



# CAPE VERDE

## 2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 1.7M**

Appeal number **MAACV002**

### In support of the Red Cross of Cape Verde



**19**

National Society branches



**125**

National Society staff



**6,500**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



**110,000**

Climate and environment



**292,000**

Disasters and crises



**130,000**

Health and wellbeing



**17,000**

Migration and displacement



**93,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network multiyear focus

#### Longer term needs

- Food security • Disaster risk management
  - Climate change adaptation
- Health and water, sanitation and hygiene
- Migration and displacement-related needs

#### Capacity development

- Internal systems strengthening
  - Communications
- Financial sustainability and resource mobilization
  - Volunteers and youth management
  - Digital transformation

### Key country data

**Population** **561,000**

**Long-term Climate Risk Index** **150**

**Human Development Index rank** **128**

**Population below poverty level** **35.0%**



IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Cape Verde, Gambia, Mauritania & Senegal, Dakar

## Hazards



Drought



Floods



Food insecurity



Disease outbreaks



Migration

## Funding requirements

**Total 1.7M** CHF

Through the IFRC

**1.7M** CHF

### IFRC Breakdown

#### Longer term needs

- 116,000** CHF  
Climate and environment
- 480,000** CHF  
Disasters and crises
- 859,000** CHF  
Health and wellbeing
- 90,000** CHF  
Migration and displacement
- 35,000** CHF  
Values, power and inclusion
- 132,000** CHF  
Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

British Red Cross

Canadian Red Cross

Luxembourg Red Cross

Portuguese Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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**The Red Cross of Cape Verde** was established by decree in 1975. It was the first humanitarian organization to exist in Cape Verde and, following the accession of the state of Cape Verde to the Geneva Conventions in 1984, the Red Cross of Cape Verde was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1985. Since then, the National Society has been recognized by the Cape Verdean state as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, and, in particular, in support of the military and health services.

The Red Cross of Cape Verde works throughout the country, on all nine inhabited islands and throughout the 22 administrative municipalities. It acts in various fields such as disaster risk management, health and wellbeing, and migration and displacement. Its programmes include a focus on children, adolescence and youth, as well as the elderly. It carries out activities in restoring family links, education, and promotion of human rights and international humanitarian law, and the application of humanitarian values and principles.

The Red Cross of Cape Verde's mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering impartially, and without any discrimination of nationality, race, sex, class, religion or political ideologies. In compliance with the seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - humanity, impartiality,

neutrality, independence, volunteerism, unity and universality - its mandate is to:

- Act, in the event of armed conflict, on behalf of the victims of war, civilian or military, and prepare in times of peace, to intervene as an auxiliary to the public services, in the fields provided for by the Geneva Conventions
- Contribute to the improvement of people's health and wellbeing, the prevention of disease and the alleviation of human suffering, through training and community assistance programmes, adapted to the needs and living conditions of individuals
- Organize emergency assistance services for disaster victims
- Recruit, train and sensitize staff and volunteers as necessary, to carry out the tasks entrusted to them
- Promote the participation of children and young people in Red Cross activities
- Disseminate the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and international humanitarian law, with a view to developing among the population, especially among children and young people, the ideals of peace, respect and mutual understanding among all peoples

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

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### Joint situational analysis

Located 500 kilometres from the west coast of Africa, the archipelago of Cape Verde is made up of ten islands, nine of which are inhabited. The country has an estimated population of over 560,000, and which is reported as declining due to migration. The small population of the country, spread over a vast aquatic area, is an important factor that determines growth and development. It limits the development of a large-scale economy and creates significant connectivity constraints, as well as challenges in the provision of services, including energy, water, education and health care.

Cape Verde's economy is heavily dependent on natural resources directly related to climate, agriculture and tourism. Efforts to map vulnerability and risks, and

subsidies for climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, remain insufficient. Only ten percent of the territory is classified as arable land and the country has virtually no mineral resources. Agricultural production is very low. In 2022, cereal production of maize was down 80% compared to the last five years. Bean production was 90% lower than the average of the last five years and stands at 197 tons. Most of the Cape Verdean population makes a living from agriculture; 22% of the active population is employed in the agricultural sector, 82% of whom live in rural areas. This situation leads to an estimated 35% of the population living below the poverty line.

Since 2017, Cape Verde has been experiencing one of the worst droughts in recent decades, with worrying levels of food insecurity. It is expected that food insecurity will persist and is likely to worsen with the absence (or insufficiency) of rain in the next rainy season. Water is an important concern for households, and expenditure on water is their second largest household expenditure. In the families of pastoralists, it is their largest expenditure, as water must be shared between humans and livestock. Tensions between human needs and animal consumption force herders to destock livestock that lack water and fodder. Cape Verde also faces other hazards, including seasonal floods and outbreaks of pests, such as desert locusts.

The population faces limited access to health and water and sanitation services. Cape Verde has experienced several epidemics in recent decades, and, like the rest of the world, is being hit hard by COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the country's tourism sector, which constituted 25% of GDP before the pandemic.

The Government is also concerned about security challenges related to the location of the archipelago, and which could make it a local hotbed of insecurity. The Government has adopted a series of measures,

including the ratification of several international conventions, reforms within the armed forces and security services, the creation of the Maritime Defence and Security Operations Centre (COSMAR), as well as the training of entities under their responsibility on state security issues.

In June 2022, the Government of Cape Verde declared a social and economic emergency in the archipelago, which is suffering from the effect of the war in Ukraine, as well as the impacts of COVID-19 and drought. According to Africanews, inflation reached 8 percent in May 2022, a rise from 1.9 percent in May 2021. In a press conference in Praia, Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva said that with the loss of purchasing power, nine out of 100 Cape Verdeans were at risk of food insecurity, compared to two percent in the midst of the pandemic in 2020. With the declaration of a social and economic emergency, the Government hopes to obtain increased support from the international community to fund its measures to protect families and businesses. The Prime Minister stated that the measures adopted since March 2022, to stabilize food and fuel prices and to help the most vulnerable families, amount to nine billion escudos (euros 81.6 million) up to the end of 2022.

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## Strategic priorities

### Climate and environmental crises

Small island developing countries, such as Cape Verde, are considered amongst the most vulnerable to climate change, due to their historically weak capacity to respond to natural climate variability. The vulnerability of the Cape Verde archipelago to climate change is manifested in various areas such as: increased frequency and intensity of floods and droughts, with losses in agriculture and a constant threat to biodiversity, change in the hydrological regime, and an increase in endemic disease vectors. Sea level rise affects all the islands of the archipelago, especially the so-called "flat islands".

Cape Verde has experienced chronic droughts since the 1990s, and which have led to displacement of populations from the northern islands to the southern islands, and the settling of populations in shallow and flood-prone valleys. Drought is a major challenge for the archipelago because its consequences affect many sectors of national life including rural activities, agriculture and food security, and water resources. The latest lack

of rains between 2017 and 2022 has severely threatened food security in the country.

Floods occur during every rainy season, threatening lives and health, and bringing destruction and damage. The obstruction of runoff due to land use problems and uncontrolled waste management cause significant flooding in urban areas. Uncontrolled land use leads to habitat destruction, flooding of fields, loss of livestock, and destruction of roads and bridges. This has a strong impact on people's livelihoods and also on human health, with the proliferation of epidemic, endemic and vector-borne diseases. Floods are predicted to increase with climate change, and the 2020 floods caused the largest number of people to be affected to date, especially in Praia (the capital), and Santa Catarina, in the interior of the island of Santiago.

A national plan for adaptation to climate change in Cape Verde has been approved by the Government and provides for interventions in its institutional framework, in technology, and in building the resilience of the most vulnerable, with a budget of euros 30 million up to 2026.

## Main actions and areas of support

The Red Cross of Cape Verde seeks to further integrate climate change adaptation and environmental protection into its work. It will focus both on strengthening the capacities of communities to face climate and environmental risks, and the capacities of National Society staff and volunteers to lead urgent action in the face of the climate and environmental crises.

