

CAMEROON

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 40.7M**

Appeal number **MAACM002**

In support of the Cameroon Red Cross Society



10

National Society branches



42

National Society staff



65,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



1.4M

Ongoing emergency operations



2.5M

Climate and environment



2.5M

Disasters and crises



2.5M

Health and wellbeing



2.5M

Migration and displacement



2.5M

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- Food insecurity

Longer term needs

- Recurring disasters
- Population movement
 - Health

Capacity development

- Partnerships and resource mobilization
- Digitalization, internal policies and systems

Key country data

Population **27.2M**

INFORM Severity rating **high**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **140**

Human Development Index rank **151**

Population below poverty level **37.5%**

Hazards



Floods



Landslides



Conflict



Population movement



Disease outbreaks



Food insecurity

Funding requirements

Total 40.7M CHF

Through the IFRC

26.5M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

67,000 CHF

Host National Society

14.1M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

8.5M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

3.7M CHF

Climate and environment

6.5M CHF

Disasters and crises

4.4M CHF

Health and wellbeing

960,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

1.7M CHF

Values, power and inclusion

800,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Ongoing emergencies

MDRCM031

Hunger Crisis

part of MGR6001 Africa Hunger Crisis

Participating National Societies

French Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Cameroon Red Cross Society was created and registered with the Ministry of Interior in 1960. It was recognized as an organization of public utility by presidential decree in January 1963, which was renewed in 2020. As the state's humanitarian auxiliary, the Red Cross in Cameroon is officially part of the national disaster response management system and is regularly called upon by the Ministry of Health for community-based activities including raising awareness, screening and surveillance. The National Society is present in all the country's 10 regions and in more than 320 districts out of 360, with a network of about 65,000 trained volunteers and rescue workers, 20,000 of whom are active.

According to its 2020–2024 Strategic Plan, the main programme priorities of the Cameroon Red Cross Society are:

- Disaster management

- Health care, including first aid, community sensitization and engagement in epidemic contexts, access to drinking water, and adequate means of hygiene and sanitation
- Humanitarian assistance and protection, including restoring family links for people on the move
- Reintegration of irregular migrants returning to the country
- Strengthening the social status of specific vulnerable groups
- Promotion of humanitarian values and human rights

The National Society has expertise in many types of humanitarian intervention and longer-term programming. It is an operational and strategic partner of the state in the humanitarian field and actively participates in the response to COVID-19.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Located in Central Africa, the Republic of Cameroon is bordered by Nigeria to the west and north, Chad to the northeast, the Central Africa Republic to the east and Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo to the south. Cameroon's coastline lies on the Bight of Biafra, part of the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean. Cameroon's location gives it good links to neighbouring countries and opportunities for trade and tourism. With a varied and diverse terrain, the country has high potential for ecotourism; however, its location also makes it susceptible to population movements and migration.

Cameroon has a population of approximately 28 million people with a median age of 18–19 years old. While more than 56 per cent of the population live in urban areas, this is expected to increase to 72 per cent by 2050. Overall, population growth is relatively slow for the region, and it may fall in the long term, dropping from 52 to 41 in the Global Population Rank by 2050. Cameroon continues to be sparsely populated, with about 59 people per square kilometre, making it the 167th country in the world for population density.

Cameroon is endowed with rich natural resources, including oil and gas, mineral ores and high-value timber and agricultural products such as coffee, cotton, cocoa, maize and cassava. However, despite these diverse resources and levels of growth in the last decade, Cameroon is a low-income country and continues to rank 153 on the United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index. This is due in part to challenges of under-investment and weak governance, with Cameroon ranked 144 in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index. The country's poverty reduction rate is also lagging behind its population growth rate, increasing the overall number of poor people, particularly in the vulnerable northern regions. Nonetheless, the country has the potential to address these slow levels of development with appropriate support and investment.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a serious impact on Cameroon's society and economy. Lockdowns and social distancing measures caused a severe reduction in household and business incomes, significantly reducing economic activity. Consumption declined sharply and investment has been adversely affected. Levels of

uncertainty linked to the pandemic have also continued to affect public services, such as schools and health facilities, which have not recovered from the disruption. For example, access to, and the use of, family planning and prenatal care services fell in 2021 and they are recovering very slowly. It is also estimated that the crisis increased the extreme poverty rate in the country from 24.5 per cent in 2019 to 25.3 per cent in 2021. It will take time to recover from this in 2022 and beyond, particularly as the pandemic is not yet over. Economic stress levels have worsened in 2022 due to growing commodity prices, supply chain challenges, growing inflation and recessionary conditions. This is challenging youth employment opportunities and putting extra pressure on the post-COVID economy.

Cameroon is a relatively politically stable country in the region, and its political leadership has been reasonably well established for many years. However, this has led to a level of stagnation of government and weak governance at some levels. The Government of Cameroon is now planning to reform and decentralize itself, to strengthen local engagement, empowerment and resilience.

Despite its relative stability, Cameroon is affected by violence and tensions, and this is having an impact on the political, economic and social development in the country. Violence in the far north of the country on the border with Nigeria, caused by the conflict in the Lake Chad Basin and from attacks by Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province, brings insecurity and provokes continued population movement in the region. Socio-political pressures in the northwest, southwest and east of the country, and demands for autonomy by the country's Anglophone community, have led to clashes between the separatist forces and the Francophone Government's military forces, increasing insecurity and leading to high levels of internal displacement.

The conflict in neighbouring Central African Republic has led to a massive arrival of refugees in Cameroon's northeast region, Est, Adamaoua and Nord. Most of the refugees have settled with host families, or are living in the main Lolo refugee camp, and have integrated into local communities. However, the additional level of needs of the refugees from the Central African Republic is causing pressure on limited resources and services in these vulnerable areas, as well as tensions with host communities.

The UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that, in total, there are two million internally displaced persons, returnees, refugees and asylum seekers in Cameroon. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and based on the UN'S Humanitarian Response Plan 2022, 3.9 million people across the country need humanitarian assistance. The UN plans to assist 2.6 million of those affected, in nine out of the country's 10 regions, with population movement a major concern. The number of displaced people has been rising steadily for nearly a decade, with refugees arriving from neighbouring countries (mainly Nigeria and the Central African Republic) and widespread internal displacement due to political tensions and the impact of climate change.

Food insecurity has increased over the last few years. In March 2022, the IPC Cadre Harmonisé identified more than 2.4 million people in food insecurity phase 3 and 4, using crisis or emergency coping strategies to secure household food security levels.

There are four major climate change risks in Cameroon: drought in the northern regions, landslides in the west, deforestation throughout (especially in the east), and floods in the north, the far north, Douala (Littoral Region), Adamaoua and elsewhere.

Furthermore, a lack of health facilities and qualified and experienced technical and medical personnel is a key factor in the spread of epidemics such as cholera, polio, measles and COVID-19.

Emergency response

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

- Appeal number: MDRM031, part of MGR6001 Africa Hunger Crisis
- Appeal launch date: 6 October 2022

- Appeal end date: 31 December 2023
- People affected: 2.4 million
- People to be assisted: 1.38 million

Cameroon is one of the priority countries supported by the IFRC's regional [Hunger Crisis](#) Emergency Appeal.

Launched in October 2022, it aims to scale up its regional immediate and life-saving response to the food insecurity crisis currently affecting the region. Country prioritization is based on a multivariate analysis, which includes the Integrated Phase Classification, and focuses on those communities experiencing a crisis or worse level of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3+).

At a time of intense global humanitarian need and competing demands, sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing one of the most alarming food crises in decades. Roughly 146 million people – equivalent to half the entire population of the United States – are suffering from acute food insecurity and require urgent humanitarian assistance.

The crisis has spread across all of Africa, including East Africa, where it is expected that there will be a fifth consecutive year of failed rains in the Horn of Africa; South Sudan, where there has been extreme flooding for four successive years; the Sahel region of West Africa, which is plagued by insecurity and political instability; and Southern Africa, where countries are experiencing surging inflation.

Hunger is one of the most undignified sufferings of humanity. It has severe and long-term repercussions on communities, compromising their lives, livelihoods and prospects. Driven by the interplay of insecurity and armed conflict, extreme weather events, climate variability and negative macroeconomic conditions, the food crisis is distinct in its magnitude and geographic scope. It requires an exceptional mobilization of resources and a massive effort by all institutions and states concerned, to address the drivers that underpin food insecurity.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The IFRC network has supported the African National Societies to develop an emergency response that focuses on meeting the most urgent food, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene needs of the most vulnerable groups, while also addressing longer-term outcomes of protecting livelihoods and setting a foundation for resilience building.

The operational pillars are defined as:

- **Response Pillar 1** - Cash transfers for safety nets and safeguarding livelihoods: improve food access and maintain consumption levels through the scale-up of emergency food assistance, primarily through cash transfers to poor households experiencing acute food insecurity

- **Response Pillar 2** - Health and nutrition surveillance, knowledge building and health promotion
- **Response Pillar 3** - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Provision of WASH services will take a variety of forms, including the direct provision of safe water or rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure, in-kind provision of water treatment and storage products, and the use of the cash or voucher assistance to support WASH objectives
- **Cross-cutting sectors – Protection and prevention:** A community engagement and accountability approach, alongside attention to protection, gender and inclusion, is critical to the operation and vital in ensuring that it recognizes and values all community members as equal partners whose diverse needs, priorities, and preferences guide the Red Cross Red Crescent actions

African National Societies continue to work based on their longstanding ability to reach people in the 'last mile', making sure that even the most isolated and hard-to-reach communities receive the assistance they need. They work to ensure that geographic, community and population targets are aligned between sectors and partnerships, including the rehabilitation of community livelihood assets that support food availability and access.

In addition to providing direct support, the IFRC network plays an important role in enabling and facilitating access to services and goods provided by the Government and other actors. It supports the targeting of specific regions and smaller administrative units based on data generated by the IPC Cadre Harmonisé and other recognized references. Targeting is further refined through more detailed and disaggregated data from additional National Society assessments and partner agencies.

The groups to be reached in this Emergency Appeal are acutely food-insecure households that are struggling to meet even their basic needs. When geographic targeting is completed, the next step is to target the most affected households based on food security and economic criteria, agreed with the community or, ideally, developed jointly with them. Within these food-insecure and poor households, social categories will be identified to further refine targeting. Protection, gender and inclusion considerations will be incorporated into the targeting process, in order to respond to individuals and groups based on their specific risks, needs and concerns.



Longer-term strategy

The Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal sits within the IFRC's Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative, which informs the longer-term food security and livelihood plans of National Societies in Africa. The initiative takes a holistic approach to food security, combining rapid support for food security and livelihoods with its long-term strategy of working towards zero hunger and more sustainable development.

The regional Emergency Appeal focuses on responding to the immediate needs of affected people, and its approach facilitates the transition to longer-term programming. Upon the completion of the appeal, the IFRC will collaborate with the Cameroon Red Cross Society to continue working through the Zero Hunger Initiative programming. This will be integrated into Cameroon's country plan 2024.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

As the world continues to be affected by climate change and global warming, Cameroon is facing a greater occurrence of extreme climate conditions that present risks to vulnerable communities and threaten their environments, including strong winds, storms, high temperatures, heavy rainfall, floods and landslides. Approximately 320,000 people were affected by climate-related disasters in 2021.

Signs of climate change signs have been observed in Cameroon over many years, with declining rainfall (-2.2 per cent per decade) and increases in annual temperature (+0.7 per cent on average per year). Climate forecasts suggest a generally warmer climate, with a much drier climate in the north and a hotter and more humid climate in the south, with more weather variability across the whole country. Sea levels are also expected to rise between 9 and 38cm by 2050.

