

SLOVAKIA

Federation-wide National Society Response Plan

MGR65002 Ukraine and impacted countries crisis Emergency Appeal



*A Slovak Red Cross volunteer comforts a mother from Ukraine who is staying in a temporary shelter in Senica, Slovakia.
Source: Marko Kovic, IFRC*

Emergency Appeal №: [MGR65002](#)

Timeframe of this response plan:

March 2022 – December 2025

Number of people to be assisted: **445,000 people**

Federation-wide funding requirement: 33,372,385 CHF
IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: 30,272,385 CHF

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / TRANSITION STRATEGY

Slovak Red Cross' (SRC) overall aim is to support the integration of displaced people from Ukraine living in Slovakia, while contributing towards strong social cohesion. Through its 33 regional branches, the National Society plans to deliver sustainable services for refugees, migrants and vulnerable Slovak people in the coming years.

- Scale up the network of Humanitarian Service Points across Slovakia to provide assistance and counselling on accommodation, education, employability, and health.
- Strengthen existing health and social services from Slovak Red Cross branches and enable displaced people from Ukraine to access these services, such as transport for people with special needs and loaning health equipment.
- Build the institutional capacity of Slovak Red Cross to provide high-quality psychological first aid and referrals to specialised mental health services for displaced people from Ukraine and Slovak people in need.
- Ensure readiness of the Slovak Red Cross to respond at border crossings and key transit points in case of a new influx of people from Ukraine, as well as other emergencies related to migration and climate change.
- Engage with displaced people from Ukraine, third country nationals and Slovak host communities to understand their needs, challenges, and expectations (CEA).
- Consider protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) minimum standards across all services, including guidance for managing child-friendly spaces and adapting services to meet the needs of people with disabilities.
- Invest in National Society strengthening to enhance long-term capacities with a focus on volunteering management, branch development, communications and fundraising.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND TARGETING

Humanitarian impact of the crisis and resulting needs

REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE REGISTERED IN SLOVAKIA UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION

DEMOGRAPHICS



As of 16 January 2023, **106,277** of Ukrainians have requested Temporary Protection, **33%** are male and **67%** female. Majority of the registered are adults; at **64%** while **36%** are children.

Source : Bureau of Border and Foreign Police, Republic of Slovakia February 2022 – January 2023

MAIN NEEDS OF DISPLACED PEOPLE FROM UKRAINE

HEALTH CARE



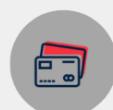
20% of Ukrainians report difficulties in accessing healthcare services due to information gaps, language barriers, high costs or being rejected by the service provider

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



27% of the households in collective centres and **31%** of the households outside of collective centres declared having mental health needs in the last month.

LIVELIHOODS



50% of all respondents interviewed reported not to be engaged in any form of work at the time of the interview compared to **7%** when they were in Ukraine.

ACCOMMODATION



43% of refugees report living in collective sites, **32%** with host families, **18%** in private rented accommodation, **4%** in hotels and **2%** in reception centers.

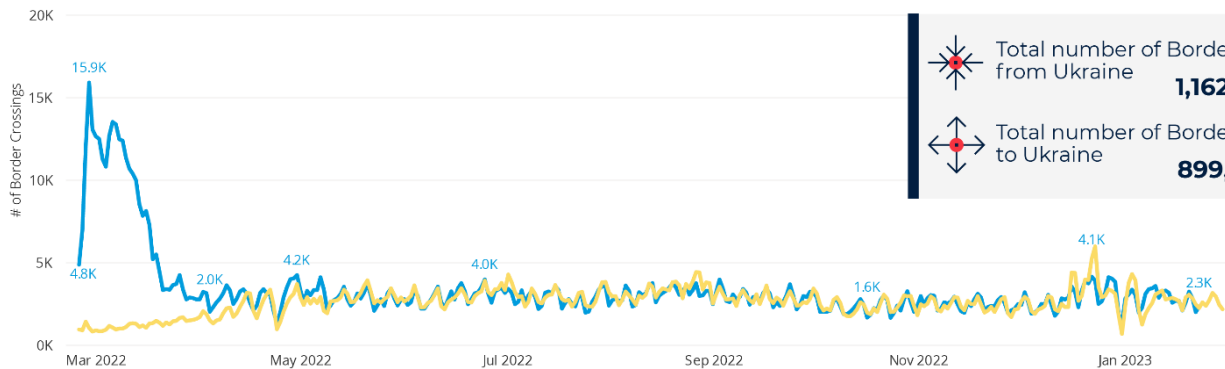
Source : REACH and UNHCR, Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (October 2022)

Refugees, Border Crossings and National Society Priorities Slovakia



Border Crossings

Border Crossings from Ukraine Border Crossings to Ukraine

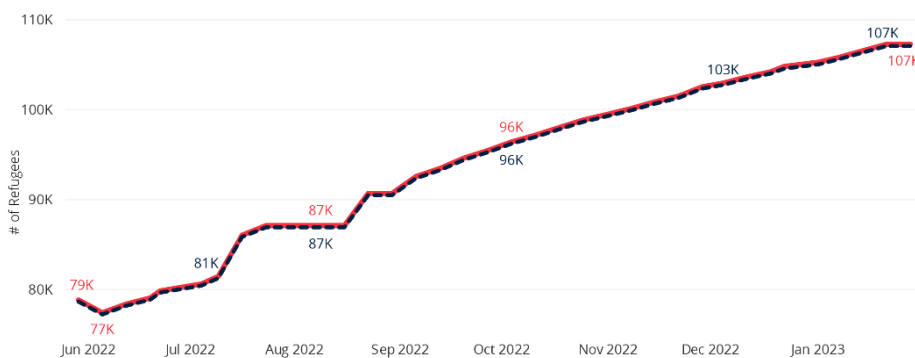


Total number of Border Crossings from Ukraine
1,162,862

Total number of Border Crossings to Ukraine
899,348

Refugees

Individual Refugees from Ukraine Refugees from Ukraine Registered for Temporary Protection or Similar National Protection



Data Source: IHC, UNHCR; Date Produced: 7/8/2023
Disclaimer: This figure reflects cross-border movements (and not individuals). Movements back to Ukraine can be pendular, and does not necessarily indicate sustainable returns as the situation across Ukraine remains highly volatile and unpredictable



107,203

Total number of Refugees

National Society Priorities



Humanitarian Service Points



Health



National Society Strengthening



MHPSS

Almost one year since the start of the crisis, the number of displaced people crossing the border from Ukraine into Slovakia has stabilized. Approximately 3,000 people enter each day, which is significantly lower than in early March 2022 when around 12,000 people crossed into Slovakia per day.¹ Currently these are mostly “repeated arrivals”: people who regularly go in and out of Ukraine.

