

Emergency appeal No: MDRS5002 Emergency appeal launched: 18/10/2023 Operational Strategy published: 28/02/2024	Glide No: CE-2023-000186-PSE
Flash update #1 Date of issue: 1 October 2024	Timeframe covered by this update: From 23/09/2024 to 30/09/2024
Operation timeframe: 26 months (18/10/2023 – 31/12/2025)	Number of people being assisted: 700,000
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 185 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal CHF 200 million Federation-wide	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 3 million at onset of crisis, 100% replenished CHF 2 million new allocation for Lebanon on 25 Sept

As of 30 September, the Middle East Crisis Emergency Appeal, which seeks CHF 200,000,000, is 12% per cent funded. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the National Societies in the region, with the support of the IFRC, to continue with the preparedness efforts of and provide humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move.



Emergency Medical Teams from Lebanese Red Cross respond to an airstrike in Tebnine, Nabatieh. Photo credit: LRC.

Disclaimer: This Flash Update has been developed to capture recent developments in Lebanon and Syria, and also take into consideration the regional spill-over effects on neighboring countries. A more comprehensive operations update, covering all four affected National Societies, will be released in November covering the next reporting period.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

Since the escalation of hostilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt), the humanitarian situation in Gaza and later, the West Bank, has worsened dramatically and continues to deteriorate. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) ¹ reports over 41,000 fatalities and 90% of the population displaced in Gaza as of September 25, creating a severe humanitarian crisis. Moreover, the consequently massive escalation of violence that has been occurring in Lebanon since mid-September is exacerbating the already fragile condition and is having a severe impact on neighboring countries, especially Syria.

In Lebanon, the escalation of hostilities has dramatically impacted the country, particularly after the explosions on September 27, 2024. Southern Lebanon and Beirut's suburbs have seen a massive escalation in airstrikes, leading to over 1,030 deaths and 6,352 injuries between September 16-27, as reported by the Ministry of Public Health. As of September 29, a total of 346,209 displaced individuals are reported according to the national Disaster Response Mechanism and IOM, now accommodated across more than 600 shelters. The IDP registration efforts are ongoing, and the number of yet-to-be-registered IDPs in collective shelters is likely to be much higher than the current figures, with estimates from Government representatives of up to 1 million people currently displaced. In addition to that, migrant domestic workers, especially from Kenya, the Philippines, and Ethiopia, remain stranded, unable to flee, and without basic necessities.

The escalation is also affecting Syria, where mass population movement from Lebanon continues. Based on the [SARC Emergency Response Report](#), as of September 30, approximately 159,562 individuals have moved from Lebanon into Syria through Jdaidet Yabous, Matraba Jusiyah, and Addabousiyah crossing points. Jordan, while stable, may soon face migration pressure at the Jaber Nassib border crossing with Syria due to the ongoing crisis.

Summary of response

Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response

LEBANON

The Lebanese Red Cross (LRC), supported by over 15,000 volunteers and 456 staff members, operates through 32 branches and serves as the main provider of prehospital care in Lebanon. Since October 2023, LRC has been at the forefront of humanitarian efforts, providing critical support to those in conflict-affected areas, displaced persons, and host families. Key services include Emergency Medical Services (EMS), blood product provision, and access to primary healthcare. LRC plays a critical role in national disaster response and preparedness, migration and crisis management, emphasizing timely and effective support during armed conflicts and emergencies, while serving as an auxiliary to public authorities.

Following the escalation of conflict that occurred in Lebanon in mid-September, the LRC promptly mobilized its staff and volunteers in response to humanitarian needs. After September 27, as the situation deteriorated, LRC has been actively responding with an extensive range of interventions covering emergency services, medical supplies, and logistical support. On September 27 and 28, the EMS managed 23 conflict-related emergencies, transported 6 deaths, facilitated 141 inter-hospital transfers, 1314 Emergency Missions, along with providing home care for 3 cases. The Blood Transfusion Sector (BTS) has supplied a total of 187 blood components to hospitals and maintained

