



INDIA

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 3.3M**

Appeal number **MAAIN001**

In support of the Indian Red Cross Society



1,260

National Society branches



2,641

National Society staff



4.9M

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



1.6M

Climate and environment



60,000

Disasters and crises



200,000

Health and wellbeing



50,000

Migration and displacement

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction
 - Health and care
 - Social inclusion
- Climate change adaptation
 - Livelihoods

Capacity development

- Training and learning for staff and volunteers
 - Digital transformation

Key country data

Population **1.4B**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **20**

Human Development Index rank **132**

Population below poverty level **21.9%**

Hazards



Floods



Drought



Earthquakes

Funding requirements

Total 3.3M CHF

Through the IFRC



→ **625,000** CHF

Through Participating National Societies



2.7M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

150,000 CHF
Climate and environment

300,000 CHF
Disasters and crises

150,000 CHF
Health and wellbeing

5,000 CHF
Values, power and inclusion

20,000 CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross Society

Italian Red Cross



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Indian Red Cross Society is India's largest statutory voluntary body with a wide network of state, union territory and district level branches throughout the country, overseen and facilitated by its national headquarters in Delhi. The Indian Red Cross Society was admitted in the IFRC in 1919 and was established under the Indian Red Cross Society Act of 1920, latest amended in 1992. It has an auxiliary role to public authorities in the humanitarian sphere. The organization provides relief in times of disasters and emergencies and promotes the health and care of vulnerable people and communities. The National Society's physical structures include numerous clinics, hospitals, blood centres, warehouses, training facilities, shelters and homes for vulnerable people, as well as ambulances that provide vital services to those in need. The National Society is a lead blood service agency in India, managing and operating 90 blood banks across the country.

The Indian Red Cross responds to floods and cyclones that affect thousands of people every year during the monsoon season, working closely with the authorities for the dissemination of early warning messages, evacuation of people to emergency shelters and other safe locations, and providing support to those affected. The Indian Red Cross reaches around 200,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes every year.

The Indian Red Cross has been firmly engaged in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, carrying out a myriad of awareness activities, and conducting community surveillance and community counselling. It provided support to quarantine and isolation centres

and shelter to vulnerable migrants, distributed items for personal hygiene and food and dry ration packs, and home-delivered food and medicines to people with chronic diseases. The Indian Red Cross also provided critical health and water, sanitation and hygiene services, such as ambulance and transport services for patients, disinfection of public places, installation of pedal sanitizers and hand-washing kiosks, pickup and drop-off facility to individual blood donors, mobile blood collection, and running a 24/7 control room for blood requirements and psychosocial support. The Indian Red Cross also supported people to access vaccination through the government's programme, and distributed and installed oxygen related equipment in different states.

Volunteers are the backbone of all National Society activities, helping the branches run successful programmes and assisting millions of vulnerable people. The Indian Red Cross rewards and recognizes volunteers and provides them with appropriate personal development opportunities wherever possible. The National Society has also undertaken several initiatives to ensure that volunteers and staff understand and act on the basis of the humanitarian Fundamental Principles in their work with vulnerable people in times of peace, disaster or armed conflict.

The Indian Red Cross is constantly adapting to a rapidly changing environment and collaborating with the private sector and civil society organizations – that are also providing similar services, such as first aid, blood services, risk reduction and disaster relief – to deliver its programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

With a total population of 1.4 billion and a growth rate of 1.1 per cent, India is the second-largest urban country in the world. Almost 11 per cent of the total global urban population lives in Indian cities. Currently, India is experiencing a demographic window of opportunity, as it has a rapidly increasing young workforce and middle class. As an established technology powerhouse, India is on its way to becoming a digitally advanced country.

However, this progress is accompanied by growing disparities between the rich and the poor. Notable improvements made in the health care sector – including increasing life expectancy, reducing fertility, maternal and child mortality and addressing other health priorities – have fallen short of several national and global targets. A triple burden of disease also affects people in India, threatening vulnerable populations with communicable and non-communicable diseases, and the emergence of new pathogens that cause epidemics and pandemics. To confront these challenges and improve

the health of the population, the country's already overstretched health infrastructure must be strengthened.

