



Highlights of our plan for 2026

Nepal Red Cross Society action supported by the IFRC network

The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) is Nepal's largest humanitarian organisation, operating through over 89,000 volunteers, with over 1,500 local chapters in every district of the country.

In 2026, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through cooperating sister National Societies and the IFRC Secretariat, will support NRCS to address key challenges facing Nepalis, by delivering on the **“Triple-R”: Resilience, Response and Respect.**



Key challenges

Climate and disasters



Nepal has returned to the **top ten countries** affected by climate change in the 2026 Climate Risk Index. .



Between 2018 and 2024, Nepal recorded **32,375 disasters**, killing over 2,900 people and damaging or destroying over 57,000 homes.



Nepal is at the top of the **INFORM Risk Index** scale for earthquake risk and in the “high” category for epidemic risk.

Health



Despite overall progress on health indicators, there has been a reversal in **under-5 mortality** and **anemia** of women.



Nepal has seen a steady decline in the % of persons with **access to safe water** and safely managed wastewater.



Nepal has a rising incidence of both communicable and non-communicable **diseases.**

Resilience

Nature-based solutions: Protecting people and nature, together

We are championing nature-based solutions to help communities adapt to climate change and create win-win solutions for sustainable development. Through partnerships with WWF and the National Trust for Nature Conservation, we are **restoring ecosystems and reducing risks** in the Mohana River Basin and elsewhere in Nepal's far-western region.



Health and WASH: Building stronger, healthier communities

We will strengthen NRCS community-based health programs, including by modernizing our training on first aid and promoting healthy behavior change, including through a new partnership on **youth engagement** with the National Youth Mobilization against TB (NYMAT). We will strengthen volunteer capacities for **disease prevention and surveillance and healthy ageing**. We will continue to digitalize NRCS' blood services, the largest provider of blood in the country.

We will support Nepal's (soon-to-be-finalized) **National Cholera Elimination Plan (NCEP)**, mobilising trained volunteers for cholera vaccination campaigns and ensuring communities are prepared for health emergencies. We will expand NRCS water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs across additional districts (including in support of the NCEP).

Mountain resilience: Protecting the Himalaya Hindu Kush Region

The impact of climate change on mountains threatens both mountain communities and millions living "downslope", with a multitude of risks. The IFRC and its members in Nepal, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Pakistan will strengthen mountain-oriented early warning, preparedness, and ecosystem protection – with an emphasis on connecting residents and systems, from the peaks to the valleys.

Response



Localizing response capacities: Cash and stock pre-positioning

We will aim to increase the proportion of our assistance provided through **cash**, including by means of a new financial service provider arrangement, wider training, and exploration of a dedicated emergency fund. Additionally, a **new tracking system** will allow for more relief items to be pre-positioned in NRCS warehouses to ensure swift delivery during emergencies.



Heat action: Protecting health and saving lives

Extreme heat is an increasing threat to health in Nepal, driven by global climate change. We will continue working with local authorities on **heat action** plans and proactive measures such as awareness campaigns and installing water ATMs and cooling spaces.



Early warning, early and anticipatory action: Acting fast and effectively

We will support community-level implementation of the expected governmental roadmap on Early Warning for All (EW4ALL). We will also support the authorities in the rollout of the expected governmental roadmap on **anticipatory action**, ensuring key action before disasters occur. Our own early action protocols will be applied to floods, heat and dengue.



Build back better: Shelter and recovery

We will roll out our first “**recovery plan**” to support outstanding needs due to the 2023 earthquake in Jajarkot, the 2024 Bagmati floods, and the 2025 Koshi floods. We will strengthen branch-level training and capacity for shelter support while continuing to co-coordinate Nepal’s **Shelter Cluster**.

Respect

Building accountability

NRCS will reform its statutes to align with global norms on key issues related to integrity. We will also strengthen **internal control functions** and capacities, including in internal audit and investigations, human resources, and finance.

Listening to communities

NRCS will take the next steps to roll out recommendations from community engagement in its operations, including insights gained from **Community Trust Index** interviews conducted in 2025.

Strengthening volunteer action

NRCS will **modernize its volunteer management** at the chapter level, building on pilot work undertaken in Lumbini. It will strengthen the predictability and rewards of engagement for volunteers, with particular outreach to youth, seniors and women.



In Nepal, the IFRC network supports the Nepal Red Cross through the IFRC Secretariat and several sister National Societies.

In country

- American Red Cross
- British Red Cross
- Canadian Red Cross
- Danish Red Cross
- Finnish Red Cross
- Swiss Red Cross

From abroad

- Chinese Red Cross (CRC)
- Hong Kong Branch of CRC
- Irish Red Cross
- Italian Red Cross
- Korean Red Cross
- Qatar Red Crescent
- Luxembourg Red Cross
- Thai Red Cross

For more information:

