



ZIMBABWE

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

23 February 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 49.9M**

In support of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society



168

National Society branches



150

National Society staff



19,600

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



950,455

Ongoing emergency operations



130,000

Climate and environment



110,000

Disasters and crises



2,500,000

Health and wellbeing



5,000

Migration and displacement



30,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Food insecurity

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action
 - Livelihoods
- Epidemic preparedness and response
 - Migration-related needs

Capacity development

- Communications • Partnerships
- Internal systems strengthening • Youth engagement

Key country data

Population

16.3M

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Medium

Human Development Index rank

146

Population below poverty level

38.3%

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Zimbabwe, Zambia & Malawi, Harare

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

2026**

Total 22.8M CHF

Total 12.3M CHF

Total 14.8M CHF

Through the IFRC

16M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **2.9M** CHF

Through Host National Societies

→ **3.9M** CHF

IFRC Breakdown

14M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

1,500,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

500,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Through the IFRC

4.3M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **4.1M** CHF

Through Host National Societies

→ **3.9M** CHF

**Projected funding requirements

Through the IFRC

→ **4.3M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **6.6M** CHF

Through Host National Societies

→ **3.9M** CHF

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

British Red Cross

Canadian Red Cross Society

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Red Cross of Monaco

The Netherlands Red Cross*

Norwegian Red Cross*

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*

Swiss Red Cross

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

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:

**MDRZW019 |
MDRZW021**

Longer-term needs:

MAAZW002

Hazards



Drought



Floods



Tropical storms



Food insecurity



Disease outbreak



Migration

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

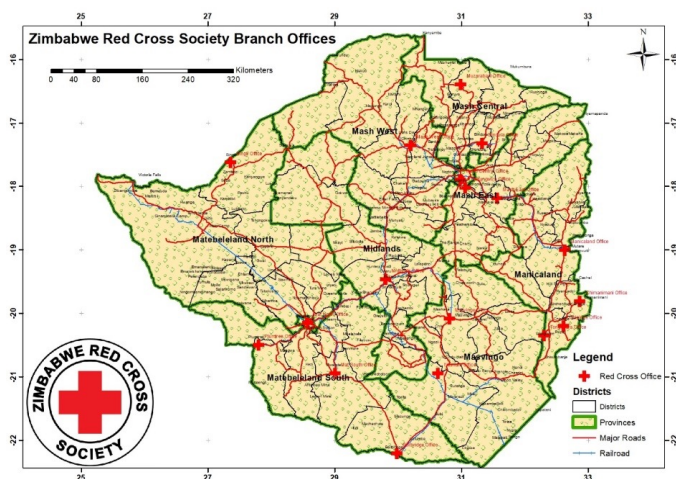
The **Zimbabwe Red Cross Society** is a humanitarian and developmental organization, founded on the fundamental principles of the Red Cross Movement. It was established by an Act of Parliament in 1981 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1983. The National Society works as an auxiliary to public authorities in emergency and developmental contexts but also independently and through community structures. It operates in all 10 provinces of Zimbabwe and currently has 168 branches providing emergency response and developmental programming to vulnerable communities and individuals.

The aim of the Zimbabwe Red Cross is to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable communities. Its vision is one of a resilient country, able to withstand and quickly recover from natural and man-made disasters, and its mission is to provide timely, appropriate, and sustainable humanitarian service. The past strategic plans have seen successful implementation of humanitarian response and community development programmes in categories of health, livelihoods, social protection, disaster management, and emergency response among others. The National Society also successfully established a corporate business unit as a subsidiary, generating alternative revenue for sustainability which includes a High School and a Red Cross Clinic.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross will continuously coordinate with relevant technical agencies, such as the Drought Relief Committees, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Health. At a national level, the Action will make sure that

guidelines set forth by the Drought Relief Committee and the Department of Civil Protection are followed. Due to its auxiliary role to the public authorities, the ZRCS sustains strong institutional relations with the agencies and continuously works with them in humanitarian actions. It must be highlighted that due to its unique mandate, and ongoing humanitarian interventions in Zimbabwe, the ZRCS sustains an unmatched institutional relation with authorities at all levels. This facilitates rapid initiation of efforts and promotes the continuous involvement of relevant agencies in the monitoring and coordination of activities.

The National Society is guided by its [Strategic Plan 2021–2025](#). Its overall goal is to build healthy, secure and resilient communities.



IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Zimbabwe is a landlocked country located in Southeast Africa, between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers. It is bordered by South Africa to the south, Botswana to the south-west, Zambia to the north, and Mozambique to the east. The capital and largest city is Harare, and the second largest city is Bulawayo.

