



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

2024-2025 IFRC network country plan

2 May 2024

Muti-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 2.61M**

In support of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society



12

National Society branches



32

National Society staff



750

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



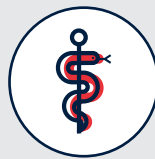
20,000

Climate and environment



10,000

Disasters and crises



5,000

Health and wellbeing



5,000

Migration and displacement



1,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year 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	10.1M
INFORM Severity rating	Medium
INFORM Climate Change Risk Index	High
Human Development Index rank	156
Population below poverty level	39.9%

Funding requirements

2024

2025*

Total 1.4M CHF

Total 1.21M CHF

Through IFRC

1M CHF

Through IFRC

1.21M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

**Projected funding requirements*

200,000 CHF

Through Host National Society

34,000 CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

300,000 CHF
Climate and environment

300,000 CHF
Disasters and crises

100,000 CHF
Health and wellbeing

50,000 CHF
Migration and displacement

100,000 CHF
Values, power and inclusion

200,000 CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

Australian Red Cross

The Netherlands Red Cross*

**National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.*

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAPG003

Hazards



Violence



Floods



Landslides



Volcanic eruptions

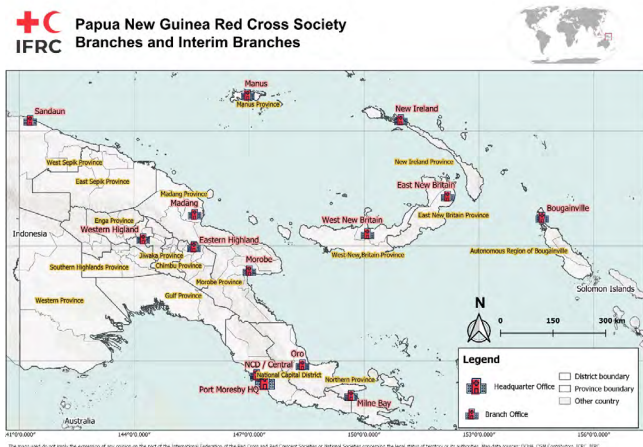


Earthquakes



Diseases outbreaks

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE



The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society is headquartered in Port Moresby with a network of 12 branches. This gives it a presence in 12 of the country's 22 provinces. The National Society is made up of a council with nine members (six male and three female) and 32 employees, 23 of whom are based at its headquarters, four at its Special Education Resource Centre and five across its branches. In addition, it has 750 volunteers nationwide. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society's most recent Strategic Plan was approved at the General Assembly in July 2023. The National Society's strategic goals are:

- Improve readiness and response for crises and disasters including climate and environmental crises
- Lead resilient communities against growing gaps in health and well-being
- Promote and mobilize for values, power and inclusion

In 2022, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society reached over 600,000 people with long term services and development. An IFRC-DREF for Civil Unrest supported over 3,000 people affected by the violence and displacement in September 2022 till June 2023.

The **Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society** was established by an Act of Parliament in 1976 and admitted to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1977. It acts as an official auxiliary to the public authorities on delivering humanitarian services and providing humanitarian assistance where needed. It has a Disaster Management Unit which coordinates closely with the National Disaster Committee Team.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Papua New Guinea has a diverse geographic and natural resources. 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 10 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. 87 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.

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.

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.

Health and gender inequity [challenges](#) in Papua New Guinea are also critical. Malnutrition and stunting, high child and

maternal mortalities, communicable diseases with vaccine hesitancy and lack of access to safe water are embedded in the city and rural areas that are [contributing negatively](#) to the national health indicators and Sustainable Development Goals. Gender inequality and any forms of violence against women are significantly challenging issue in the country. Lifetime physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence stands at [58.3 per cent](#) and gender inequality index is [151](#) out of 191.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Papua New Guinea is predominantly made up of a [tropical rainforest climate](#) with small areas in the south-west comprising tropical monsoon and tropical savannah climates. Topography is an important factor shaping climate in Papua New Guinea with locations in the central highlands experiencing near-freezing night-time temperatures. [Annual mean temperature](#) varies between 18 degrees Celsius in highlands regions and above 26 degrees Celsius in most of the country. Papua New Guinea is one of the wettest countries in the world, with annual rainfall exceeding 4,000 millimetre in highlands and New Britain. The climate is predominantly hot, humid, and tropical year-round, with two distinct seasons differentiating the wet (December to March) and dry (June to September) periods. [Mean annual temperature](#) has increased

at approximately 0.2 degree Celsius per decade from 1961 to 2015 and is projected to rise until 2050 by at least 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius.

