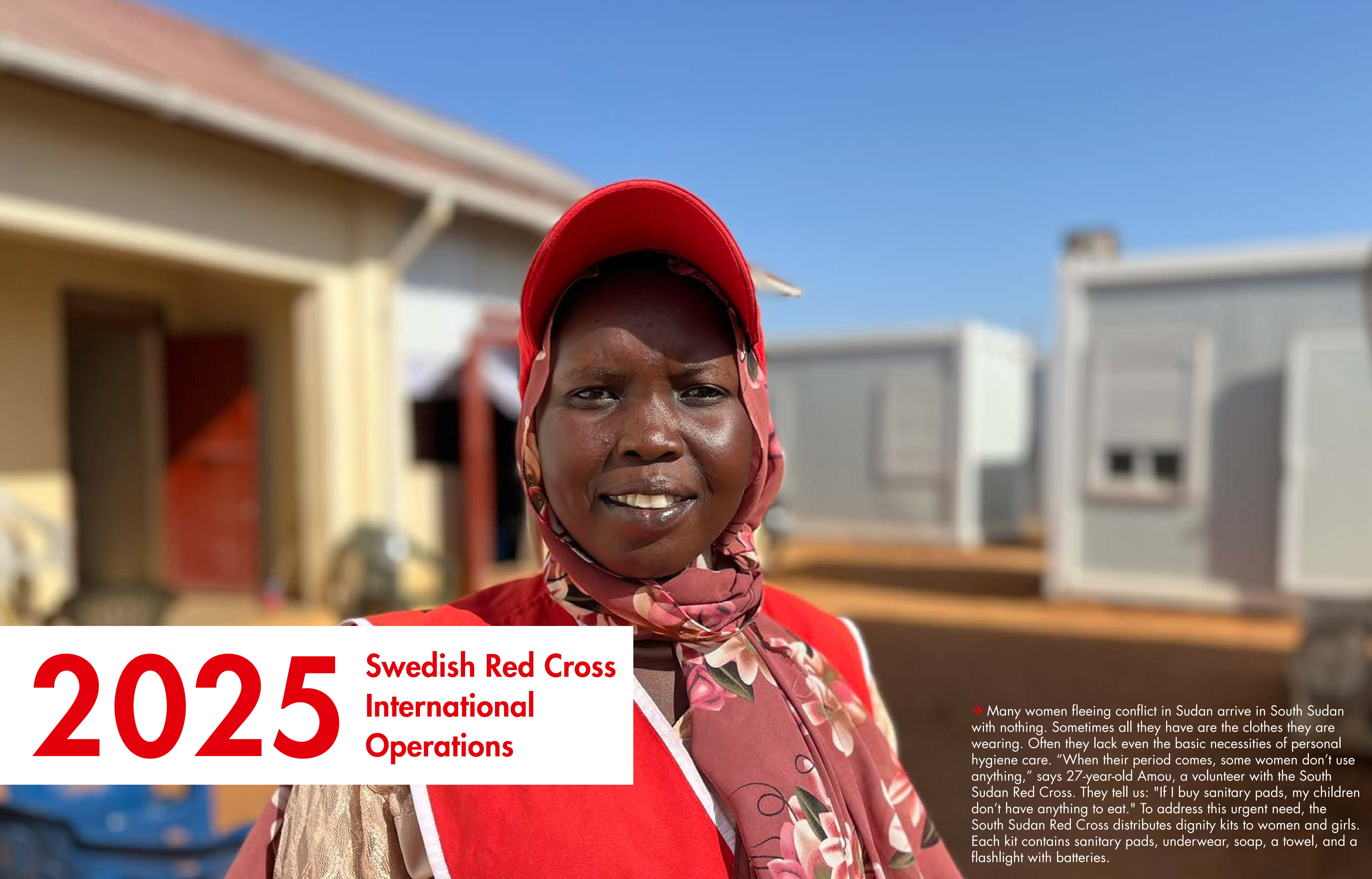




2025

Swedish Red Cross International Operations

→ Many women fleeing conflict in Sudan arrive in South Sudan with nothing. Sometimes all they have are the clothes they are wearing. Often they lack even the basic necessities of personal hygiene care. "When their period comes, some women don't use anything," says 27-year-old Amou, a volunteer with the South Sudan Red Cross. They tell us: "If I buy sanitary pads, my children don't have anything to eat." To address this urgent need, the South Sudan Red Cross distributes dignity kits to women and girls. Each kit contains sanitary pads, underwear, soap, a towel, and a flashlight with batteries.



In Sweden:

18,500

volunteers in

286

local branches

Worldwide:

17 million

volunteers in

191

countries

Introduction

In 2025, humanitarian needs continued to grow amid complex crises, fragile contexts, and the accelerating impacts of climate change. In this environment, the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement remained essential—acting locally where possible and globally where necessary—to deliver lifesaving assistance where it is most urgently needed. At a time when fundamental values and international agreements are increasingly challenged, our mission and principles are more important than ever. At its core, our work is about upholding humanity.

Attacks on aid workers rose sharply during 2025. More than 320 were killed in 23 countries, with the highest numbers in Palestine, South Sudan, and Sudan. Despite these risks, our colleagues continue their work because the suffering is too urgent to ignore. International humanitarian law is clear: aid workers and civilians must be protected.

Whether supporting families in Gaza, children fleeing violence in Sudan, or people affected by war in Ukraine, our purpose remains the same: to prevent and alleviate suffering, protect life and health, and uphold human dignity. At the same time, climate change intensified crises, worsening hunger, destroying livelihoods, and amplifying disasters. 2025 was the second-hottest year on record, and even here in Western Europe we saw 2,300 deaths linked to heatwaves.

Through partnerships with corporates and foundations, we continue our long-term work before, during and after crises and disasters. Together with volunteers and colleagues, we strengthen resilience, by supporting communities to prepare for, withstand, and recover from shocks and stress.

Yet needs continue to outpace efforts. Urgent, large-scale action is required to expand lifesaving support, while addressing root causes through long-term commitments. Together, we can meet this challenge.

Ulrika Modéer
Secretary General, Swedish Red Cross



→ In November 2025 Cyclone Ditwah intensified into a devastating tropical storm system, unleashing unprecedented rainfall and severe weather impacts across Sri Lanka. 1,151,776 persons were impacted, and 218,526 were evacuated. The Red Cross mobilised the branches and volunteers to conduct assessments, collect impact data from the respective districts, and provide First Aid services and essential household items.

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Who We Are

Our Mission

Our mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever and whenever it may occur, protect life and health, and ensure respect for the dignity of each individual, particularly in times of armed conflict, health disruptions and other emergency situations and disasters.

Established in 1865, the Swedish Red Cross (SRC) is the oldest and largest

humanitarian organization in Sweden, with about 18,500 volunteers in more than 286 local branches, scattered across the entire country. We are part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and a major contributor to humanitarian operations domestically and internationally with core competence within water, sanitation and hygiene as well as with sustainability in disaster response.