Access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation facilities also plays a vital role in preventing the spread of disease, particularly for older people and people living with disabilities and chronic illnesses, who are considered most at risk.

Furthermore, vulnerabilities in India are increasing because of changing demographics and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, environmental degradation, climate change, geological hazards, epidemics and pandemics. This exacerbates the risk of disasters and crises for the most vulnerable populations. As one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, India loses an estimated two per cent of its GDP to crises and disasters.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

India is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The country regularly appears among the global top five countries with the highest number of disasters and related mortality, people affected and economic damages. According to the World Bank, the higher temperatures, variable precipitation and extreme weather events associated with climate change have already begun to affect the country's economic performance and the lives and livelihoods of millions of vulnerable people. The vulnerability of India's cities is also likely to increase. Around 40 per cent of the population is expected to live in urban areas by 2025.

The Indian Red Cross Society, as an auxiliary to the Government, supports disaster response activities countrywide. The National Society has worked closely with government agencies to strengthen climate risk reduction and ecosystem management as part of India's revised National Disaster Management Plan, as well as many of the local development plans of village panchayats (self-governance bodies). The National Society supports early warning and early action, forecast-based financing and the promotion of nature-based solutions, leveraging the Government's development programmes at the local level in collaboration with village panchayats and local bodies in urban areas.

Main actions and areas of support

The Indian Red Cross is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally-led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic,

multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

In 2023–2025, to address the climate-induced vulnerabilities that people in India face, the National Society will focus on establishing linkages with mainstream humanitarian actors in early warning and early action, as well as weather alerts for the agriculture and fishery industries. Incremental learning from each programme will enhance the quality of the National Society's interventions, building local knowledge on climate-related risks, restoring natural resources and implementing land and water management, vegetation and green technology activities. The Indian Red Cross will also open a dialogue with local authorities to integrate climate-based risks to development planning.

The Indian Red Cross will continue to work closely with the Indian Meteorological Department to disseminate impact-based forecasts to the public and reach the 'last mile', as well as including a climate risk reduction and environmental protection module in the social and emergency response volunteer training curriculum. Through outreach programmes and tailor-made projects, the National Society will strengthen its climate resilience approach, information sharing and communication in 36 states and union territories within the next five years.

With IFRC technical support, National Society staff and volunteers will further raise their awareness, knowledge and capacities as change agents for climate resilience for local communities. The National Society will make weather and climate services, including early warning, early action and agro-advisories, an integral part of

disaster management standard operating procedures in all National Society branches. The National Society's staff and volunteers will be trained to understand and implement forecast-based action within communities, particularly in areas that are vulnerable to extreme weather events such as floods and heatwaves.

The National Society will empower rural and urban communities to address the evolving impacts of climate change on their lives and livelihoods, including ownership of programmes addressing climate risks. The National Society will encourage an increased recognition and use of communities' own insights, knowledge and ideas to adapt to environmental and climate risks. It will also integrate and anticipate the short- and longer-term impacts of climate and environmental crises into its programmes and operations.

The National Society aims to be recognized as a key partner in supporting communities and the government to upscale climate action, working with the most at-risk communities.

Disasters and crises

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

People in India are vulnerable to multiple natural hazards and man-made disasters which seriously threaten the economy, the population and sustainable development. The country's vulnerability is also affected by changing demographics and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, environmental degradation, climate change, geological hazards, epidemics and pandemics. According to the National Disaster Management Agency, 58.6 per cent of India's landmass is prone to earthquakes of moderate to very high intensity, while more than 40 million hectares (12 per cent of its land) is prone to floods and river erosion. Out of 7,516km of coastline, approximately 5,700km is prone to cyclones and tsunamis, and 68 per cent of India's cultivable area is vulnerable to droughts. Hilly areas are also at risk from landslides and avalanches.