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. 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



The National Society has been carrying out programmes and activities to assist vulnerable communities in Papua New Guinea. (Photo: Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society)

Moresby and Daru. [High temperatures](#) and the resulting heat stress and humidity can have a negative impact on agriculture, which [85 per cent](#) of Papua New Guinea's population rely on. Crops may deteriorate quickly post-harvesting, and increasing temperatures can cause the spread of pests and vector-borne diseases. Floods and landslides can affect soil fertility, while drought on the other hand lower or destroy crop yields.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

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. This entails increasing the knowledge, attitudes and practice of communities and youth on climate change and mitigation. Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society will raise awareness on climate and environmental issues among the communities that it works with. To mitigate climate crises and sea-level rise, the National Society seeks to prioritize community and youth-led action such as mangrove tree planting and coral reef restoration.

Planned activities in 2024

- Increase youth education and awareness on climate change, including through schools
- 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



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, which are expected to increase in frequency, magnitude, and intensity because of climate change. It has a score of 6.7 on the [INFORM Risk Index](#), ranking it 16th out of 191 countries. Papua New Guinea also has poor coping capacities because of weak physical and communication infrastructure and governance, as well as a lack of access to healthcare.

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

- Train staff and volunteers 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

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical support, standardized global materials, funding through the [Red Ready](#) project 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 IFRC Red Ready Project funded by USAID/BHA will continue to support climate related preparedness, response, capacity building and community engagement with Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society. IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) unit and the Pacific climate and environment network will provide technical support.

The **Australian Red Cross** will provide technical support on [green response](#) 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.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** will continue to fund the chronic crises project and support the National Society on climate related preparedness, response, capacity building and community engagement.

particularly vulnerable to climate change, with unexpected weather events and declining rainfall, required for both crops and drinking, amplifying the challenges of its population with regards to income, health and migration.

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.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society will aim to develop resilient communities through effective disaster risk reduction and management, including Integrated Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment or Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (IFRC-eVCA), preparedness and early action, logistic and warehouse management.

The National Society will also seek to apply anticipatory action approach and community-based disaster risk reduction, strengthening disaster law and coordination to ensure its auxiliary roles and humanitarian access in the country.

As part of its multi-year objectives, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society will prioritize the establishment and capacity development of a national disaster response team and/or an emergency response team for effective and agile response for any emergencies.

Planned activities in 2024

- Deliver education on disaster risk reduction and install alert systems for earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions and drought
- Develop a contingency plan for multiple disasters. Hold an awareness session on lessons learned from previous crises
- Strengthen its response capacities with a focus on competency mapping and national response teams

- Set up community feedback systems and participatory approaches for all operations
- Increase engagement and participation in civil, humanitarian and development networks to enhance cooperation and collaboration with local and national stakeholders

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical and financial support to the National Society through its Red Ready project as well as funding and forecast-based action through its disaster response emergency fund (DREF). It will also conduct a workshop on both this fund and Early Action Protocols (EAP) to ensure the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society' familiarity with the process. In addition, it will carry out training for the National Society's national disaster response team on managing local disasters, and help develop methods to recruit and retain both staff and volunteers.

The IFRC will support National Society to sustain presence and participation in country clusters and also expand its assistance in reviewing the current disaster law.

The **Australian Red Cross** will support the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society to strengthen preparedness for effective response (PER) at headquarter and branch level. It will also assist the National Society to implement priorities determined through a PER or similar assessment.

As part of wider Movement support, the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** is committed to provide support to the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society on Safer Access framework approach.



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 such as polio and measles. The impact of these is compounded by gaps in the country's [health infrastructure](#).

Papua New Guinea's [Global Health Security Index \(HIS\)](#) score is 25 and its rank is 174 out of 195. There has been negative change since 2019. Health care access and surveillance data availability and transparency indicate significantly [low scores](#), and healthcare facility vulnerability is at [high risk](#).