Low-income households in both rural and urban areas of Zimbabwe are struggling to purchase food and other basic items. Around [26.3%](#) of the population is vulnerable to multidimensional poverty and an estimated [67.6%](#) live in rural areas. A majority of people rely on subsistence rain-fed agriculture and are perennially exposed to hazards such as drought, tropical cyclones, floods, epidemics, and climate change. This dependence exacerbates vulnerability to hazards and worsens food insecurity. Climate change has also adversely impacted other key socio-economic sectors which include water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), agriculture, and health.

Zimbabwe is experiencing profound food insecurity, with [33%](#) of people consuming insufficient food. A projected [38%](#) of rural households are cereal insecure at the peak of the lean season which spans from October to December. The factors that drive food insecurity are multifaceted and mutually reinforcing such as the ongoing macroeconomic challenges, pandemic-related disruptions to global supply chains, and global rises in the price of food, fuel and fertilizers. Fluctuations in exchange rates are also expected to contribute to the rising costs of goods and services for Zimbabweans. According to the [Zimbabwe food security outlook](#), the country will continue to be affected by the food security crisis as well as by [general political](#) and [economic instability](#).

Besides food insecurity, unfavourable climactic conditions contribute to disease outbreaks such as cholera, measles, malaria, diarrhoea, typhoid, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The general populace of Zimbabwe especially in rural areas, is disproportionately affected by a lack of [WASH facilities](#), which generates a significant, yet preventable,

disease burden. In 2023, Zimbabwe responded to a [cholera outbreak](#) with 3928 suspected cases. Other common shocks experienced included cereal price increase, crop pests, livestock deaths, livestock diseases, chronic illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, tuberculosis, and high blood pressure. Social protection programs to aid communities are coming from government support (65%), UN/NGOs (11.8%), and remittances (10%). The aid has been mainly focused on food assistance and crop input support.

Zimbabwe's multi-faceted crisis was exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19 from 2020 which caused economic decline, cash shortages, high prices, and a considerable debt overhang. According to the [BTI 2022](#) report, the reintroduction of the Zimbabwe dollar led to record inflation, which peaked at over 700% and nearly eradicated the income of many Zimbabweans.

Amongst the country's most vulnerable populations are women, children, and persons with disabilities. Zimbabwe is among the countries with the highest prevalence of child marriages. The [United Nations Population Fund](#) reports that, between 2005 and 2019, 34% of girls and women in Zimbabwe entered child marriage before the age of 18. Teenage pregnancy, or women who gave birth before age 18, is at 22%. Evidence demonstrates that limited access to education elevates the risk of early marriages, with 43% of primary educated persons being married as compared to 20% of the same age group who received secondary education. Moreover, few have access to relevant health information or youth-friendly services without facing discrimination or other obstacles.

Zimbabwe has however made substantial progress on many child protection issues, including the adoption of legislation criminalising child marriage, improvement in birth registration, and the roll-out of a child-friendly justice system. Regardless of this, many children in Zimbabwe continue to grow up in less conducive and safe environments. According to [UNICEF](#), almost two out of every three children experience some form of violent discipline—nearly one-third of children as young as 5 up to 17 years are working. More than one out of ten are working under hazardous conditions. One in three girls under 18 years of age experience sexual violence leading to teen pregnancy and early marriage.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency 1

Emergency Operation	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal 2023-2024
Appeal number	MDRZW019, folded under MGR60001
Duration	Operation start date for Zimbabwe: 1 October 2022, with operation extended to 31 December 2024
People affected	People affected/at risk: 157 million people across sub-Saharan Africa (143m in the 25 countries covered in this operation/watch list)
People to be assisted	Zimbabwe: 400,000 people (Region: 14 million people)
Funding requirements	Total funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 232.5 million Total Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 318 million Funding requirement for Zimbabwe for 2024: CHF 12 million to assist (IFRC funding requirement); CHF 14 million (Federation-wide)
Link to Emergency Appeal	Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
Link to Country Plan of Action for Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe: Country Plan of Action

The Zimbabwe Red Cross first responded to the food security crisis in the country through an IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation in November 2021. A number of Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) publications up to September 2022 showed a deterioration in Zimbabwe's food security situation and an increased risk of famine. According to the [UN World Food Programme Hunger Map](#), the number of people with insufficient food consumption stood at 5 million in February 2024. Around 23.5% of children under the age of 5 suffered chronic malnutrition.

In view of the deteriorating situation, Zimbabwe was selected as one of the priority countries supported by the IFRC's regional

[Hunger Crisis](#) Emergency Appeal. Launched in October 2022, it was aimed at scaling up the IFRC's immediate and life-saving response to the food insecurity crisis affecting the region. Due to the prolonged and deepening food crisis across the region and an urgent need to sustain and increase resources, the [Revised Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal](#) has been extended until the end of 2024, in order to continue providing an overarching structure for hunger crisis responses across the continent.