In 2023, with the support of the IFRC and network partners, the Red Cross of Cape Verde plans to:

- Carry out awareness and reforestation campaigns, using adequate material and technological resources including reforestation tools, information education and communications equipment, and cinema kits
- Through trained volunteers, help farming communities assimilate and put into practice weather information disseminated by the National Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics
- Equip itself with the tools to assess the impact of climate change on community health and water, sanitation and hygiene, and to design intervention mechanisms
- Enrich drought preparedness actions, including policy and strategic planning, water resources monitoring and impact assessment, development of new alternatives in water resource management and water conservation practices, and increasing public awareness
- Develop and validate community risk mapping for the nine islands, taking into account climate risks
- Establish and equip community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation teams
- Establish an early warning system, in collaboration and coordination with local government authorities and partners
- Strengthen the National Society's communications on climate change adaptation measures
- Advocate at government and local levels for the implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation policies
- Participate in climate change-related calls for proposals

## Disasters and crises

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

Chronic floods represent a significant hazard in Cape Verde. The 2020 floods affected more than 125,000 people and caused significant material damage estimated at more than CHF 3 million. The floods caused loss of life and significant loss of livestock, and affected residential and arable areas in the southern region of the island of Santiago and part of the northern region of the archipelago.

In addition, the concomitant shocks and pressures of prolonged drought, COVID-19 and inflation, have exacerbated the vulnerability of communities and eroded their resilience, to a worrying level.

In June 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment warned that 11% of families would most certainly be in a food crisis situation. In 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, the country recorded three percent of the population in food crisis (IPC phase 3), while in May 2022, the percentage had increased to nine percent. Figures of people at risk of acute food insecurity are ranging from 30% according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to over 46%, according to an assessment conducted by the Red Cross of Cape Verde, in last two years. The United Nations estimated, after a drought impact assessment mission in the country, that about 140,000 people could be in a situation of acute nutritional vulnerability. The results of the Cadre Harmonisé (March 2022), presented as part of the Regional Food Crisis Prevention and Management System (PREGEC), showed that food insecurity was most prevalent on the island of Santiago, in particular in the municipality of Ribera Grande.

In February 2022, the Government of Cape Verde adopted an emergency programme for the mitigation of drought and for the poor agricultural year 2021-2022, with a set of three measures:

- Livestock rescue: protect livestock activities and ensure conditions for the maintenance of ruminant livestock
- Management of water shortages: minimize the problem of water shortages by ensuring rational use and regularity of supply to households and agricultural and livestock operations
- Employment creation for affected families: protect livelihoods with special attention to the most economically vulnerable families (women and youth)

In June 2022, following the catastrophic effects of the drought in Cape Verde, and the impact of the war in Ukraine on global markets, the Government of Cape

Verde declared an economic and social state of emergency in the country. According to the office of the Head of State, the drought situation was already heavily impacting on inflation, hence diminishing the purchasing power of families, food security and economic growth prospects. The Government is supported by FAO, which stated that if nothing is done to support rural areas, the extent of the damage caused by hunger and the deterioration of living standards will be dramatic.

### Main actions and areas of support

In line with its auxiliary role, the Red Cross of Cape Verde responds to disasters and crises affecting the archipelago. In response to the drought, the National Society has been intervening since 2018, with assistance to vulnerable people through food distributions, and provision of medical assistance to people in need having difficulties in paying for medical expenses. With the support of the IFRC [Livelihoods Resource Centre](#), hosted by the Spanish Red Cross, the National Society also carried out field assessments in several municipalities. Since the first declaration of the state of emergency by the Government, the Red Cross of Cape Verde increased its response, including with the support of an IFRC DREF [allotacion](#).