The rates for [child mortality](#) remain high, more than 50 per cent of cause of under-five deaths is malnutrition and more than 50 per cent of children aged 6 to 59 months are stunted, and maternal mortality is higher than other Pacific islands and the [highest in the Pacific Region](#) and second highest in the Asia Pacific region (192 deaths per 100,000 live births). Immunization coverage has been around 60 per cent and not been changed for a decade. COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy poses a notable challenge in Papua New Guinea (PNG), where the vaccination rate stood at a mere [3.5 per cent](#) as of 2022. This figure starkly contrasts with the global scenario, where 64 per cent of the population has received full COVID-19 vaccination. Nearly 50 per cent of the total deaths were associated with [non-communicable diseases \(NCDs\)](#), followed by infectious and parasitic diseases (35 per cent), injuries and external causes (11 per cent) and maternal and neonatal deaths (4 per cent) in Papua New Guinea.

According to the [UN's Joint Monitoring Programme 2023](#) update, 44 per cent of the population has only basic water access. Approximately 76 per cent of the population uses unimproved sanitation or practices open defecation. 87 per cent of people live in the rural areas and out of those population, only 49 per cent of people have access to basic water sources, less than 15 per cent of people have access to basic sanitation, only 46 per cent of schools have basic water supplies and basic sanitation.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society seeks to facilitate an effective public health programme through advocacy, implementation of a health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) strategy, [community-based health and first aid](#), [epidemic control training](#) for volunteers, risk communication and community engagement, and the delivery of [first aid](#).

Planned activities in 2024

- 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
- Conduct health awareness sessions in the community by trained volunteers on topics such as malaria prevention
- Develop key public messages on water, sanitation and hygiene to raise awareness of water-borne diseases
- Provide [mental health and psychosocial support](#) and psychological first aid to populations affected by violence and disaster
- Conduct water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) related activities in schools
- Build the capacity of communities in WASH during emergencies by providing training to develop technical skills
- Foster risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) through peer-to-peer review

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical support which 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.

The **Australian Red Cross** will continue to provide support towards strengthening Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society' resource mobilization capability through improvements to its commercial First Aid programme.



With a heterogeneous indigenous population that consists of thousands of communities, tribal warfare and conflict remains an endemic challenge in Papua New Guinea. Tribal warfare has the potential to displace families and communities and harm vulnerable women and children. One third of internally displaced people in the country are displaced by conflict. In 2021, the country reported 9,500 internal displacements due to intercommunal violence and tribal conflicts, marking the highest number recorded. The island of Bougainville, which voted to secede from Papua New Guinea in 2019, presents additional threats. Discussions between the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and the national administration are ongoing and, depending on the outcome, there is a risk of potential conflict.

Apart from conflict, internal migration in Papua New Guinea is fuelled by development-induced displacement and environmental migration. There is a recognized urban drift towards the country's capital, Port Moresby. This has led to high unemployment and large informal settlements, with 45 per cent of Port Moresby's population and 50 per cent of the unemployed living in settlements.

Papua New Guinea also contends with displacement driven by climate change, as its coastal zone confronts the threat of sea-level. Projections from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO indicate a potential sea-level rise of 10 cm by the end of century across the South Pacific where Papua New Guinea is situated. Additionally, Carteret islands have already experienced environmental refugees due to sea-level rise.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Over the coming years, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society aims to improve its knowledge and capacity on migration and displacement by setting up of humanitarian service points. The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society

will also seek to include internally displaced persons affected by ethnic violence, disasters and climate and environmental crises in primary service delivery. The National Society will also improve coordination with migration related organizations such as IOM.

Planned activities in 2024

- 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
 - Develop a strategy to ensure quality humanitarian assistance and protection to vulnerable migrants and displaced people
 - Engage key stakeholders and take on diplomacy work to streamline inter-agency engagement on migration
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide support on migration issues, including encouraging close coordination with organizations such as IOM and UNHCR, as well as other international non-governmental organizations.

The **Australian Red Cross** will support the National Society to enhance its humanitarian diplomacy skills within the Asia Pacific Regional Migration Network.

As part of wider Movement support, the **ICRC** will assist the National Society in providing safe water and shelter to people displaced by conflict.



