



KAZAKHSTAN

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 3.5 M**

Appeal number **MAAKZ002**

In support of the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan



18

National Society branches



70

National Society staff



4,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



1.36M

Climate and environment



1.36M

Disasters and crises



1.3M

Health and wellbeing



300

Migration and displacement



35,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

- climate change adaptation
 - recurring disasters
 - social vulnerabilities
 - population movement

Capacity development

- humanitarian diplomacy
- digital transformation
- organizational development and sustainability

Key country data

Population **19M**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **154**

Human Development Index rank **56**

Population below poverty level **5.3%**

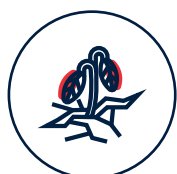
Hazards



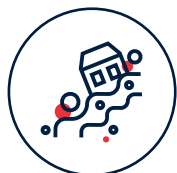
Heat waves /
cold waves



Floods



Drought



Landslides



Earthquakes



Population
movement

Funding requirements

Total 3.5M CHF

Through the IFRC

1.6M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

1.9M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

25,000 CHF
Climate and environment

437,000 CHF
Disasters and crises

475,000 CHF
Health and wellbeing

211,000 CHF
Migration and displacement

200,000 CHF
Values, power and inclusion

210,000 CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross*

Red Cross Society of China

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Red Crescent Society of
the United Arab Emirates

Red Cross of Monaco*

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*

Swiss Red Cross



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan was founded in 1937 and is the country's largest humanitarian, non-profit, volunteer organization. It has 70 staff, 4,000 volunteers, and 18 branches across the country. The National Society's priorities include first aid training, promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation, social care, and disaster preparedness and response.

The National Society reaches more than 100,000 people annually via its humanitarian efforts and assists an additional 10,000 people through emergency response measures and early recovery programme implementation. It has a memorandum of understanding with the Government's Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Guard. It is also a member of the Interagency State Commission on Disaster Preparedness and Elimination, and cooperates with the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction. It partners with local emergency departments, medical institutions, law enforcement services and city administrations in the areas of disaster response and disaster preparedness.

The National Society's strategic plan for 2021–2025, which aligns with the Government's "Kazakhstan 2050 Development Strategy", sets out three strategic targets:

- Readiness and response to crises, and assistance in rapid recovery
- Promotion of safe, healthy lifestyles, opportunities for community development, and respect for human dignity
- Social mobilization of inclusive local communities

The National Society's volunteers play a key role in implementing Red Crescent programmes and in work with communities. They prioritise peer-to-peer approaches, inclusiveness and community involvement. In previous years the National Society had the largest network of volunteers in the country. Today people are more often mobilized for voluntary work via digital technologies. The National Society plans to analyze the role of volunteers in modern society and take measures to attract more of them to its programmes and campaigns. In 2021, the National Society's total income was approximately CHF 4.6 million and in 2022, approximately CHF 2.9 million.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Kazakhstan is the largest country in the Central Asian region, and the ninth largest in the world, with an area of 2.7 million square kilometres. Kazakhstan is divided into 17 regions, which are subdivided into 177 districts.

Kazakhstan has the world's 11th largest proven reserves of both petroleum and natural gas. The country has a GDP of USD 179,332 billion and an annual growth rate of 4.5%. Per capita, Kazakhstan's GDP stands at USD 9,686. Although it is an upper-middle income country, wealth is mainly owned by a small percentage of the population. Kazakhstan is also a major energy exporter.

Agriculture accounts for approximately 5% of Kazakhstan's GDP. Over 80% of the country's total area is classified as agricultural land, including almost 70% occupied by pasture. The country's major crops include wheat, barley, cotton and rice. As a direct result of COVID-19 and the Ukrainian crisis, the cost of food in

Kazakhstan increased in June 2022 over 20% more than for the same month in the previous year.

According to the Constitution adopted in 1995 and the amendments introduced through the referendum on 5 June 2022, Kazakhstan is a democratic, secular, unitary and constitutional republic. On 2 January 2022, a peaceful demonstration in Western Kazakhstan against a sharp price rise in liquefied gas for vehicles, rapidly spread to other regions and cities and became violent. Despite initial concessions by authorities, the situation further deteriorated as from 4 January, especially in Almaty and several regional capitals. In many locations, protests became violent, public institutions, ambulances, fire-fighting vehicles and their staff were attacked, state buildings and other strategic targets were seized, and public and private property looted.

