



# International Disaster Relief Fund

ANNUAL SUMMARY | 2024-2025

# Where you have Provided Hope Around the World



**Cover:** Two women from the Mitumba district in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) drawing water from a standpipe upgraded by the DRC Red Cross.

# Your *Global* Reach

Hurricanes, floods, disease outbreaks, even a hospital fire—last year your support was felt by people in need around the world during their most challenging moments.

As a donor to the International Disaster Relief Fund (IDRF), you gave life-changing support to help those experiencing emergencies that rarely make the news. While the general public may not hear about these emergencies, their impact affects thousands, if not millions, of people worldwide. The ability to raise funds for these emergencies does not always match the vast needs of those impacted by humanitarian crisis, climate disasters, disease and hunger. Providing immediate and ongoing support can be life changing for people facing extremely challenging conditions.



*“It’s a powerful reminder that humanitarian work is most impactful when it’s **done in partnership** with, and led by, the communities we serve.”*

- **YVES NGALEU**, CANADIAN RED CROSS  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY DELEGATE

## ABOUT THE IDRF

Through your support to the IDRF, the Canadian Red Cross contributes to the overall mission of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement worldwide by enabling healthy and safe communities, reducing vulnerabilities, improving people’s resilience and promoting peace. With 191 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies around the world, our network allows us to respond with global resources at the local level.

**The IDRF is financed through contributions from you, the Canadian public.** Donations to the IDRF provides those impacted by emergencies with urgently needed food, shelter, first aid, basic health care and medical supplies and services. The funds allow us to respond within hours of an emergency and to channel resources to where it is needed most. It also allows us to implement disaster preparedness programs to create stronger and more resilient communities.

Your generous donation to the IDRF means that so many people are not forgotten and do not need to face an emergency alone. Through your commitment, you stand in solidarity with us, as together, we help to alleviate human suffering around the world. Please read on to see how your gift was felt during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

**Together, we are making a difference. *Thank you.***

*In response to violence and displacement in Catatumbo, Norte de Santander, the Colombian Red Cross has intensified humanitarian efforts and activated its crisis room. Actions include health services, access to drinking water, emergency aid delivery, reconnecting separated families and supporting those affected by the violence.*



Photo: Colombian Red Cross

# IDRF's Global Humanitarian Impact: **Your Support in Action**

**From Comoros to Mexico and Colombia to Syria, your caring support responded to a variety of emergencies in 2024-2025.**

The IDRF has been crucial in responding to humanitarian crises around the world. During the last fiscal year, the IDRF provided substantial funds to **14 emergencies**, demonstrating timely and broad responses with significant impacts across multiple regions.

Your gift helped the Red Cross implement locally tailored approaches to varied humanitarian challenges.

The combined efforts of local Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, supported by the Canadian Red Cross, helped deliver essential services to millions affected. Coordination across sectors ensured that responses were timely, efficient and adaptive to changing circumstances, reflecting the strength of global humanitarian solidarity. As a generous donor to the IDRF, you are a key part of the global operations outlined in this document.

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is as **local as possible and as global as necessary**. This means we always respond at the request of the local Red Cross or Red Crescent Society and work to support their efforts in the country being impacted by the emergency. When a crisis occurs that results in significant humanitarian needs, the National Society can request support from international Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, including the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and other National Societies, like the Canadian Red Cross. **In this report, you will see facts and figures that represent the joint efforts of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.**

# Emergency:

## Comoros Cholera Outbreak

**National Society:** *The Comoros Red Crescent has its national headquarters in the city of Moroni, with three regional branches located on the main islands. There are approximately **3,000 volunteers** involved in local-level activities.*

On January 31, 2024, a boat carrying people from Tanzania arrived in Moroni, the capital of the Comoros Islands, with a passenger suspected of having contracted cholera. The local hospitals were overwhelmed, preventing the individual and other passengers with symptoms from receiving proper medical attention. On February 2, 2024, the Ministry of Health in Comoros declared a cholera epidemic and by July there were over **10,000 reported cases of cholera**.

The Comoros Red Crescent, with support from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), implemented health, water and sanitation initiatives to stop the spread of cholera. The response involved infection prevention and control measures at a cholera treatment centre, setting up oral rehydration points to replenish people with fluids in an outpatient setting, sharing information on preventing the spread of cholera and tracking the spread of cholera in communities.