In 2023, with the support of the IFRC and network partners, the Red Cross of Cape Verde plans to:

- Establish a system for disseminating early warning information from national meteorological and hydrological services to communities at risk
- Update a complex emergency plan adapted to the local context, developed in collaboration with the state's emergency plans, standard operating procedures and early warning systems
- Implement the participatory approach for safe shelter awareness ([PASSA](#)) in a community at risk of flooding
- Research and support local risk reduction and climate change adaptation techniques and practices in the fields of shelter, livelihoods, and water, sanitation and hygiene, through participatory approaches
- Support formal and informal market assessments in the most affected regions
- Develop standard operating procedures for cash and voucher assistance

- Adopt digital emergency needs assessment and beneficiary registration tools, and train staff and volunteers in their use
- Review currently available emergency plans and adapt them into complex emergency plans, taking into account regional or district specifications
- Conduct community simulation exercises to test the complex emergency plans
- Integrate protection, gender and inclusion aspects into all activities
- Organize advocacy sessions with authorities at different levels, on humanitarian principles, values and norms, and on standards for disaster preparedness and response

### Health and wellbeing

Despite the efforts made by the State, there are still shortcomings in the provision of health care, in terms of both availability and quality. Maternal, newborn and child health, malnutrition and infectious diseases are major challenges. The health context in Cape Verde has been marked over the last decade by the emergence or resurgence of communicable and epidemic diseases, as well as non-communicable diseases. The country was confronted for the first time with a dengue epidemic in 2009-2010, and a Zika virus epidemic occurred between 2015 and 2017. A malaria epidemic was recorded in some localities of the island of Santiago in 2017, and the disease is considered endemic in Cape Verde.

The first case of COVID-19 was recorded on 19 May 2020, and the country has recorded over 60,000 cases, including over 410 deaths, as per data from the [Cape Verde Ministry of Health](#). Approximately 65% of the population have received at least the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and about 55% have received at least two doses. The emergence of COVID-19 in 2020 added to the pressures on the health services and underscored the urgent need to strengthen disease surveillance and response systems in the country.

Cape Verde also faces challenges in terms of water, sanitation and hygiene. A small island state with little rain and a tropical climate, Cape Verde often experiences freshwater restrictions. For rural communities, access to clean water is a daily challenge. With the effects of climate change, such as rising temperatures and increasing droughts, from a situation of increasing water stress, the country is now at risk of being chronically water scarce as early as 2025.



## Main actions and areas of support

Health is a key priority programme of the Red Cross of Cape Verde. The National Society is considered a reference institution in first aid, very often being requested by various institutions, public, private and non-governmental organizations, to provide first aid services or training. Other services of the National Society include follow-up of the chronically ill in centres for the elderly, implementation of projects related to HIV/AIDS, and support to patients with temporary or chronic conditions of various nature and complexity.

The Red Cross of Cape Verde, as an auxiliary to the public authorities, has extensive experience in community health and is already implementing several emergency health projects. However, gaps remain in areas such as specific training for staff and volunteers, first aid equipment, and technical medical equipment. The National Society health sector plan is a roadmap for priority health actions for the coming years, with a view to equipping the National Society with the capacity to respond more effectively to the demands of the sector.

In relation to COVID-19, the Red Cross of Cape Verde carried out risk communication and community engagement and accountability activities. It mobilized about a hundred volunteers for awareness-raising, food distributions, and evacuations to appropriate health centres. The National Society also supported the COVID-19 vaccination campaign by helping more than 1,000 people with disabilities and those with mobility issues at vaccination centres.

The Red Cross of Cape Verde, with the support of Africa Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention and the Ministry of Health, has been engaged in the vaccination project since November 2022. It mainly covers the islands of Boa Vista and Santiago, particularly areas where resistance to vaccines is higher. The Red Cross of Cape Verde is committed to continue outreach and community engagement activities.

The National Society's approach to health and care includes water, sanitation and hygiene. It aims to implement community-led and people-centred interventions in all contexts, including emergencies and other situations, as well as fragile contexts.