¹ [Reported impact snapshot | Gaza Strip, 25 September 2024 at 15:00 - occupied Palestinian territory | ReliefWeb](#)

communication with donors to ensure blood availability. Meanwhile, the Disaster Management Sector (DMS) has distributed 67,999 essential items, including blankets, mattresses, potable water, bread, and ready meals, to displaced and affected families across all districts. Additionally, 12 blood units and 34 body bags were transported to various hospitals in the southern region. The Medico-Social Sector (MSS) has deployed 5 Mobile Medical Units staffed with doctors and social workers, providing consultations, and medications, and conducting health surveys for over 347 IDPs in shelters, particularly in Beirut, Tripoli, and Jbeil. Healthcare centers across Lebanon have also supported more than 292 IDPs while continuing to serve regular patients. The Youth Sector has further contributed by preparing medical kits, distributing food parcels, conducting assessments, and delivering blankets. The Disaster Risk Reduction Unit (DRR) deployed 60 volunteers in 15 Emergency Operations Room across Lebanon, and 11 volunteers supported Ministries tracking IDPs and Shelters and providing Technical Support. The LRC remains steadfast in its commitment to delivering life-saving aid and support during this critical time, standing with the people of Lebanon in the face of escalating challenges.






The humanitarian response from the Lebanese Red Cross is complemented by response activities from the Palestinian Red Crescent Society Lebanon branch (PRCS-L), which was established in 1968 with a specific mandate of delivering essential health and social services to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon who are mostly residing in 12 refugee camps. PRCS-L oversees the management of five hospitals and seven Community and Health Care Centres that offer free services to Palestinian refugees and other vulnerable groups, including people who are directly affected by the conflict. PRCS-L is receiving and treating conflict-affected across their hospitals and facilitating inter-hospital transportation. On 17 and 18 September, PRCS-L treated 88 patients who were affected by the explosions of pagers and communication devices across 4 of their hospitals.

In response to the escalating crisis, the IFRC has been actively supporting LRC with the mobilization of further resources to sustain the scaled-up operation. This has been made possible by the immediate release of 2 million CHF in new funding from IFRC’s Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF), while IFRC also relies on partners that support the ongoing regional Emergency Appeal for the Middle East crisis. Moreover, Rapid Response alerts for a Communications Coordinator and a Procurement Specialist have been issued to support the IFRC Lebanon delegation and LRC in the operation.

LEBANESE RED CROSS CONFLICT RESPONSE SUMMARY: 18-25 SEPTEMBER



LRC War Response – Operational Sectors Intervention Summary 2024

Sector	Electronic Devices Explosion 18, 19 September 2024	Beirut Suburbs Airstrike 20 September, 2024.	War Escalation – From 22 Till 25 September 2024.	Total From 8 October 2023 Till 25 September 2024.
 Emergency Medical Services	254 Ambulances. 810 EMTs. 44 injuries Transported. 1 Martyr Transported. 189 inter-hospital transfers.	8 ambulances. More than 45 EMTs. 10 Martyrs Transported. 2 injuries Transported. SSP more than 13 Affected.	90 Ambulances and 360 EMTs in South and Bekaa. South: 8 martyrs Transported. 83 injuries Transported. 16 Treated on-site. 62 Inter-hospital Transfer. Bekaa: 12 martyrs Transported. 37 injuries Transported.	20,045 Missions in South. 22,428 Missions in Bekaa. 92 Martyrs Transported. 662 Conflict Injuries Transported. 67 Conflict affected Treated in Place. 41 Evacuated from Conflict Zones.
 Blood Transfusion Sector	338 Blood Components provided to Hospitals.	54 blood components provided to Beirut Hospitals.	263 units of blood Components to Hospitals.	8,624 Blood Distributed in South. 5,573 Blood Distributed in Bekaa. 772 Blood Components distributed to Conflict Affected.
 Primary Healthcare Service	-	-	2 MMUs. 1,170 IDPs.	29,059 Beneficiaries in South. 91,292 Beneficiaries in Bekaa. More than 6,000 Directly Affected. - Consultations. - Pharmaceutical. - PSS.
 Disaster Management Sector	-	-	229 Volunteers. 28,335 Relief Items Distributed.	61,589 Relief Items Distributed including hygiene items, mattresses, blankets, water bottles, and food.
 Urban Search And Rescue Team USAR	-	6 USAR Vehicles. 18 USAR personnel. 5 Martyrs Extracted.	4 Martyrs Extracted.	9 Martyrs.