→ Oleksandr "Lavr" Lavreniuk is one of 700 emergency responders in the Red Cross Emergency Response Team, which operates throughout Ukraine. They are deployed when buildings are attacked to save lives and care for the injured and those in shock.

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

The RCRC Movement consists of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and 191 national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Through its network of 17 million volunteers, the Movement has a local presence all over the world.

National Societies, such as the Swedish Red Cross (SRC), are the backbone of the Movement. Each one is made up of an unparalleled network of community-based volunteers and staff who provide a wide variety of services. They are often the first responders when disaster strikes and remain active within affected communities long after everyone else has left.

The IFRC Secretariat is responsible for ensuring coordination of Red Cross Red Crescent assistance and technical support at strategic and operational levels, including the development of a consolidated operational plan to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people during disasters and health emergencies.

The ICRC has the exclusively humanitarian mission to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and promotes respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) and its implementation in national law.



→ In Poza Rica's main square, Veracruz, Mexico, dozens of Red Cross volunteers delivered mattresses, food parcels, hygiene kits, and baby supplies to families who have lost everything after heavy floods.

Our Principles

Humanity

We work to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Respect for human dignity, protecting life and health and helping people—regardless of who and where they are—is paramount to everything we do.

Impartiality

We make no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. Our work endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, prioritizing the most vulnerable at all times.

Neutrality

We take no sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature to enjoy the confidence of all and can provide humanitarian support to all in need.

Independence

We are independent and must always maintain our autonomy to be able at all times to act in accordance with our humanitarian principles. Independence not only relates to our relationship with the government in our role as auxiliaries of the State in the humanitarian services, but also to any other forms of power or influence, such as religions, political parties, companies and so on.

Voluntary Service

We are part of a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one RCRC Society in any one country. It must be open to all, and it must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The universality of suffering requires a universal response. All national societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties to work together in partnership and solidarity during disasters, for the benefit of all.

Sustainability - Our Standards for Responsible Humanitarian Action

A sustainability approach is essential to ensure effective, accountable and lasting humanitarian action. With the principle of not doing harm at the core and to reach the most vulnerable through quality programming, our Sustainability Platform is our general approach to good programming and sustainability. It guides our work while integrating social, environmental and financial principles across all international operations.

→ As part of our Green Response in humanitarian action, we are investing in renewable energy for life-saving operations. For example, by installing solar energy systems on health facilities in Syria, uninterrupted services during power outages were possible and allowed 40% increase in patients.

1

Community Engagement and Accountability to integrate meaningful community participation in the design and implementation of our work, recognizing community members as equal partners and having systematic mechanisms and practices in place to seek, listen and act on the voices and needs of communities.

2

Volunteering in Conflicts and Emergencies to enable effective volunteer involvement and engagement in times of armed conflict, other situations of violence, and emergencies, and to strengthen the resilience and well-being of volunteers and their local communities.

3

Protection, Gender and Inclusion to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches all people in a fair, safe, and non-discriminatory way. By integrating protection, gender equality, and inclusion into all our work, we address violence, discrimination, and exclusion, while promoting dignity, access, participation, and safety for people affected by crises and disasters. PGI also helps prevent unintended harm and supports equal rights and access to humanitarian services for all.

4

Green Response to improve the environmental sustainability of humanitarian response, and to save lives and reduce suffering without risking damaging the environment or the livelihoods, assets, health, and survival of affected people. Green Response works both in emergency settings and protracted humanitarian crises and focuses on three main areas:

Programs and operations

Integrating environmental considerations and techniques such as applying nature-based solutions, or innovative approaches that reduce chemical usage, or creating environmental screening tools.

Logistics and procurement

Reducing the negative impact of our supply chain on the environment, and encouraging repair and reuse, in addition to reducing packaging and improving construction materials.

Institutional greening

Measuring and reducing our waste and carbon emissions within our internal operations and facilities. For more information about our sustainability impact, please read our [Annual Report](#).

Our Three Focus Areas

The aim of our international operations is to provide timely and relevant support to people in situations of acute crisis and to strengthen the resilience of people and communities in vulnerable situations to better prepare for, cope with and recover from crises. Swedish Red Cross's international operations are concentrated to three main humanitarian focus areas.



→ In November 2025 typhoon Kalmaegi (local name Tino) made eight landfalls across central Philippines with destructive winds and torrential rain causing widespread flooding and landslides. Overall, approximately 1.9 million people were affected with more than 560,000 people displaced. Philippines Red Cross teams helped people prepare and helped them with rescues, provided first aid, access to medical care, hot meals, safe water and welfare services in evacuation centres.

1

Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response

We are part of the world's largest humanitarian network. With millions of community-based volunteers and staff, we improve local preparedness and response capacity—ultimately preventing and reducing the impacts of disasters on the most vulnerable and strengthening resilience.

2

Health, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

With our permanent presence we are uniquely placed to understand community health needs, respond to infectious disease outbreaks, support mental health and psychosocial needs, and secure access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH).

3

International Humanitarian Law and Protection

Every person has the right to seek protection, and every child has the right to their family. Around the world, we work to reunite families who have been separated, support people on the move, and ensure that the rights of individuals affected by armed conflict or held in detention are respected.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Prevention is Better Than Cure – Disaster Risk Reduction

We work together within the RCRC Movement to improve local preparedness and response capacity—ultimately preventing and reducing the impacts of disasters on communities and strengthening resilience. Today, eight times more people are affected by weather- and climate-related disasters than two decades ago. Those already living in vulnerable conditions are disproportionately impacted.

In disaster risk reduction (DRR) programmes, we support communities in analysing the risks they face, enabling them to identify and prioritize actions they can adopt to reduce vulnerability. On the structural side, we help communities build infrastructure such as protective walls or cyclone shelters, strengthen bridges, or provide them with equipment to take appropriate preparedness. On the non-structural side, we organize community awareness and public

education activities to improve people's knowledge on disaster preparedness and mitigation. One particularly important target group for education activities are children.

DRR programmes incorporate Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) efforts for climate-related risk assessments and concrete anticipatory actions to reduce the negative impact of climate change based on meteorological forecasts. Anticipatory actions are varied and depend on the hazard and context



and can range from evacuation, the reinforcement of homes and the distribution of health protection kits to mobile cooling centres and cash distribution.

DRR programmes also incorporate Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for protection and sustainable management of the ecosystem that address societal challenges

such as disaster risk, climate change, food security and water security. NbS include for example reforestation for slope stabilization, rewetting wetlands to increase the production capacities of fisheries, or bioengineering surfaces to increase infiltration rates and mitigate flood risks.



→ Masoka Useni Jorari and her colleagues collect plastic waste after the construction of a retaining wall in the town of Uvira, DRC. The wall allows water to drain away into the canals to prevent and combat flooding.