In 2023, with the support of the IFRC and network partners, the Red Cross of Cape Verde plans to:

- Map areas and communities prone to recurring health problems

- Intensify health promotion in vulnerable and marginalized communities, in disease prevention and control
- Increase [community-based health and first aid](#), including conducting awareness-raising activities on the themes of health, water, sanitation and hygiene, disaster risk reduction, community engagement, and behaviour change
- Establish a water tracking system
- Collect and use community feedback and suggestions to identify and reduce community health risks
- Introduce first aid in nautical safety activities
- Provide individual psychological first aid services to 1,000 people in distress due to disasters, epidemics and accidents
- Undertake the adaptation, translation, printing and distribution of mental health and psychosocial support materials and tools
- Support the Ministry of Security in community mobilization during vaccination campaigns, including COVID-19 vaccination
- Support the expanded vaccination programme, in an integrated approach with basic community health care
- Establish a mechanism to report and respond to complaints and rumours about community vaccination programmes
- Establish a community-based malaria awareness programme
- Provide adequate care, support and referral services to survivors of gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies
- Develop a National Society intervention strategy for health, and water, sanitation and hygiene
- Develop a strategic approach and strengthen social mobilization and risk communication on priority health issues
- Integrate the National Society into different regional, national and local public health preparedness and response coordination platforms
- Strengthen its auxiliary role to public services by ensuring that all the National Society's health and care plans and strategies are integrated into the country's national plans

## Migration and displacement

Currently, only estimates exist on the Cape Verdean diaspora, and figures range from 200,000 to just over 518,000. The USA and Portugal are the most popular destination countries. Despite these relatively low figures, Cape Verde is one of the countries with the highest emigration rate in relation to the size of its population. Although more than three quarters of all these emigrants are low- or medium-skilled, Cape Verde loses a large percentage of its highly skilled workforce. Indeed, nearly 70% go abroad to countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Cape Verde has also experienced an increase in immigration in recent decades. The IOM's Migration Profile reveals that 82% of immigrants are from Portuguese-speaking African countries and Portugal. China, Nigeria and Senegal also appear to be among the main countries of origin. Cape Verde is also an attractive destination for skilled workers. The intellectual and scientific professions represent the second category of economic migrants.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the specific vulnerabilities of migrants, with many of them particularly marginalized and exposed to multiple risks due to increased difficulties in accessing information and services related to health and water, sanitation and hygiene, due to their legal status, language or cultural barriers, and social stigma. The socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 have also led to unforeseen population movements, both within the archipelago and across the country's borders.

At the same time, and despite the lack of reliable data, the specific vulnerabilities and needs of migrants and internally displaced persons (inter-islands) are increasingly recognized by governmental and administrative authorities. Broadly speaking, these humanitarian needs are classified into two types:

- Emergency needs, including health, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, restoring family links and protection
- Longer-term needs related to livelihoods, education, social integration and durable solutions (integration, safe return, resettlement to another part of the country or to another country), accompaniment in legal procedures and regularization of administrative papers, and psychosocial support

## Main actions and areas of support

The Red Cross of Cape Verde has been working for a long time with and for migrants and internally displaced persons, in recent years providing services such as distributions of food and non-food items, health care, restoring family links services and psychosocial support. The National Society plays a crucial role in responding to the humanitarian consequences of migration and displacement in emergencies and other situations, as well as in strengthening the resilience of migrants, displaced persons and host communities. The well-known presence of the National Society in the country, and the archipelago being a migration route as well as a country of migration, means that it is particularly well placed to assist migrants and internally displaced persons during their journey, to meet their needs and to guarantee their access to essential services, regardless of their legal status.

Efforts to ensure migrants' access to services and strengthen their resilience remain an essential dimension of the National Society's action. In addition to providing direct assistance, the Red Cross of Cape Verde seeks to promote the integration of migrants into Cape Verdean society through the provision of information, assistance and services tailored to their context and needs, the expansion of humanitarian service points, and support for social protection systems and community safety nets. The National Society is also strengthening its work with migrants and displaced persons to build trust and promote tolerance, understanding and empathy towards migrants within local host communities.