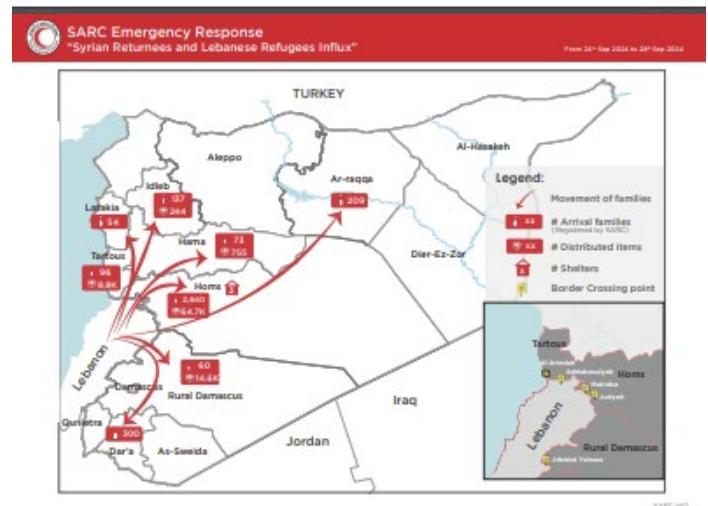
Full document: [LRC Emergency Response Summary](#)

SYRIA

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) operates with 9,104 volunteers and 5,770 staff members across 14 branches and 94 sub-branches nationwide. SARC specializes in emergency medical services, disaster management, water and sanitation, primary healthcare, livelihoods, multi-purpose cash assistance, early recovery, and protection services, including psychological support. As part of the High Relief Committee, it coordinates relief efforts with UN agencies, INGOs, and national authorities. Since 2011, SARC has expanded significantly, serving over six million internally displaced persons, host communities, and returnees annually, making it the largest humanitarian organization in Syria.

In response to the large movement of people from Lebanon into Syria, the SARC has been continuously active at border crossings, registering arrivals and addressing urgent needs. Around 159,562 individuals have crossed into Syria as of 30 September². Considering that the majority of arrivals are women and children SARC has dedicated volunteers to prioritize people with vulnerabilities like pregnant women, the elderly, and people living with disabilities. SARC mobilized its Disaster Management team, with 500 volunteers working 24-hour shifts, deploying EMS vehicles and mobile health units, which responded to 663 cases and assisted over 3,700 beneficiaries. SARC also set up fully equipped shelters and installed essential infrastructure at key crossings, while providing internet and phones for people to use and collaborating with international organizations to distribute essential items such as mattresses, bread, cheese, date bars, high caloric biscuits, diapers and dignity kits, children milk, in the presence of a medical doctor. Additionally, waste bins are available on site and cleaning crews ensure the hygiene of the border crossing and the operations' site. SARC is also providing legal, protection, and psychosocial support services. Feedback mechanisms are in place.

For more updated figures and specific data regarding SARC's humanitarian response, please refer to the [SARC Emergency Response Report \(EN\)](#) and [\(AR\)](#). For details of IFRC support to SARC, please refer to [SitRep No. 15](#). IFRC are currently in discussions with SARC to identify further areas of support in coordination with other partners and resources available in-country.



Full document: [SARC Emergency Response](#)

² figures indicated are from SARC assessment at the border on 30 September. Verified numbers are issued on the SARC's dashboard which is updated regularly.