BANGLADESH – BUILDING LOCAL CONFIDENCE AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

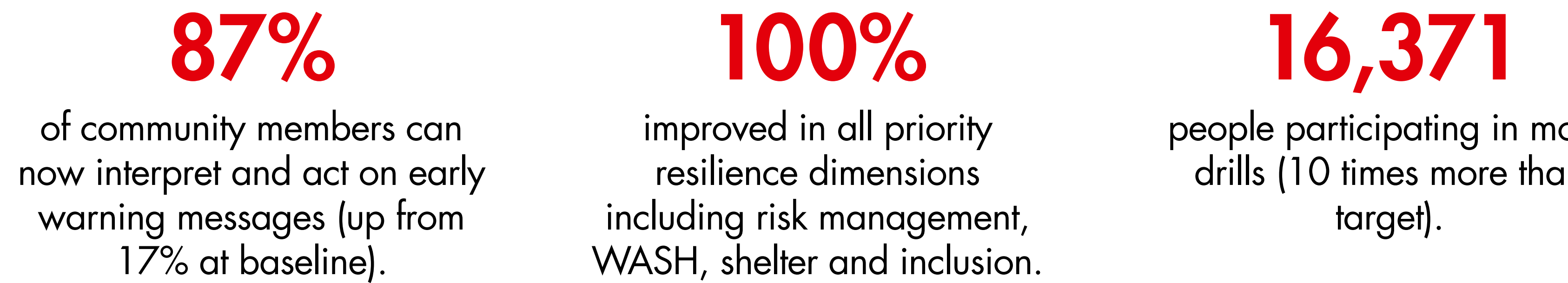
Over three and a half years, communities in Jamalpur and Kurigram significantly improved their flood preparedness and response. Local groups - especially women, youth and persons with disabilities - moved from passive roles to active leadership through drills, school sessions and strengthened disaster committees. More people now understand and act on early warnings, and access to safe water and sanitation improved through raised tube wells, flood-resistant latrines and inclusive adaptations.

Women’s leadership is a key outcome. Many now lead awareness activities, organize community initiatives and engage with authorities. Community advocacy has driven local improvements such as road repairs and riverbank protection. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society strengthened coordination, accountability and its work on environmental responsibility, protection and inclusion.

As the project ended, communities developed their own plans to sustain activities. Over 123,000 people were reached, leaving a lasting legacy of empowered women, active local structures and stronger, self-driven climate resilience.



→ Over a period of several years, the Red Cross has built early warning systems and helped people here develop their own preparedness plans so they are ready and know how to get to safety when the water begins to rise. “Early warning systems can provide two extra days of preparation. Someone may have time to harvest their crops, move food to higher and drier ground, or carry out some last safety measures around their home,” says Aminul Kawser. Once a week, local residents meet in a community gathering space where they can raise challenges or problems for which they may need help from others in the community.



LIBERIA – IMPROVED HEALTH, LIVING CONDITIONS, AND RESILIENCE

The climate crisis is hitting Liberia hard. Crops are drying up, land is flooding, hunger is increasing, and people’s health is at risk. Thanks to a Red Cross initiative in 45 villages, the situation has improved.

Liberia faces major challenges that affect both daily life and the future. Half of the population lives below the poverty line, making people especially vulnerable when crises strike. Climate change is worsening flooding, rising sea levels, and extreme rainfall, damaging agriculture, destroying homes, and threatening health. Diseases such as malaria, cholera, and diarrhea spread easily due to limited access to clean water and sanitation.

Southeastern Liberia is among the hardest hit. Heavy rains cause flooding and erosion, while rising sea levels lead to coastal land loss. Food insecurity, lack of clean water, and exposure to extreme weather are widespread, especially affecting women, children, and people with disabilities.

From 2023 to 2025, the Red Cross ran the project Green, Inclusive and Resilient Liberian Communities (GIRL) in 45 villages, reaching about 17,000 people, including over 2,000 local volunteers. Villagers identified their own needs and formed groups such as farming cooperatives, mothers’ clubs, water committees, and disaster preparedness teams. Together, they built latrines, repaired water pumps, established mixed-crop fields, received training in climate-adapted farming, health, hygiene, and emergency preparedness, and installed early warning systems.

An independent evaluation shows improved access to clean water, reduced disease, better sanitation, increased food availability, and strengthened disaster resilience. Daily life has significantly improved, and communities are now better equipped to face future climate-related challenges through strong local engagement and long-term resilience building.



54
functioning water pumps



45
local groups educated in climate resilient farming



2,340
volunteers

16,900
people have been reached.

14,160
persons have received information.

506
latrines have been built.

45
early warning systems and disaster preparedness groups.