The monsoon seasons cause recurrent floods every year, incurring loss of human life and damage to livelihood systems, property, infrastructure and public utilities. In 2022, rains started in the state of Assam in May and resulted in flooding in 27 districts of the state. Flash floods caused landslides and erosion in Majuli and Dima Hasao districts. Approximately 670,000 people were affected by the floods during this first wave. The flood situation became worse due to the monsoon season,

with river water flowing above the danger line and over their riverbanks as a result of heavy rainfall. Continued rainfall in the catchment areas of the main rivers of Assam - Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries - since the second week of June resulted in an increase in water levels in all the major rivers in the state. Though the inundation was gradual, it increased faster in early July. Landslides affected six districts of Assam. As of 21 June, it was estimated that a population of about 5.6 million in 32 out of 35 districts of Assam had been affected.

The Indian Red Cross Society has a strong field presence in Assam through a large network of district and sub-divisional branches and thousands of volunteers. The National Society closely monitored the weather conditions, conveyed early warning messages to hard-to-reach communities, and actively participated in state coordination platforms. It initiated rapid distributions of tarpaulins, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, and kitchen sets to affected people out of its locally pre-positioned stocks. The extent of the floods triggered an [allocation](#) from the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to scale-up the response and contribute to meeting the needs of 50,000 people.

Main actions and areas of support

The Indian Red Cross Society will strive to be the first-choice government partner in response to disasters, including climate-induced crises such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes and man-made disasters. It will strive to be the lead agency in the country responding to emergency operations with scale, in coordination with government agencies, reaching 6.5 million people over the next five years.

The National Society will co-create disaster response plans with state and national disaster management authorities, and strengthen partnerships with the India Meteorological Department to develop early warning and weather alerts. Through its network of state and union territories branches and district chapters, the National Society will reach out to vulnerable communities by disseminating early warning, community preparedness and response information. In communities that are at risk of floods, cyclones and heatwaves, the National Society will provide early warning alerts, supporting community members to take active steps to reduce their vulnerability and exposure to hazards. In hard-to-reach areas, it will support communities to prepare for timely and effective mitigation, response and recovery from crises and disasters, including early action. This will include the use of smart phones, digital platforms and other technologies that are designed to

reduce the time it takes to respond, make assessments and plan operations. With IFRC technical support, the Indian Red Cross will also help communities protect and strengthen their livelihoods, including through diversification approaches.

The National Society deploys its pool of trained social and emergency response volunteers and national and district disaster response teams when required and emergency responses are well coordinated. With IFRC support, the Indian Red Cross will continue to strengthen its disaster response interventions by building local capacities, including social and emergency response volunteers and surge services, locally pre-positioning essential stocks for humanitarian assistance and working as a first responder by strengthening its standard operating procedures. The National Society will improve advanced planning, the deployment of subject experts, streamlined procurement processes, and warehouse management and monitoring.

National Society staff and volunteers will take leadership positions in decision-making and implementing risk-reduction measures, as well as during response and recovery operations. National Society capacity building will also include climate and risk reduction measures. Social and emergency response volunteers will also have access to a mobile app specifically developed for deployment of these teams, with the aim of improving connectivity and feedback.

Health and wellbeing

India is in a state of transition – economically, demographically and epidemiologically. The country faces a triple burden of communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases and injuries, and changing lifestyles due to rapid urbanization. Over the next five years, the people in India are likely to see a rise in heat-related, vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria and chikungunya, and water-borne diseases including cholera. These threats to health and well-being will have a disproportionate impact on the urban poor, migrants, and marginalized, hard-to-reach populations such as farmers and their families.

Disasters often cause significant losses of life and property in India, requiring the provision of first aid to those affected. The Indian Red Cross provides first aid and blood services which are recognized as critical services by the Government of India. The Indian Red Cross is a pioneer in the field of blood services, having operated one of the largest voluntary blood banks in India since 1962.

Mental health and psychosocial support services are also much needed in times of crisis, ensuring the well-being of affected populations and counteracting the threats to public health and safety that fear, stigmatization and misconceptions often pose.

Despite rapid improvements in the water, sanitation and hygiene landscape in India, underserved areas still need community-based approaches and support to benefit from these programmes.