This Revised Regional Emergency Appeal is built on a foundation of strong, national country response plans. Through a series of coordinated activities in the sectors of WASH, cash, health and



21 January 2024, Community volunteers from Zimbabwe Red Cross Society provide information about cholera prevention to communities. (Source: IFRC)

nutrition, and livelihoods support, it will ensure that National Societies in the region meet the urgent needs of people facing what has been classed as a Red-level Emergency in many countries of the region, including in Ethiopia.

The Revised Regional Emergency Appeal is fully aligned with the IFRC's Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative, which informs the long-term food security and livelihood plans of National Societies in Africa.

The IFRC has mobilized a 'Zero Hunger Cell' tasked with overseeing the operational coordination of the Hunger Crisis response across the African continent, and the regional services provided by the IFRC, and partners include:

- operations coordination and technical support
- surge deployments
- information management, foresight, and analysis
- regional and global level advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy
- communications and visibility
- Federation-wide planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)
- tailored support to National Societies on implementation, development, and accountability
- resource mobilization, including national resource mobilization plans

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The response of the Zimbabwe Red Cross targets the three regions with the highest number of people in Crisis (IPC3) level which are Matabeleland North (58%), Masvingo (41%) and Matabeleland South (36%). It articulates integrated assistance comprising multipurpose cash, livelihoods, health and care, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. It is complemented by protection and prevention interventions comprising protection, gender and inclusion, community engagement and accountability, and risk reduction. The highlights of this assistance are:

Multipurpose cash

Households are provided with unconditional multi-purpose cash grants to address their basic needs. Basic needs assistance will be provided for livelihood security through the distribution of multipurpose cash grants.

Livelihoods

The provision of safe reliable water sources for community nutritional gardens will be provided along with input distribution (seed/fertilizers) to ensure preparations for the next agricultural season.

Health and nutrition

The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced through integrated health services. These include community-based disease control and health promotion, and training for mothers in infant and young child feeding practices.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Community-managed water sources provide the targeted populations with access to safe water. This includes rehabilitation of suitable boreholes, solarized reticulated systems, basic repairs to hand pumps for communities, and rainwater harvesting activities by constructing subsurface water abstraction in riverbeds. Activities will include conducting Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) linked to the promotion of health and hygiene.

Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation, and Recovery

interventions are aimed at preparing communities in high-risk areas to be able to better respond to disasters.

Cross-cutting approaches

The operational strategy integrates **protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)** and **community engagement and accountability (CEA)** as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities include the active participation of women, girls, persons with disabilities, and other marginalised persons in all sectoral interventions. Community meetings will also be organized with key representatives and community leaders to better understand community perspectives.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Emergency 2

Emergency Operation	Zimbabwe: Cholera Outbreak
Appeal number	MDRZW021
Duration	10 months: 10 November 2023 to 31 August 2024
People to be assisted	550,455
Funding requirements	CHF 2 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal; CHF 3 million (Federation-wide)
Link to Emergency Appeal	Zimbabwe - Cholera Outbreak Emergency Appeal
Link to Operational Strategy	Zimbabwe Cholera Outbreak Operational Strategy
Link to Operation Update	Zimbabwe Cholera Outbreak Operations Update

The first cholera outbreak of 2023 started on 12 February 2023 in Chegutu town in Mashonaland West Province. As of 20th January 2024, Zimbabwe recorded 19,477 suspected cholera cases alongside 71 laboratory confirmed deaths and 350 suspected cholera deaths. The crude mortality rate remains above 2.2% and raises concerns regarding case management and the quality of care. Due to the high rate of transmission, the disease is affecting people across multiple geographical areas. The outbreak puts over 10 million people at risk, including more than five million children. In June 2023, an IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund allocation of CHF 464,595 was approved in support of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society's response to the cholera outbreak. However, the spread of the outbreak to new districts prompted the launch of an IFRC Emergency Appeal for CHF 3 million in November. This will enable the National Society to further scale-up its response targeted at 550,455 people across the most affected and vulnerable districts.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Operational Strategy has been updated to include the establishment of cholera district teams in each of the affected districts, with a specific structure for heavily affected and moderately affected communities. The strategic sectors of intervention include:

Health & Care

Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the emergency operation, through community and organizational interventions.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the emergency operation, through community and organizational interventions.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Communities identify the needs of the most at risk and particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups, due to inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs.

Community Engagement and Accountability

A Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) has been set up, and information is being collected through this channel. Currently, there are community feedback meetings, and suggestion boxes are in place at health facilities.



Climate and environment

The key [climate change risks](#) in Zimbabwe stem from the general increase in mean annual temperatures, more variability and unpredictability in the rainfall pattern, and the intensification of extreme weather events. Climate variability and extreme weather events have manifested in droughts and flooding that have threatened livelihoods.

