



# GABON

## 2024 IFRC network country plan

17 May 2024

Funding Requirement **CHF 4.2M**

### In support of the Gabonese Red Cross Society



**9**

National Society branches



**48**

National Society staff



**3,555**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



**268,000**

Climate and environment



**268,000**

Disasters and crises



**268,000**

Health and wellbeing



**268,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Longer term needs

- Disaster risk management • Climate change adaptation • Community-based health and immunization

#### Capacity development

- Resource mobilization
- Volunteer management
- Branch strengthening
- Information management

### Key country data

**Population** **2.4M**

**INFORM Climate Risk Index** **Medium**

**Human Development Index rank** **112**

**Population below poverty level** **33.4%**

## Hazards



Floods



Rising temperatures



Drought



Disease



Food insecurity

## Funding requirements

**Total 4.2M** CHF

Through the IFRC



→ **684,000** CHF

Through Host National Society



**3.5M** CHF

### IFRC Breakdown

#### Longer term needs

**99,000** CHF

Climate and environment

**248,000** CHF

Disasters and crises

**148,000** CHF

Health and wellbeing

**99,000** CHF

Values, power and inclusion

**90,000** CHF

Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

British Red Cross\*

Japanese Red Cross Society\*

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

## IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAAGA002**

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Gabonese Red Cross Society** was founded in 1996 as an association of public utility and voluntary relief society and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1999. The National Society always acts in accordance with the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and is inspired in its actions by the principles of International Humanitarian Law and its status as an auxiliary to the public authorities. The Gabonese Red Cross is present throughout the national territory, with 9 National Society branches, 48 staff, and a network of 3,555 volunteers.

The Gabonese Red Cross Society's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 is aligned with the IFRC's Strategy 2030 and incorporates national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals. Its twin strategic objectives are to build a National Society which is efficient, competitive, proactive, and innovative, and to establish a network of health, environment, crises, and disaster management preparedness and response which is creative, operational, and corresponds to the needs of the community by relying on the National Society's network of volunteers, both on intergenerational and intercultural level.

The Gabonese Red Cross has a strong relationship with the representatives of the Government and other humanitarian and development organizations working in the country. The essential services that the National Society provides to vulnerable communities include the following:

- Training in community-based health and first aid in workplaces and public events and provides life-saving

support in the case of accidents accompanied by ambulance service

- Disaster risk reduction by preparing the community to effectively respond to natural hazards and health emergencies
- Humanitarian assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants, victims of conflicts, floods, and landslides. In situation of conflict, natural hazards, and migration, the National Society works on restoring family links
- Ensuring access to drinking water and access to adequate means of hygiene and sanitation by promoting safe practices in water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Community health preparedness through such interventions as epidemic surveillance and response and management of sexually transmitted diseases in the country
- Promote the reinforcement of the social status of vulnerable groups and provide services for people living with disabilities
- Promote youth leadership through youth training in civics and citizenship, and promote youth volunteering in various Gabonese Red Cross activities, aimed at encouraging and maintaining healthy lifestyles among young people

In 2022, the Gabonese Red Cross Society reached 532 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Located at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, Gabon borders Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and the Republic of Congo. The country has a population of 2.3 million as of 2022, with a population density of 5.5 people per square kilometres, making it one of the least densely populated countries on the planet. More than 70 per cent of the country's population live in coastal areas where most of Gabon's economic activities

are concentrated. Almost one fifth of the population lives in the country's capital and its largest city, Libreville. Gabon has the highest urbanization rate in Africa, with more than 89.7 per cent of the people living in cities and the numbers expected to increase in the coming decades.

Gabon has more than 20 million hectares of forests, which constitute 85 per cent of the country's territory. With one of the highest rates of forest area per capita in Africa, the country consists of a narrow coastal plain, with Central African mangroves, a rolling interior, and grassy forested savannahs to the east and the south. The country's coastline area serves as an important stock for marine and inland fish.