As of 16 January 2023, **106,277 people have been granted Temporary Protection status (TPS) in Slovakia**. TPS holders are entitled to “urgent and necessary” health care, social protection (including material needs allowance), as well as access to the labour market and education system. Nevertheless, displaced people from Ukraine face challenges to access some of those public services, for example for specialist health care or day care services. This is mostly related to information gaps and language barriers and limited availability or coverage of public services in Slovakia.

Accommodation: As a small European country with only around 5.5 million inhabitants, the Republic of Slovakia has struggled to host the comparatively large number of displaced people from Ukraine. Only an estimated 18 per cent have found private rented accommodation, while 43 per cent are in collective sites managed by local authorities and 32 per cent live with host families.² This highlights the need for investments in longer-term accommodation options.

Livelihoods and Basic Needs: Around half of the displaced people from Ukraine in Slovakia are reported not to be engaged in any form of work, compared to only 7 per cent when they were in Ukraine.³ The most common sectors of formal

¹ Data shared with Slovak Red Cross by the National Bureau of Border and Foreign Police, Republic of Slovakia (February 2022 - January 2023)

² REACH & UNHCR: Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment Slovakia (October 2022)

³ REACH & UNHCR: Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment Slovakia (October 2022)

employment are domestic services, manufacturing and accommodation or food services. Moreover, most of the recipients from the Red Cross multi-purpose cash programme report that the monthly payments are only partially sufficient to cover their basic needs. 26 per cent report borrowing money to support their household needs. Some households also rely on remittances and allowances from the Ukrainian government.

Education: Slovakia is one of the few EU countries where school enrolment is not (yet) mandatory for children under Temporary Protection status. Around 12,500 children (33 per cent) are formally enrolled in Slovak schools.⁴ The capacity of the education system to absorb significant numbers of children remains a challenge, in addition to the challenges of integrating non-Slovak speaking students at universities. Availability and accessibility of kindergarten services are limited and varies strongly across Slovakia, which impacts both Slovak parents as well as refugees.

Health: The most reported health needs are visits for acute illnesses and preventive services, followed by needs for treatment of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases and cancer, and dental care.⁵ 20 per cent of displaced people from Ukraine report difficulties in accessing health care due to information gaps, language barriers, high costs or rejection by service providers.⁶ Access to healthcare has become a critical challenge not only for refugees but also for other vulnerable groups in Slovakia due to services disruption during the COVID-19 pandemic, aging of general practitioners, and limited service coverage. Public health concerns related to communicable diseases such as tuberculosis are also on the rise.

Mental Health: A third of the households from Ukraine report having mental health needs: at least one household member reports feeling anxious, worried, agitated, angry, and/or depressed in a way that it affects the person's daily functioning.⁷

Profiles of most vulnerable groups

- 1. Displaced people from Ukraine staying in Slovakia:** In November 2022, only 59 per cent of the displaced population indicated that they would return to Ukraine once it is safe.⁸ This highlights the need for Slovak Red Cross to support inclusion of displaced people from Ukraine in the Slovak national system and society through its wide range of services, information and assisted referrals. Due to the obligation for men of working-age to stay in Ukraine, 77 per cent of all adults that have TPS in Slovakia are female.⁹ When asked about the groups among displaced people from Ukraine that tend to have the highest unmet needs, Slovak Red Cross branches most frequently mention people with physical disabilities, followed by older people, people in large families, and pregnant women or women with children.¹⁰
- 2. Slovak people and hosting families in vulnerable positions:** The crisis in Ukraine has also impacted the lives and livelihoods of Slovaks, for example due to high inflation rates (12.7 per cent in 2022), rising energy prices, and increased pressure on the housing market. Moreover, one third of all refugees are estimated to continue living with hosting families in Slovakia¹¹, in some cases already for a year. This highlights the need for Slovak Red Cross to reach specific vulnerable Slovak groups, such as older people, unemployed persons and Roma people, as well as hosting families within its response. Rather than establishing new separate services for displaced people from Ukraine, the key goal is to expand existing Red Cross programmes for the Slovak population and to include all refugees and migrants, hereby contributing to social cohesion and sustainability of services.
- 3. People on the move:** Within a 2-month period in late 2022, the Slovak Border and Foreign Police has apprehended and registered 4,466 migrants on Slovak territory, mostly arriving via the Balkan route.¹² This situation is unprecedented in Slovakia, a relatively small EU country that never encountered large migration flows before 2022. Prior to the crisis in Ukraine, Slovakia hosted only a total of 409 refugees (including subsidiary protection holders).¹³

⁴ Data shared with IFRC by the Ministry of Education (November 2022)

⁵ WHO: Public Health Situation and Refugees Health Needs Assessment in Slovakia (November 2022)

⁶ REACH & UNHCR: Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment Slovakia (October 2022)

⁷ REACH & UNHCR: Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment Slovakia (October 2022)

⁸ IOM: Slovakia Displacement Surveys with Refugees and Third Country Nationals, round 6 (November 2022)

⁹ Data shared with Slovak Red Cross by the National Bureau of Border and Foreign Police, Republic of Slovakia (January 2023)

¹⁰ Survey with 33 regional branches, Slovak Red Cross (January 2023)

¹¹ REACH & UNHCR: Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment Slovakia (October 2022)