Main actions and areas of support

The Indian Red Cross Society's health priorities for the next five years include the following. Its first aid and blood services are recognized as critical services by the Government. The National Society will increase its capacity to respond to communicable and non-communicable diseases, pandemics and epidemics and climate change-induced health needs. While delivering these ongoing activities and excelling in its blood service provision, the National Society will adapt to the country's changing needs so it can respond effectively to future disease outbreaks. The IFRC will support the Indian Red Cross to strengthen its reputation as the leading blood service provision organization in the country, through technical support and resource and data management.

The IFRC network will also support the National Society to be further recognized and appropriately positioned as an active member of the public health emergency preparedness and response coordination platforms in India. The National Society will work to ensure it is involved in the relevant national plans, strategies, policies and laws related to epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response. The National Society will strive to have dedicated human resources for strengthening health systems, and be recognized for its knowledge and work on climate change in the context of health.

Migration and displacement

The Indian Red Cross considers the needs of migrants within its overall programming, and offers dedicated support in situations such as COVID-19. It will continue to ensure that the food, shelter and health and care needs of migrants are met during emergency situations. Migrants also benefit from the Indian Red Cross Family News Service, which helps among others to restore family links and exchange family news.



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Values, power and inclusion

Disasters do not affect everyone equally, often placing women and other marginalized groups at a higher risk than others and accentuating existing gender inequalities. Several global studies have shown that gender-based violence increases during and after emergencies. Factors such as gender, age, disability, health and HIV/AIDS status require National Society staff and volunteers to ensure that their needs are assessed and addressed in a participative way, with dignity and safety. The Red Cross Red Crescent minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion must be followed as part of all emergency response operations, ensuring the dignity, access, participation and safety of women and other socially marginalized groups.

National Society staff, volunteers and other emergency responders are expected to be aware of these standards, and place them at the centre of their actions. They are given technical support by IFRC and National Society focal points for protection, gender and inclusion, with the aim of integrating the minimum standards in emergency operations, including through IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeals, as well as in longer-term humanitarian programmes. Young people are a crucial focus of this thematic priority area, so they can lead the necessary changes in mindset, values and behaviour.

Main actions and areas of support

There is an overall gender balance within the Indian Red Cross Society's leadership, staff and volunteers. Emergency response and development programmes are inclusive, rights-based and built on people's needs and priorities. The IFRC supports the National Society to ensure a 40 per cent women ratio in emergency response teams, first aid training, community-level training, social emergency response volunteers, and beneficiaries of disaster assistance.

The National Society will continue to conduct needs assessments within a protection, gender and inclusion framework, adhering to standards and including them in all emergency operations. The IFRC supports the National Society to train staff and the senior management team in preventing sexual and gender-based violence, as well as setting up a help desk, reporting sexual and gender-based violence, and conducting an orientation session on gender and diversity policy.

The IFRC supports the National Society with mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion capacity building into its programmes, with disaggregated data available on leadership, volunteers and response and resilience building activities. The Indian Red Cross continues to strengthen its data collection and analysis through the IFRC's databank and reporting systems, including the use of the data in programming and analysis based on gender and diversity.

The IFRC will continue to support the Indian Red Cross to upscale its youth and education programme in selected states. The National Society will also continue to strengthen youth engagement activities, including leadership training, the Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change programme, climate action Y Adapt training, youth seminars and youth camps. The National Society will share best practices and lessons from these activities and carry out youth innovation programmes.

The Indian Red Cross will facilitate exchanges between young people at the national and international level, as

well as motivating them through virtual platforms. It will emphasize the importance of supporting youth through community interface events, assisting young people with special needs to fulfil their dreams and build leadership skills. The National Society will continue to conduct advocacy meetings with local authorities, and support the identification of young people who do not complete their education, providing formal education wherever possible. The IFRC will also support the National Society to help students from socially and economically vulnerable groups.

Enabling local actors

The Indian Red Cross is committed to pursue its institutional strengthening, in line with the priorities identified in its Strategy 2018–2030. This strategy was developed through an extensive consultative process that included beneficiaries, members, volunteers, donors, institutional collaborators, staff and governance, nationally and via the Indian Red Cross extensive network of state, union territory, and district branches. The National Society also consulted with government authorities at central, state, union territory, and district levels, and with civil society and other stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations, academia, and the private sector. It benefitted from the experience of its international partners, including the IFRC and network partners.