Gabon's natural resources make it one of the most developed economies in Sub-Saharan Africa, with oil revenues contributing to 45 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The country is the fifth largest oil producer in Africa and has witnessed strong economic growth in the past few decades owing to the country's manganese, oil, timber, and forest reserves. Gabon is the second largest manganese producer in the world and one of the continent's largest producers of tropical wood. A high-income country, Gabon's abundant oil, foreign private investment, and low population density have contributed towards making the country one of the most prosperous countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The country's employment rate is largely concentrated around its service sector which makes up 66 per cent of employment, followed by agriculture with 19 per cent, 5 per cent under mining, and 4 per cent under tourism. While employment in the manufacturing sector is limited, growing sub-sectors such as agribusiness and wood manufacturing are expected to generate more jobs in the future.

Despite the country's economic status and the relative abundance of natural resources, Gabon is dependent on imports of food and capital goods and lacks infrastructure such as transport and electricity. High unemployment rates, endemic poverty, unequal distribution of wealth, and the country's informal economy are challenges that require targeted interventions.

Gabon's political landscape is fluid, complex, and rapidly evolving. In August of 2023, a group of military officials publicly announced the dissolution of 'all institutions of the republic' and deposed the incumbent president Ali Bongo who was declared the winner of the general elections by the Gabonese electoral commission. Gunfire erupted briefly in the capital of Libreville after the officers announced the coup, but no major security incidents arose. While no violence has been reported since the coup, either from the population or the army, the situation highlights the volatility of the political climate in the country.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Given its geographical location, hydrographic layout, and the fact that the majority of its population and economic activities are concentrated in the country's coastal areas, Gabon is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The country has been classified as a medium risk country in the INFORM Climate Change Risk Index.

Precipitation is abundant, ranging from 1,500 millimetres (mm) to 3,500 mm per year and spread almost throughout the year. Gabon's climate is influenced by the Inter Tropical

Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and the northeast trade winds from the high Sahara Desert as well as the humidity stemming from the ocean on its western coast.

Gabon is expected to experience adverse impacts of climate change throughout the country and across key sectors. Rising temperatures, rising sea levels, and changing rainfall patterns are putting considerable pressure on vulnerable groups and the urban infrastructure in Gabon. Visible signs of climate change include annual variation in crop yield, increased numbers of deaths of chronic patients, a longer touristic season and the potential development of new touristic destination due to change in local climate. Rising sea level is



Gabon Red Cross volunteers inspecting the crowd during the swearing-in ceremony of the transitional president in Libreville as part of the DREF elections preparedness in September 2023. (Photo: IFRC)

particularly a concern for cities such as Gentil which is situated only 4 metres above sea level.

Gabon has 22 million hectares of forest and just one million hectares of arable agricultural land. Northern Gabon is a prime location for rubber plantations, and the sector has increased markedly in recent years. Gabon's agricultural sector is particularly vulnerable to climate change and remains relatively underdeveloped and with farms predominately at subsistence level. The sector's vulnerability to climate change is of distinct concern to the country, especially as an estimated 5 per cent of the heavily forested country is arable and currently used for plantation and subsistence farming. Moreover, being also highly dependent on rain-fed agriculture consequences rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns are an increasing threat.

Climate change will pose numerous direct impacts and increasing risks to the country's population health. More frequent occurrences of heat waves will pose a serious threat to human health, particularly for highly vulnerable groups: elderly and chronically ill. Major identified health risks for Gabon from climate variability are the projected increase in water-borne diseases. Projected increasing annual mean temperatures and the projected change annual mean temperature through the 2050s will impact human and animal health, as well as present more conducive environments for bacteria, pathogens and vector borne diseases. Warmer and drier conditions as projected by climate scenarios may favour the spread of diseases borne by food or water, such as diarrhoea and dysentery.

The Gabonese forest is the second largest forest ecosystem in the Congo Basin, with a total of 88 per cent of the country covered in rainforest, a factor largely attributed to the country's push towards ensuring low deforestation. With looming threats of climate change, the country's adaptation priorities include the protection of its coastal zone, agriculture, fisheries, and the forestry sector.

### **Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society**

In the coming years, the Gabonese Red Cross will continue to align itself with Government efforts to address the climate and environmental crises in the country. The capacity building exercise of its staff and volunteers will also be accompanied by a systematic review of the National Society's efforts. It will carry out information, communication, and emergency actions with the populations of the communities to ensure that they are able to cope with the changing impacts of climate change

and that they take ownership of the programmes to effectively combat climate risks.