Thanks to your support, the Canadian Red Cross provided four health experts over four months and additional experts in operations management and community engagement. These health experts supported essential



Photo: Nico Robicheau / Canadian Red Cross

*Comoros Red Crescent Volunteer Fahad Ali Madi (left) is with IFRC Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) coordinator Meissa Bigué Mbengue at a water treatment unit on the island of Anjouan. Community members could visit the unit to access clean water, preventing the use of contaminated water sources.*

treatment and prevention activities such as opening oral rehydration points when cholera treatment centres were overwhelmed.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent's actions were effective in responding to the outbreak. By July 21, 2024, the cholera epidemic was considered controlled, with no new active or suspected cases reported. However, in September 2024, cases surged again on the Island of Ngazidja. The Comoros Red Crescent swiftly mobilized to respond, reactivating its previous activities, using resources they developed with the Canadian Red Cross during the initial response. **Your support continues to have a long-term and sustainable impact, due to the local capacity-building achieved during the response.**

*“Without the [additional support], we would not have had oral rehydration points, or community-based surveillance, or risk communication and community engagement. In the future, I think the **Comoros Red Crescent will now be able to take the lead on responses, while working with the Ministry of Health.**”*

- **ALI SOUMAILI DANIEL**, COMOROS RED CRESCENT SECRETARY GENERAL

# Emergency: Syrian Humanitarian Crisis



Photo: Syrian Arab Red Crescent and IFRC

**National Society:** *The Syrian Arab Red Crescent has been active for more than 70 years. There are **14 branches** and **12,500 volunteers** throughout Syria.*

In November 2024, intensified hostilities worsened the already fragile humanitarian situation in Syria, adding to a crisis that has been ongoing for more than 13 years. The rapid development resulted in more than **1.1 million people** being displaced, with critical infrastructure destroyed and significant humanitarian needs. Many families sought shelter in overcrowded and underserved areas, with minimal or no health facilities.

In response to the crisis, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has provided essential, lifesaving, primary and secondary healthcare services through its mobile health units, mobile medical teams, clinics and established health facilities, including emergency medical services.



Photo: Yemen Red Crescent Society

# Emergency: Yemen Floods

**National Society:** *With access across the country, **22 branches** and over **6,700 volunteers**, the Yemen Red Crescent Society is the leading humanitarian organization in Yemen, uniquely positioned to help those who need it. They provide emergency shelter and distribute food, as well as emergency and hygiene supplies, to help ensure life-saving support reaches those in need. Another key initiative is to also help people better prepare for future disasters.*

From late June to August 2024, unusually heavy and sustained seasonal rains caused devastating floods in Yemen. This disaster exacerbated the dire humanitarian situation in large parts of the country, which have been grappling with years of conflict and displacement. Entire communities saw their homes, livelihoods and essential infrastructure washed away. Eight million people were impacted, which caused significant displacements, loss of life and extensive damage to infrastructure.

With support from the IDRF and the larger Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the Yemen Red Crescent Society deployed **30 staff** and **600 volunteers** across the country to respond to the floods. Since the onset of the disaster, they have assisted over **13,400 families** by providing essential household items such as mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, buckets and hygiene kits. Additionally, they distributed nearly **8,000 food parcels**. **This life changing work could not have taken place without donors like you.**

# Emergency: Honduras Hospital Fire

**National Society:** *The Honduran Red Cross is present in **16 of the country's 18 departments**, through **53 branches** and more than **6,000 volunteers**. It works in the areas of emergency response, disaster risk reduction, social services, community health care and psychosocial support.*



Photo: Jurgien Ordoñez / Honduran Red Cross

*A mother holds her daughter at the entrance to the emergency field clinic in Roatán, Honduras. The field clinic was originally sent to Honduras by the Canadian Red Cross in the aftermath of hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020. It was used again by the Honduras Red Cross in 2024 after a hospital fire.*

In April 2024, a fire occurred at the public hospital in the city of Roatán, in the Bahia Islands, leaving the city and the surrounding areas without essential healthcare services. The fire destroyed the hospital but fortunately all patients were quickly evacuated. At the request of local authorities, the Honduran Red Cross provided immediate support by setting up an emergency field clinic, which was originally sent to Honduras by the

Canadian Red Cross in the aftermath of Hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020. This unit treated the patients who were evacuated due to the fire as well as other patients seeking medical attention.

Your support to the IDRF contributed to the prompt delivery of vital healthcare services by ensuring the procurement of the medical supplies and medications.

**Thanks to your generosity, over 4,000 people received medical care during the three months of services provided by the emergency field clinic.**

# Emergency: Crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

**National Society:** *The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC Red Cross) was established in 1961. With a large network of trained and motivated volunteers, and high levels of access and acceptance across the country, the DRC Red Cross is a key humanitarian actor and first responder.*



Photo: Gabriel Nuru/IFRC

For many years, the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), particularly North Kivu, has been facing an ongoing and devastating conflict that has intensified and become increasingly complex over time. According to the United Nations, more than 2.5 million people have been impacted. This humanitarian crisis has displaced many people and caused even more to be in need of humanitarian aid.