The country produces multiple grain crops, including maize, sorghum, mhunga, rapoko and oil seeds, and industrial crops such as tobacco, cotton, edible dry beans and paprika. Approximately 80% of agricultural production in Zimbabwe is rain-fed. In addition, two-thirds of working people in Zimbabwe are employed in the agricultural sector. Therefore, increasing temperatures, coupled with declining and more erratic rainfall, not only puts stress on agricultural and water sectors but also adversely impacts food security and economic growth. The threat of climate change is at its highest in the southern provinces, where smallholder farmers, especially women, depend on rainfall for their food, livelihoods, and income security.

Observed late onset and early cessation of the rains, in all the [agro-ecological regions](#), negatively affected the physiological maturity of most crops. Increasing frequency and length of dry spells have resulted in crop failure and agricultural drought. Zimbabwe is also highly susceptible to the risk of groundwater drought. According to the [World Bank Zimbabwe Climate Risk Country Profile](#) of 2021, the proportion of the population at very high risk of groundwater drought could rise from 32 to 86 per cent over the coming decades. Declining and variable rainfall and groundwater is projected to cause changes to the growing season, with significant implications for yields, food security, and national revenues.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Zimbabwe 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.

The National Society has been strengthening the capacities of vulnerable smallholder farmers through Farmer Field Schools and peer to peer support to scale up climate resilient agriculture, with access to resilient inputs, markets, and actionable climate information supported by forecast-based [anticipatory](#) and early actions. However, with the increasing impacts of climate change, there is a need for developmental agencies to set aside funding to undertake anticipatory humanitarian action in the most vulnerable communities. A few such objectives aim to:

- Undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises by the communities alongside IFRC staff and volunteers
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation

Planned activities in 2024

- Increase communities' capacity to address the evolving impacts of climate change and ownership over programmes addressing climate risks
 - Disseminate climate change information (both in local languages and English) to community members through radio slots, posters, road shows, and other relevant materials
 - Ensure that the adverse environmental impacts resulting from emergency response and long-term programmes are identified, avoided, reduced, and mitigated
 - Catalyze climate change mitigation efforts and promoting more sustainable environmental practices
 - Integrate and anticipate short- and long-term impacts of the climate and environmental crises in their programmes and operations
 - Work to increase communities' capacity to address the evolving impacts of climate change and ownership over programmes addressing climate risks through increased avenues to contribute their insights, knowledge, and ideas
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in capacitating communities and assisting them with integrating and anticipating the impacts of the climate and environmental crises. Building the National Society's knowledge and capacity will allow them to serve as agents of change and develop new sustainable environmental practices. The IFRC will also work on devising new ways of reducing adverse environmental

impacts resulting from emergency response and long-term programmes.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the National Society in developing its forecast-based financing capacities.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supports the National Society in promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation and forecast-based financing.



Disasters and crises

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

Climate change has exacerbated people's vulnerability to disasters and weakened their ability to cope. The impact of climate change continues to threaten food security and livelihoods. The majority of Zimbabwe relies on rain-fed agriculture, however, due to climate change, [droughts, tropical cyclones, and floods](#) have become recurring. Meteorological experts [predict](#) that the changing climate will result in erratic and low rainfall patterns in 2024 throughout Southern Africa, [prompted by El-Nino conditions](#). The erratic rains are set to adversely impact the summer cropping season.

The [World Food Programme's Hunger Map](#) findings indicate food security in Manicaland province to be in the high-risk category. The prevalence of poor consumption and coping was estimated at an average of more than 40%, marking a significant deterioration. Matabeleland North and Mashonaland West provinces also scored as high risk but were relatively more stable, showing no significant deterioration. This outcome was expected to increase as the country's home-grown food stocks depleted unusually early. It was projected that, in typical deficit-producing areas across southern, eastern, western, and northeastern Zimbabwe, most households would completely [exhaust their food stock reserves](#), marking an early start to the lean season and having a negative impact on dietary diversity and food consumption.

The COVID-19 pandemic cases are on the decline and the country is gradually returning to normalcy. However, the population's reluctance and poor adherence to regulations increase the risk of a [sudden outbreak](#), continuing the need for continuous monitoring of regional and local trends. The effects of pandemic induced lockdowns continue to disrupt some livelihood activities like cross border trading and employment opportunities. Some livelihood activities were only disrupted while others collapsed during lockdowns, requiring time to recover under the prevailing macroeconomic challenges.

There are simmering political tensions, with a potential of a civil unrest since the country held elections in August 2023. Spontaneous violence has [been recorded](#) in some campaigns notably in Kwekwe (Midlands) where one casualty and several injuries were recorded.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Zimbabwe Red Cross, in line with its auxiliary role, responds to the many disasters and crises affecting Zimbabwe. It is responding to the current food crisis through the IFRC Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal, aligning its response plan with the IFRC Pan-African Zero Hunger strategy, which aims to combat famine.