JORDAN

The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) operates with over 800 volunteers and 100 staff, across 10 branches. As an auxiliary to public authorities, JNRCS plays a key role in national disaster response and has been designated as a logistics hub for complementing Egypt in delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The recent escalation of hostilities in Lebanon, and the consequent increasing population movement from Lebanon into Syria may also involve Jordan at the Jaber border crossing with Syria. This situation could further complicate the significant logistical challenges faced by JNRCS especially since it has become a complementary hub for aid delivery following the closure of the Rafah crossing, which has an impact on facilitating sending aid. For details of JNRCS support to deliver aid to Gaza so far, please refer to our joint dashboard: [Microsoft Power BI](#)

EGYPT

Egypt remains a critical hub for delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza, despite facing numerous logistical and security challenges. The closure of the Rafah crossing has disrupted aid delivery, leaving only the Karem Shalom crossing operational. Challenges include fuel shortages, road congestion, and the looting of aid, complicating the smooth operation of humanitarian convoys. Israeli restrictions on certain items, including medical supplies, have further hindered the process. The limited flow at the Kerem Shalom crossing point resulted in more than 2.700 trucks as of September 2024 in Al Arish with a high impact on costs associated with the vehicles blocked, estimated at more than CHF 2M per month.

The Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) plays a crucial and unique role in managing disaster responses in Egypt, particularly in the highly secure North Sinai region. It is the only organization with access to key logistical hubs, including the Al-Arish Military Airport, enabling it to facilitate humanitarian aid deliveries to Gaza. ERCS also supports the Ministry of Health and Population by providing essential services such as mental health, psychosocial support, and healthcare. Its unique position in North Sinai allows it to act as the main consignee for all humanitarian aid destined for Gaza.

Since the start of the crisis in October 2023, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERCS) has scaled up its logistics operations to store and preposition aid and continues to provide critical services, such as shelters, mobile kitchens, and psychosocial support for evacuees. Despite improvements, access and security remain significant concerns, putting aid delivery at constant risk of disruption. To enhance preparedness and respond effectively to immediate needs, ERCS is mobilizing resources and expanding its capacity at both headquarters and branch levels, aiming to mitigate the long-term impact on vulnerable populations.

For details of ERCS support to deliver aid to Gaza so far, please refer to our joint dashboard: [Microsoft Power BI](#)

Highlighted Needs

Needs analysis

LEBANON

The Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) has been instrumental in responding to the recent escalation of hostilities but continues to face significant operational challenges. These include operating in unsafe conflict zones where the safety of volunteers and staff cannot be guaranteed, mass displacement that has restricted access to essential services, and a substantial funding gap, with only 12% of needs funded. Urgent priorities include strengthening Emergency Medical Services, replenishing medical stocks, addressing ambulance shortages, and bolstering Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Disaster Management efforts.

To be able to continue responding to the rapidly evolving needs across the country, Lebanese Red Cross urgently asks for financial support and in-kind contributions from partners, especially in light of increasing supply chain challenges in-country. As of September 30, the most urgent in-kind needs are essential relief items for displaced people, such as hygiene kits, mattresses and blankets, water bottles, food parcels, and ready meals, tailored to the current needs. Price hikes and procurement challenges further complicate the ability to respond effectively to the crisis. In addition, LRC relies on in-kind donations to continue running its core health services (Emergency Medical Services, Blood Transfusion Services and Medical-Social Support), which includes increased demand for medicine, medical supplies and medical equipment, to ensure the availability of life-saving supplies. The most urgent needs identified by PRCS-L include a shortage of medicine, medical supplies and medical equipment to ensure adequate medical care for those affected by the explosions and attacks³.

SYRIA

SARC faces multiple challenges as it addresses the ongoing crisis. The installation of additional toilets is critical to accommodate the rising influx of displaced people. Enhanced coordination with LRC is essential, especially for Lebanese nationals without documentation at the border. Operational support is needed for running costs and warehousing. The cold weather adds complexity, with urgent needs for clothing, heating, and adequate overnight shelters. There is also a lack of tents, and hygiene kits for three-day use for people on the move, including diapers and menstrual products, are needed. Additionally, floodlights and solar-powered lights are required.