The DRC Red Cross has been working hard in this challenging context to support people with shelter, healthcare, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security

and livelihoods, including multipurpose cash transfers, and protection, gender and inclusion activities.

As part of the overall response, between February and October 2024, **more than 300,000 people** received health services and **over 10,000 households** were supplied with drinking water and sanitation facilities. Protection, gender and inclusion activities reached **over 52,000 people**, including information and awareness on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse.



# Emergency: Crisis in Colombia



Photo: Colombian Red Cross

**National Society:** *The Colombian Red Cross has provided humanitarian aid for over a century, with headquarters in Bogotá and **12 offices** across the country.*

On January 16, 2025, hostilities in Catatumbo, Colombia escalated between various non-state armed groups. The violence has led to significant displacement, with **over 83,000 people** forced to flee their homes. Many families have sought refuge in urban areas, such as Cúcuta, Tibú and Ocaña, while others remain in rural areas without access to basic services.

The Colombian Red Cross is providing support to the

displaced population, including healthcare services, humanitarian aid and water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives. With support from IDRF donors, the Colombian Red Cross has distributed approximately **680 family hygiene kits** and purchased materials to equip two mobile child friendly spaces that help kids have a special place to play and learn. Staff and volunteers are also being trained in the area of protection for children, such as psychological first aid.

Photo: Mexican Red Cross



# Emergency: Mexico – Hurricanes Helene and John

**National Society:** *The Mexican Red Cross is a key humanitarian organization responding to emergencies across Mexico, founded in 1910 by Presidential decree.*

In September 2024, hurricanes Helene and John struck Mexico, triggering widespread destruction. Thousands were displaced. The Mexican Red Cross was among the first responders, mobilizing volunteers to assist the communities affected by the devastating hurricanes and the resulting floods and landslides.

**Thanks to your contribution to the IDRF, the Canadian Red Cross was able to support the Mexican Red Cross relief efforts.** This funding helped stabilize displaced families in the early days of the response, by enabling evacuations, providing temporary shelter support and distributing essential relief items.

# Emergency: Cuba – Hurricane Oscar

**National Society:** *The Cuban Red Cross has been active for over 100 years, with **over 23,000 volunteers** ready and trained to provide humanitarian aid.*



Photo: Susana Atrojenos Barrantes / IFRC

*The Cuban Red Cross distributes aid in the aftermath of Hurricane Oscar.*

On October 20-21, 2024, Cuba was devastated by Hurricane Oscar. An estimated **320,000 people** were affected, with seven deaths and **130,000 people** forced from their homes. Around **14,300 homes and service facilities** suffered significant damage. With more than half of the damaged buildings experiencing total roof collapses, many essential goods were destroyed. Vital community service facilities were also damaged, including health institutions, food distribution centres, water supply, sanitation services, agricultural land, warehouses, pharmacies and schools.

The Canadian Red Cross quickly sent financial assistance, which was used by the Cuban Red Cross for relief items such as **750 plastic tarpaulins** and **1,500 solar lamps**. **More than 3,000 people** benefited from the contribution, along with supplies sent by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC). Solar lamps and tarpaulins are often needed in recovery operations to provide temporary shelter and safety, prevent further damage and flooding, and reduce contamination and spread of disease.

# Emergency: Mpox Epidemic – Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo

**National Society:** *Cameroon Red Cross and the DRC Red Cross*



Photo: Esther Nispau/IFRC

*Pregnant women attending an information and communication session on the dangers of mpox at the Kavimvira reference health zone in the town of Uvira in South Kivu (DRC). Pregnant women are a target audience, as they are among the most likely to suffer severe impacts.*

Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, saw a resurgence across multiple countries in Africa in 2024. As of January 2025, mpox has spread to **over 23 countries**, infecting thousands. There have been **over 65,000 suspected** and confirmed cases and more than **1,400 suspected** deaths.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) had almost 90 per cent of total cases. Through the French Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross channeled support to the DRC Red Cross. Thanks to the aid provided by IDRF, the DRC Red Cross is putting plans in place to limit the spread of mpox within communities, particularly within the province of South Kivu, this includes strengthening the capacity of communities and health structures in the prevention, early detection of cases and rapid control of the mpox epidemic.

IDRF support was also provided to the Cameroon Red Cross through the Community Epidemic and

Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3). CP3 is a multi-country programme funded primarily by USAID and managed by the Red Cross. It supports communities, the Red Cross and other partners to prevent, detect and respond to disease threats.