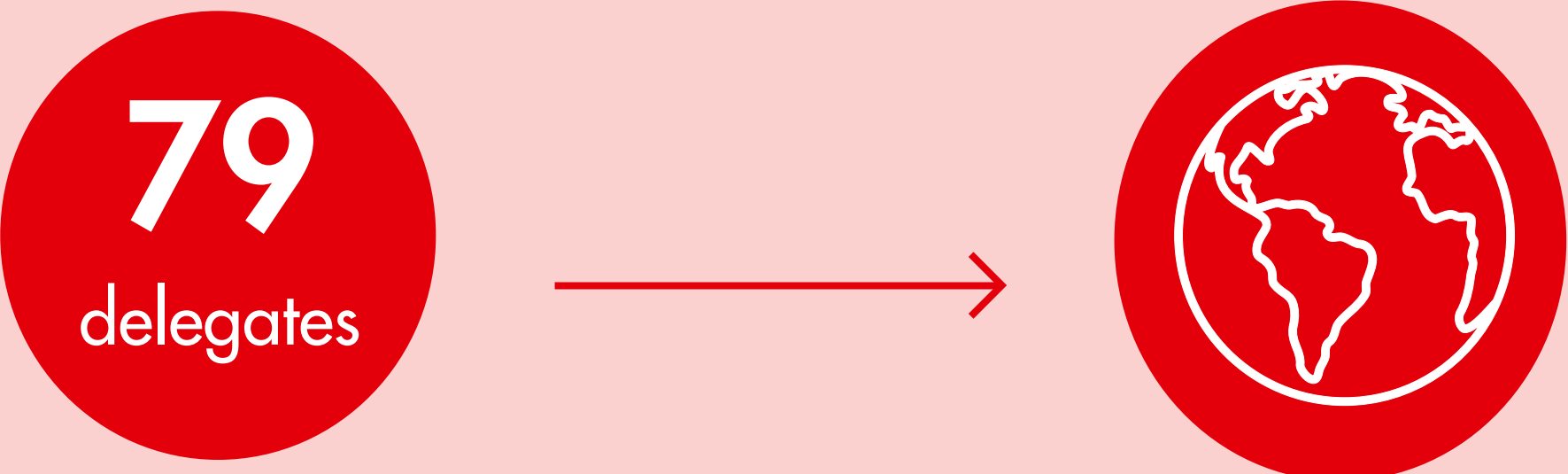
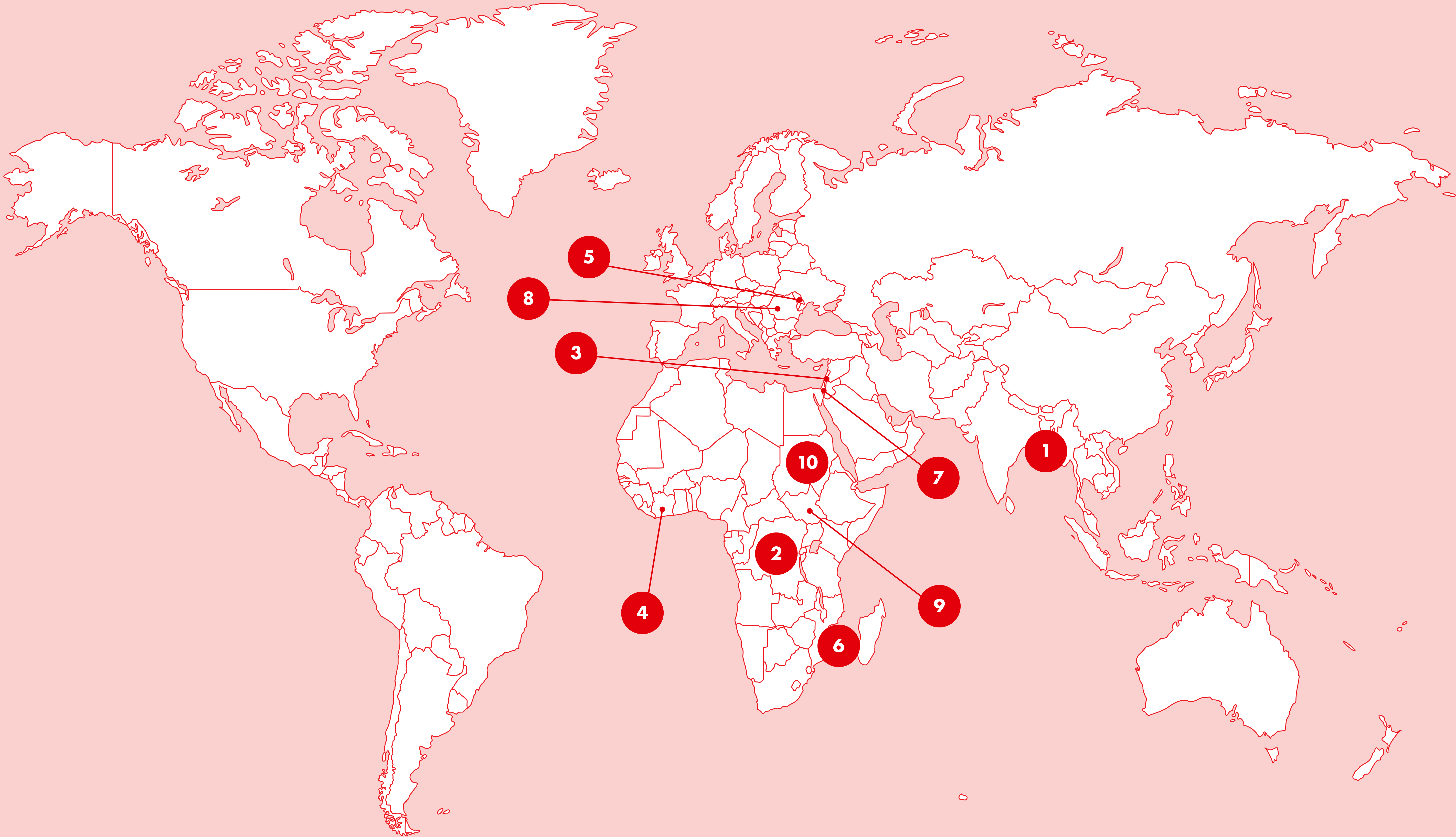


→ Regina Jallah and George P. Dweh are volunteers for the Red Cross in the village of Maaken, where new trees have been planted to protect the village from storms and torrential rain. Here, they are inspecting the seedlings together with Armel Komena from the Swedish Red Cross.

Disaster Risk Reduction During 2025

The need to prepare for a world of unexpected shocks has become clearer than ever. Epidemics, floods, storms, droughts and wildfires are all expected to become more frequent and severe due to climate change, affecting hundreds of millions of people every year. Preparing for disasters saves countless lives, speeds up people’s recovery and saves money.

- 1 **Bangladesh:** School-based disaster risk awareness, sustainable national societies and resilient communities program, community-informed green response
- 2 **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):** Sustainable national societies and resilient communities program, building resilience through nature based solutions
- 3 **Lebanon:** Community-informed green response
- 4 **Liberia:** Sustainable national societies and resilient communities program, green inclusive and resilient liberian communities
- 5 **Moldova:** Ukraine crisis integrated response and localisation
- 6 **Mozambique:** Building resilience through nature based solutions, project for resilience and enhanced preparedness and action
- 7 **Palestine:** Sustainable national societies and resilient communities program
- 8 **Romania:** Ukraine crisis integrated response and localisation
- 9 **South Sudan:** Sustainable national societies and resilient communities program, humanitarian response, lifesaving food support to people and communities affected by severe food insecurity
- 10 **Sudan:** Building the resilience of Sudanese girls and boys through DRR and climate change adaptation, enhancing food security and resilience of rural communities



79 Delegates Deployed to 31 Countries

Swedish Red Cross holds a pool of technical staff and specialists with expertise within the fields of health and medicine, water and sanitation, protection, gender and inclusion, as well as environmental sustainability in humanitarian response who can rapidly be deployed to emergency responses around the world.

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of SRC concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Disaster Emergency Response – On Site from Day One

In 2025, there were 358 natural hazard-related disasters, according to the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT). These events resulted in 16,607 fatalities, affected 110.2 million people and caused US\$169.68B in economic losses. Many of them do not reach the media attention. With local presence in 191 countries and with over 17 million community-based volunteers we are uniquely placed to mobilize the necessary resources, provide timely support to reduce suffering, save lives and uphold human dignity when disaster strikes.



We provide disaster response through humanitarian activities for all people, with a focus on supporting the most vulnerable. Several tools and mechanisms are available to channel our support from Sweden:

Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) is the simplest and fastest mechanism for National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies to access reliable international emergency funding for immediate disaster response, when needs exceed the resources available at the national level or to provide initial funding before an emergency appeal is to be launched. In 2025, 170 DREF operations provided support to 14,5 million people. Swedish Red Cross is

one of the largest contributors to the DREF with funding from corporate partners, foundations and institutional donors. For more information, please read the [DREF Annual Report](#).

Emergency Appeal (EA) is a request of international support by National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies for large scale and complex disasters where there are many people affected who will be in need of longer-term recovery activities such as support to livelihoods, multiple cash transfers, shelter support and access to water and sanitation. In 2025, we supported 34 emergency appeals through IFRC and bilaterally.