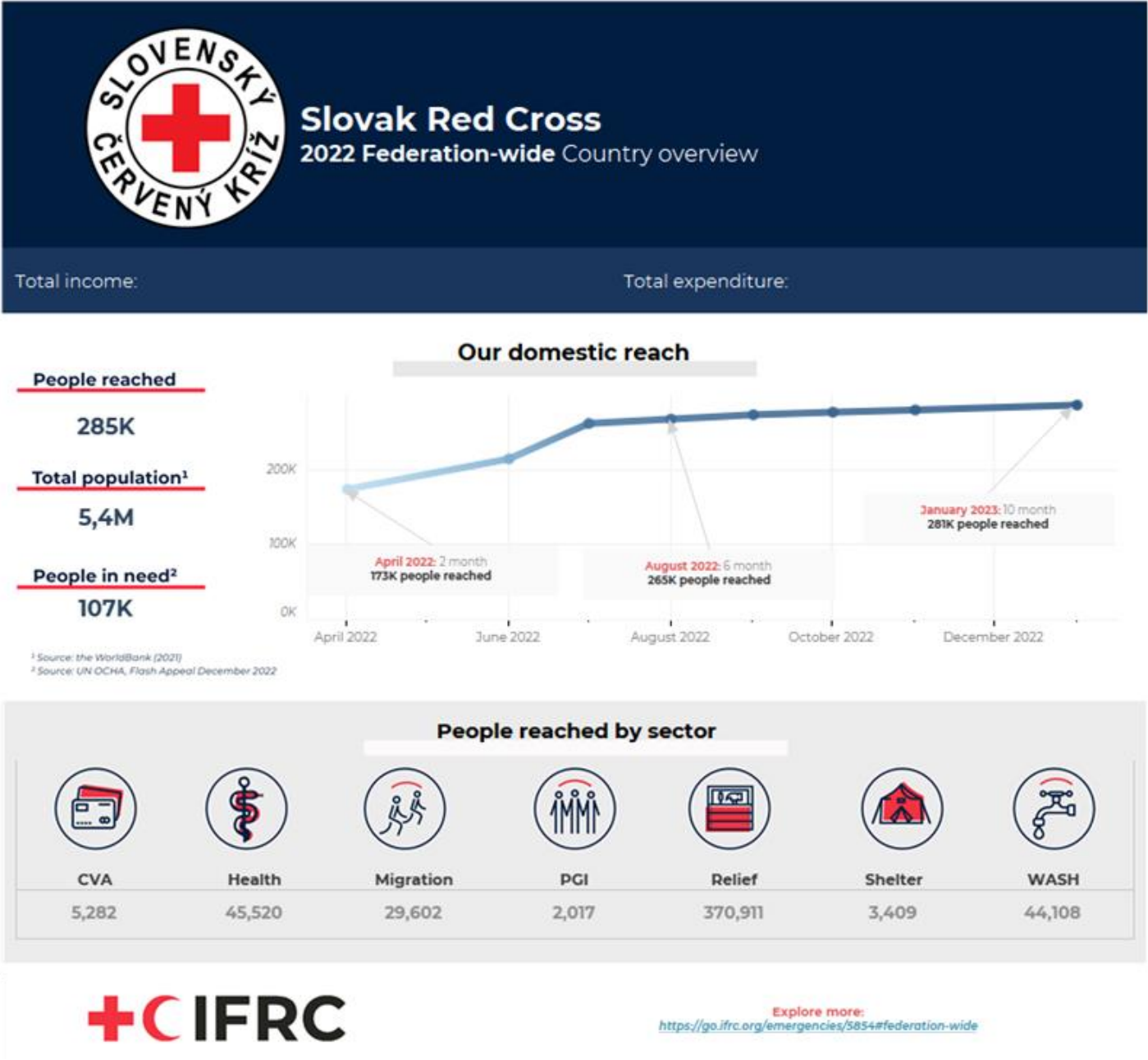
¹² Deutsche Welle: [Illegal migration puts Slovakia into Schengen isolation](#) (November 2022)

¹³ UNHCR: Inter-Agency Operational Update (June 2022)

Traditionally, Slovakia has been a transit country for migrants from Syria, Afghanistan and Turkey. Despite information on their right to apply for International Protection in Slovakia, almost none of the migrants have done this to date. Most express intentions to travel onward to countries such as Germany and Austria. Regardless of their preferred destination, these migrants need a special set of services and support along their journey.

CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

National Society capacity



For details on the National Society's ongoing response to the crisis, please refer to [IFRC GO](#).

National Society role in the national response	<p>Slovak Red Cross has a base of 33 regional branches across the country with more than 3,000 long-term volunteers. Since the start of the Ukraine crisis, SRC was present at the three border crossings, providing emergency services such as warming centres, referral to essential services, and first aid. The NS is a member of the Crisis Management Board led by the Ministry of Interior, with regular coordination meetings. SRC also has a mandate to provide basic health services in emergencies, in partnership with the Ministry of Health. Many branches also have agreements with local District Offices and the Self-Governing Regions.</p> <p>As people quickly moved on from the borders, SRC scaled up its services across the country through Humanitarian Service Points and branch offices. Currently, this support includes first aid and psychological first aid, monthly cash assistance, distribution of essential household items, grocery vouchers and hygiene items, language trainings, and referral to essential services. In total, the Slovak Red Cross has reached more than 190,000 people since the crisis began.</p>
Key areas of scale-up and strength	<p>As a first responder, Slovak Red Cross branches quickly leveraged local partnerships and networks to deliver essential items to people on the move as well as people who decided to stay in Slovakia after fleeing the conflict. The NS has also distributed more than 8,000 grocery vouchers to people from Ukraine in 2022, hereby giving people the opportunity to buy what they need most rather than offering only in-kind assistance.</p> <p>Slovak Red Cross also has decades of experience in first aid and community-based health services, for the older people and people with disabilities. Standard services at the regional branches include loaning of health equipment, local transport, homeless shelters and hot meal services. To leverage this expertise, SRC is expanding existing services to be able to support displaced people from Ukraine who often do not have full access to health care in Slovakia.</p> <p>Community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities are another core area of focus for Slovak Red Cross. It is an institutional priority that all staff and volunteers are trained to provide psychological first aid and referrals to specialised services to the displaced population and to Slovak people in need.</p>
Areas of new / additional capacities developed	<p>Slovak Red Cross, together with the UNHCR, are the only two actors in the country allowed to provide emergency cash assistance. SRC is at the forefront of the national cash response, serving more than 5,000 displaced persons with five monthly cash transfers including top-ups for winterization and for education. This emergency cash assistance ends in early 2023, as eligible households graduate to the Slovak Government's material needs allowance.</p> <p>Slovak Red Cross is also rolling out a cash for shelter programme and cash for health interventions. For a National Society with no experience with Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) prior to the Ukraine crisis, this shows the interest to continue using cash-based approaches.</p> <p>Finally, Slovak Red Cross is strengthening its institutional capacity to ensure sustainability beyond the Ukraine response. Nine key positions at headquarters have been recruited to support the Ukraine operation, representing almost a doubling in HR capacity. IFRC is also supporting more than thirty positions at SRC branches. Aside from HR development, the NS prioritizes investments in domestic fundraising and partnerships, public communications and volunteer management.</p>

