



# BENIN

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

23 October 2024

## IN SUPPORT OF RED CROSS OF BENIN



97

National Society branches



79

National Society local units



12,600

National Society volunteers



60

National Society staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



143,577

Disasters and crises



15,967

Health and wellbeing



791,497

Migration and displacement



1,500

Values, power and inclusion



39,417

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement	2.0M
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	
	Funding	309,000
	Expenditure	307,000
	Longer-term	
	Funding Requirement	1.8M
	Funding	1.6M
	Expenditure	320,000
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	168,000
	Funding	236,000
	Expenditure	115,000
HNS other funding sources	Funding	190,000

### Red Cross of Benin

Overview

Funding	1.7M
Expenditure	1.6M

Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat	Not reported
Participating National Societies	985,000
HNS other funding sources	190,000

Appeal number **MAABJ002**

In addition to: CHF 260,000 DREF Funding

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	Developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks?	Yes
	Implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups?	Yes
	Implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)?	Yes
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	144,000
	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	144,000
Disasters and crises	People reached with disaster risk reduction	16,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	4,000
	People reached with shelter support	2,000
Health and wellbeing	People donating blood	3,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	791,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	459,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	8,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	2,000
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	2,000
Values, power and inclusion	Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes
	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	39,000

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of	1
	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	90
National Society development	One National Society Development plan in place	Yes
	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
	Youth engagement strategy developed or in place	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society has domestic advocacy strategies developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
	Participation in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Yes
Accountability and agility	Functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA policy to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
	National Society have strengthened their integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes
	National Society is showing progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Bilateral Support					Enabling Functions	Multilateral Support Through IFRC
			Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion			
National Society									
Belgian Red Cross	489,000		●	●					
British Red Cross								✓	
Canadian Red Cross Society								✓	
Italian Red Cross							●		

Total Funding Reported **CHF 489,000**

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

Located on the Gulf of Guinea, the Republic of Benin is a country in West Africa, bordered to the north by Niger, to the northwest by Burkina Faso, to the west by Togo, to the east by Nigeria and to the south by the Atlantic Ocean. It covers an area of 114,763 square kilometres and is 700 kilometres long. It holds valuable wetlands, fisheries, as well as high tourism potential. However, these areas are affected by strong pressures. Rapid urbanization along the coast has increased demand for land, water, and other natural resources. Military infrastructure and sand extraction have also contributed to significant coastal retreat.

Like the other West African countries, it suffers the harmful effects of variability and climate change, the manifestations of which result in variability and an increased recurrence of extreme climatic events such as devastating floods, long droughts, heat waves and torrential rains. This situation leads to waves of cross-border population movements, resulting in social conflicts between breeders and farmers in several municipalities in the country.

These different situations also have consequences from a health and social point of view. In the field of health, Benin is faced with epidemics of viral hemorrhagic fever such as Lassa, malaria, cholera, meningitis, measles and yellow fever and most recently monkeypox. The health situation also highlights the unsatisfactory quality of health care, the weak development of human resources and poor planning for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of infrastructure and equipment.

The security situation has worsened with the presence of unidentified armed groups in northern Benin leading already vulnerable populations to abandon their crops and homes. Also, the presence of these unidentified armed groups in other countries in the sub-region leads to migratory movements towards Benin. Since January 2023, raids of armed groups have spread to communes bordering in Matéri, Coby, Tanguiéta, Banikoara, Malanville, Karimama and Kerou. Attacks in the Savanes region of Togo have caused forced displacement of populations in several localities bordering this region. The successive scattered events have seen an increase in the number of internally displaced persons and refugees from Togo and Burkina in the Beninese border towns.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

In 2023, the Red Cross of Benin implemented risk reduction activities across multiple municipalities to address the impacts of climate change. The National Society trained volunteers and increased community awareness on the adverse effects of climate change. It undertook tree planting initiatives, including moringa, banana and palm trees, and distributed short-cycle corn and tomato seeds to support local communities. To enhance flood preparedness, the organization installed 16 markers in high-risk areas and updated contingency plans in targeted municipalities.