→ The Philippines has faced multiple crises, from a major earthquake in Cebu to successive typhoons, including Kalmaegi and Super Typhoon Uwan. In response, the Philippine Red Cross has distributed essential household and hygiene items to the hardest-hit communities.

Initial Response Fund (IRF) is a funding mechanism available in the countries where we have a field presence and a long-term engagement. The IRF functions as an early enabler for smaller-scale emergencies and may include assessment activities, procurement, distribution of immediate relief, material, and other response activities. In 2025, we supported 21 rapid allocations in 9 countries, through the IRF.

Emergency Response Units (ERU) are ready-to-use disaster response units. They include trained staff and equipment and can be deployed quickly to both sudden and slow-onset disasters. Swedish Red Cross has

a WASH ERU that provides essential water, sanitation, and hygiene services during emergencies. Swedish Red Cross also holds an Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) ERU, which aims to reduce illness and deaths caused by infectious diseases in healthcare facilities during crises or outbreaks. Moreover, we contribute with staff to the Community Case Management of Cholera (CCMC) ERU that focuses on reducing illness and deaths from cholera through oral rehydration treatment at dedicated Oral Rehydration Points in communities affected by outbreaks of cholera or acute watery diarrhoea.

Disaster Emergency Response – highlights 2025



→ Daniel Wallinder from the Swedish Red Cross is visiting Nina Ivanova, one of the residents in the new houses in Sumy.

UKRAINE – SUPPORTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP

Active hostilities continued to severely affect communities across Ukraine throughout 2025. Missile and drone attacks damaged homes, schools, hospitals and energy infrastructure, leaving many people without reliable access to electricity, heating and water. Ongoing fighting also forced civilians to flee frontline and border areas, increasing the number of internally displaced persons.

While immediate needs remain acute, people in Ukraine also face long-term challenges such as trauma, mental health concerns and disrupted livelihoods. The escalation of hostilities in 2025 highlighted the urgency of supporting recovery and rehabilitation, helping people not only survive but also regain stability and rebuild their lives with dignity.

The Swedish Red Cross supports people and communities in Ukraine as part of the global Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, working in close partnership with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society

(URCS). URCS acts as the lead and implementing partner for all activities, with a long-term commitment to cooperation that extends at least until 2030.

Housing in Sumy

In Sumy City, a temporary social housing complex for internally displaced people was constructed, with two buildings completed during 2025 and the first residents moving in during spring 2026. The project will continue throughout 2026 with six more buildings, expanding access to safe and dignified housing.

Home care program

Support for vulnerable groups was strengthened through a home-based care program in the Sumy region, providing regular assistance to elderly people through trained local social assistants. Mental health and psychosocial support was also prioritized, offering individual and group sessions to help people cope with trauma, displacement and prolonged uncertainty.

330

elderly people supported through home-based care by 60 local social assistants .

5,000+

people received mental health and psychosocial support.

4,000

people received food and hygiene assistance during winter.

400

families supported with home repair materials after strikes.

Supporting small business

Economic recovery efforts focused on supporting small businesses through micro-grants, helping families restore income and strengthening the local economy. During the difficult winter of 2025–2026, the Ukrainian Red Cross also provided winterization support in Kyiv, Sumy and Kherson regions, including heating points, relief items, home repair materials and safer bomb shelters.

Youth engagement

Youth engagement remains a key part of long-term recovery. Through the youth program in Sumy, young people were empowered to lead small, community-based initiatives and contribute to positive change in their communities.

Humanitarian situation in Ukraine

2,514

civilians killed

12,142

civilians injured

6.3 M

refugees

3.7 M

internally displaced

12.7 M

people in need of assistance

156
small businesses supported with micro-grants.

11
bomb shelters equipped in Sumy.

500+
young people supported through youth programs.

2
buildings completed in a temporary social housing complex IDPs in Sumy.

→ The modular houses in Sumy were built with the support of the Ukrainian Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and corporate partners.



Disaster Response – Highlights 2025

MYANMAR – 223 000 PEOPLE REACHED AFTER EARTHQUAKE

On 28 March 2025, a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar, impacting communities already affected by conflict and displacement. In response, the IFRC launched an emergency operation in close coordination with the Myanmar Red Cross Society supported by in-country Partner National Societies, including Swedish Red Cross. Since the earthquake, more than 223,000 people have been reached with life-saving assistance – including safe water, shelter support, essential items, cash assistance, and healthcare services.

The earthquakes added yet another layer of hardship to communities already struggling with overlapping crises. Flooding, economic challenges, and ongoing hostilities and conflict had already stretched coping capacities followed soon after by extreme heat. These compounded shocks left families more vulnerable and less able to recover.



Many households have repaired or rebuilt their homes, either independently or through local contractors. While many families initially sought refuge outdoors or in makeshift shelters due to safety concerns and structural damage, the majority have since returned to their homes or transitional shelters as conditions stabilized, and safety assessments were completed.

223,355 300 99,359 170,961 157,904

people were reached with emergency assistance. tons of relief items were distributed. people received health and care assistance. people received water & sanitation services. received shelter and relief items.

GAZA, PALESTINE – 177,000 PEOPLE RECEIVED MEDICAL CARE

In the severely damaged Gaza Strip, needs remain immense. Nearly all hospitals have been destroyed, and the lack of fuel means that many healthcare facilities cannot function. ICRC, in cooperation with several National Societies including Swedish Red Cross, runs the Red Cross Field Hospital (RFH) in Rafah delivering vital medical care under challenging conditions and a swiftly evolving humanitarian context. Medical teams work under extreme pressure, carrying out emergency surgeries, making difficult priorities, and coping with limited resources, while thousands of patients await care and rehabilitation.

The response goes beyond emergency medical care. We also work to support the local healthcare system and help lay the foundation for long-term recovery. Psychosocial support is a crucial part of the work, especially for children who have grown up amid war, fear, and loss. In the mornings, recreational activities are arranged at the hospital



to support children’s mental health - whether they are patients themselves or family members of patients. There is music, coloring, face painting and dancing. The Dream Bus of the Palestine Red Crescent Society, also supported by the Swedish Red Cross, is a mobile unit bringing children moments of safety, joy and psychosocial support.

“Even our short-term projects have long-term goals to strengthen coping strategies of children and their families,” emphasizes Rami Dirawi, Swedish Red Cross representative in Palestine.