The consequences of climate change are directly affecting Cameroon's social, economic and political environment and ecosystems. They are also limiting the ability of the Government and other organizations to reduce poverty, develop economic diversity and consolidate democratic processes. This situation will continue to undermine the Government's Vision 2035 goals for the next 20 years.

Four climate and environmental hazards in Cameroon are expected to intensify due to climate change:

- Drought in the northern regions
- Floods in the north and coastal areas
- Landslides in the west
- Deforestation across the country

To tackle the challenges presented by climate change, the Government has developed a Climate Change

Adaptation Plan (CCAP), which will also seek to strengthen political, economic and social resilience across all development sectors. Cameroon's partners, including the Government of Japan, the German Government's Cooperation Fund and UNICEF, have been investing in climate change adaptation since 2012.

Main actions and areas of support

The Cameroon Red Cross Society 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.

The National Society plans to make a considerable contribution to the response to climate and environment crises in Cameroon, and the mitigation of the effects of climate change in urban communes. This will be achieved through three key axes: reforestation and recycling, communication for behaviour change, and lobbying and resource development.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society will undertake reforestation projects in the most at risk-areas identified in the east, south, centre, north, far north and Littoral regions. The National Society aims to reach 30 per cent of the country's population, seven million people, with these activities across the country. This is in alignment with the IFRC pan-Africa initiative on tree planting and care. The Red Cross in Cameroon will also engage in the collection of plastic waste in urban centres in the centre, west, south and Littoral regions.

In order to achieve positive behaviour change, the National Society will train all staff and volunteers on climate change issues and environmental protection. The staff and volunteers will then be able to raise awareness among their own communities on how to improve biodiversity, and implement climate change-related disaster risk prevention, as well as waste management and recycling. District municipalities will also be integrated into awareness-raising activities, to achieve the greatest reach across society as possible. The Red Cross

in Cameroon will aim to reach 30 per cent of the population in the east, south, central, north, far north and Littoral regions.

To enable it to carry out its activities to combat climate change, the Cameroon Red Cross Society will need to lobby the Government, as well as institutions in charge of climate change issues and environmental protection. It will also be essential for the National Society to participate in consultation platforms on climate change and environmental protection. It will mobilize organizations capable of supporting its environmental objectives, including non-governmental organizations, grandes écoles, universities, research centres and meteorological and climatological agencies.

In 2023–2025, the IFRC network will support the Cameroon Red Cross Society to:

- Develop early action protocols for extreme weather events in the Littoral Region and in the localities of the far north: Mayo-Danay, Mayo-Tsanaga and Mayo-Sava
- Implement early warning systems including drought management plans, flood and storm alerts, in the coastal, Adamaoua, north, far north and west regions.
- Implement a surveillance, prevention, alert and management system for local communities to manage bush savannah fires in the north, which are likely to increase with climate change
- Prepare actors for intensifying extreme events, including floods and droughts, using an alert system and a contingency plan, involving mapping available water resources to prevent future water shortages in the Far North and North regions
- Raise public awareness of biodiversity and disaster risk prevention linked to climate change, as well as waste management and recycling
- Sensitize vulnerable populations to climate change and their own vulnerability
- Promote agricultural diversification by promoting the planting of several varieties of crop, and introducing trees into agricultural systems, to reduce the vulnerability of overly specialized agriculture
- Develop actions on the ground to reduce vulnerability, including the development of pastoral hydraulics (management of water points), restoration of degraded rangelands and intensive crop production

- Develop climate change adaptation action plans for urban areas, especially those more exposed to climate risks (Douala, Yaoundé, Maroua, Bafoussam, Bamenda) and integrate them into local development plans
- Improve planning of drinking water and sanitation structures configured taking into account extreme events that may occur, including through capacity building with local communities in the management of hydraulic and sanitation works, and the popularization of water purification techniques
- Strengthen and disseminate water sanitation and waste management programmes, as climate change is likely to aggravate health impacts due to poor solid and liquid waste management
- Secure the wood-energy supply by reforestation of high-energy-yielding species
- Collect plastic waste
- Promote the development of environmental policies for national companies, including making supply chains more environmentally friendly
- Support the relocation of households living in high-risk areas, such as the Maga area, which is prone to annual flooding
- Identify and discourage building construction or urban encroachment in vulnerable areas, high-risk areas such as hillsides and mountains, and low-lying areas including unbuildable valleys, in the Littoral, centre and west regions
- Build the National Society's capacity on climate change issues and environmental protection

Disasters and crises

In recent years, Cameroon has been affected by unprecedented humanitarian crises, including violence, population movement, disasters and food insecurity. Recent assessments by the Cameroon Red Cross Society of vulnerable regions, such as far north, revealed the widespread need for humanitarian support caused by disasters and crises, contrasted with a lack of attention and interest from partners and donors. In the areas of crisis severity and impact, and humanitarian conditions, the Research Center of the European Commission and ACAPS rated the overall severity in Cameroon as high.

Insecurity continues to limit access to conduct effective needs assessments in the northwest and southwest of the country, with the security situation in these regions rapidly changing and often deteriorating. This

makes it difficult to anticipate future trends and deliver programmes.

Sporadic attacks and suicide bombings have taken place in the far north, northwest and southwest, in districts such as Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsanaga, Logone-et-Chari and other localities in the border areas with Nigeria. Recent incidents of violence have led to further displacement, with numbers predicted to continue to grow in 2022 and beyond. Population movement and migration is at the centre of the crises facing Cameroon and is exacerbating the risks and pressures from other natural hazards and climate-related emergencies.

More positively, access has improved with the easing of the COVID-19 pandemic, with fewer restrictions in place in the country's vulnerable regions.