JORDAN and EGYPT

Although the ERCS and JNRCS are not directly impacted by the recent escalation in Lebanon, they still face significant challenges in delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza. These include unpredictable border crossings, restrictions on truck entries, and logistical difficulties such as damaged goods and unclear material restrictions from Israeli authorities. Despite these obstacles, multi-level coordination among various actors is ongoing to ensure the smooth delivery of aid and overcome the logistical hurdles.

Operational risk assessment

IFRC has established processes to manage risks effectively and to ensure it is balanced with the response actions of National Societies. This approach includes prevention and mitigation of safeguarding risks, financial risks, reputational risks and other risk related to large-scale emergency operations. Duty of care is ensured for all staff under the management of the IFRC and security risk management continues to inform the scope and scale of the IFRC's presence in all countries. The IFRC takes bold and risk-informed humanitarian actions, while prioritizing the safety and security of its entire staff complement throughout the response.

Some of the potential major risks that may affect the operation include:

Security and safety risks: Due to the ongoing conflict, the security situation has worsened in the past week. The instability in the region is leading to further complications, triggering further massive displacement, and increasing complex humanitarian crises, and the potential risk of escalating into a broader regional conflict, as tensions continue to rise across multiple neighboring countries.

Access risks: The security context poses a significant challenge in accessing some of the areas of operation, with limited protection for staff and volunteers providing assistance. The prolonged crisis will have an impact on the staff and volunteers well-being working and responding within the countries affected.

³ Mobilization tables for Lebanon excludes the in-kind needs from PRCS L. A separate table will be shared separately with partners in the coming days.

Funding risk: Funding poses a greater impediment to the operation owing to the growing needs because of the expanding and prolonging of the crisis and this will affect the implementing national societies capacity to effectively respond.

Economic and supply chain risks: Syria, Lebanon and Egypt have been struggling with inflation in recent years, and with the escalating conflict the economies especially Lebanon and Syria may see the increased cost of humanitarian materials and impact on supply chain costs (eg. shipping costs).

Safeguarding and protection risks: Population movements within Lebanon and between the countries increase the risk of SGBV, trafficking, family separation, and the inability to access legal support or protection mechanisms to support mental health, prevent exploitation, and provide or even coordinate referrals to relevant services providers. Failing to mitigate Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and child protection risks would indeed significantly endanger the most vulnerable groups such as children, displaced populations, and women-headed households, among others.

Technological risks: Additionally, the growing threat of cyberattacks presents significant digital security risks, potentially compromising sensitive data and disrupting critical humanitarian operations.

RESPONSE STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

LEBANON

The operational strategy outlined by the LRC in response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Lebanon has shifted from short-term response efforts to a comprehensive, adaptable intervention focused on addressing immediate life-saving needs while building community resilience amid the ongoing conflict. The Country Response Plan (CRP) includes a focus on emergency medical services, blood transfusions, and psychosocial support. LRC is scaling up its operations through the pre-positioning of essential stocks, coordination with authorities, and integration of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) approaches where feasible. Additionally, LRC aims to protect vulnerable populations by ensuring access to shelter, sanitation, and essential services, while enhancing community engagement and accountability to foster long-term recovery.

SYRIA

SARC has developed a comprehensive operational strategy in response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Syria. To ensure effective crisis management, SARC has strengthened logistics capacity by ensuring EMS are fully equipped and ready for immediate deployment, pre-positioned food and non-food items, medical supplies, and relief items in key locations. Additionally, communication and information management systems have been upgraded for seamless coordination. In line with ongoing needs, the strategic response continues to be focused on strengthening the Humanitarian Service Points (HSP), scaling up emergency medical services, first aid, health care, and essential services such as water, sanitation, and shelter. In collaboration with key partners, SARC emphasizes psychosocial support and protection for vulnerable populations, ensuring a holistic response to the evolving crisis. Considering the complex crisis in the country, SARC has enhanced staff and volunteer safety. Continuous coordination and readiness are key to their strategy.

