to disasters with all stakeholders and is comprised of the Government of Papua New Guinea, UN agencies, international NGOs and NGOs, for any disasters. Meetings are held every month and hosted and chaired by the Disaster Management Team secretariat. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society actively participates in these meetings and plays a key role as a local humanitarian actor in contributing to the emergency response and coordination.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans
- Subscribe for updates
- Donor response on IFRC website
- Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) data
- Operational information: IFRC GO platform
- National Society data: IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 14 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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