The food security situation in Cameroon has been getting more serious over the past few years. In 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, along with major agencies such as the World Food Programme, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Première Urgence Internationale and Action Contre la Faim conducted a National Food and Nutritional Security Survey across 10 regions of Cameroon. The survey found that in one year, food insecurity levels rose from 13 per cent to 20 per cent, with the north and eastern areas of the country particularly affected.

In late 2021, analyses from the IPC Cadre Harmonisé identified more than 2.4 million people in food insecurity phase 3 and 4 who were using crisis or emergency coping strategies to secure household food security levels. This figure was reiterated later in March 2022. A lack of shelter or access to safe water, sanitation and health services have further increased the risk of illness and led to a greater use of negative coping mechanisms.

Internally displaced people have, on average, a lower food consumption score than the rest of the population, while outbreaks of COVID-19 continue to negatively affect the quality of diets and nutrition practices. In 2022, the far north, northwest and southwest regions suffered the worst impacts of market disruptions and food insecurity. In the Adamawa and eastern regions, food and nutrition insecurity are mainly driven by the influx of Central African Republic refugees, with the majority having insufficient access to food, water, shelter and services.

Floods affect most regions of Cameroon every year, and this is worsening as a direct result of climate change. In the far north of the country, an agro-ecological zone characterized by a Sahelian climate, the impact of floods

on communities during the rainy season is even more severe and has a serious impact on vulnerable communities. In the far north, north and Adamawa regions, climate shocks, including both floods and prolonged dry periods, are having a negative impact on already vulnerable populations. In other parts of the country, landslides and mudslides are having increasingly high impacts on local communities, and weather conditions are undermining development advances.

In many parts of the country, prevention approaches and mechanisms are not in place and, where they are, they are under-developed so their capacity to respond to disasters is weak. As a result, every new shock, even a minor one, significantly affects already fragile communities. Cameroon does not currently have efficient, integrated early warning systems at the community level, nor does it have strong systems in place to monitor, alert and disseminate information and support quickly from the national system to vulnerable communities. Cameroon is also lacking early action mechanisms and comprehensive contingency plans that would enable decision-makers to anticipate the yearly river floods.

Main actions and areas of support

The Cameroon Red Cross Society will focus on disaster preparedness and response, strengthening risk reduction and community resilience. It will be supported to build its capacity to deliver timely response to humanitarian needs, and to mitigate multi-hazard risks that affect the lives, livelihoods, homes and living conditions of vulnerable, disadvantaged and hard-to-reach communities. The National Society will also implement longer-term resilience building programmes that will have a positive, lasting impact on individuals, households and communities.

In 2023–2025, the IFRC network will support the Cameroon Red Cross Society to:

- Provide multi-sectoral assistance including shelter; non-food items; education; health; legal protection; child protection; documentation; food assistance; as well as water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, to a minimum of 15,000 families
- Provide cash and voucher assistance to vulnerable people affected by crises and disasters, including 30,000 internally displaced people in the far north, Littoral and west regions
- Carry out small mitigation works in targeted villages and neighbourhoods

- Assess the vulnerabilities and capacities of vulnerable communities in the northwest, southwest, Littoral, far north, Adamawa and west regions
- Develop and implement action plans for disaster risk reduction in communities
- Promote disaster risk and dangers monitoring in communities, as well as the implementation of preventive measures
- Prepare communities to take smart, context-specific and innovative measures to protect their livelihoods and assets, including through climate-smart production, income generation and timely safety nets, and the establishment of community response teams
- Support local and national disaster risk management communities and institutions to develop effective communication and implement risk-informed and multi-hazard contingency plans and response mechanisms
- Fulfill the outcomes of the Sectoral Emergency Plans for Floods in connection with civil protection and simulation exercises
- Reinforce the National Society's capacities in disaster risk management through training, provision of equipment, and the pre-positioning of stock in warehouses for future emergency responses

Health and wellbeing

There are real challenges in addressing the health needs in Cameroon to ensure that all people have safe and equitable access to health, water and sanitation, as well as adequate living conditions to support their well-being. Life expectancy in the country is approximately 60 years of age in 2022, which is a slow improvement over the past years. Cameroon's epidemiological profile is marked by a combination of infectious or parasitic diseases, such as malaria, HIV/Aids, tuberculosis, helminthiasis, bilharzia and viral hepatitis. There are also frequent epidemics of diseases such as cholera, measles, meningitis and COVID-19, and chronic non-communicable diseases like arterial hypertension, diabetes and cancers. The main causes of death are HIV/Aids, diarrhoeal diseases and malaria.

About 70 per cent of health facilities across Cameroon do not have the necessary medical equipment or staff to provide quality health care. There are just 13 hospital beds for every 10,000 people, and half of women do not give birth in a health centre or hospital. The lack of health facilities, and of qualified and experienced

technical and medical personnel, is a key element in the spread of epidemics such as cholera, polio and measles, as well as COVID-19, and this has had a particular impact on children, older people, people living with disabilities, pregnant or lactating women and people with chronic health conditions.

COVID-19 was first detected in Cameroon in March 2020, and the pandemic has had a major impact on life for all Cameroons. Cameroon has had relatively low numbers of cases compared with other countries: approximately 123,000 cases and 2,000 deaths had been reported by the end of August 2022. However, that has led to levels of complacency among the population, which has allowed for the risk of a resurgence in cases. The Ministry of Health and humanitarian actors, including the Cameroon Red Cross Society, have led a strong response to the pandemic, with a clear risk communication and community engagement campaign, and support to communities to better understand and manage the disease. The country's capacity to respond to other health disasters was stretched in both 2020 and 2021, particularly in the most affected regions, such as the far north, north and southwest, central, Littoral and west regions of the country, where case fatality rates were higher and where access to other health care was already limited.