In 2023, with the support of the IFRC and network partners, the Red Cross of Cape Verde plans to:

- Provide assistance and protection to migrants regardless of their status and set up humanitarian service points, with the technical support of the IFRC
- Assist vulnerable migrants (depending on the context) through health care, psychosocial support, livelihoods, reintegration assistance, information sharing and referrals
- Consider any activities related to internal displacement, such as humanitarian assistance, contingency plans, various assessments
- Promote and support initiatives for the integration and reintegration of migrants



- Promote peaceful coexistence between migrants and host communities
- Support and accompany families of missing migrants
- Organize cross-border coordination with National Societies located along the migration route, including through the migration technical group of the Sahel+ group, such as an early warning system, exchange of information on available services, joint evaluations and trainings, and coordination meetings
- Strengthen coordination with the National Societies of the Sahel+ group, for effective, efficient and coordinated management of migration issues in the region
- Collect and analyse data to feed statistics that can help better understand and define the contours of migration
- Define priorities for humanitarian advocacy, in coordination with Movement partners and the Sahel+ group
- Carry out awareness-raising, advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy, for the respect of the rights and dignity of migrants
- Build capacity of the National Society and stakeholders on migration
- Contribute to the development of national migration policies and strategies, as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field
- Strengthen the positioning and auxiliary role of the National Society in the field of migration and displacement management
- Facilitate coordination with internal and external partners on land and sea routes

## Values, power and inclusion

Cape Verde is below global averages in gender-based violence and has made progress in recent years. The number of women who have experienced some form of gender-based violence in the previous 12 months went from just over 20% in 2005 to just under 11% in 2019, according to UN Women. However, the rate increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Domestic violence is regarded by the law as a public crime, punished by law. The country ranked 89 on the UNDP HDI Gender Inequality Index in 2020.

In recent years, Cape Verde has also made progress on disability inclusion. The country has signed the

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was ratified in 2011. Article 72 of the Constitution provides the legal framework for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. A 2021 study supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, analysed the profile of persons with disabilities in Cape Verde, highlighting their high vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. The findings revealed that 79% of the people with disabilities participating in the study were unaware of the existence of HIV care, support and prevention facilities. According to Handicap International, the project contributed to increasing the technical and organizational capacity of civil society organizations to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the fight against HIV/AIDS at the national level.

While significant efforts have been made in recent years, many gaps and challenges remain in the field of disability integration, inclusion of young people and minorities in socio-economic and political life, protection of the elderly, and support for education in humanitarian emergencies. Significant efforts are needed to improve the inclusion, participation and representation of women, young people, the most at-risk and vulnerable groups, and their representation in decision-making bodies that affect them.

## Main actions and areas of support

All the Red Cross of Cape Verde's programmes strive to promote dignity, access, participation and safety. Respect for human dignity is based on understanding and valuing the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which drive solidarity, equality, inclusion and the need to protect people. The Red Cross of Cape Verde is committed to ensuring that protection, gender equality and inclusion are taken into account in all its programmes and operations, and will work to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies.

The National Society's youth programmes aim to provide young people with the knowledge and skills necessary to make a positive and concrete contribution in their communities. Building on the extensive experience of the Red Cross of Cape Verde in working with young people, a flagship humanitarian education programme will be developed, which can be adapted to the context and scaled up throughout the country. This programme will build on good practices and success stories from youth programmes of other National Societies, such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent School and Youth Programmes, the Youth as Agents of Behaviour Change

initiative, first aid and disaster risk reduction in schools, violence prevention efforts, inter-generational dialogue, and climate action. It will also serve as a platform to promote innovation through new methodologies, tools and technologies.

In 2023, with the support of the IFRC and network partners, the Red Cross of Cape Verde plans to:

- Develop key programmes to protect the dignity of those affected by disasters and crises, promoting equitable access to services and participation in the fight against gender-based violence, in collaboration with state partners, civil society organizations and international actors
- Develop the National Society's policy on protection, gender and inclusion, and ensure its implementation in all local branches
- Develop a training programme on peacebuilding, child protection, social mediation, prevention of gender-based violence, and gender equality
- Organize dissemination sessions on humanitarian principles and values for community leaders, with a focus on youth
- Build, rehabilitate and equip classrooms in disaster areas to relieve congestion in other schools in non-disaster areas after a disaster
- Support informal education activities, including awareness-raising on children's schooling and child protection

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## Enabling local action

The Red Cross of Cape Verde places its development as one of the key priorities of its [2019-2023 Strategic Plan](#). The central strategic themes are:

- Mobilization and inspiring young people and volunteers for social causes
- Partnerships, cooperation and humanitarian diplomacy to save lives and promote social inclusion
- Infrastructure to provide excellent services with the involvement of local structures

Several strategic objectives focus on engagement and partnerships, influence and advocacy, resource mobilization and capacity building, modernization and decentralization. The Strategic Plan also foresees the strengthening of the National Society's financial base, physical and technological infrastructure, and support systems.