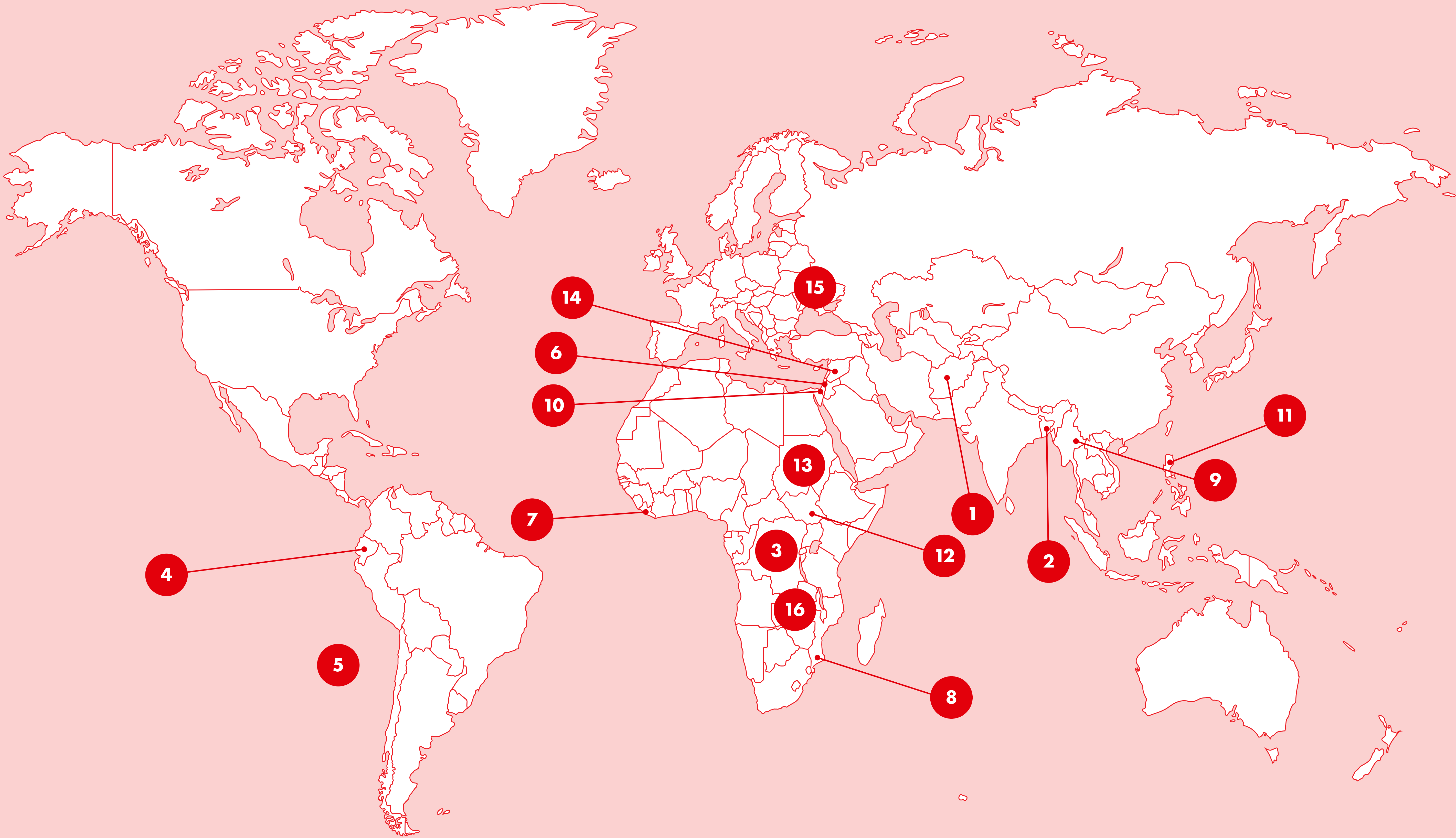
177,000 11,140 12,686 813

people have received medical care; 30% are children. surgeries have been performed. people have received blood transfusions. babies have been born at the hospital.

Disaster Response in 2025

In 2025, we witnessed a rise not only in the number of disasters and crises affecting communities around the world, but also in their intensity and complexity. With our local presence around the world, we are already in place when a disaster strikes and we remain firmly by the side of communities—helping them to respond to, and recover from rising disasters, health crises, risks and vulnerabilities.

- 1 **Afghanistan:** Earthquake and population movement
- 2 **Bangladesh:** Tornado and fire in Korail slum, pilot programmatic partnership
- 3 **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):** Ebola outbreak, hunger crisis and population movement
- 4 **Ecuador:** Floods and environmental contamination
- 5 **Latin America:** Population movement, rights and dignity
- 6 **Lebanon:** Population movement due to conflict
- 7 **Liberia:** Waterborne diseases and fire disasters
- 8 **Mozambique:** Mpox outbreak
- 9 **Myanmar:** Epidemic and earthquake
- 10 **Palestine:** Gaza conflict
- 11 **Philippines:** Earthquake
- 12 **South Sudan:** Floods and cholera outbreak
- 13 **Sudan:** Complex emergency, floods, epidemic outbreaks of dengue and cholera
- 14 **Syria:** Conflict, earthquake, population movement
- 15 **Ukraine:** Intensified escalation of conflict, PGI sector plan development: institutionalization and integration in operations
- 16 **Zambia:** Ready to respond to an epidemic



117

million people in the world have been forcibly displaced.



104

million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.



75%

of all refugees reside in areas affected by climate-related crises.

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HEALTH, WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Saving Lives and Improving Well-Being

Half of the world's population do not have full coverage of essential health services. Every year, disasters and emergencies affect the health and well-being of millions of people aggravating the situation for those already vulnerable. We strive to reduce illness and death, improve health, and maintain people's dignity through our long-term health programmes and our emergency health interventions as part of a disaster response.

Long-term health programmes are based on our approach to develop community resilience through our community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) interventions. CBHFA empowers communities in vulnerable situations to lead and manage their health through promotion of healthy living and prevention of illnesses, thus reducing the need for medical services, mortality and morbidity caused by injuries, diseases and illnesses. It also strengthens capacities in first aid; health-risk mitigation; preventing and managing diseases; and health promotion, including reproductive, maternal, natal and child health.

These activities are critical for people living in areas where access to clinics and hospitals is limited.

Mental health and psychosocial support are an integral part of our health programmes that include a range of supportive activities such as providing psychological first aid, strengthening crisis preparedness and self-care, organizing social activities, establishing safe spaces, and providing mental health care. The long-term health work in communities constitutes an important basis for promoting health and preventing disease outbreaks in emergency situations and it also serves

→ as a recovery tool after a disaster or crisis. Health interventions in emergency settings aim to reduce mortality and morbidity by treating diseases and helping people to recover. Emergency health interventions are focused on preparing and responding to the health consequences of disasters and crises, including epidemics and pandemics; building and maintaining community-level capacity in effective prevention, detection and response to infectious disease outbreaks; as well as responding to mental health and psychosocial needs during emergencies. As part of our disaster response, we deploy doctors, nurses and health staff for mobile and stationary health teams to treat adults and children.

Improving access to WaSH is an integral part of our health programmes aiming to build healthier and resilient communities. WaSH is one of our core competences within both long-term programmes and emergency interventions, including a surge pool of technical staff ready to be deployed with short notice.

In our long-term programmes we build community water pumps, toilets, sewage systems, water storage and water treatment facilities. We also run hygiene promotion and behaviour change activities to improve people's knowledge of good sanitation and hygiene practices such as proper handwashing and solid waste management. We actively involve communities in our interventions to sustain local ownership and to ensure sustainability of facilities and sensitivity to water-related issues.