National Society partners

IFRC presence in Slovakia

Since late February 2022, the IFRC has scaled up its support to the Slovak Red Cross, with more than 25 surge delegates deployed. Five long-term IFRC positions have been recruited to support the Slovak Red Cross to implement the response beyond the emergency phase: an Operations Manager, a Shelter delegate, a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) delegate, a Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) delegate, a Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) delegate and an Information Management (IM) delegate. This new IFRC delegation sits within the National Society headquarters office in Bratislava. As of January 2023, there are no Partner National Societies supporting Slovak Red Cross with bilateral support. American Red Cross plans to have a regional CVA delegate based at the Slovak Red Cross headquarters by mid-2023.

Movement Cooperation (ICRC)

ICRC teams regularly conduct field visits in Slovakia, with a particular focus on protection issues. Dedicated support on Restoring Family Links to the Slovak Red Cross is ongoing, with at least one confirmed SRC staff position. A Protection of Family Links (PFL) delegate is based in the Slovak Red Cross headquarters in 2023 to provide technical support.

Name of Partner	Health & Care	Integrated Assistance	Protection & Prevention	NS Capacity Building	Details
IFRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IFRC supports Slovak Red Cross in Health and MHPSS, Shelter, Livelihoods, CVA, CEA, PGI and National Society Strengthening.
ICRC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ICRC provides support to Slovak Red Cross on Restoring Family Links (RFL). They also focus on Protection of Civilians and broader protection issues.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Scenario Planning

Scenario	Impact	Mitigating actions
Severe winter conditions and/or increased attacks on critical infrastructure in Ukraine	Arrival of up to 270,000 new refugees from Ukraine, with half of them estimated to apply for Temporary Protection status in Slovakia. People in this new influx are expected to have increased vulnerabilities and less resources, for instance because they were already internally displaced prior to leaving Ukraine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalize the role of the Slovak Red Cross as a provider of basic health services within the Government's contingency plan. Support the present refugee group to move into longer-term housing solutions through rental assistance, hereby opening spaces in temporary accommodation facilities for new arrivals. Preposition essential items such as sleeping kits, hygiene parcels and grocery vouchers. Prepare branches to quickly deliver emergency cash. Ensure readiness of branches in East Slovakia to scale up first aid, psychological first aid, RFL services, transport and other community-based health services.

Energy crisis and inflation in Slovakia	Slovak citizens and displaced people from Ukraine are affected by the worsening socio-economic conditions in Slovakia. This might lead to an increase in social tensions between these population groups and a less favourable environment for migrants and refugees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complement Slovak Red Cross programmes for displaced people with more services for vulnerable Slovak citizens affected by the energy crisis. • Scale up community based MHPSS and PGI activities at branches serving both people from Ukraine and Slovak people to enhance social cohesion. • Strengthen Slovak Red Cross communications to highlight existing support for Slovak citizens and promote positive perceptions around integration.
Reintroduction of border controls within the Schengen zone in response to increased migration flows (Balkan route)	Arrival of large numbers of migrants, mostly from Syria and Afghanistan, who often do not claim asylum in Slovakia because they intend to travel onwards to Western European countries. These people on the move have distinct needs such as food, missing family members, short-term safe accommodation, information and legal counselling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate with the Slovak Government for better accommodation options for migrants and promote full access to basic health care for migrants. • Explore the potential to open Humanitarian Service Points along this migrant route, with Arabic-speaking staff and volunteers. • Prepare branches close to the Czech and Austrian border to scale up existing services, including Restoring Family Links. • Preposition essential items such as food, drinking water, clothing, blankets and hygiene items.
Peace or conflict stabilization in Ukraine	Many of the approximately 100,000 people with TPS in Slovakia are expected to plan their return to Ukraine. This group will require dedicated support along their journey, while the group that decides to stay in Slovakia long-term will need support to help build their lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess how many and which type of households would decide to return to Ukraine and within which timeframe. • Prepare information, referrals to legal counselling, transport within Slovakia and other essential services to help people prepare for their journey back to Ukraine. • Coordinate with Red Cross teams in Ukraine to help facilitate cross-border travel, through the IFRC office in Uzghorod.

People to be assisted

Prioritization per sector

Slovak Red Cross aims to support displaced people from Ukraine staying in Slovakia, Slovak people with specific vulnerabilities and hosting families, and other migrants and refugees on the move from countries such as Syria and Afghanistan. The below table shows how the distribution of funds for each of the major response activities from Slovak Red Cross is expected to be allocated among these three main target groups.¹⁴

Sectoral interventions	Percentage of total budget allocated per population group		
	1. Displaced people from Ukraine	2. Slovak people	3. People on the move
Multi-purpose cash payments	100%	0%	0%
Distribution of household items	50%	20%	30%

¹⁴ This allocation of resources among different population groups is indicative and subject to change according to the changing needs in Slovakia, in line with the scenarios outlined above.

Grocery vouchers	60%	Up to 30%	Up to 10%
Rental assistance	80%	20%	0%
Host family support	100%	0%	0%
Cash for Health	80%	Up to 20%	0%
Community-based health care & social services (first aid; transport people with special needs; home-based care; loaning of health equipment)	70%	30%	0%
MHPSS (psychological first aid and community based MHPSS activities)	60%	30%	10%
Cash for Livelihoods	80%	Up to 20%	0%
Livelihoods (language and vocational trainings; employability support)	70%	Up to 30%	0%
Humanitarian Service Points (information, counselling and referrals)	No restrictions, based on needs.		
CEA & PGI activities	No restrictions, based on needs.		

Overall sex and age breakdown of people targeted


Out of the more than 1 million people who have already entered Slovakia from Ukraine since the start of the crisis in February 2022, Slovak Red Cross aims to reach 350,000 displaced persons with services, referrals and information. The focus is on people affected who have decided to stay in Slovakia with Temporary Protection status (106,277 people as of January 2023). Slovak Red Cross also plans to assist the most vulnerable Slovak groups, such as older people or persons with disabilities, and hosting families. Finally, in anticipation of an increased number of migrants transiting Slovakia each year, Slovak Red Cross aims to support 25,000 migrants during their journey.