Values, power and inclusion

Papua New Guinea is one of the lowest ranked countries on the [UN Gender Inequality Index](#), ranking 158 out of 189 in 2023. Only 10 per cent of adult women have received secondary level education compared to 15.2 per cent of their male counterparts. According to UNICEF, only [47 per cent](#) of girls in Papua New Guinea attend primary school, and only 17 per cent of girls attend secondary school. Women are less likely to participate in the formal workforce than men. According to the World Bank, only [20 per cent](#) of women in Papua New Guinea participate in the labour force, compared to 75 per cent of men. Women are also underrepresented in the political system. In the [2022 national election](#), only 2 of the 113 seats in parliament were held by women, representing just 1.7 per cent of the total seats.

Gender-based violence including sexual harassment, physical violence, emotional violence are common problems faced by women across the country. The 2019-2020 Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee report states that [83 per cent of women](#) have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime.

Primary school completion rates are [low and educational disparities](#) are evident. Primary school completion is 35 per cent, with rural rates plummeting to a dismal 27 per cent, and a further 25 per cent of children aged between 6 and 18 are out of school, with girls disproportionately affected. The 2022 net-school attendance rate declines significantly from elementary, primary, and secondary, dropping from 54 per cent to 52 per cent to 22 per cent, respectively. Moreover, only 68 per cent of persons with functional difficulties have ever been to school.

According to international NGO research conducted in previous years, approximately [30 per cent](#) of Papua New Guinean sex trafficking victims are children younger than the age of 18, with some as young as 10 years old. Immediate family or tribe members reportedly exploit children in sex trafficking or forced labour.

Papua New Guinea also faces widespread poverty. While progress has been made since 2018, over [35 per cent](#) of the population (about 3.5 million people), are below the national poverty line. This disparity is particularly [pronounced in rural areas](#), where 40 per cent struggle to make ends meet, compared to 27 per cent in urban areas.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society seeks to implement an effective protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) programme to ensure support to marginalized populations. It seeks to raise awareness on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). The National Society's objectives also include harnessing the [youth as agents of behavioural change](#) by empowering them to take up leadership roles in their communities.

The National Society also aims to enhance capacity of staff and volunteers on PGI and PSEA through mandatory training. The focus will be on integrating [PGI minimum standards](#) into the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society programmes and projects.

Planned activities in 2024

- Integrate protection, gender and inclusion within all operational planning and programming
- Establish partnerships with local, national or regional disabled person's organizations to improve accessibility of National Society's provision of services
- Promote and integrate community engagement and accountability (CEA) in community resilience activities as part of the overarching community-based resilience programming
- Disaggregate the feedback data collected by age and sex
- Run and manage the special education school for disabled children to access to the education, protection and dignity

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

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.

The **Australian Red Cross** will provide technical and financial support 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 and abuse (PSEA) as well as 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 Organizational 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.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Maintain and strengthen coordination with key partners both inside and outside the Movement
- Increase engagement with in-country donor organizations, such as DFAT, USAID and EU for a long term/multiyear partnership opportunity.
- Focus on domestic and public fundraising activities through donation box, fundraising events and in-kind donations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will guide the National Society in setting up a road map for increasing and explore in-country coordination and

partnership. It will also facilitate international support in terms of financial resources and domestic fundraising effort. It will also continue its support to the commercial First Aid programme along with public and domestic fundraising for improving regular income and financial sustainability of the National Society.

The IFRC will facilitate re-establishment of the membership coordination in Papua New Guinea to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions.

The **Australian Red Cross** will also continue to support the commercial First Aid programme along with public and domestic fundraising for improving regular income and finance sustainability of the National Society.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop and implement a strategy for strengthening the National Society's auxiliary role in the country, including through reviewing the Red Cross Act
- Focus on branch development, financial sustainability and volunteers and youth
- Develop a National Society development plan to identify and address development priorities and needs
- Complete the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) for all branches as part of the branch development and regionalization
- Identify new ways to boost volunteer engagement such as documented success stories
- 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

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society through applications to mechanisms such as the Capacity Building Fund (CBF), the Empress Shoken Fund and National Society Innovative Approaches (NSIA). It will support the National Society in the development and the implementation of a strategy for strengthening the National Society's auxiliary role in the country. It will also facilitate and promote peer-to-peer exchange and learning, and promote and encourage diversity of National Society leadership at all levels.