Emergency WaSH interventions during disaster response includes:

- Conducting rapid assessment and rehabilitation of damaged water systems.
- Providing safe drinking water and constructing water treatment tanks.
- Building toilets and hygiene facilities.
- Distributing menstrual hygiene and other sanitation items.
- Promoting community engagement and hygiene to prevent cholera, diarrhoea and other disease outbreaks.
- Deploying our WaSH Emergency Response Unit with specialized personnel and equipment to deliver water to several thousand people.



→ Teibo Abdraman Ataher, a Sudanese refugee and volunteer with the Chad Red Cross, stands next to a water point in Arkoum refugee camp, eastern Chad. After fleeing the conflict in Sudan, she now supports community awareness activities on water access and hygiene in the camp, which hosts more than 50,000 refugees. "Water is the basis of life," she says. "When there is no water, we cannot eat, drink, or do household work."

Programmes on Health and WaSH in 2025



MYANMAR – SUPPORTING SAFE AND DIGNIFIED LIVING CONDITIONS FOR DISPLACED FAMILIES

The project was implemented through a Red Cross consortium led by the Myanmar Red Cross Society, in partnership with the Danish, Finnish, and Swedish Red Cross Societies. The project responded to urgent water, sanitation, and hygiene needs among internally displaced families and host communities affected by conflict.

The intervention focused on creating safer and more dignified living conditions for children and their caregivers. Through improved access to water and sanitation services, the project helped reduce health risks while strengthening daily hygiene practices. Special attention was given to the needs of children, adolescents,

and caregivers, ensuring that facilities and hygiene support were inclusive and context-appropriate.

Hygiene promotion was a central component of the project. Trained local volunteers led awareness sessions and practical demonstrations, supporting the uptake of improved hygiene behaviours within communities. The knowledge shared was well received and widely adopted, contributing to better health outcomes and increased dignity. Notably, no waterborne disease outbreaks were reported in the targeted areas during the project period.

10,964

people, mainly children with anxiety, depression, and cognitive disorders, have received support at mental health clinics.

7,590

people in five host communities were reached with WaSH community-based services.

15,496

people have been supported with psychosocial and livelihood services including health awareness, vocational training, child protection and support to caregivers.

119,640

health consultations were provided to patients as part of improved WaSH and health services at public health centres.

114,345

people have been reached with health services.

SYRIA – BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE CHILDREN

After more than ten years of conflict, Syria is still facing a deep humanitarian crisis. Millions of people struggle to meet their basic needs, and children are among the most affected. Schools, water systems and health services have been damaged or destroyed, and many families live in poverty. In 2023 approximately 50% of all children in Syria were out of school, and many studied in unsafe and overcrowded classrooms.

The situation is especially difficult in Deir ez-Zor in north-eastern Syria. Years of fighting and displacement have left schools in poor condition, with limited access to clean water and proper toilets. Many schools lack safe and private sanitation, which makes it harder for children - especially girls - to attend regularly. At the same time, rising prices and loss of income force

parents to choose between education and basic survival, increasing the risk that children drop out of school.

To respond to these challenges, the Swedish Red Cross worked together with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to support children's access to education in Deir ez-Zor. The program focused on improving water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools, teaching good hygiene practices, and providing cash support so families could afford school materials.

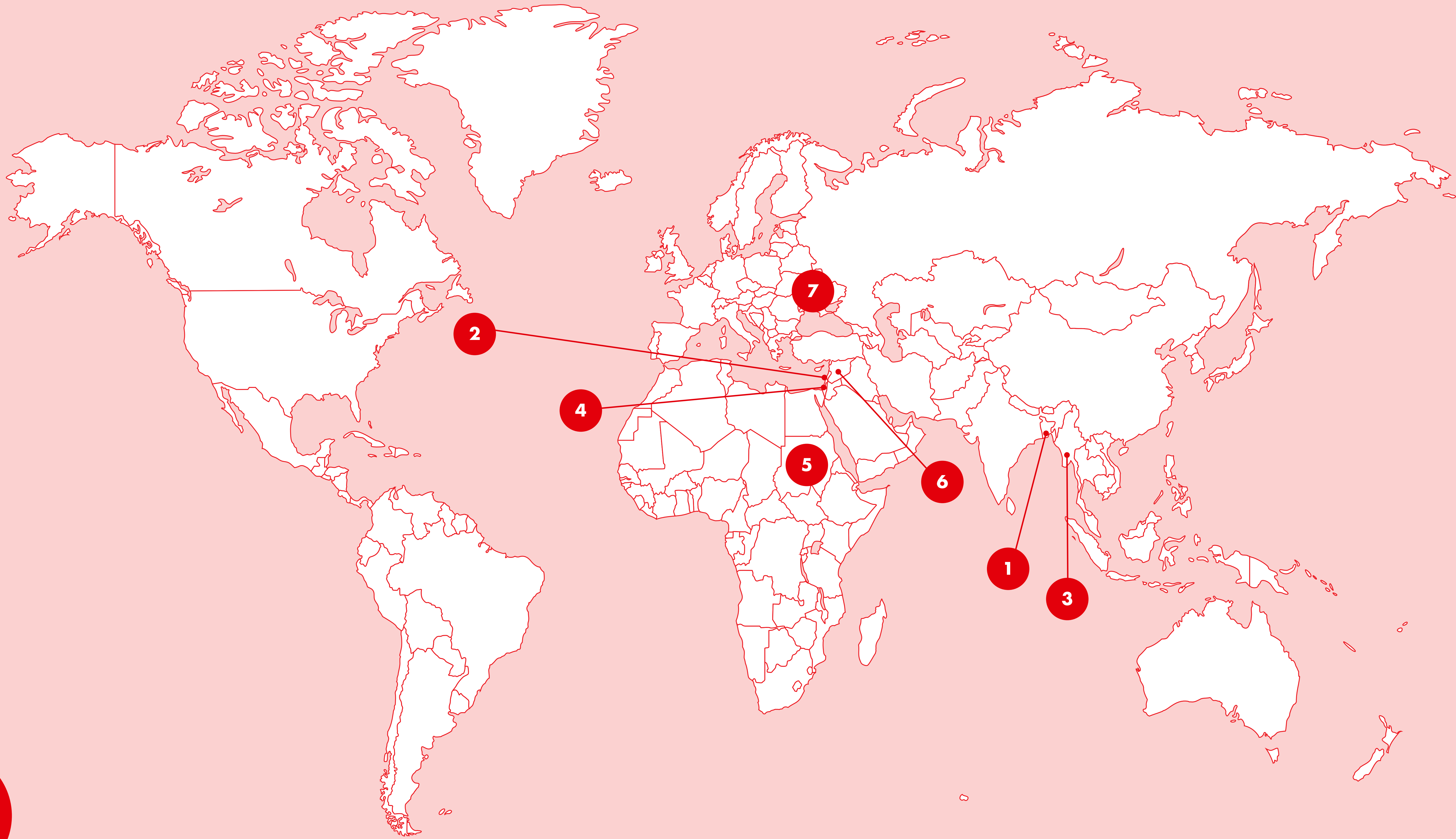
By improving both the learning environment and families' ability to keep children in school, the project aimed to create safer, healthier and more inclusive schools, and to give children better chances to learn and build a more hopeful future.