Sex-age group	Displaced people from Ukraine	Slovak people	People on the move	Total
Males Over 18 years of age	64,960	28,800	21,000	114,760
Males Under 18 years old	50,040	5,000	3,000	58,040
Females Over 18 years old	159,040	31,200	800	191,040
Females Under 18 years of age	75,960	5,000	200	81,160
Total number of people to be assisted	350,000	70,000	25,000	445,000

ONGOING AND PLANNED OPERATIONS

HEALTH & CARE INCLUDING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

(COMMUNITY HEALTH / MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT)


 Health & Care	Overall target: 85,000	
	Female > 18: 35,523	Female < 18: 17,503
	Male > 18: 18,877	Male < 18: 13,097
Objective:	Most vulnerable displaced people are provided with high-quality health and care services including MHPSS.	
Priority Actions:	Activities:	
Primary health services and/or referral to public health institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the Humanitarian Service Points to provide information and (accompanied) referrals for displaced people from Ukraine and Slovak people to access the Slovak health system, including details about specialized services and support for people with disabilities. Map and strengthen local referral pathways to specialist health services, including mental health services. Community-based health and care services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Slovak Red Cross branches to expand existing community-based health and social services and ensure coverage of displaced people from Ukraine and Third Country Nationals. This includes loaning of health equipment such as wheelchairs, home-based care, social taxi services and long-distance transportation of people with special needs and hot meal services. 	
People trained in First Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in Slovak Red Cross capacity as a nation-wide provider of First Aid by scaling up the 8-hour and 33-hour First Aid trainings delivered by the headquarters and branches, using the Global First Aid Reference Centre guidelines. Prepare standardized First Aid training materials, cover per diems for First Aid volunteers, and procure First Aid items such as mannequins. 	
Mental Health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS)	Provision of psychological first aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure timely and adequate Psychological First Aid (PFA) provision to the affected population by building MHPSS capacity at the Slovak Red Cross headquarters and branch levels. Translate, distribute and publish relevant materials on a webpage with a library dedicated for MHPSS themes for internal use, in cooperation with the Reference Centre for Psychosocial support. Community-based mental health and psychosocial support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish community based MHPSS activities for people from Ukraine and Slovak families at a number of trained SRC branches. This includes 	

	psychoeducation, outreach, household visits, activities for adolescents and youth and peer support groups.
People trained in MHPSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all new staff and volunteers receive First Aid and Psychological First Aid training as part of their onboarding. • Cascade PFA trainings to staff and volunteers across the country. • Ensure that the Slovak Red Cross helpline operators and HSP staff and volunteers are trained on health and MHPSS referrals. • Provide training on Caring for Staff and Volunteers trainings across the country. • Build capacity for supervision and mentoring layer to support to-be-trainers of PFA and Caring for Staff and Volunteers trainings.
Cash for health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a feasibility study on the most appropriate and efficient cash for health interventions, such as reimbursement of health expenses, contracts with medical service providers and/or pharmacy vouchers. • Use cash and voucher modalities to help specific vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and mothers, older people or people with chronic illnesses to access treatment, prescription medicine and/or over-the-counter drugs, and other special services.
Health campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in the annual blood donation campaign and start efforts to also reach displaced people from Ukraine in Slovakia as potential blood donors. • Offer health promotion activities at branches and HSPs based on an assessment of priority areas, for example around vaccination, healthy lifestyles and reproductive rights.
National Society Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange long-term MHPSS supervision and support for staff and volunteers. • Sustain MHPSS capacity beyond the Ukraine crisis by including the Slovak population in the services, designing income generating MHPSS services and building partnerships with local institutions. • Incorporate and institutionalize MHPSS in Slovak Red Cross policies and strategic plans.
Contingency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preposition “Family Psychosocial Support Kits”, hygiene parcels and other health items. • Provide FA and PFA training and organize preparedness activities for the 7 branches that are responsible for humanitarian services along the Slovakia-Ukraine border, as per the national Contingency Plan.

INTEGRATED ASSISTANCE

(SHELTER, HOUSING AND SETTLEMENTS, MULTI-PURPOSE CASH)

	Overall target: 6,660
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 Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Female > 18: 2,695	Female < 18: 854
	Male > 18: 2,135	Male < 18: 976
Objective:	Communities in crisis-affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions.	
Priority Actions:	Activities:	
Relief assistance for basic needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute blankets, baby kits, sleeping kits and other essential items at key transit points, HSPs and branches. 	
Rental assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen Humanitarian Service Points to facilitate an efficient accommodation hunting, mediation and agreement development process, including referrals for ineligible applicants. Provide rental support to 400 displaced families for six months, with a potential extension. The rental assistance will be coupled with security of tenure and housing adequacy support. Carry out assessments of rental places to ensure accountability and adaptation of the programme based on changing needs. Address the housing needs of the most vulnerable Slovak households. 80 Slovak families will receive rental assistance through a subsidized amount for 6 months, with a potential extension. The rental assistance contribution will be 50% of the full rent. Top-ups will be similar to the rental assistance for displaced households. Share clear information to target households about the programme duration and on Government social protection and housing programmes. Extend the tenancy duration for the most vulnerable families. 	
Host family support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide financial support to 400 families that are hosting displaced people from Ukraine to reduce any potential burdens and/or to enable them to continue hosting. Provide a one-off payment to improve their housing adequacy (including the buying of household items, privacy, protection, and habitability) and where appropriate, make adaptations for disability. This will be coupled with vetting of hosting households to check for exploitative or abusive practices and housing adequacy. Provide a one-off payment to support families with increased costs during winter months. Implementation of Safe Home Guidance- DG Home. 	
Analysis of housing situation in Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct household profiling and bi-annual housing market analysis to understand the comprehensive housing needs of the refugees and host communities, the rental values and utility costs. Identify tenancy law/civil code related to the tenancy, its dissemination including information regarding rights and obligation of tenants and property owners in Slovakia. 	