The CP3 programme is continuing through 2025. The aid provides support to local volunteers in early detection of disease, such as collecting samples for analysis, and identifying and monitoring contact cases to limit the spread. Health centres benefit from the repair of water, health and sanitation infrastructure. And new local hygiene committees will be set up, with existing committees receiving extra training. Hand-washing facilities will be added to busy public areas, such as markets, schools and places of worship, with necessary disinfection processes used whenever needed to stop the spread of mpox.

# Emergency: South Sudan – Floods and Cholera



Photo: Babette Schenkels/Netherlands Red Cross

**National Society:** *The South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) was founded in 2011 and operates **21 branches** across the country. The South Sudan Red Cross has a network of **18,000 volunteers** and **2,700 members** who assist in implementing activities at the headquarters, branches and units.*

On October 28, 2024, the government of South Sudan declared a cholera outbreak. By November 17, the outbreak had expanded to a nationwide crisis. The South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) led the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement response to the outbreak, leveraging its national network of staff and volunteers to provide life-saving interventions. The outbreak added to an already dire situation, with flooding, poor sanitation and ongoing hostilities. Access to clean water and medical care is extremely challenging. The South Sudan Red Cross have set up oral rehydration points, trained local responders and strengthened health system preparedness. **By offering early intervention at the community level, the South Sudan Red Cross has worked to decrease the number of cholera cases, severe dehydration incidents and related deaths.**

Photo: Meer Abdullah Rasikh/IFRC



# Emergency: Afghanistan Floods

**National Society:** *The Afghan Red Crescent Society is the oldest and largest humanitarian organization in the country. With **34 provincial branches** and an estimated **3,900 staff** and **26,500 volunteers**, the Afghan Red Crescent Society can reach those in need, in even the most remote areas.*

In April 2024, Afghanistan experienced heavy rainfall that continued until mid-May, leading to severe flash floods across **33 of its 34 provinces**. These floods directly impacted more than **280,000 people** and resulted in at least **300 fatalities**.

In response to the devastating floods, more than **50,000 people** have received vital assistance from the Afghan Red Crescent Society, with support from the IDRF. The support included primary healthcare, financial assistance and much needed relief items, such as blankets, kitchen sets and other essentials.

# Emergency: Mediterranean Migration Sea Rescue

**National Society:** *Multiple National Societies, with leadership from the Italian Red Cross.*

Since 2014, the central Mediterranean has become the world's deadliest migratory route. Many people risk their lives trying to cross the sea to Europe. The vessels used are often overcrowded and lack safety precautions, causing many passengers to perish at sea.

Onboard the Ocean Viking, a search and rescue ship, the IFRC provides vital humanitarian aid at sea. Partner organization SOS MEDITERRANEE operates the Ocean Viking, which monitors the Mediterranean waters and rescues those in distress. During one typical afternoon **75 people** were rescued from an overcrowded rubber boat. Among them were eight children and a nine-month-old baby.

People that have been rescued are provided with food, water, medical assistance and psychosocial support. When they disembark, safe on the shore, they are referred to further humanitarian services.

Thanks to your support of the IDRF, the Canadian



Photo: Ocean Viking

*In the Central Mediterranean, the Ocean Viking rescues people in overcrowded boats. Those rescued received onboard care from the IFRC and later safely disembarked in Naples.*

Red Cross has contributed funds and sent humanitarian experts to support this lifesaving operation. Between September 2021 and February 2025, the Ocean Viking rescued **over 7,600 people**, many of whom were unaccompanied children.

*“I don’t think anyone can forget their first rescue on board the Ocean Viking. Actually saving people’s lives, that is something that you don’t forget easily... When the Ocean Viking picks people up in such circumstances, there is immense relief. Most people cry when they come on board the ship or they kiss the floor and fall into our arms. Other people just get very, very quiet, knowing what they have just escaped. The first thing we always tell people is: ‘You are safe.’”*

- **SARA MANCINELLI**, IFRC OPERATIONS MANAGER

# Thank you for *changing lives* across the world

Photo: Annalisa Ausilio / IFRC



Sara Mancinelli, post rescue team leader onboard the Ocean Viking, hugs a child after a rescue.

**Every single day, emergencies take place around the world that do not make the front page here in Canada. Through your generosity, you stand with the countless people impacted by these unheard crises. We are so grateful that you care.**

In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Canadian Red Cross was able to respond quickly and with flexibility to emergencies around the world thanks to you. As we look to the future, the outlook for humanitarian funding and emergencies presents significant and complex challenges. Your contributions to the International Disaster Relief Fund (IDRF) become even more critical for those emergencies. It is because of you that the Red Cross is better equipped to tackle these crises and the accompanying key humanitarian issues such as displacement, food insecurity, health crises and extreme weather events.

It is thanks to you that many people hear the comforting words, ***'You are safe.'***

**Thank you for being a lifeline.**