The National Society aims to focus on key areas such as developing contingency plans that take into account climate change and its impact on target areas, work on climate change adaptation plans for areas most exposed to climate risks and increase its participation in national level coordination meetings on climate change adaptation and in the process of renewal and revision of the national climate change adaptation plan.

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### **Planned activities in 2024**

- Raise awareness of biodiversity and climate change among young people by training focal points in 50 Red Cross clubs and 50 schools
- Reach at least 10 per cent of the country's population (more than 260,000 people) with communication activities promoting behaviour change for community with respect to climate change
- Conduct advocacy through programmes such as One Student, One Tree to plant more than 50,000 trees in line with the IFRC's pan-African initiative on tree planting and maintenance
- Improve the overall skills of National Society staff and volunteers to carry out mobilization and urgent actions in Gabon

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### **Longer-term support from the IFRC network**

The IFRC long-term support to the Gabonese Red Cross consists of disseminating branch-level climate forecasts and information on climate-smart programming. It also supports the implementation of environmental and climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, reduction in plastic usage, as well as the establishment of climate-smart offices. The IFRC works to ensure that the Gabonese Red Cross is well represented and involved in climate change platforms at the national and regional levels and will ensure the participation of the National Society in various webinars and training on climate change. This targeted assistance helps in reducing the current and future humanitarian impacts of climate and environmental crises and helps people thrive in the face of these crises. The IFRC supports the National Society in integrating climate risk management into all the programmes, operations, and advocacy and enable the National Society to adopt better environmental management in its approaches.



## Disasters and crises

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For real-time information on emergencies, visit [IFRC GO page Gabon](#).

Gabon is increasingly exposed to a range of natural hazards which includes extreme winds, seasonal flooding, and landslides. These natural hazards are particularly harmful to the country's agriculture, water, energy, oil, and mining sectors, leading to national emergencies such as food insecurity, unemployment, and rise in vector-borne diseases. In Gabon, approximately 21,000 people are affected each year by drought, with the numbers expected to increase due to extreme weather events in the short and medium term. Vulnerable groups, which include rural communities, poor and the elderly, are particularly susceptible to the impacts of natural hazards. Other risk areas in the country include industrial accidents, road accidents, and marine accidents.

Floods in Gabon typically affect around 0.33 per cent of the country's total population, posing significant challenges to the local economy. On an annual basis, flood-impacted areas contribute approximately 0.34 per cent to the national GDP, amounting to roughly 50 million USD. Furthermore, according to a [2019 report](#), an average of 25,000 people are impacted by droughts each year. However, with future climate projections, this number is expected to escalate to 3.4 per cent.

In May 2023, Gabon was impacted by torrential rain accompanied by violent winds in Francisville, the chief town of the Haut Ogooue province. The extreme weather affected families as well as public and private infrastructure, destroying schools, shops, and electricity poles. Nearly 3,000 people, or 500 households (with almost 200 homes destroyed or swept away) were affected by the violent winds and the rain.

Despite Gabon's susceptibility to natural hazards, many sectors within the country lack comprehensive risk assessments or strategic plans for climate risk adaptation. Gabon lacks a centralized national database for systematically collecting and analyzing data on disaster losses and impact. Recognizing the importance of increasing resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts, Gabon is actively working on developing scientific and technical expertise within disaster management agencies. At the operational level, the country's disaster department aims to strengthen its operational capacity and collaboration with various sectors to develop contingency plans and procedures for crisis management. The development of early warning systems is deemed crucial for enhancing Gabon's preparedness and resilience against potential disasters.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Gabonese Red Cross seeks to continue to focus on strengthening operational capacities to respond to disasters of all kinds and to train new first responders and provide them

with adequate equipment for a better response capacity. The National Society will work towards consolidating a permanent disaster management team and will focus on establishing early warning systems and proactive actions to mitigate multi-hazard risks that affect the lives, livelihoods, homes, and living conditions of vulnerable communities. The National Society also aims to strengthen its collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior (in charge of civil protection) as an auxiliary to the public authorities.