Programmes on Health and WaSH in 2025

We recognise that the ownership and responsibility for the provision of essential health and WaSH services lies with States, with varying levels of support provided by non-governmental actors, including the private sector, civil society and communities themselves. With our local community-based activities around the world, acting as auxiliaries to public authorities, we are well positioned to strengthen the link between public health policy, communities and the health systems that serve them.

- 1 Bangladesh:** WaSH programme in Cox’s Bazar, violence and human rights programme
- 2 Lebanon:** WaSH in schools, sustainable branch initiative, complex emergency response
- 3 Myanmar:** WaSH in emergencies focusing on children and their caregivers
- 4 Palestine:** Health, mental health and psychosocial support in West Bank and Gaza, reducing maternal mortality, mental health and psychosocial support for children
- 5 Sudan:** Enhancing maternal and newborn health
- 6 Syria:** Primary healthcare, including nutrition, maternal and newborn services, and MHPSS; livelihoods and psychosocial support; access to clean water and sanitation; emergency response in complex crises; and safe, healthy access to education
- 7 Ukraine:** Sumy multisectoral support project focused on resilience, recovery, rehabilitation and supporting vulnerable communities in Sumy and Kherson
- 8 Africa and Asia Pacific regions:** Ready to respond program – effective WaSH & health preparedness & response



2.4

billion of the world's population lacks basic sanitation such as toilets and latrines.



818

million children lack a handwashing facility with water.



1 out of 4

people worldwide do not have access to safe drinking water.

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of SRC concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND PROTECTION

Truthful to Our Humanitarian Principles

Our work is guided by international humanitarian law (IHL), rooted in the Geneva Conventions and related frameworks. We assist victims of conflict while promoting respect for these rules. The Red Cross has played a key role in developing and updating IHL, which today protects wounded soldiers, prisoners of war, and civilians in both international and non-international conflicts.

The Swedish Red Cross supports the work on IHL within the RCRC Movement through technical expertise, capacity building, and strategic coordination. This includes providing guidance and training to other RCRC National Societies, supporting the interpretation and operationalization of IHL in complex contexts, and facilitating knowledge exchange and peer learning across the Movement. An important

part of this work is to include a gender perspective to ensure that laws and humanitarian action better address different needs, risks and protection gaps for women, men and other groups.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) is important in all situations. PGI needs and risk assessments help guide how we respond, both before and after disasters, and in both peaceful and conflict settings. Including PGI in all work means making sure that every programme or activity considers dignity, access, participation and safety (DAPS). We aim to protect people's dignity, avoid doing harm, and reduce risks such as discrimination and exploitation. Specialized programmes are designed to directly prevent or respond to violence, exclusion and discrimination. These are targeted activities that meet the needs of specific groups.

Programmes in International Humanitarian Law and Protection 2025:

- 1. Latin America: Advocating for Migrants' rights and dignity (AMRiD)
- 2. Mediterranean Sea: Beyond the next horizon – new technology saves more lives in the Mediterranean Sea
- 3. Ukraine: Protection Gender and Inclusion detailed sector plan development: institutionalization and integration in operations



MEDITERRANEAN SEA – LIFE SAVING RESCUES

Thousands of people flee across the Mediterranean Sea every year. The Red Cross has long been present on board the Ocean Viking to help people rescued from the sea with humanitarian assistance. 1,325 people were rescued during 2025, and Swedish Red Cross deployed a nurse and a midwife who provided life-saving care to them. With funding from Sweden, new technology has been introduced on board making it possible to save even more lives. Since its start ten years ago, Ocean Viking has rescued 42,000 people on the move and assisted them to reach a safe harbor.

With a new thermal imaging camera, we can see further and locate more boats, even at night.”

Nicola Stalla, who leads the rescue operations on board.

AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN – CROSS-BORDER SUPPORT FOR MIGRANTS

Migration dynamics across the Americas and the Caribbean continued to evolve rapidly in 2025, with the region experiencing a notable increase in flows toward and through the Darién region and a marked reconfiguration of mobility trends, including the consolidation of reverse migration flows from North to South driven primarily by increasingly restrictive migration policies in the region. These measures contributed to prolonged stays in transit countries and widespread violations of international protection standards.

The Advocating for Migrants’ Rights and Dignity (AMRiD) is a three year (2024–2026) programme in the Americas and the Caribbean led by REDMAC - a migration network of 20 National Societies including Swedish Red Cross, IFRC and ICRC. Its goal is to ensure that women, children and men who migrate can enjoy their rights in accordance with humanitarian and human rights law.

During 2025, the project included several trainings with migrant organizations in different countries including Mexico and Colombia, to strengthen technical and operational capacities to provide a comprehensive and relevant humanitarian response. Collective learning tools were developed, including online training

courses on humanitarian diplomacy and migration and data systems, to make evidence-based decisions and plan humanitarian diplomacy actions not only elevating migrant voices and the limited access to basic services, exposure to violence, and family separation, but also shaping concrete policy outcomes and improving access to rights across multiple countries.

These efforts led to tangible improvements in access to protection

in several contexts, such as the removal of administrative obstacles to access basic services at the border in Mexico and adjustments to returnee policies in Colombia. Furthermore, In Honduras, the project provided psychosocial support during evidence-gathering activities to migrants whose return journey from the United States or Mexico included experiences of trauma, violence, or family separation.



→ Humanitarian Service Points (HSP) are Red Cross Red Crescent neutral spaces where migrants can access a wide range of humanitarian support and services, regardless of their migration status and wherever they are on their journeys. There are more than 600 HSPs around the world.



→ Here, Red Cross Society of Panama and Mexican Red Cross are providing basic health services and psychological first aid to adults and children in transit.

Interlinking the Humanity Agenda with Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals

What we do

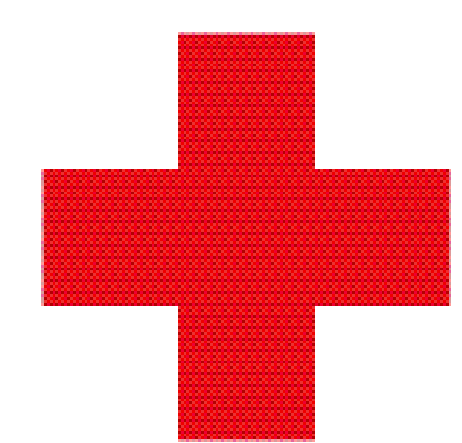


How we work



Which goals we support





Swedish Red Cross

Thank you for your support. Together we make a difference.