The **Australian Red Cross** and the **New Zealand Red Cross** will continue to support the core cost and finance sustainability initiative, which will strengthen human resources in the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society and facilitate financial sustainability of its operational cost.

The **ICRC** will also provide support to the National Society in its core costs and financial sustainability initiative.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop content including key messages for advocacy and increase understanding of its auxiliary role, using traditional and social media
- Create and share timely and high-impact visibility on emergencies
- Be first to market communications content with mainstream and social media on crises and disasters
- Strengthen communications to strengthen the public position of the National Society, and highlight the achievements of its services and humanitarian assistance during disasters

- Enhance awareness at relevant government ministries on Red Cross activities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society to develop key messages as part of its humanitarian advocacy, by providing core training for communications. It will also facilitate partnerships with national as well as external stakeholders. IFRC will extend technical support to the National Society towards strengthening humanitarian diplomacy.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Ensure that policies related to integrity cases, fraud and corruption, child protection, and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) are in place
- Ensure that protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) is integrated into all programmes and projects
- Strengthen planning, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and results-based management to increase accountability
- Improve information management through a series of online or face-to-face workshops on mobile data collection, leading emergency assessments and planning, data literacy, using the IFRC [GO platform](#), data visualization and mapping, data readiness and evidence-based planning

- Enhance [digital transformation](#)
- Ensure all staff take online training on cybersecurity
- 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
- Engage an external auditor to carry out annual financial audits
- Develop forms on and institutionalize internal controls

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society with technical support on information, communication and technology (ICT). It will also support the National Society to utilize the Capacity Building Fund (CBF) for digital transformation.

THE IFRC NETWORK

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 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 Red Cross Society has been supported through National Society development schemes, the Red Ready project, the core costs and financial sustainability initiative, and the IFRC Capacity Building Funds.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly 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, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

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 and the Netherlands Red Cross have provided targeted support.

The **Australian Red Cross** has a long-standing partnership with the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society. The current partnership is guided by the areas of alignment between National Society's Strategy and the 2019-2024 international

programme of the Australian Red Cross. The overall goal of Australian Red Cross is to achieve stronger, more resilient communities with increased capacity to prepare for, anticipate, respond to and recover from disasters and crises. In recent years, its advisory, technical, and funding support has focused on National Society development and emergency response. National Society development support has been guided by key priorities of Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, including resource mobilization, finance development, strategy and policy development. Complementary to this support, Australian Red Cross and other Movement partners contribute to the National Society's core costs gap through the core costs and financial sustainability initiative.

The **New Zealand Red Cross** supports the National Society through its first aid programme, humanitarian technology, and participation in the core costs and financial sustainability initiative.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** has engaged with the National Society for supporting chronic crises since 2023.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Australian Red Cross	200,000	●	●			●	●

Total Funding requirement

201,000



National Society providing relief assistance to communities affected by election related violence in Jiwaka and Western Highlands provinces in May 2023 (Photo: Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society)

Movement coordination

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. 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](#) promotes international humanitarian law and raises other humanitarian issues with the Papua New Guinea government, security forces, academic circles, the media and civil society. It helps communities affected by conflict and visits detainees. The ICRC also provides assistance to the National Society on various organizational priorities. This work extends to increasing acceptance, security, and access to affected populations through the application of the [Safer Access Framework](#).

Coordination with other actors

The government at both national and provincial level recognizes the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society as a key partner 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 Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society to make use of container storage and is well coordinated for disasters. The strength of the National Society is evident through its active volunteers who are members of local communities, understand the local context and work towards alleviating human suffering by bringing relevant support and service where needed. In addition, the National Society's neutrality and humanitarian space are acknowledged by the authorities.

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 composed 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 emergency response and coordination.

Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society maintains strong excellent collaboration with various external partners, including UN agencies in country, namely WHO, UNICEF and IOM for future partnerships in disasters and long-term programming in Papua New Guinea.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 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.

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](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the National Society, its partner National Societies, and the IFRC Secretariat for 2024 and subsequent years. It is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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