- Increase communities' resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards
- [Meet the needs](#) of people affected by crises and disasters through access to in-kind assistance and multi-purpose [cash grants](#)
- Provide [shelter assistance](#) to people affected by crises and disaster
- Ensure food security and livelihoods for people affected by crises and disasters
- Respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters, and leverage the auxiliary role in emergency response

Planned activities in 2024

- Ensure at-risk communities receive actionable early warning/risk information and are supported to take active steps including early actions to [reduce their vulnerability](#) and exposure to hazards
- Develop early warning early action systems for the identified and forecasted disasters including El Nino's effects

- Gather in-kind donations from the private and public sectors and communities to assist the affected in emergencies
- Pre-position shelter materials in provinces most prone to disasters
- Extend social assistance to the most vulnerable households through in-kind, food, and [livelihood assistance](#)
- Review and roll out standard operating procedures and tools for disaster management such as cash and voucher assistance (CVA), forecast-based action (FBA), and emergency operations coordination (EOC) among others
- Establish pre-disaster agreements for resourcing response

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Zimbabwe Red Cross with technical and financial support. It will also link the National Society with global stakeholders working on early warning and early action development and support for disaster response emergency fund (DREF) and emergency appeals (EA). The IFRC will assist in restocking and prepositioning response material alongside resourcing the emergency operations centres. The National Society, with the help of the network, establish linkages with UN agencies and development partners within the same sector.

The **British Red Cross** supports the Zimbabwe Red Cross with its cash and voucher assistance interventions.



Health and wellbeing

Zimbabwe has seen a [resurgence of cholera](#). There were 8,787 suspected cases and 1,319 confirmed cases by November 2023. There were also 53 confirmed deaths and 155 suspected deaths by this period. The Ministry of Health and Childcare has initiated a [massive cholera response](#) with different partners assisting in the fight against cholera.

It is likely that food insecurity will increase the risk of malnutrition, [especially among children](#), which will compromise people's immune systems and increase the risk of them contracting diseases. Data shows that there were many cases of diarrhoea, malaria, dysentery, typhoid, and cholera. Therefore, work on [water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\)](#) is a key priority in the country. Access to safe drinking water remains a challenge in some high-density suburbs and rural areas, and this increases the risk of water-borne diseases. Water and sanitation facilities in rural Zimbabwe are still poor, and the wide sanitation gap between different areas needs to be addressed.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In line with its auxiliary role, the Zimbabwe Red Cross supports the public authorities in responding to the various disease outbreaks affecting the country. It will further work to:

- Capitalize on its auxiliary role to ensure a position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy, and policy platforms and mechanisms
- Protect the health and well-being of communities and improve through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course

- Maintain the health and dignity of communities in emergencies and disease outbreaks by providing access to appropriate health services
- Increase community access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) services

Planned activities in 2024

- Become an active member of national and local coordination platforms for public health, WASH, and advocacy with relevant policies and mechanisms in place
- Reduce the prevalence of diseases by following the intervention by IFRC through clinical records
- Build and maintain [community-level capacity](#) in effective prevention, detection, and response to infectious disease outbreaks
- Capacitate community health clubs through training in disease trends and modern disease preventive methods
- Respond to [mental health and psychosocial needs](#) effectively during emergencies through early, sustained and integrated service provision
- Provide at-risk communities with sustainable access to safe water through drilling and rehabilitating boreholes and upgrading boreholes to piped water schemes as well as training of water point committees, training of village pump minders, and provision of a spares bank

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC is supporting the Zimbabwe Red Cross in the fight against cholera through an Emergency Appeal launched in November 2023 (see Ongoing Emergency Responses section

above for details). The IFRC will also provide the National Society with technical support on health promotion, disease prevention, and community-based care activities. The National Society will receive support and capacity from the IFRC to build on matters of mental health and psychosocial support.



Migration and displacement

Zimbabwe is extremely vulnerable to a wide range of crises, including exposure to natural hazards, man-made disasters and socio-economic and political crises, affecting the most vulnerable rural regions and taking a toll on people living in urban areas too. Resultantly, the country is facing mass migration characterized by extremely high border mobility and as well as significant brain drain. Highly skilled and semi-skilled Zimbabweans emigrate to countries such as the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, South Africa, and Botswana in search of more opportunities.

The country also witnessed increased internal migration and border migration resulting in an upsurge in irregular migration, mixed migration flows, and human trafficking. Due to desperation circumstances, irregular migrants (who constitute the largest number of emigrants-especially to South Africa), often do not have proper travel documents or clearly defined destinations. The routes they take are dangerous, leading to increased vulnerabilities and even the loss of lives.