Main actions and areas of support

In 2023 and beyond, the National Society will place stronger emphasis on working better together as a network and with others to address humanitarian challenges. The IFRC will support the Indian Red Cross to build its auxiliary role as the partner of choice in

India. The IFRC will also support the National Society in its organizational growth at headquarters and branch levels, with the aim of becoming the leading organization in addressing humanitarian and development issues in the country.

The IFRC will support the Indian Red Cross to innovate, embrace and deploy digital technologies, and strengthening its digital and data collection systems, including upgrading equipment and revising processes to ensure that the National Society is ready to deliver programmes and services more efficiently. The IFRC will also support the National Society to develop a volunteer database and management system.

The National Society will enhance the overall quality assurance process and accountability within its programme cycle. The IFRC will support the Indian Red Cross to review its business procedures and processes in line with global guidance and frameworks, focusing on building a well-functioning National Society by enhancing its organizational structure and systems, and strengthening staff and volunteer capacities.

THE IFRC NETWORK








The IFRC

The IFRC Delhi Country Cluster Delegation, based in Delhi, India, provides support to the Indian Red Cross on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, humanitarian diplomacy and strengthening its auxiliary role. Technical support covers disaster risk management, resilience, community-based climate risk reduction, shelter, health, planning, monitoring,

evaluation and reporting, and finance and logistics. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Indian Red Cross Society through a number of [DREF and Emergency Appeal operations](#) in relation to floods and cyclones. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global Appeal, has supported the National Society in its response.

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
American Red Cross									
Canadian Red Cross	CHF 2.60M								
Italian Red Cross	CHF 0.10M								

Total

2.70M

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC's coordination role involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messages; and monitoring progress. The IFRC also ensures that strategies and programmes clearly incorporate humanitarian action and development assistance, and reinforce the auxiliary role of the National Society in India.

The IFRC also facilitates networking among the South Asian National Societies and supports capacity building initiatives.

The Indian Red Cross Society partners with two participating National Societies:

The Canadian Red Cross Society has a presence in India and has been providing funding for the Indian Red Cross's COVID-19 operation. It also supports the National Society in the areas of health and logistics development. The IFRC supports the Canadian Red Cross to manage its administration and logistics.

The **Italian Red Cross** plans to support the Indian Red Cross, through the IFRC, in the areas of climate and youth. Discussions are ongoing and will be finalized soon.

Movement coordination

Coordination is taking place between the Indian Red Cross Society, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in accordance with the needs of the National Society. This coordination is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation principles and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC supports the Indian Red Cross with ensuring the correct and proper use of the Red Cross emblem

and to run awareness programmes on the Fundamental Principles and Geneva Conventions. The ICRC also supports the National Society on the Safer Access Framework, Social Emergency Response Volunteer programme, first aid programmes, youth programmes, livelihood activities and the family news service. The activities planned by the ICRC are awarded to branches for implementation in the form of an annual plan of action.

Coordination with other actors

The Indian Red Cross Society coordinates with the National Institute for the Transformation of India and the National Disaster Management Authority at the national level, and with the State Disaster Management Authority at state level and district authority level. As an auxiliary to the Government of India, the National Society participates in all coordination mechanisms. The National Society state branches work closely with the Indian Meteorological Department on weather forecasting and early warning systems, using the National Society's volunteer network.

The National Society is part of a group of humanitarian agencies in India. In the event of a large-scale disaster, the IFRC coordinates with the Indian Red Cross, participating National Societies and the ICRC to maximize the use of resources and deliver impactful programmes.

The National Society also partners with the St. John's Ambulance, United Nations agencies such as the World Health Organization and United Nations Development Programme, and multinational corporations. Google is supporting the Indian Red Cross with the implementation of a project entitled Improving Flood Early Warning Systems: Empowering People to Action, in the states of Assam and Bihar. The National Society has also developed partnerships with universities and research institutes, including the Indian Institute of Technology in Mandi, All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi, Birla Institute of Technology and Science in Pilani, Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, and University College Dublin, in partnership with the Irish Red Cross.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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