The National Society also aims to create a nationwide network of first responders from a permanent central team and set up rescue teams in each branch. In order to enhance its response to crises, the National Society will strengthen collaboration with the disaster risk reduction agency and other organizations working in disaster management to conduct evacuation simulation and assistance exercises.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Support four target communities for the implementation of community emergency plans developed in collaboration with local government, authorities, and communities
- Support small-scale water pipeline works and install drainage mechanisms in the event of flooding
- Train 20 instructors and 60 volunteers on vulnerability and capacity assessment with training modules on community engagement and accountability (CEA) and on protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI)
- Train 10 professionals in the preparation of emergency needs assessment and the development of emergency response plans in the event of disasters
- Develop multi-hazard contingency plans followed by simulation exercises in three targeted pilot communities
- Provide direct support to 400 vulnerable households whose livelihoods have been affected by disaster
- Train 60 community members/staff in disaster preparedness and response along with the National Society staff and volunteers
- Train 34 volunteers in the implementation of emergency needs assessment

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the Gabonese Red Cross consists of targeted assistance in areas such as crisis and disaster preparedness and in the development of funding proposals on disaster risk reduction. Among other things, it supports the management of the National Society's disaster management

platform and facilitate peer-to-peer collaboration with disaster management units of other National Societies. The IFRC support ensures that the National Society is well represented and actively involved in [disaster risk coordination platforms](#) and vulnerable and capacity assessment working groups at the regional, national, and local levels. In close collaboration with the National Society, the IFRC will continue to develop

the right skills by building the capacity needed to respond to increasingly complex digital and urban humanitarian environments. IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises.



## Health and wellbeing

The latest Global Health Security Index ranks Gabon [182<sup>nd</sup>](#) out of 195 countries. In Gabon, health-related stresses are primarily concentrated around malaria, premature birth, acute respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS, and diarrhoeal diseases which are the leading causes of death among children [under the age of five](#). The country is also witnessing an increase in the prevalence of [non-communicable diseases](#) in the form of cardiovascular diseases, high rate of diabetes, kidney failure, and cancer. The country has faced outbreaks of viral diseases such as Ebola, chikungunya, and dengue fever in the past and was particularly affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Increasing threats related to climate change bring with it the rise in cases of waterborne diseases, including those related to flood waters during floods, eye and ear complications during droughts, and the increase in haze caused by dust storms in desert areas. These existing health challenges in the country are worsened due to the country's health care infrastructure which do not have adequate operational capacity, the quality of health care poor, essential medicines scarce, and communities not involved in managing health issues. Reduction in maternal and child mortality and the control of communicable and non-communicable diseases remain important areas of intervention for Gabon. While rates of child immunization coverage have improved over the years, there is considerable gap in the health care sector which needs targeted interventions.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Gabonese Red Cross will aim for gradual and sustainable improvement of the health conditions of vulnerable communities in the country in the years ahead. The focus areas in order to achieve this objective are strengthening the capacities of the National Society in the area of water, sanitation, and health (WASH), [raising awareness](#) and promoting positive behavioural changes in hygiene and prevention of communicable diseases, and establishing a system of functional mobile clinics ready to be deployed in the event of an emergency or disaster (each clinic will be equipped with an ambulance, medicines, and first aid equipment). In order to improve services in water, health and sanitation,

the National Society will work towards developing a defined and active strategy for WASH. The National Society will also strive to provide communities with access to safe and clean sanitation facilities.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Establish a community outbreak and pandemic alert system based on district focal points
- Train 400 Red Cross volunteers, 200 community leaders, and 200 religious leaders in [epidemic control and preparedness](#)
- Train at least 20 volunteers in water, sanitation, and hygiene and on primary health care to contribute to reduction of communicable diseases
- Support the construction of 100 improved toilets and latrines for the most vulnerable communities
- Conduct training of trainers on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in selected districts and train 200 volunteers in psychosocial first aid in emergency situations
- Organize blood donation campaigns in nine provinces
- Train at least 1000 Red Cross volunteers on first aid, psychological first aid, and community health services to support local health workers during mass health interventions such as vaccination drives and during pandemics
- Raise awareness and promote positive behavioural changes in hygiene and in the prevention of diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis
- Provide food, health care, and shelter to elderly people abandoned by their families