Recently, the South African government announced the cancellation of the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit (ZEP). According to the Department of Home Affairs in South Africa, over 170,000 Zimbabwean nationals will be affected. There are projected voluntary repatriation and mass deportations, and this is most likely going to exacerbate the already strained economy and social services. Additionally, migration is on the increase in Southern Africa. An important feature in Southern Africa is that international migration includes intra-regional movements by refugees, undocumented migrants, and seasonal labour migrants.

Political and civil unrest in countries such as Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi continuously have an impact on Zimbabwe, which is considered both a country of destination and also a corridor for refugees and asylum seekers to reach South Africa and Botswana. Zimbabwe experiences a heavy inflow of refugees and asylum seekers fleeing conflict in their home countries and it hosts over 20,000 refugees and asylum seekers. Just over 15,000 are residents at Tongogara refugee camp, while the rest are in residential centres.

Ongoing movements have exposed vulnerabilities and inequalities within the current food systems, access to basic services, livelihood strategies, and social coping mechanisms. These vulnerabilities further lead to increased pressure on communities already affected by protracted crises, resulting in further displacement, inward migration, disappearances, and family separation.

The complex crisis emanating from migration in Zimbabwe requires a multi-layered response addressing diverse needs arising from both protracted displacement and new emergencies causing continuous waves of migration in- and out-flows. Increasing resilience and fostering social cohesion must go hand in hand with dynamic responses providing life-saving and sustainable assistance as well as improvement of basic services to address the needs of the population suffering from ongoing displacement.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Ensure that migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes as well access to durable solutions when appropriate
- Engage with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to effectively assess, understand, and respond to their priority needs

Planned activities in 2024

- Offer humanitarian assistance to migrants through restoring family links, ensuring prevention of separation and maintenance of family links through Trace the Face, connectivity services, Red Safe, and general tracing
- Assist migrants in areas of health, psychosocial support, safe referrals, non-food items, food items, shelter, cash and voucher assistance, two-way information sharing, and participation
- Provide protection services to migrants, in line with protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) guidelines and

minimum protection approach (including relevant legal assistance, safe referrals, restoring family links, child protection, and anti-trafficking initiatives)

- Advocate for and be part of the development of a national migration and displacement strategy
- Establish a mechanism for collecting, analyzing, and acting on specific community perceptions and concerns on issues and needs of migrants, displaced persons, and host communities
- Establish and consolidate a strong referral pathway with other organizations to better assist affected populations
- Develop tools to analyze and take on community perceptions from migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to adapt programming and public advocacy

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical and programming support to the Zimbabwe Red Cross, and it will help the National Society in ensuring that the PGI guidelines and minimum protection approach are met. It will also assist with establishing a mechanism for collecting, analysing, and acting on specific community perceptions and concerns.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will support the Zimbabwe Red Cross in restoring family links (RFL) interventions.



Values, power and inclusion

The Constitution of Zimbabwe prioritizes the promotion of gender equality as reflected in the strong framework for the protection and promotion of the rights of women and men, girls and boys of all abilities. In this connection, government entities such as the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development, support the promotion of gender equality in accordance with the [National Gender Policy](#).

Despite progressive laws and treaties, the biggest challenge has been the implementation of these formal rights and their translation into tangible gains for women and girls. While women and girls constitute 52% of the population, they still [fall behind in key sectors](#) of the country.

The current food insecurity in Zimbabwe has resulted in heightened protection risks for children and women including sexual violence, exploitation, child labour, and child marriage. While COVID-19 originated as a health emergency, its impact on food security is also providing fertile ground for a protection crisis in Zimbabwe, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable, especially girls and women. A [2021 research by Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#) noted that improvements in household food security and nutrition are associated with women's access to income and their ability to make decisions on expenditure. Despite women being the key figures in agriculture and food security, gender inequality is holding back progress towards ending hunger, poverty, and creating sustainable food systems.

In relation to safeguarding and inclusion, there are [gendered patterns in violence](#) against children. While boys are more likely to experience physical punishment, girls are likelier to

face sexual violence at home as well as school, followed by gender-based violence. With regard to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), women and girls retain 84% of the burden of fetching water for household use. Menstrual health and hygiene poverty remain [major challenges](#), particularly for adolescent girls, for whom the consequences include negative impacts on their ability to effectively attend school.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Zimbabwe Red Cross seeks to integrate protection, gender and inclusion in all its processes, as it works to eliminate harmful practices. It recognizes the importance of values, power, and inclusion as it now has approved policies on [community engagement and accountability](#) and works in areas of [dignity, access, participation and safety](#).