Despite the COVID-19 vaccine being available in Cameroon, few people are vaccinated and many remain suspicious and reluctant to be vaccinated. These high levels of vaccine hesitancy, as experienced in other countries in the region, have led the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Cameroon Red Cross Society, to commit time and resources to support vaccination campaigns. These campaigns seek to strengthen risk communication and community engagement, increase community levels of understanding of the COVID-19 vaccine, and to improve vaccination uptake across the population. This is particularly important for the more vulnerable regions of the country, where COVID-19 has restricted movement and has exacerbated access to food security and livelihoods, as well as to health care.

Insecurity in the far north, southwest, and northwest regions continues to exacerbate already limited access to health services. Health facilities continue to be attacked, damaged or destroyed, and health care workers are at risk of attack, making it particularly challenging to provide effective health care to people in those areas. The widespread insecurity is causing a lack of availability of health services to deal with weapon injuries and psychosocial trauma related to violence, including sexual violence and rape. Restricted movement and attacks on

civilians also limit access to health care, with reports of ambulances caught in crossfire, and hospitals or health centres occupied by security forces.

Health centres in the eastern regions are overcrowded and suffer from limited staff and supplies, making them ill-equipped to give health coverage to the high number of refugees from the Central African Republic in the area. Extreme poverty also prevents people from being able to pay medical costs. In the far north, most of the displaced populations find it challenging to access health services because the centres are too far away and too costly. Four million people in the Anglophone areas alone are estimated to have been affected by attacks and have limited health care access.

The need for safe drinking water and sanitation is critical across the whole country, with more severe needs in the far north, northwest, southwest, west and Littoral regions. Safe drinking water is difficult to access because of water scarcity in the far north, or because of long distances to travel, malfunctioning water points and waiting times. Latrines are often in limited numbers or badly functioning, resulting in poor hygiene practices. This is worse for displaced populations, who often share shelters, water points, latrines and showers with the host population, increasing the risks of disease and sexual and gender-based violence.

The cross-cutting effects of population movement and other environmental or man-made hazards are having a knock-on effect on health conditions. In recent years, Cameroon has seen regular outbreaks of water-borne diseases, such as cholera, and of transmissible diseases, such as measles. This has a particularly strong impact on the already vulnerable districts in the far north and the northwest and southwest. Between October 2021 and September 2022, cholera was present in 49 health districts, where nearly 12,000 cases were recorded and 238 people died.

Cameroon's authorities have drafted a strategic plan for 2021–2025 to address the multiplicity and diversity of the country's epidemics, with a vision to "Contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality with the full participation of communities". The Ministry of Health is currently working to decentralize its health response, in line with its moves to regionalize political decision-making. Its aim is to strengthen future health preparedness at local level, particularly around health surveillance, early detection and follow-up. The Cameroon Red Cross Society has a key role in this process through its volunteer base. The Government is also looking to address the need to strengthen health

infrastructure, with a focus on building capacity of health structures and of trained health personnel.

Main actions and areas of support

The Cameroon Red Cross Society is focused on targeting One Health needs that complement the national health plans and programmes of the Government. This is expected to improve health prevention, responsiveness to epidemics and the overall quality of health care. The National Society has a clear auxiliary role to work with the public authorities, offering expertise in previous epidemic prevention and response, and providing strong leadership in the community health field and in response to major health emergencies. The Red Cross in Cameroon uses its national grassroots reach to support the Ministry of Health with integrated, community-based health and care; first aid; and water, sanitation, and hygiene programmes that help address the needs of marginalized groups.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society's priorities are:

Control of cholera and other water-borne diseases

The National Society will put in place an advance action protocol/contingency plan to better prepare for outbreaks of cholera and other water-borne diseases. It will also measure community awareness of pandemics and epidemics, including cholera, through the IFRC One WASH initiative. The National Society will be actively engaged in national cholera coordination platforms, as well as in national multi-sectoral cholera strategic plans, including short-, medium- and long-term WASH components. These activities are part of the IFRC priorities, which include reducing cholera-related deaths by 50 per cent.

COVID-19

The fight against COVID will be reinforced through a continent-wide initiative between the IFRC and Africa CDC to invest in building resilient public health security infrastructure in Africa. Under the USD 39 million Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative funded by Mastercard foundation, the IFRC and African National Societies are building a programme that aims to ensure that 60 per cent of African people are vaccinated against COVID-19. The partnership between the Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC will support the procurement and delivery of tens of millions of COVID-19 vaccines and hasten economic recovery on the continent.

The Red Cross of Cameroon is a leading National Society that will support other IFRC network members to implement the programme. As part of the SLL program, the

National Society will provide critical risk communication and community engagement activities to vulnerable communities, in order to support the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine through community-led and trusted immunization activities. Other SLL partners will provide supply and logistics to a central warehouse (UNICEF), in-country logistics (WFP), COVID-19 vaccination centre management (AMREF, GHSS) and safety surveillance (AKROS).

Strengthening the auxiliary role of the Cameroon Red Cross Society to public authorities

The National Society will work to be included in relevant national strategies, plans, laws and policies related to epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, health and health system strengthening. It will also join national platforms for public health advocacy, mental health and psychosocial support, and continue to be a key actor in the coordination of preparedness and response to public health emergencies.