### Disasters and crises

During the reporting period, the Red Cross of Benin responded to multiple crises, addressing the urgent needs of communities affected by disasters. Following the severe flooding in September 2022, the National Society took swift action to reduce flood risks by engaging the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. It provided affected communities with hygiene kits, conducted hygiene awareness sessions and distributed aqua tabs for water purification. Support for shelter construction extended across 16 municipalities. Community feedback was actively sought through focus groups to refine ongoing assistance. The Red Cross of Benin also prioritized capacity building for its staff and volunteers. Training sessions integrated First Aid, community engagement and accountability, safer access and psychosocial support services.

### Health and wellbeing

For the period January to December 2023, the Red Cross of Benin partnered with UNFPA to provide health support in the Coby-Matéri-Tanguiéta health zone, focusing on maternal health and childcare for displaced communities,

while extending healthcare, gender-based violence prevention, reproductive health and [psychosocial support](#) across municipalities. The National Society trained staff and communities in health, nutrition and [water, sanitation and hygiene](#), and raised awareness on family planning among out-of-school adolescents. It also delivered essential healthcare to those displaced by armed threats. Strengthening its partnership with the National Blood Service, the Red Cross of Benin organized a blood donation drive, managed volunteers, conducted training, launched awareness campaigns and facilitated mobile blood collections.

### **Migration and displacement**

The Red Cross of Benin assisted internally displaced persons and refugees from Togo and Burkina Faso at the Beninese border. The response included shelter support with relief items such as tarpaulins and toolkits, distribution of aqua tabs, hygiene and dignity kits and the construction of emergency latrines. Additionally, essential items, food kits and [mental health and psychosocial support](#) services were provided. In response to security threats in Atacora and Alibori, the National Society distributed essential items and kits to affected households across multiple communes.

### **Values, power, and inclusion**

In 2023, the Red Cross of Benin advanced its initiatives to support the socio-professional reintegration of adolescent girls affected by early and forced marriages, assisting young girls from Coby, Matéri and Tanguiéta. The National Society celebrated several significant milestones, including World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, its 60th anniversary and World Children's Day to promote [youth leadership](#). To enhance its communication, the National Society trained broadcasters to effectively convey its humanitarian work and conducted briefings on the Movement's [Fundamental Principles](#) to improve humanitarian access. Additionally, the Red Cross of Benin launched a nationwide community feedback collection system, gathering insights through social channels and community meetings to strengthen [community engagement and accountability](#).

### **Enabling Local Actors**

In 2023, the Red Cross of Benin piloted a Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment ([BOCA](#)) at local units to enhance grassroots interventions and adopted a national volunteering policy to standardize volunteer actions for more effective community support. The National Society trained governance actors and volunteers on [integrity](#), governance and volunteer management, while securing funding from IFRC's [Capacity Building Fund](#) to implement a youth and volunteer development initiative. It established multidisciplinary training centres across branches to align volunteer capacity building with this policy.

For staff development, the National Society participated in cash transfer programme training in Kinshasa and Level B public health training in Kampala. It emphasized the importance of governance through National Office and Board of Directors meetings. The Red Cross of Benin strengthened its visibility by training broadcasters to effectively communicate its humanitarian work. It conducted external audits for transparency, standardized the use of 'PERFECTO' software for financial management and carried out supervision missions for quality control. Additionally, it also worked on [digital transformation](#).

## **IFRC NETWORK ACTION**

### **ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE**



### **Climate and environment**

#### **Progress by National Society against objectives**

In 2023, the Red Cross of Benin carried out activities to reduce risks in the face of climate change in the municipalities of Parakou, Ouèssè, Abomey, Zogbodomey, Toffo, Abomey-Calavi, Lokossa, Kpomassè, Zè and Adjohoun in collaboration with the USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

Through this project the National Society trained volunteers and raised awareness about the harmful effects of climate change. The Red Cross of Benin planted moringa, banana and palm trees and distributed short-cycle corn and tomato seeds to communities. Additionally, it installed 16 markers in areas at high risk of flooding in Zogbodome, Zagnando, Abomey-Calavi, Adjohoun and Athieme municipalities, alongside updating contingency plans for them.

### **IFRC Network joint support**

The IFRC provided support to the National Society in the implementation of risk reduction activities to combat climate change.



## **Disasters and crises**

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

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC DREF](#)) was approved for one emergency. The details of the operation have been listed under the strategic priority 'Migration and displacement'.

### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

In the year 2023, the Red Cross of Benin supported communities facing multiple crises and disasters, responding to their primary needs. In response to the heavy rains induced flooding across the country in September 2022 which affected 71,270 people and rendered 1,328 households homeless due the destructions of their homes, the Red Cross of Benin (RCB) urgently convened the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to reduce exposure to floods and help affected families. Support included aquatabs for water purification and provided the affected community with hygiene kits alongside hygiene awareness session. People across 16 municipalities also received support for the construction of shelters. Additionally, the National Society organized focus groups to examine the perceptions of the community and improve support provided based on the feedback received.

The Red Cross of Benin also focused on capacity building its staff and volunteers, during the reporting period. Integrated training in First Aid, community engagement and accountability, safer access and [psychosocial support services](#) was provided. It also trained volunteers in community-based health and first aid.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC/DREF) and Emergency Appeals were drawn upon as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises.



*The Red Cross of Benin distributing relief items to communities affected by floods (Photo: RCB)*



## Health and wellbeing

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross of Benin collaborated with the UNFPA to implement a health support project for displaced communities in the Coby-Matéri-Tanguiéta health zone. The intervention focused on maternal health and childcare. Additionally, the National Society provided health support to vulnerable households across municipalities by training volunteers in prevention of gender-based violence. It also provided reproductive and family planning support, along with mental health and psychosocial support services. Members of the National Society staff as well as communities received training in health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Apart from raising awareness among young out-of-school adolescents on gender, equity, prevention of gender-based violence, sexually transmitted diseases and family planning, the Red Cross of Benin also advanced strategies for the provision of essential healthcare. People who were displaced following threats from unidentified armed groups in the communes of Kérou, Matéri and Tanguiéta were also provided with essential healthcare.

The Red Cross of Benin strengthened its partnership with the National Blood Service. It budgeted and planned a blood donation drive. The Red Cross of Benin also undertook efforts to manage volunteers involved in blood donation drive activities, trained intervention teams and developed mass media campaigns to raise awareness. It also set up youth clubs and organized mobile blood collections.

### IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** provided support to the Red Cross of Benin in the strengthening of its partnership with the National Blood Service and to carry out a blood donation drive. The Belgian Red Cross also supported the National Society in this initiative.

The **Kuwait Red Crescent Society** provided assistance to the Red Cross of Benin in aiding vulnerable Muslim households in several municipalities through the distribution of basic food items and a financial envelope for the month of Ramadan. Vulnerable households in 15 municipalities were supported with meat distribution.



## Migration and displacement

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC DREF) was approved for a population movement emergency in Benin.

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	Benin Population Movement
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	<a href="#">MDRBJ018</a>
<b>DURATION</b>	5 months (24 May 2023 to 31 October 2023)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 259,928
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	6,000
<b>LATEST OPERATION UPDATE</b>	<a href="#">Operation Update No. 1</a>

The DREF allocation of CHF 259,928 in May 2023 supported the Red Cross of Benin in aiding 6,000 internally displaced persons and refugees from Togo and Burkina Faso in the Beninese border, displaced due to the attacks by the armed groups. The support included provision of shelter relief items such as tarpaulins and shelter toolkits. Affected communities were also provided access to safe water through the distribution of aqua tabs along with hygiene and dignity kit. Additionally, emergency latrines were constructed and essential items as well as food kits were provided. Affected communities were also supported with provision of health and mental health and psychosocial support services.

## Progress by National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross of Benin responded to the security situation in Atacora and Alibori by providing support to displaced communities. In Atacora, the National Society distributed essential items along with food and hygiene kits to the households that were displaced due to threats from unidentified armed groups in the Tanguiéta, Matéri and Kérou communes. In Alibori, the Red Cross of Benin, with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross, distributed essential item kits to households vulnerable to similar threats in the Banikoara, Malanville, Kandi and Karimama communes.

### IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC**, through the mechanism of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) supported the Red Cross of Benin in aiding displaced communities.

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The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** supported the Red Cross of Benin in the distribution of essential items to vulnerable households.



## Values, power and inclusion

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross of Benin continued efforts to support the socio-professional reintegration of adolescent girls affected by early and forced marriages, assisting young girls from Cobly, Matéri and Tanguiéta. The Red Cross of Benin also marked several significant events, including World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, the National Society's 60th anniversary and World Children's Day, where the Secretary General symbolically handed over his office to a 12-year-old student to promote youth leadership.