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC support to the Gabonese Red Cross consists of components such as organizing risk communication and

community engagement activities for vulnerable communities and in the development of the National Society's health and water, sanitation, and hygiene strategy. It supports the National Society in strengthening its role as an auxiliary to the Ministry of Health and position it as a key player in public health. This includes supporting the National Society to advocate to the government to systematically include National

Society staff and volunteers in national plans and strategies related to human resources for health and health systems strengthening and to clarify their roles and responsibilities. The IFRC also supports community-based health and first aid (CBFHA) and epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response through continuous training.



## Migration and displacement

For decades, Gabon has witnessed a vast migratory movement, driven by disasters and insecurity in neighbouring countries. In 2022, the country recorded a migration flow of nearly 300 migrants per month, which was preceded by the registration of a total number of 752,000 migrants in 2021. Due to the heavy influx of migrants in the country, Gabon is seeking financial assistance from its partners to adequately ensure the protection of vulnerable people within its territory. Newly displaced people have varying needs in host communities, often related to suitable employment, economic opportunities, and access to government infrastructures such as healthcare and education.

From among its migrant population, a large number consists of young people, trafficked for domestic and/or sexual exploitation, including young girls who are often exploited as domestic servants or are sold into prostitution networks. The Gabonese government has stated that it is making considerable efforts to curb exploitation in line with international minimum standards on human mobility and the fight against human trafficking.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Gabonese Red Cross Society supports people in need through its core disaster risk management and health and wellbeing programmes. The National Society does not yet have a migration policy and its initiatives to support vulnerable migrants are therefore integrated into the other sections of its plan. In the coming years, the National Society seeks to increase its actions and strengthen its work under migration, in line with its auxiliary role. The National Society plans to join the IFRC's three-year Global Route-Based Migration Programme that aims to improve the safety and dignity of people moving along deadly and dangerous land and sea migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities each

year through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) capacity building of National Societies; and (3) local and global humanitarian policy.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Continue to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced persons, refugees, and host communities according to their needs
- Improve access to quality healthcare and build resilience for displaced populations, refugees, and vulnerable host communities
- Support host communities, displaced people, and migrants strengthen social cohesion and inclusion
- Establish a mechanism for managing feedback and complaints
- Provide training on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and human rights, including awareness raising on human trafficking, unaccompanied minors, sexual exploitation and abuse
- Strengthen the capacity of the members of the National Council, 10 headquarters staff, and 30 branch managers on migration

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts in developing its migration policy. The IFRC support consists of both financial and technical support to the National Society in its efforts to enhance and increase its actions under migration. This involves supporting the National Society's efforts under shelter, ensuring PGI minimum standards in emergencies, and establishing efficient deployment of resources and information at humanitarian service points.





## Values, power and inclusion

Gender-based violence is widespread in Gabon and is mostly perpetrated by the survivor's relatives or families. According to [UN Women](#), in 2018, 22 per cent of women aged 15-49 reported experiencing physical or sexual violence from a current or former intimate partners in the previous 12 months, and 21.9 per cent of women aged 20-24 were married or in a union before the age of 18. While Gabon has ratified most international human rights treaties, such as the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#), inequalities between men and women persist in the economic, social, cultural, and political spheres of Gabon.

In Gabon, the enrolment rate of young children aged 6 to 15 is estimated to be 94 per cent according to the [Demographic and Health Survey](#). 65 per cent of young people aged 16 to 20 attend secondary school and 35 per cent of young people aged 21 to 24 attend different levels of general and tertiary education. An important priority for the country is to minimize the risks of illiteracy in the country. The survey also indicates that from secondary school onwards, the dropout rate remains high among the youth population. The absence of policies for professional reintegration leads young people without education to negative coping mechanisms.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Since 2019, the Gabonese Red Cross has made gender and inclusion one of its main priorities, which led to the creation of a Gender and Diversity Department. In 2024 and ahead, the National Society will continue to promote gender and diversity, with a particular focus on institutionalization of [protection, gender and inclusion](#) in all operations, projects, and activities of the Gabonese Red Cross. In line with the National Society's Strategic Plan 2022-2026, the Gabonese Red Cross will focus on community care in order to prevent and protect vulnerable populations in the poorest neighbourhoods of the capital and the provinces.