The IFRC network is committed to support the Red Cross of Cape Verde in its development, according to the priorities it has set for itself.

### Engaged

In 2023, with the support of the IFRC and network partners, the Red Cross of Cape Verde plans to:

- Update its communications strategy
- Update its resource mobilization strategy
- Advocate for a governmental financial subsidy

- Produce and share a biannual magazine to promote the National Society's activities
- Procure and roll out a connected digital system (between the headquarters and branches) for finance and administration
- Train leaders and volunteers on the use and understanding of the new computer system
- Assess volunteers' digital capacity building needs through the IFRC's Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment ([BOCA](#))
- Integrate the resources needed for digital transformation into its resource mobilization plan

### Accountable

The Red Cross of Cape Verde will develop a risk management framework to integrate risk management practices into all its programmes and operations. Standard operating procedures will be developed, and all staff and volunteers will be trained on the importance of risk management.

Child protection and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse policies are integrated into all operations. The National Society will continuously ensure that beneficiaries and all staff and volunteers are treated with respect, without any discrimination. No abuse, physical, verbal or sexual, is tolerated within the Red Cross of Cape Verde, and the National Society will continue to raise awareness among its staff and volunteers on zero tolerance. Anyone involved in projects must have

completed the online IFRC Code of Conduct course, and will have to sign a paper version of the Code of Conduct and the Anti-Fraud Code.

In 2023, with the support of the IFRC and network partners, the Red Cross of Cape Verde plans to:

- Organize annual audit reports
- Organize training sessions on international standards in logistics, procurement and finance
- Establish an up-to-date risk management system across the National Society's network, addressing risk management culture at all levels, with a clear link to accountability and quality assurance
- Assess the risks of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse, within the National Society
- Develop a strategy and action plan to mitigate identified risks of fraud and corruption, and sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse
- Disseminate the strategy and action plan within the different components of the National Society
- Develop and implement a mechanism for collecting and analyzing protection, gender and inclusion data, combined with real-time assessments and follow-up visits
- Establish a system to facilitate the collection and retrieval of financial documents and technical data at headquarters and branch level, to ensure timely narrative and financial reporting

## Trusted

The Red Cross of Cape Verde places great emphasis on the coordination of all structures at national and local

levels, in order to take full advantage of the power of the local branches and the combined potential of all members. Significant efforts are made by the General Secretariat at all levels in terms of coordination of the National Society leadership, exchanges and support between peers, and technical and operational coordination.

In 2023, with the support of the IFRC and network partners, the Red Cross of Cape Verde plans to:

- Develop an indirect cost recovery procedure to allow the National Society to obtain unrestricted funding for its support functions
- Organize a Movement Induction Course
- Proceed with the revision of its statutes and regulations
- Update the National Society's administrative and financial procedures manual
- Recruit an external consultant to support the implementation of its commercial first aid income-generating activities
- Organize a workshop to update the national policy on youth and volunteerism
- Recruit volunteers based on the diversity of communities, paying particular attention to gender, local languages and cultures, marginalized groups, and influential members of communities and institutions
- Establish a social assistance fund for staff and volunteers working in the field
- Include volunteer insurance in operational plans

# THE IFRC NETWORK

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## The IFRC

**The IFRC** provides support to the Red Cross of Cape Verde through its country cluster delegation based in Dakar, Senegal, which covers Cape Verde, Gambia, Mauritania and Senegal. The IFRC support to the Red Cross of Cape Verde centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In 2022, the IFRC supported the National Society through a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operation](#) for the drought. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its [Global Emergency Appeal](#), has supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response. A project on climate change was also funded by the IFRC.