JORDAN

JNRCS's response strategy primarily focuses on logistical activities, such as improving the pre-positioning of supplies and rehabilitating warehouses to address the increasing logistical challenges. These efforts are critical as JNRCS has become a key complementary hub for aid delivery following the closure of the Rafah crossing. Preparedness activities are also prioritized in the areas of Health, WASH, and Cash Assistance, particularly in anticipation of potential population movements from Lebanon into Syria, which may further complicate operations, especially at the Jaber border crossing with Syria.

EGYPT

ERCS's response strategy focuses on providing logistical support to Gaza while also managing operations in Egypt, particularly around the Rafah crossing. Key areas of strategic response include Health & Care, WASH, Shelter, Food Security, Livelihoods, Cash and Voucher Assistance, and Protection. Moreover, ERCS is mobilizing resources to expand its capacity at headquarters and branch levels, ensuring preparedness for future emergencies. Critical services such as psychosocial support, Restoring Family Links (RFL), and emergency shelter are provided to evacuees, alongside WASH services to address immediate humanitarian needs.

Coordination and Preparedness

Since the beginning of the crisis, IFRC has been in close contact and collaboration with both Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and external stakeholders. A strengthened focus on Movement Coordination is ensured through Movement coordination meetings at the country level between all National Societies involved in the operation together with IFRC and ICRC country representation.

In Lebanon, this involves regular Membership coordination meetings with the 14 Partner National Societies that have a physical presence in-country in support of the Lebanese Red Cross. Many members of the IFRC Network have already used bilateral funding mechanisms and crisis modifiers to release rapid emergency funding to the National Society.

From the multi-country level, the ME crisis operations team coordinates with ICRC's regional logistics hub based in Amman and shares information when available. This operation highlights and advances required regional preparedness actions beyond the country-specific targeted activities. This allows the IFRC to support National Societies with maximum flexibility depending on the rapidly evolving situation.

As a part of the preparedness measures taken by IFRC's MENA Regional Office, medical trauma kits and ambulances were procured at the onset of the crisis in 2023, to be prepositioned and mobilized for rapid response should the need arise. After the recent escalation, this prepositioned stock was quickly moved to Beirut in support of the LRC.

Over the past year, IFRC has supported SARC in enhancing its preparedness for a potential escalation of hostilities in Syria and Lebanon, particularly in anticipation of population movement from Lebanon into Syria. This assistance included support in the Disaster Management and Emergency Medical Services vehicles maintenance, procurement of and protective emblems for SARC's assets and buildings, fuel provision, and maintenance of fire extinguishers. For the immediate response, IFRC facilitated the distribution of essential items like bread and water to displaced people, while supporting SARC volunteers and psychosocial support activities at Humanitarian Service Points. Moving forward, IFRC will be providing canned food, mattresses, baby diapers, medical consumables, and hygiene kits.

In-kind contributions from the IFRC network are encouraged but must be well-coordinated with LRC and SARC to align with local priorities in line with the relevant mobilisation guidelines, IFRC will facilitate and support those coordination efforts. For more detailed information on the mobilisation tables, please [click here](#)⁴.

⁴ Mobilisation tables for Lebanon excludes the in-kind needs from PRCS L. A separate table will be shared separately with partners in the coming days.

SARC is also coordinating closely with Movement partners and other key stakeholders, including the High Relief Committee, UN agencies, INGOs, and other relevant authorities. This collaboration aims to maximize the collective impact of humanitarian actors to address the urgent needs of returnees and refugees. Additionally, SARC is enhancing information sharing among these entities to ensure a more effective, unified response during this critical period. As humanitarian needs are ever increasing and the situation further deteriorates, there is an increasing interest from partners in receiving more detailed and up-to-date information about the developments in the region.

B. FUNDING

As of 30 September, 12% percent of the funding requirements of the revised Emergency Appeal have been covered. The IFRC expresses its gratitude to donors and kindly encourages further contributions to fill the 88% percent funding gap to enable the National Societies in the region, with the support of the IFRC, to continue with humanitarian assistance efforts as well as the required preparedness actions. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the National Societies in the region, with the support of the IFRC, to continue with the preparedness efforts and provide humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move.

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Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Link to IFRC Emergency landing page](#)

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.