The National Society strengthened its communication efforts by training broadcasters to better convey its humanitarian work. It also facilitated briefings on the Movement's [Fundamental Principles](#) and key activities, aimed at enhancing the access of humanitarian workers to communities in need.

As part of its community engagement and accountability efforts, the Red Cross of Benin also launched a nationwide community feedback collection system, gathering feedback through social channels and community meetings.

### IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** provided support to the National Society in the implementation of activities focused on community engagement and accountability.

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The **ICRC** provided support to the Red Cross of Benin in strengthening its outreach efforts.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

### 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.

The National Society is supported by several participating National Societies to achieve the objectives in its strategic development plan- the **Belgian Red Cross (Flanders)**, **German Red Cross** and **Kuwait Red Crescent Society**.

### **Movement coordination**

The Red Cross of Benin holds regular exchanges with the IFRC, the ICRC and participating National Societies, to align support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergency, information is regularly shared. 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** supports the Red Cross of Benin from its office in Lomé, Togo, focusing on strengthening the capacities of the National Society to prepare and respond to situations of crises and on National Society development.

### **External coordination**

The Red Cross of Benin is recognized as an auxiliary of the public authorities. The Red Cross of Benin is a member of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA), which convenes during emergencies. The platform brings together several international organizations, including the United Nations agencies, national organizations and other formally structured associations. It is led by the Benin Ministry of Interior and Public Security through the civil protection agency.

The Red Cross of Benin is also fully integrated in the national contingency plan for floods, epidemics, wildfires, and socio-political crises. It regularly participates in other in-country working group meetings which comprise government counterparts. The Red Cross of Benin has the support of organizations including the UNFPA, UNICEF and GIZ in the implementation of the maternal and child food security project. It works in close collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) for the distribution of food. The Red Cross of Benin is an important partner of the USAID and ECOWAS for health and disaster management interventions. The Red Cross of Benin maintains partnerships within and outside the IFRC network to work collectively on the key challenges facing communities.



## **National Society Development**

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### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

In 2023, the Red Cross of Benin conducted a pilot Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment ([BOCA](#)) at local units. To ensure the quality of grassroots interventions through its decentralized structures, the Red Cross of Benin adopted a national volunteering policy to standardize volunteer actions for more effective community interventions.

It also trained governance actors and volunteers on themes such as the Movement, [integrity](#), governance and volunteer management. The Red Cross of Benin secured funding through IFRC's [Capacity Building Fund](#) to implement a youth and volunteer development initiative aimed at contextualizing and strengthening its volunteering policy. Additionally, the National Society set up multidisciplinary training centres across its branches to align volunteer capacity building with its volunteering policy.

For staff development, the Red Cross of Benin participated in training on cash transfer programmes held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo and Level B training in public health in humanitarian emergencies in Kampala, Uganda. Additionally, it also validated quarterly narrative and financial reports and demonstrated the importance of the governance bodies at the national level, through National Office meetings and Board of Directors meetings.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** provided support to the Red Cross of Benin in conducting Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment. It also supported the National Society through the mechanism of IFRC Capacity Building Fund.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross of Benin demonstrated strong commitment to enhancing its visibility and deepening its presence in communities while implementing its activities. Placing communications at the core of its interventions, the National Society significantly improved the impact and reach of its efforts. It strengthened its communication capabilities by training broadcasters to effectively convey its humanitarian work, thereby ensuring greater public awareness and support for its initiatives.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the Red Cross of Benin in strengthening its communications efforts to enhance its visibility and public awareness and support for its initiatives.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of Benin conducted external audits for the 2021 and 2023 financial years to maintain transparency. It standardized the use of the 'PERFECTO' software for accounting and financial management, ensuring consistent practices. The Red Cross of Benin carried out supervision missions to oversee interventions and projects, ensuring quality control through post-distribution monitoring. Additionally, it expanded its workforce by recruiting more staff to strengthen local capacity. The National Society also carried out digital transformation by developing digital applications for streamlining administrative tasks.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross of Benin in the implementation of its interventions.



## 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.

### DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Benin 2023 Financial Report](#)

**Note:** For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRBJ018](#)

- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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