## IFRC membership coordination

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

The Red Cross of Cape Verde is part of the Sahel+ Resilience Platform. This platform, created in 2018, includes a steering committee and three technical groups - on food security and livelihoods, migration and shelter - which bring together designated focal points and technical staff from Movement components that are part of the overall Resilience Platform. Their ambition is to create a common understanding and vision among members, increase communications, information generation and capacity, and shape a collective voice through common advocacy tools and messages.

Since 2018, the food security and livelihoods technical group of the Sahel+ Resilience Platform, is partially financially supported by the British Red Cross, through a coordinator position and funding for parts of the action plan. This thematic group, as part of the new 2022-2024 action plan, aims to build the technical, participatory and influencing capacity in food security, livelihoods and nutrition of the ten Sahel+ National Societies, including the Red Cross of Cape Verde. In 2022, the working group organized a workshop to define a joint regional food security and livelihoods initiative for the ten Sahel+ National Societies, with the aim of sustainably improving the food security, nutrition and livelihoods

of populations affected by conflict and climate shocks in Sub-Saharan Africa. A concept note for this regional food security and livelihoods initiative has been defined, consisting of a preparatory phase (development of the action plan) and an implementation phase (2023-2028).

The main focus of the regional food security and livelihoods initiative is:

- Social protection, prevention and emergency response - integrating and complementing government actions
- Preparedness, anticipation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change (with a focus on food production systems)
- Socio-professional integration
- Capacity building

The initiative is supported by the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the British Red Cross, the Red Cross Red Crescent [Climate Centre](#), and the IFRC [Livelihoods Centre](#), hosted by the Spanish Red Cross.

The Red Cross of Cape Verde receives support from several National Societies, either through the IFRC or directly, although there is no presence of participating National Societies in Cape Verde.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has funded various projects in the field of food security, in particular between 1997 and 2000. Following the drought situation and the 2017–2018 poor agricultural seasons, the Spanish Red Cross assisted the National Society in carrying out field assessments and analysing the data collected. The **Canadian Red Cross and Luxembourg Red Cross** provided support in the fight against COVID-19, and in disaster preparedness and response. The **Turkish Red Crescent** has also provided support for an education project.

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## Movement coordination

There is no representation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Cape Verde. The Red Cross of Cape Verde ensures coordination through meetings and strategic and operational planning with, in particular, the IFRC country cluster delegation in Dakar and

the ICRC Dakar delegation. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

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## Coordination with other actors

The Red Cross of Cape Verde maintains a privileged partnership with the Government, in particular with the Ministries of Health, National Defence, and Internal Administration within the collaboration framework for the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. It also collaborates with the Ministries of National Education, Finance, Agriculture and Environment, and the Ministry of Justice. The National Society also works closely with all 22 municipal administrative divisions, with which cooperation and collaboration agreements have been signed for the implementation of the National Society's social projects at local level. A protocol for collaboration between the Presidency of the Republic of Cape Verde and the National Society has been signed as part of the implementation of the "Campaign for the Prevention of Alcohol Abuse".

Several other partnerships are in place with the country's private sector and public institutions, including the following: Banco Cabo Verdiano de Negócios (BCN); Moagem de Cabo Verde (MOAVE); SA (industry and trade in the food sector); with universities (UNI-Piaget and UNI-CV); telecommunications companies

(CVTelecom and Unitel T+); churches (Igreja de Jesus Cristo dos Santos dos Últimos Dias); and private clinics (Clínica + Saúde).

In recent years (2018-2020), several other partnership initiatives of the Red Cross of Cape Verde with external partners have included the Embassies of Canada and Japan, Santa Casa de Misericórdia (Portugal), Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Portugal), Médecins du Monde (Portugal) and EUCED (European Economic Interest Grouping for Economic Cooperation and Development at European and International Level), and institutions accredited to the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission. The Red Cross of Cape Verde is affiliated as an associate member of EUCED.

The National Society also receives funding from the UK Government (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office-FCDO), through the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership ([REAP](#)), whose Secretariat is hosted by the IFRC.

### 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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