In 2023–2025, the IFRC and network partners will support the Cameroon Red Cross Society to:

- Deliver emergency health assistance to people affected by disasters and crises
- Deliver assistance to people affected by famine and malnutrition by strengthening cooperatives and farmers groups in food production and diversification, promoting food storage, improving distribution and value chain development, and capacity building of 158 nutrition focal points and 25 headquarters staff
- Improve access to quality care for internally displaced populations, refugees and vulnerable hosts in the far north
- Improve access to quality health care, supporting the medical and nutritional care of children under five years of age in health structures
- Deploy more than 1,000 volunteers to strengthen community-based surveillance
- Provide training on, and promote awareness of, community-based health and first aid, and community preparedness for epidemics and pandemics
- Promote good practices on nutrition and wash
- Build capacity of key community actors such as matrons and mothers' clubs, to identify danger signs in maternal, new-born and child health, as well as good practices in community health

- Sensitize affected and host communities on the COVID-19 pandemic and barrier measures, such as social distancing, wearing masks and regular hand washing with soap and/or ashes
- Create, revitalize and launch clubs and brigades in schools and universities, as well as mothers' clubs
- Support communities with mental health and psychosocial support, and train staff and volunteers to provide psychological support to vulnerable people
- Rehabilitate and repair all failed boreholes in the evaluated localities; chlorinate the water points and disinfect commonly used traditional open wells; provide bins for refuse management
- Provide water, sanitation and hygiene services for people affected by disasters: provide Aquatabs for water purification, build emergency latrines, sensitize communities on good hygiene practices and water, hygiene and sanitation-related diseases; provide containers for collecting, transporting and storing drinking water
- Update and implement the partnership agreement between the Government of Cameroon and the National Society
- Further participate in the development of a national response plan to address food and nutrition insecurity with national actors
- Improve the technical platform of the National Society's Henri Dunant medical centre in Yaoundé to conduct blood transfusion
- Renovate and improve the technical equipment of 15 of the National Society's health facilities
- Construct a massage therapy training institute
- Develop the National Society's ambulance service with the acquisition of five ambulances.

Migration and displacement

Cameroon is a country of origin, transit and destination, with significant levels of internal population movement.

Population movement to and within Cameroon is mostly linked to conflict and violence, as well as natural hazards. The UNHCR estimates that Cameroon hosted around two million people of concern in 2022. One million of those people are internally displaced persons (mainly from the far north, northwest and southwest regions), 466,000 are returnees, and 460,000 are refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from the Central African Republic and Nigeria.

The far north region continues to be affected by the conflicts in the Lake Chad Basin, which have caused 90 per cent of internal displacements in the region over the past six years. In 2021, more than 120,000 refugees arrived from Nigeria. The situation is not subsiding, and the need for protection and assistance for these vulnerable people continues.

Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province violence is having an impact within Cameroon and causing increased internal displacement. The country is now the second most affected country from Boko Haram violence in the Lake Chad region, which has also led to people fleeing Cameroon and crossing the borders mainly with Chad and Nigeria. The context is made more unstable by pendular displacement, whereby around 40 per cent of households continue to move between the place of displacement and areas where crops are grown, or family originate.

The northeast of Cameroon has continued to host more than 332,000 refugees from the Central African Republic in 2022, with vulnerable refugees mostly based in the Est, Adamaoua and Nord regions. Most of the refugees have been in Cameroon for many years and have little prospect of returning home. More than 70 per cent of them stay with host communities and have largely integrated into the area and the local population of 5.5 million people. Some are settled in the main Lolo refugee camp. However, following the resurgence of tensions in the Central African Republic since early 2021, more than 6,000 refugees have again fled to the eastern regions of Cameroon, putting extra pressure on an already vulnerable region.

The socio-political crisis in the northwest and southwest regions of Cameroon have now been going on for more than six years. By 2021, more than one million Cameroons had been displaced either to Nigeria or to other regions of the country, with the impact spreading to the west and Littoral regions. However, there have also been significant numbers of returnees coming back into the region – 135,000 people in 2021 – with many people moving between regions on an ongoing basis.

There are major tensions between the country's Anglophone community, living in the northwest and southwest regions on the border with Nigeria, and the Francophone authorities. The breakdown of basic services in the Anglophone region has sparked demands for autonomy for an independent Ambazonia region. This has led to violent clashes between the military and separatist forces, and increased insecurity in the affected regions. These clashes have triggered the displacement

of more than 800,000 people in the northwest, southwest, west and Littoral regions.

More than 77,000 people have fled to Nigeria due to the violence, which has led to increased humanitarian needs. In 2022, there were ongoing attacks on people, property and infrastructure, including health centres and medical personnel, schools and on humanitarian workers. This is severely limiting service provision in the region and fuelling growing insecurity. In addition, there have been inter-community clashes between Arab groups (the Mousgoum and Choa Arabs in the locality of Missiska) in the Logone Birni district. Nearly 13,000 people have been forced to flee the region and take refuge in Kousseri, where they live in precarious conditions and are in need of assistance.

Internally displaced persons and refugees mainly take refuge in local communities; however, this adds pressure to households who already experience high levels of vulnerability and poverty. It causes tensions for both displaced people and host communities, which causes further disruptions and further forced displacements. Despite the longevity and integration of some groups of the refugee population, the scarcity of local resources and services leaves them dependent on humanitarian assistance for most of their priority needs. This limits resilience and development opportunities for both the refugees and the host communities. Often people with specific vulnerabilities, such as older people, people living with disabilities, women and children are left behind or are the worst affected. The [UNHCR](#) notes that in Cameroon, 55 per cent of refugees and 51 per cent of internally displaced persons are children.

The number of people emigrating from Cameroon has steadily grown over the last decade and is currently estimated at 400,000. Cameroon migrants are mostly considered economic migrants and often take dangerous migratory routes heading to Europe, putting them at risk of human slavery and trafficking. Cameroon is ranked as Tier 2 in the 2021 Trafficking in Person Report, and is still considered a source, transit and destination country for children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.

Main actions and areas of support

The Cameroon Red Cross Society is part of the IFRC three-year [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas,

Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The National Society will continue to provide assistance to internally displaced persons, refugees and host communities in the far north, west and Littoral region. It will provide humanitarian assistance and protection through humanitarian service points and local branches to all migrants, regardless of their status, and to host communities in vulnerable situations.