Coordination, learning and accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with relevant government stakeholders at national, regional, and local level. • As part of the Safer Homes programme, capture learning and produce guidance around Red Cross housing support in Slovakia by using the harmonized regional approach and methodologies. This includes lessons around registration, enrolment, payments, referrals and matching of host families with displaced families. • Explore development of a system whereby tenants and hosts can match their needs and facilitate agreements. • Develop success stories and case studies for the rental and hosting family support. • Conduct mentoring and feedback sessions with displaced and hosting families to improve the programme and enhance social cohesion. • Host a regional webinar with technical support from Geneva shelter department to share the learning from the programme. • Conduct a lesson learnt workshop at national level to capture learning. 				
National society strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train relevant branches on host family support and rental assistance programmes, including assessment of the adequacy of the houses. • Provide shelter technical/coordination training for SRC HQ staff. • Ensure continued engagement with affected populations, including both host and hosted families. 				
Contingency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce concise guidance for National Society engagement in emergency shelter protocols. • Procure essential household items for displaced families. • Develop a roster of actors who provide emergency and mid-term accommodation solutions and map their capacity. • Coordinate with relevant government authorities to map prepositioned items and identify gaps for procurement of essential household items. 				
<div data-bbox="142 1325 235 1388"></div> <div data-bbox="285 1299 464 1409"> Cash and Voucher Assistance </div>	<div data-bbox="560 1289 826 1323">Overall target: 44,200</div> <table data-bbox="545 1339 1523 1476"> <tr> <td data-bbox="560 1356 1222 1390">Female > 18: 20,084</td><td data-bbox="1222 1356 1523 1390">Female < 18: 9593</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="560 1425 1222 1459">Male > 18: 8,203</td><td data-bbox="1222 1425 1523 1459">Male < 18: 6,319</td></tr> </table>	Female > 18: 20,084	Female < 18: 9593	Male > 18: 8,203	Male < 18: 6,319
Female > 18: 20,084	Female < 18: 9593				
Male > 18: 8,203	Male < 18: 6,319				
Objective:	The most vulnerable displaced communities have their needs addressed through the use of cash assistance.				
Priority Actions:	Activities:				
Conditional and/or unconditional cash and voucher assistance	Multi-purpose cash assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Red Cross emergency cash assistance programme with 5 monthly payments for 3,056 displaced households from Ukraine, including vulnerable displaced groups that cannot apply for Temporary Protection status. 				


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and harmonize our emergency cash assistance through the inter-agency Cash Working Group, co-chaired by UNHCR and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. • Develop information materials about the Red Cross emergency cash assistance programme. • Run a helpline for Cash and Vouchers Assistance (CVA) and other Slovak Red Cross services with a dedicated case worker. • Manage a responsible handover of Red Cross cash recipients who are entitled to enter the Slovak Government's social protection system. • Explore modalities to continue providing emergency cash assistance to specific vulnerable households who are not eligible for the financial assistance provided by the Government. • Pilot the CEA checklist for the multi-purpose cash programme. <p>Winterization grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide winterization assistance in the form of a top up to the regular cash assistance through a one-off payment per household in 2022. • Prepare for potential winterization grants in 2023, 2024 and 2025, depending on the needs. <p>Cash for education grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide cash for education in the form of a one-off payment to support the inclusion of displaced children in learning (face-to-face and remote) in the new school year 2022/2023. • Prepare for additional cash for education grants in 2023, 2024 and 2025, as per the evolving needs of displaced children. <p>Cash for health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see the Cash for Health component of the Health & Care section. <p>Grocery vouchers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute emergency grocery vouchers to 14,000 displaced households and a selection of vulnerable Slovak families (up to 30%) to be able to buy the most needed essential items. • Increase the number of vouchers at stock designated for the most vulnerable individuals, regardless of nationality or status. • Develop eligibility criteria and a targeting approach with special consideration for food security measurements, based on lessons learned from the HSPs.
National Society strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train staff and volunteers from 9 Red Cross branches on rolling out the emergency cash assistance programme. Guide Slovak Red Cross HQ and branches to be prepared to use CVA in the future with new SOPs and contextualized tools. • Strengthen Slovak Red Cross' capacity to deliver the grocery voucher program at scale, considering procurement requirements and staffing, distribution plans, monitoring, reporting and data collection.
Contingency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preposition Mobile Data Collection kits. • Establish framework agreements with appropriate financial service providers in Slovakia.
Livelihoods	Overall target: 8,050

	Female > 18: 4,755	Female < 18: 500
	Male > 18: 2,295	Male < 18: 500
Objective:	Communities in crisis-affected areas and the displaced can recover their livelihoods, while refugees' access to employment opportunities is improved.	
Priority Actions:	Activities:	
Employability support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize Slovak language trainings for Ukrainian speakers. Facilitate First Aid training and other basic skills trainings. Provide counselling on labour market opportunities and the social security system in Slovakia. Support people from Ukraine and the host population with job applications, interview processes, job-matching and life skills training Ensure official translation and accreditation or recognition of diplomas and certifications from Ukraine. Facilitate local networking through associations, clubs, religious institutions, sports organizations, etc. 	
Comprehensive labour market integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help map people's skills and professional experience and assess the labour market demands per region. Support parents to be able to work, for example through after school activities at the branch or covering costs for day care. Identify legal barriers for employability and enterprise establishment, and advocate with relevant authorities. Profile analysis of individuals. Organize vocational training courses, such as a caretakers' course. Facilitate and support internship opportunities for young displaced people from Ukraine. 	
National society strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build long-term partnerships with the local Labour Office, relevant local institutions and the private sector. On the job and online trainings on livelihoods/employability for Slovak Red Cross staff and volunteers. 	
Contingency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preposition food parcels and other essential items to distribute at border crossings in case of a new influx of refugees. Translate existing skills and vocational training modules into Ukrainian. 	

PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

(PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION (PGI), COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA), MIGRATION)

Protection, Gender and Inclusion	Overall target: 5,000	
	Female > 18: 800	Female < 18: 2,000

	Male > 18: 200	Male < 18: 2,000
Objective:	The different people impacted, displaced by or fleeing the crisis are safe from harm including violence, abuse and exploitation, discrimination and exclusion, and their needs and rights are met.	
Priority Actions:	Activities:	
Children welcomed in child-friendly spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run small-scale child-friendly spaces in Humanitarian Service Points and at selected branches. • Develop Slovak Red Cross minimum standards for child-friendly spaces, in alignment with Movement-wide guidance for child friendly spaces in humanitarian settings. 	
PGI activities	<p>Referrals for protection cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map and disseminate referral pathways for child protection, sexual and gender-based violence and other protection risks. • Ensure referrals to case management, as well as follow-up and accompaniment services for health, social services, protection, and human trafficking support centres. • Test and update referral pathways to ensure that people from Ukraine have accurate and relevant information. <p>Analysis and advocacy on protection, gender and inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop messages on preventing and responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), trafficking in persons, legal status and related information, in particular for marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities. • Assess, monitor, and analyse PGI issues and trends, including through analysis of sex, age and disability disaggregated data. 	

Prevention and Protection of sexual exploitation and abuse and safeguarding	Mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion in all programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and deliver a 1-day induction training for all volunteers, and newly hired Slovak RC staff on CEA, PSS, RFL and PGI.• Deliver basic PGI training to a selection of staff and volunteers covering anti-trafficking, gender-based violence, child safeguarding and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.• Mainstream PGI within the integrated shelter, cash and livelihoods programs.• Ensure Humanitarian Service Points are safe, inclusive and accessible for people with specific needs. Prevention and Protection of sexual exploitation and abuse and safeguarding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen safeguarding and protection of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policies and reporting mechanisms for the Ukraine response, in close coordination with other stakeholders.• Disseminate information about safeguarding to staff and volunteers, as well as people receiving SRC services.		
Restoring family links	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and report cases with separated or missing family members, led by ICRC's central tracing agency. This includes re-establishing contact, reuniting families and seeking to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing people.• Build capacity among headquarters and branch staff to identify RFL and document cases.• Disseminate information materials for people on the move, such as safety tips for families.		
National society strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Train branch staff and volunteers on PGI, focusing on SGBV, child protection, PSEA and anti-trafficking.• Mainstream PGI approach across all longer-term SRC activities, such as community-based health activities.• Introduce the IFRC Integrity Line as a national reporting mechanism for any possible misconduct.• Ensure sustainability and institutionalization of the PGI approach in Slovak Red Cross by supporting a PGI Officer at the headquarters.		
Contingency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop informative leaflets on key PGI topics.• Preposition goods to quickly set up child-friendly spaces in East Slovakia in case of a reactivation of services at the border.		
<div></div> <div>Community Engagement and Accountability</div>	Overall target: 445,000		
	Female > 18: 191,040		Female < 18: 81,160
	Male > 18: 114,760		Male < 18: 58,040

Objective:	The diverse needs, priorities and preferences of the affected communities guide the response ensuring a people-centred approach through meaningful community participation.		
Priority Actions:	Activities:		
Information as aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide relevant and timely information about available services to Slovak people and to the displaced population through the most popular and accessible communication channels such as Telegram. • Send outbound SMS and WhatsApp messages with key updates on our programmes. • Develop visibility materials and informative messages to promote the HSP services and locations across Slovakia. • Strengthen the current Slovak Red Cross helpline for the Ukraine crisis with updated information about all programmes and referrals. • Ensure that the Slovak Red Cross website presents up-to-date information about our services and about other actors. 		
Establishing NS feedback mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train Slovak Red Cross staff and volunteers on CEA fundamentals, including responding to feedback. • Manage effective feedback mechanisms for the Ukraine response, including a helpline with Ukrainian-speaking operators, social media and face-to-face channels. • Set up one central case management system for categorizing and tracking community feedback collected at the HSPs and the helpline. • Introduce feedback mechanisms and a satisfaction survey at the HSPs, including a QR code for anonymous feedback. 		
Collecting community feedback and using it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review displaced persons' needs, priorities, and perceptions, using primary data collected through surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews, secondary data and information from partners. • Present community feedback to governmental institutions and other stakeholders to help advocate on key issues. • Ensure meaningful face-to-face engagement with the displaced and host population, for instance through community meetings at HSPs. • Collect community feedback through Post-Distribution Monitoring for multi-purpose cash and shelter programmes. • Monitor social media of Slovak and Ukrainian-speaking groups to track feedback, rumours, and complaints among the displaced population and host communities. 		
National society strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onboarding and peer support for the new Slovak Red Cross' national CEA Coordinator. • Work with Slovak Red Cross headquarters and branches to maintain and expand feedback systems beyond the Ukraine response. • Institutionalize CEA approaches in all long-term programs and operations. 		
	Overall target: 43,200		

 Migration and Displacement	Female > 18: 19,630	Female < 18: 9,376
	Male > 18: 8,018	Male < 18: 6,176
Objective:	Specific vulnerabilities of displaced populations and people on the move are analysed and their needs and rights are met with dedicated humanitarian assistance, protection and humanitarian diplomacy interventions, in coordination with relevant stakeholders.	
Priority Actions:	Activities:	
Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing services to refugees/displaced people and Slovak people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a network of 15 accessible Humanitarian Service Points across Slovakia that are run by different regional branches, with at least one social worker and one Ukrainian-speaking liaison officer present. These HSPs provide information and social counselling to people, hereby supporting access to health care services and to education. The HSPs also support applications for material needs allowance, advice for job seekers, and referrals for mental health and PSS services. Ensure all HSPs have a minimum understanding on protection, including RFL tools and how to use them. Ensure the quality of services at all HSPs through regular monitoring visits, while focusing on the satisfaction and feedback of HSP visitors. Build sustainable HSP services by encouraging and supporting branches to build local partnerships with municipalities or other stakeholders that can fund social counselling activities beyond the Ukraine crisis. 	
Transportation or evacuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run a transport service across Slovakia for refugees or migrants with special needs who are unable to use public transportation. Help facilitate international transportation for the most vulnerable people from Ukraine who need to support to be able to continue their journey to other EU countries. 	
People supported in official procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop referral pathways and accompany displaced people during official procedures such as applications at the Labour Office. 	
Analysis and advocacy on migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and collect data to analyse the profiles and needs of people on the move, with a focus on the situation in West Slovakia. Liaise with other migration actors (i.e., UNCHR and IOM) to ensure coordination, analysis of migration trends, and joint advocacy. Strengthen collaboration with other National Societies in the region, such as the Ukrainian Red Cross Society and Czech Red Cross, to enable cross-border analysis and response as well as peer-to-peer support. 	
National society strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide dedicated technical support to Slovak Red Cross branches in their capacities to respond to the specific needs of displaced populations and people on the move, in line with the IFRC Migration Strategy. This includes trainings and sensitization. 	