The Gabonese Red Cross is also committed to community engagement and accountability which is integrated into all its programs and operations. The National Society seeks to contribute to positive change in communities through a better understanding, ownership, and practical application of humanitarian values and the fundamental principles, with a particular focus on the knowledge, skills, and behaviour of young people.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Launch awareness campaigns on [sexual and gender-based violence](#) in 50 schools across the country
- Promote gender and diversity inclusion in all of its activities
- Integrate communications, participation, and feedback/complaints mechanisms into the National Society's programmes and operations
- Build ownership and capacity of staff and volunteers on the new [community engagement and accountability, social science, and community feedback toolkit](#)
- Conduct at least one volunteer and/or community perception survey
- Include sexual and gender-based violence prevention messages in all its advocacy activities
- Develop and disseminate messages to the media, volunteers, local and traditional leaders to guide community debates on emergencies
- Organize a workshop to self-assess the AHA centre executive ([ACE](#)) strategy and update the National Society ACE strategy
- Organize a workshop to set up a standard of procedure for the management of community feedback within the National Society
- Train 20 youth focal points on the fundamentals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Establish and revitalize 30 Red Cross clubs and monitor the activities of Red Cross clubs in schools
- Provide seed capital for income-generating activities to 1000 survivors of gender-based violence

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Gabonese Red Cross in its efforts to institutionalize community engagement and accountability, revise and improve its CEA strategy, and integrate [CEA](#) into all the National Society's programmes and operations. Community engagement and accountability will be integrated into responses to the National Society's initiatives under climate and environment, disaster management, health and wellbeing, migration and displacement.

The IFRC also encourages the National Society to promote women in leadership positions and work with the National Society to allocate resources to [youth-led programmes](#) and put in place statutory policies and rules that are conducive to the active participation of young people in decision-making processes.

# ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

As per its [Strategic Development Plan 2022-2026](#), the Gabonese Red Cross Society's first objective is to build a National Society which is efficient, competitive, proactive, and innovative. The National Society faces challenges pertaining to positioning, resource mobilization, capacity building for volunteers, institutional capacity building for managers, and financial management. The IFRC and network partners are committed to supporting the Gabonese Red Cross to become a stronger institution, in line with the priorities defined by the National Society.

The Gabonese Red Cross is also committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) process and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it. The main priority areas identified under the PER exercise were scenario planning, emergency response and planning (including hazard risk analysis), standard operating procedures, information management, IT, logistics and supply chain, monitoring and reporting, as well as staff and volunteer management.



## Strategic and operational coordination

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Organize workshops to develop a strategy and action plan for resource mobilization
- Enrol focal points and senior managers in high-level humanitarian coordination meetings and follow up with embassies, United Nations agencies, and donors
- Engage in sub-regional and regional exchanges and cooperation between National Red Cross Societies
- Increase its engagement and partnership with the Government, in line with its auxiliary role to public authorities
- Second government staff to the National Society to advance the priorities of the National Society

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts in increasing engagement in sub-regional and regional exchanges, and cooperation with other National Societies. It will support the efforts of the Gabonese Red Cross towards increasing engagement with internal and external stakeholders through either financial or technical guidance. The IFRC support also consists of expanding the National Society's engagements with regional and global communities of practice, technical working groups, coordination bodies, among others.

The IFRC also supports the National Society in developing and disseminating its indirect cost recovery policy, and developing a coherent domestic resource mobilization strategy for financial sustainability.