The National Society also intends to integrate in its process the [protection, gender, and inclusion](#) (PGI) guidelines in a bid to eliminate harmful practices, focusing on the most vulnerable. This also enhances the Zimbabwe Red Cross' ability to provide timely and effective humanitarian assistance to those who need it and ensure vulnerable groups are empowered and protected from abuse, violence, and exploitation.

- Contribute to a positive change in communities through wider understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, focusing especially on young people's knowledge, skills and behaviour

- Promote and support safe, equitable, and continuous access to quality education for all, especially boys and girls affected by disaster, crisis or displacement
- Ensure safety, inclusivity, dignity, access, and participation for people of all identities
- Empowering people and communities, vulnerable to and affected by crises, to influence decisions affecting them

other youth-led initiatives such as [youth as agents of behavioural change](#)

- Conduct child risk assessment and develop an action plan
- Ensure that all feedback mechanisms are linked to clear referral systems as part of the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation standard operating procedure and ensure linkages between sexual exploitation and abuse reporting mechanisms and feedback mechanisms as part of regular programmes

Planned activities in 2024

- Mainstream protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in all programmes, through training of staff on [PGI minimum standards](#), and undertaking PGI assessments for programmes
- Promote the participation of women in disaster- and emergency-response teams, and engage community members, in particular women, in decision-making about disaster risk management
- Address [education-related](#) humanitarian needs, including through assessment, programmatic integration, research and data collection/analysis
- Support and scale up youth-led education and action building on the [youth engagement strategy](#) and

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the Zimbabwe Red Cross by providing technical and fundraising support for protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) as well as prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policies. It will further provide technical support in the establishment and strengthening of feedback mechanisms and will help capacitate the youth engagement strategy. The IFRC will also link the National Society with other success stories within the same programmatic area for peer-to-peer learning.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Zimbabwe Red Cross is committed to improving its ways of operating, resulting in the effective and efficient use of public funds from all sources, including donor-funded programmes and income-generating activities. The focus and mandate of the National Society's [2021–2025 Strategic Plan](#) is to ensure that it undergoes a visible, tangible, and measurable renewal, resulting in sustained growth. Its target is to raise 50% of its income through domestic financing. It aims to change its management approaches, with closely monitored oversight mechanisms installed at the organizational, departmental, and individual levels.

The National Society has, over the years, committed to regenerating its operations through various internally drafted documents. The 2021–2025 Strategic Plan demonstrates its growing commitment – among its leadership, governance structures, departments, volunteers, funding partners and external stakeholders – to renew the way it is managed and accounted for. The Zimbabwe Red Cross's organizational norms, values, and ways of working will be improved and closely monitored at an individual level. It will report on the findings through its human resource policies, procedures, and performance indicators.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increased cooperation and coordination with external partners to address major challenges facing communities
- Enhance membership coordination as well as efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian actions
- Fulfil its priorities for movement coordination and cooperation, as outlined in the Council of Delegates meeting in 2019
- Ensures effective shelter cluster coordination with partners inside and outside the network, including National Societies taking an increased role in shelter cluster coordination
- Increase financial resources, both through domestic fundraising and international support
- Continue to strengthen the existing relationship with major government departments such as the Meteorological Services Department (MSD), Department of Civil Protection, Social Service, and Agricultural Service Department from national to ward level

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide the Zimbabwe Red Cross with technical and financial support for travel and workshops. IFRC's technical support includes helping build the local operational capacity of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society which means aiding the training of volunteers, staff, and members in best practices in areas such as disaster response, disease control, and effective humanitarian assistance. Parallely, financial support aids various humanitarian services and projects including disaster management, health services, social programs, and community resilience efforts against various crises like famine, disease, or natural disasters.

The IFRC will also invest in the local resource mobilization capacity of the Zimbabwe Red Cross and aid its access to the National Society Investment Alliance and the Capacity Building Fund.

In addition, the IFRC also offers support in advocacy, helping to elevate the visibility of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society's efforts and to influence policies at a national and international level that can help improve humanitarian assistance.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue working as a network of relevant local organizations who are the trusted partners of choice for local humanitarian action with the capabilities to act in the global network
- Prioritize volunteering development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action, ensuring access and nurturing trust in all contexts

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Zimbabwe Red Cross on branch survival and sustainability. It will assist the National Society with accessing the National Society Investment Alliance and the [Capacity Building Fund](#). It will also link the youth structures to global platforms and forms besides helping the National Society secure unearmarked [funding](#).