ENABLING APPROACHES

NATIONAL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING, COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS



National Society Strengthening

Objective:	National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognized.
Priority Actions:	Activities:
Organizational development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide strategic support to the Slovak Red Cross secretariat to achieve its goal of changing its current organizational model: from a decentralized organization with 33 relatively autonomous regional branches into a more coordinated and centralized system. • Support both the Slovak RC headquarters and branches with capacity building and resources, including staffing. For the sustainable development of the NS, core operational positions should be filled with long-term staff.
Branch development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support key regional branches by covering core staff functions in addition to the Branch Director, which could involve responsibilities for volunteer management, local partnerships and programme coordination. • Develop a specific training programme for branch leaders covering both the directors and governance, as well as the Slovak Red Cross Youth. • Organize branch assessments (BOCA) and branch forums.
Logistics development support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen capacity in the National Society in logistics, procurement, market analysis and assessment, fleet management and warehousing. This includes recruitment of a Procurement Officer for Slovak Red Cross.
Volunteer management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a uniform volunteer management approach, including procedures for recruiting volunteers, onboarding process, retention, recognition approaches and exit process. • Develop and maintain a strong, safe, and user-friendly volunteering management database, in cooperation with the Spanish Red Cross. • Improve the engagement and quality of long-term volunteers by ensuring access to systematic learning and opportunities to acquire additional skills through IFRC online courses or SRC trainings. • Reinforce approaches around recognition and care for volunteers, including the right to compensate expenses. Establish and implement the new Slovak Red Cross policy on reimbursement of volunteers. • Prepare regular opportunities for volunteers' recognition through events at national and/or international level. • Improve the visibility of volunteers (equipment, promotion of achievements, recruitment campaigns).

Humanitarian diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with public institutions to reinforce the auxiliary role, covering the key Ministries as well as the Self-Governing Regions and district offices. This includes the regular Crisis Management Board meetings and the inter-ministerial Steering Committee on Integration. Coordinate and build partnerships with UN agencies and other relevant international and local actors.
Human Resources development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Slovak Red Cross to recruit, onboard and mentor up to 15 new staff at the headquarters, with support from a third-party recruitment agency. Help identify the key areas for HR development, such as revision of HR policies and longer-term workforce planning.
Resource mobilization and partnerships development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a fundraising market study for Slovakia to inform the fundraising strategy for Slovak Red Cross in coming years. Engage with private sector and other relevant actors. Train branch staff on local fundraising and partnerships.
Financial sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the potential to rehabilitate the Red Cross training facility in Liptovsky Mikulas and create a multi-purpose centre with a business plan. Support branches to develop income-generating activities.
Communications development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build and strengthen the image of Slovak Red Cross among key audiences including donors, partners, government, the public, and media. Ensure Slovak Red Cross has access to IFRC's communications training and resources to help the NS communicate about all its activities. Conduct a communications assessment with (branch) staff and volunteers, identifying all social media platforms, and reviewing the SRC website. Roll out training on communications at the branch-level.



Coordination and Partnerships

Objective:	Technical and operational complementarity is enhanced through cooperation among IFRC membership.
Priority Actions:	Activities:
Movement Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise quarterly Movement Coordination meetings between the leadership of Slovak Red Cross, IFRC, ICRC and potentially interested Partner National Societies to ensure strong collaboration and complementarity.
External Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the bi-weekly Steering Committee on Migration hosted by the Ministry of Interior, with Heads of Offices from UNHCR, IOM, WHO and UNICEF. Ensure representation from Slovak Red Cross and IFRC in all relevant inter-agency coordination meetings, including the Refugee Coordination Forum, the cash working group and the protection working group.

Quality and accountability

For the operation's Federation-wide indicator framework and data collected, please refer to [IFRC GO](#).

ANNEX 1: NATIONAL SOCIETY RESPONSE PLAN – FEDERATION-WIDE FUNDING REQUIREMENT THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS

Total	NS Fundraising	Through IFRC	Through ICRC
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FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Planned Operations				
Shelter and Basic Household Items	4,690,456 CHF		4,690,456 CHF	
Livelihoods	1,076,000 CHF	200,000 CHF	876,000 CHF	
Cash and Vouchers Assistance	5,165,000 CHF	300,000 CHF	4,865,000 CHF	
Health and Care	6,333,520 CHF	1,500,000 CHF	4,833,520 CHF	
National Society Disaster Management Capacity	760,000 CHF		760,000 CHF	
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	98,700 CHF		18,700 CHF	70,000 CHF
Community Engagement and Accountability	242,200 CHF		242,200 CHF	
Education	1,205,000 CHF		1,205,000 CHF	
Migration	6,297,000 CHF	1,100,000 CHF	5,197,000 CHF	
Enabling Approaches				
Secretariat Services	2,152,600 CHF		2,152,600 CHF	
National Society Strengthening	2,887,200 CHF		2,887,200 CHF	
Volunteering Development	760,000 CHF		760,000 CHF	
Total	33,372,385 CHF	3,100,000 CHF	30,272,385 CHF	70,000 CHF

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Slovak Red Cross

- **Secretary General:** Zuzana Rosiarová Kesegova, zuzana.rosiarova@redcross.sk
- **Operations Manager:** Katarína Rakická, katarina.rakicka@redcross.sk

In the IFRC Slovakia Delegation

- **Operations Manager:** Lotte Ruppert, lotte.ruppert@ifrc.org

In the IFRC Regional Office for Europe

- **Regional Operations Manager:** Lorenzo Violante, lorenzo.violante@ifrc.org
- **Head of Health, Disasters, Climate & Crises:** Andreas Weissenberg, andreas.weissenberg@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- **Regional Office for Europe, Head of Partnerships and Resource Development:** Andrej Naricyn, andrej.naricyn@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **Regional Office for Europe, Head of Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management:** Stefano Biagiotti, stefano.biagiotti@ifrc.org

Reference



Click here for:

- [Emergency Appeal – Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis](#)