## National Society development

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Provide provincial committees with means and equipment for better functioning desktop computers, printers, tables, chairs and others
- Develop a local mechanism to insure Gabonese Red Cross volunteers
- Develop or revise the youth policy of the Gabonese Red Cross by aligning it with the [IFRC youth policy](#)
- Strengthen the participation of young people in decision-making processes
- Expand its network of volunteers and ensure their [safety and security](#)
- Put in place systems and procedures that ensure diversity and inclusion in the recruitment of volunteers, to reflect their communities

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in strengthening its planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

capacities, and integrating these into services, programmes and operations. It works with the National Society in establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Ensure effective visibility, communications, and representation to all key embassies
- Amplify its humanitarian work and engage with key actors to improve its visibility, through social media and traditional forms of media
- Develop a [humanitarian diplomacy plan](#) which prioritizes the National Society's objectives
- Undertake advocacy with traditional partners to support the search for new partners
- Create a website for the Gabonese Red Cross to enhance the National Society's reach and increase its visibility

- Procure material means of communications and dissemination (laptop, camera, internet modem), necessary for the better execution of its activities

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts in humanitarian diplomacy which includes providing the resources for the operationalization of the Gabonese Red Cross website to enhance the National Society's reach among the youth population and increase its visibility. The main objective is increasing the influence and widening the profile of the Gabonese Red Cross, and to obtain financial support for a better humanitarian response.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop an anti-fraud and corruption policy while training its administrative and financial managers in administrative and financial management and in the use of accounting and payroll tools
- Implement a human resource management policy to strengthen the National Society's accountability and agility
- Ensure that monitoring and evaluation results and outputs are achieved as planned and that data is disaggregated by sex and age group
- Undertake [digital transformation](#)
- Provide staff and volunteers with training on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse ([PSEA](#))
- Ensure that a system of community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) is established to gather feedback and respond to questions raised about Red Cross operations in the country

- Train administrative and financial managers in administrative and financial management, and in the use of accounting and payroll tools
- Develop job descriptions and the organization chart of the National Society
- Provide logistics and human resources training
- Develop a volunteer database management system

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society's efforts to enhance the capacity of the staff in risk management. It assists the National Society in the development of an anti-fraud and corruption policy, and assists in the development of a policy on protection against sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse ([PSEA](#)). It will support the National Society to create a risk management framework and improve the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) capacities. It will also support the Gabonese Red Cross to publish its annual reports and audited financial statements in the IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System ([FDRS](#)).

The IFRC supports the National Society in the joint implementation of a risk management plan

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Gabonese Red Cross Society through its national delegation based in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Its support to the Gabonese Red Cross focuses on strategic and operational coordination, the development of the National Society, and humanitarian diplomacy, including the strengthening of its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In 2023, the IFRC supported the National Society in responding to a windstorm and in Gabon's election preparedness through the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([DREF](#)). During the COVID-19 global pandemic, the IFRC supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response through its [Global Emergency Appeal](#).

## 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.

Support to the Gabonese Red Cross by other National Societies is channelled through the IFRC, and there are no participating National Societies present in Gabon.

The Gabonese Red Cross also participates in the [IFRC's pan-African initiatives](#) focused on tree planting and maintenance, the Readiness and Preparedness programme and the development of National Societies. These initiatives are reflected in the relevant sections of this plan.



*Gabon Red Cross volunteers provided psychological, medical, and food assistance to the rescued families waiting at Port-Mole in Libreville after the sinking of the Esther Miracle Ferry in March 2023. (Photo: Gabon Red Cross)*

## Movement coordination

The Gabonese Red Cross 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](#).

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**The ICRC** collaborates regularly with the National Society from its delegation in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The ICRC provides legal support to the National Society, as well as technical and financial support, and undertakes other cooperation and capacity-building activities.

## Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Gabonese Red Cross maintains close coordination with a range of ministries, departments and government bodies. It collaborates notably with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of National Education and Ministry of the Environment, in the areas of disaster preparedness and response, health, climate, community engagement and accountability, and institutional development.

The National Society also partners with UN agencies, such as WHO on health and community engagement and

accountability; and with UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP on health, climate, community engagement and accountability, and institutional development.

Other partnerships include: UNAIDS on health, community engagement and accountability, and institutional development; OCEAC on disaster preparedness and response, health, climate, community engagement and accountability, and institutional development; and with the Global Fund on health, and community engagement and accountability.



## 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 Gabonese Red Cross Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with [IFRC Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of IFRC membership, and 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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