The **British Red Cross** supports the Zimbabwe Red Cross with National Society development.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the National Society in strengthening the role of youth.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Promote its image and advocate for change, affecting public behaviour, policies, and decisions on a domestic, regional, and global scale

- Implement its communications strategy and strengthen the communications department in order to enhance impact, build public trust and improve understanding of the role and activities of the Zimbabwe Red Cross.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the National Society in equipping its communications department. It will also financially support the profiling of its activities.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Work as a global accountable network
- Undergo a [digital transformation](#)
- Use innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate, adapt to, and change for complex challenges and opportunities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Zimbabwe Red Cross with technical support in implementing the Risk Management Framework and data. It will also support the annual auditing processes and capacitate the National Society's Internal audit department.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Zimbabwe Red Cross through its country cluster delegation for Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi based in Harare, Zimbabwe. The IFRC supports the National Society with strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC supports the National Society to strengthen its auxiliary role by meeting key stakeholders at the Government level on a regular basis.

The IFRC provides the National Society with technical support for ongoing operations and ensures its capacity is enhanced. The cluster is also very instrumental in supporting the National Society to mobilize resources from the IFRC movement and so far, the Zimbabwe Red Cross has secured funding through the Capacity Building Fund (CBF), National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA), Emergency Appeals and DREFs, as well as from other non-traditional donors. An IFRC [DREF, followed by an Emergency Appeal](#) was launched in 2023 to support the National Society's cholera response.

IFRC Membership coordination

To support the Zimbabwe Red Cross, the IFRC works closely with it and member National Societies to assess the wider humanitarian context, and the Zimbabwe Red Cross' particular needs and priorities, and develop strategies to address these. These include obtaining greater humanitarian access, improving acceptance in Zimbabwe, mobilizing funding and other resources, crafting consistent public messaging and monitoring the progress of various initiatives. It also ensures that all strategies and programmes adopted by the National Society have clarity on their humanitarian and development aims and work to boost the auxiliary role of the Zimbabwe Red Cross in the country.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross is part of the four IFRC Pan-African initiatives focusing on Tree Planting and Care; Zero Hunger; Red Ready and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross has long-term partnerships with the following in-country participating National Societies,

which contribute to the priorities of this country plan and to emergencies as they arise:

The **British Red Cross** supports the Zimbabwe Red Cross with National Society development, safeguarding and inclusion, and cash and voucher assistance.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the National Society in developing its forecast-based financing capacities and strengthening the role of youth.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supports the National Society in school capacity development, education in emergencies, promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation, and forecast-based financing.

Other National Societies, such as the **American Red Cross**, provide support remotely as well as through the IFRC.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
American Red Cross				●		●	
British Red Cross	269,000	●	●				●
Finnish Red Cross	820,000		●	●			

Total Funding requirement

1.1M



1st February 2024, The Zimbabwe Red Cross set up Oral Rehydration Points (ORP) to help people with symptoms of cholera. On arrival, people are checked, and stable patients receive a mixture of salt, sugar, and water and chlorine tablets to disinfect the water. (Source: IFRC)

Movement coordination

The Zimbabwe Red Cross engages in regular meetings with the IFRC, the ICRC, and participating National Societies, to align support and action between Movement partners. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC's Pretoria regional delegation carries out humanitarian activities in Zimbabwe and other countries in the region. Using innovative tools, its humanitarian action aims to address the

humanitarian consequences of armed violence and migration; to support authorities in tracing missing persons, to reconnect separated families; to strengthen respect for and compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and international standards of policing; and to improve the capacity of the Zimbabwe Red Cross to be the first responder to natural and man-made disasters. Through humanitarian diplomacy, the ICRC in Southern Africa builds support for humanitarian action, norms and values amongst policy and decision-makers.

Coordination with other actors

Due to its unique mandate in Zimbabwe and ongoing humanitarian interventions, the Zimbabwe Red Cross sustains unmatched institutional relationships with the authorities at all levels. This facilitates the rapid initiation of activities and promotes the continuous involvement of relevant agencies in the monitoring and coordination of its work. The National Society continuously coordinates with relevant technical agencies, such as the Department of Civil Protection, the Drought Relief Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health and Childcare, the Ministry of Public Service and Social Welfare, the Meteorological Services Department, and the District Development Fund under the Offices of the President and Cabinet.

In times of emergency, the Department of Civil Protection coordinates the response at all levels. The National Society typically supports rapid joint assessments and the development of selection criteria for targeting, in coordination with communities and civil protection groups.

UN OCHA organizes emergency meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, of which the IFRC is a member. The Zimbabwe Red Cross is an active participant in the food security and water, sanitation, and hygiene working groups, which are activated at cluster level when needed. With regard to the current food security crisis, the World Food Programme is the lead organization, and the National Society has been a co-lead since the preparedness phase of responses. There are monthly meetings with all other humanitarian partners in the country, coordinated by the Government. The National Society also actively participates in the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, along with other partners and UN agencies.

The National Society also collaborates with other international actors, including UN agencies such as UNICEF, for humanitarian interventions and other projects.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

This plan reflects the priorities of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with [IFRC Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process, and will serve joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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