In 2023–2025, the IFRC network will support the Cameroon Red Cross Society to:

- Deliver humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons, refugees and host communities tailored to their needs
- Improve access to quality care and strengthen the resilience of internally displaced populations, refugees and vulnerable hosts in the far north
- Establish humanitarian service points along migratory routes and enable selected branches to provide services for people on the move, and for vulnerable host communities
- Support host communities, displaced persons and migrants to increase social cohesion and inclusion
- Develop a feedback and complaint management mechanism
- Deliver training on protection, gender and inclusion, as well as human rights, which includes raising awareness of trafficking in human beings, unaccompanied minors, sexual exploitation and abuse
- Strengthen Movement coordination mechanisms on displacement and migration, including cross-border, road and regional approaches
- Pursue partnerships on migration and displacement programming
- Strengthen the National Society's national and local capacities on migration through capacity building of members of the steering committee, 20 headquarters staff, and the 58 departmental committee heads
- Expand the National Society's strategy on migration



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Values, power and inclusion

Protection is a high priority for affected populations across Cameroon and is a priority in both the UN Humanitarian Response Plan and in the aims of development actors. This is especially the case in the regions of the north, northwest, southwest and east where there are ongoing multiple insurgencies or pressures of population movement, adding to pre-existing local vulnerabilities.

The various shocks and crises affecting Cameroon have led to forced displacement, human rights violations, family separations, stigmatization, and exploitation of those displaced. They have undermined support structures and services for millions of vulnerable people, building chronic, long-term vulnerabilities that limit recovery, resilience and future development. There are also huge impacts on children who are either separated from families and communities by the violence or are limited in nutritional, health and educational development by conflict, displacement or disaster.

Conflicts and political tensions between separatist groups, including Anglophone separatists, religious groups such as Boko Haram, or population groups such as new refugees, are increasing the protection risks for older people, people living with disabilities, women and children and other marginalized groups. These vulnerable groups are unable to leave or to ensure access to protection and assistance. Levels of violence or communal tension also increase the need to walk long distances to access basic services, which adds further to the risk of sexual and gender-based violence to women and girls.

In the far north, northwest, and southwest regions, access to basic social and legal services have been seriously disrupted, putting young men and boys at risk of arbitrary arrest. Access to basic services, such as health care and education, is limited, especially for women and girls. In some of the affected regions, up to 85 per cent of schools have been shut down due to violence or lack of access, and in some of these regions, more than 620,000 children have been forced out of school, due to these conflicts. School buildings have been burnt down or used by armed groups, and school boycotts have been enforced by separatist groups. Many health centres have also been damaged or destroyed, leaving medical staff unable to provide proper health care.

In Cameroon in general, the idea of gender equality is less embedded, and women experience violence, inequality and discrimination. The far north region has experienced the highest levels of sexual and gender-based violence, including physical or sexual assault, rape, psychological violence, forced marriage and denial of resources.

Main actions and areas of support

The Cameroon Red Cross Society is focusing on institutionalizing protection, gender and inclusion across all its operations and programmes, including through the organizational development process. It is planning pilot projects to tackle sexual and gender-based violence. The National Society will also aim to grow youth engagement in social cohesion and the promotion of humanitarian values.

In 2023–2025, the IFRC network will support the Cameroon Red Cross Society to:

- Promote gender mainstreaming and diversity in all National Society activities, build capacity in gender analysis in project settings, and increase transparency in the criteria for identifying beneficiaries
- Develop a feedback and complaint management mechanism
- Create and support mothers' clubs and youth clubs, as well as the consolidation of existing clubs
- Conduct socio-anthropological research with mothers' club participants on the effects of gender and access to income and social capital
- Link mothers' clubs and youth club members to specialized sex and gender-based violence services as well as to sexual and reproductive health services
- Promote and facilitate the representation of women and young people in community decision-making bodies
- Sensitize community actors, and community and religious leaders, on gender mainstreaming and the consideration of gender dimensions in their planning, budgeting and other actions
- Support the establishment of a gender observatory, bringing together mothers' clubs (in Diamaré and Mayo-Tsanaga)
- Support men and community influencers to promote gender equality
- Develop, popularize and monitor gender policy
- Develop and validate the National Society's policies on gender-based violence, and prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse
- Popularize and monitor the implementation of policies that work towards the prevention of, and response to, sexual exploitation and abuse
- Build capacity of members of the National Society's steering committee on gender and diversity.
- Build capacity for women in leadership and advocacy
- Produce and disseminate reports on protection, gender and inclusion to authorities and organizations
- Advocate for the Government to define a law on the protection of personal data
- Deliver holiday activities for young people in Red Cross brigades and clubs, while also promoting humanitarian principles and values in the 731 clubs and 472 Red Cross brigades
- Revise, validate and popularize the National Society's youth policy
- Raise awareness in schools, schools and universities of humanitarian principles and values
- Create a radio channel for the promotion of humanitarian principles and values
- Deliver training on humanitarian principles and values for 10,800 youth leaders
- Train 50 staff and 116 youth focal points across Cameroon on the Movement's Fundamental Principles and values
- Develop the volunteering policy and promote volunteering with the Red Cross clubs in high schools and universities

Enabling local actors

The Cameroon Red Cross Society is committed to its own organizational development and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2019, with facilitation from the IFRC. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Red Cross in Cameroon's self-assessment team identified the following priority areas in which the National Society needs to further develop its capacities:

- Vision and strategies shared with all its internal and external stakeholders
- Human resources (staff and volunteers)
- Financial resources
- Network of committees; programmes and services (technical areas)
- Communication

The Cameroon Red Cross Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the prioritization and analysis phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

Engaged

The IFRC will support the National Society to reinforce its auxiliary role to authorities and in the search for more diversified partnerships. It will continue the process of digital transformation to enable better connections between staff and volunteers, and to promote the work of the National Society. This entails creating a domain name for the National Society and creating email addresses with the domain name; covering the costs of internet access for the Cameroon Red Cross Society national headquarters and committees; registering the Cameroon Red Cross Society on the web as a non-profit organization; and providing low license fee software.

Accountable

A mid-term evaluation of the Cameroon Red Cross Society's Strategic Plan will be carried out to review its relevance and implementation.

Priority will be given to reinforcing the capacity of the National Society in delivering support services. This will necessitate the development and implementation of policies, as well as staff capacity, around HR, finance and logistics, as well as planning, monitoring evaluation and reporting. Information and data management systems and tools will also be reinforced.

Tools and knowledge will be provided to the Cameroon Red Cross Society governance to better enable it to accomplish tasks and contribute to the improvement of the National Society services

Trusted

The focus will be on continuing to strengthen branches and headquarters of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, through the development of an effective local resource mobilization strategy. It will also be necessary to increase the number of volunteers, while ensuring their safety and security.

With support from the IFRC, the National Society will engage more young people in its activities and strengthen their participation in governance bodies and decision-making processes. Emphasis will also be placed on promoting the participation of the Cameroon Red Cross Society in all Movement and non-Movement coordination bodies and encouraging coordination between actors.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC






The IFRC mainly supports the Cameroon Red Cross Society with strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy. It strengthens the National Society's auxiliary role by meeting key stakeholders at government level on a regular basis. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. In recent years, the IFRC supported the Cameroon Red Cross Society through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations in relation to floods, population movement and food insecurity. Additionally, the IFRC provides technical support for a broad range of services, such as the upgrading of strategies on disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change, the fight against epidemics, responses to population movement and cash preparedness – including work on the procurement of a financial service provider.

In the area of epidemic and pandemic preparedness, the IFRC has reinforced the collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Cameroon Red Cross Society. It has strengthened the development of community-based surveillance protocol and standard operating procedures, as well as local epidemic contingency plans. Through its global Emergency Appeal, the IFRC has supported the Cameroon Red Cross Society in its COVID-19 response and the immunization rollout programme.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC's coordination 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

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 |
|--------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---------|-------------|---------|
| French Red Cross | |  |  |  |  |  | | | |
| Italian Red Cross | CHF 0.07M | | | | | | | | |

Total

0.07M

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, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society is part of the four IFRC pan-African initiatives on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready, and National Society development.

The Cameroon Red Cross Society is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between DG ECHO and IFRC. It benefits from the support of the French Red Cross and the IFRC for the implementation of activities in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemics and pandemic preparedness and response, cash and voucher assistance, risk communication, community engagement and accountability. The partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term

predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with greater impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the EU as the biggest donor for international aid in the world.

The **French Red Cross** has been present in Cameroon since 1967, and it signed a cooperation framework agreement with the Cameroon Red Cross Society in 2009. The French Red Cross has applied a community-based approach while working alongside the country's health authorities, to enable the Red Cross in Cameroon to develop and implement several projects focusing on preparedness and response to disasters, health crises and the increased vulnerabilities of people on the move. The French Red Cross works to ensure the sustainability of the host National Society's activities and intervenes in the far north and east of the country to improve the resilience of vulnerable populations.

Movement coordination

The Cameroon Red Cross Society, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) meet monthly to focus on strategic level engagement. An International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Coordination Agreement is also in place. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

With the combined support of Movement partners, the Cameroon Red Cross Society provides multi-sectoral assistance to displaced people in the west, centre, far north and Littoral regions. Support from the IFRC has enabled the National Society to assist refugees from

Central Africa and nomads in the eastern, northern and Adamawa regions. The National Society also contributes to community preparedness for epidemics and pandemics in those areas. The ICRC provides the Cameroon Red Cross Society with overall support for humanitarian operations in conflict-prone areas.

The ICRC also supports the Cameroon Red Cross Society in emergency preparedness, partnerships and National Society development. The ICRC's Yaoundé delegation promotes international humanitarian law, helps people displaced by violence, restores family links and visits detainees.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Cameroon Red Cross Society has a strong partnership with the Government of Cameroon and works closely with the Ministry of Health to play a key advocacy role in its humanitarian tasks.

The National Society also works with the World Health Organization (WHO), the African Development Bank, UNICEF, UNHCR and Fondation Hironnelle, and in most cases, the activities supported relate to refugees and other vulnerable groups.

The National Society has established significant partnerships with external partners and donors, which are aimed at strengthening the quality of health provision and health security. The USAID IFRC Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3) supported community health preparedness for epidemics, while the Centre for Disease Control support allowed building risk communication and community engagement capacity while addressing vaccine hesitancy during the COVID-19 response. The Cameroon Red Cross Society has been a lead party in a US\$1.4 million programme that supports nine African Union Member States to design and implement risk communication and community engagement activities and scale up COVID-19 vaccination to reach at least 60 per cent of each country's population in 2022. The programme has been set up to understand the drivers of vaccine hesitancy (such as suspicion of vaccine contents, side effects and safety) and develop strategies to combat this through improved risk communication

and community engagement approaches, community engagement and feedback, training for health workers, and targeted assistance for vulnerable groups at risk of being left behind. These groups include older people, people living with disabilities or chronic diseases, refugees, asylum seekers, displaced people, people living in remote or high-density areas and other marginalized groups. The aim is to build trusted information and community-led solutions that will increase vaccination uptake. Through the programme the Cameroon Red Cross Society has built a strong cohort of nearly 3,700 staff and volunteers. They are trained to work on community-based surveillance and mass screening, community engagement and accountability, psychosocial support and water, sanitation and hygiene projects in public places, including schools and markets – especially with vulnerable communities such as refugees and host communities.

The National Society's programmes are carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Health and other key actors in the health field, including WHO, UN agencies such as UNICEF, and NGOs such as Solidarités International. The collaborations are focused on strengthening the National Society's volunteer base of community health teams and responders, to reinforce their capacities in community surveillance and detecting disease outbreaks and other health risks. This provides a grassroots base for immediate response and for longer-term improvements in the quality and coverage of health care.

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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Cameroon Red Cross Society

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