The population of Kazakhstan is about 19 million people, of which 44% is rural and 56% urban. In a report released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in September 2021,

the level of urbanization in Kazakhstan is estimated to reach 69.1% of the population by 2050, or 7 out of 10 people in Kazakhstan are expected to live in cities. The country has one of the lowest population densities in the world, at fewer than 6 people per sq km. As of 2022, ethnic Kazakhs are 69.6% of the population and ethnic Russians are 17.9%. The migration balance in Kazakhstan is ten times less than the natural growth of the population and there is a tendency for an outflow of highly qualified specialists from the country. Kazakhstan is losing the fight for highly skilled labour resources, but remains attractive to lower-skilled working migrants.

An ageing population has increased the proportion of elderly people living in the country. There is a need for adequate and safe elderly care facilities, practices, and

health care systems – and this has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Women face general discrimination and inequality in social, economic and political life. Their representation in politics and decision-making remains below international standards. Gender-based domestic violence is ever present and surrounded by a culture of silence. The elderly community is also socially excluded in society, particularly single elderly people.

Humanitarian needs in the country continue to be driven by rising food prices, socio-economic risks from the crisis in Ukraine, follow on from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and recurrent natural hazards such as mudflows, floods, landslides, earthquakes, avalanches, heat and cold waves.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Temperatures in Kazakhstan are projected to rise at a faster rate than the global average and faster than most other Asian nations, with potential warming of 5.3°C by the 2090s according to the highest emissions pathway, as compared with the 1986 – 2005 baseline.

This shows that the impact of global warming is projected to be even stronger in relation to maximum and minimum temperatures, with extreme temperatures predicted that will threaten human lives, livelihoods and ecosystems. The projected temperature rise by the 2090s (under RCP8.5) is already 3.7°C greater than the rise projected under the lowest emissions pathway, indicating the impact for Kazakhstan of controlling global emissions.

There is a need to raise awareness within the general population of the effects of carbon emissions and gases on climate change, and to develop action plans and implement disaster response preparedness activities. The country made a commitment to combat climate change and accelerate the transition to climate-resilient, low-carbon sustainable development models, and has been a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 2000, and ratified all relevant subsequent agreements, including the Paris Agreement.

One of the effects of climate change is glacial melting. These glaciers are relied upon as a source of fresh water in mountainous regions. As the glaciers shrink, floods occur with greater intensity in some areas and cause

water scarcity in others. These climatic changes lead to other environmental issues, such as the deterioration of soil quality, loss of arable land, changes in water supply systems, accelerated soil erosion and depressed agricultural productivity. Mudflows are forecast to increase in frequency by a factor of 10 and pose a threat to 156 towns and cities in Kazakhstan, among them the country's largest city, Almaty.

The Aral Sea, between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, has become an ecological disaster. It has shrunk to less than half its former size since the early 1960s, due to its excessive use for irrigation, causing areas previously habitable for wildlife or suitable as arable land to become deserts. It is also associated with several health problems, including respiratory and parasitic diseases. Efforts to address the crisis have focused on preventing further shrinkage of the Aral Sea, however, because the damage is so severe, that it is practically irreversible.

More frequent droughts and reduced water security could damage agricultural productivity of crop and livestock farming. In the absence of adaptation, spring wheat yields in Kazakhstan are projected to decline by as much as 50% by the 2050s, due to higher temperatures and reduced soil moisture. Grain yield losses due to climate change in Kazakhstan are expected to have serious implications for global food security, as the nation represents one of the world's largest exporters.

In combination, the above changes represent a major threat to the lives and livelihoods of the poorest and most marginalized communities in Kazakhstan. Unless adaptation and disaster risk reduction support are

provided, inequalities are likely to grow and poverty to prevail.

Combined with population growth and increased water demand, climate change is having a social impact. Conflicts related to fresh-water access, decreased access to household heating, increased pollution, heat waves, and increased overall demands on local electrical and power grids and hydropower dams, are becoming more common. Central Asia is also affected by urban pollution, particularly in Kazakhstan's eastern cities where there are harmful emissions from lead and zinc smelters, a uranium-processing mill, and other industries. Kazakhstan is rife with soil pollution from the overuse of pesticides in agriculture. Activist groups in Kazakhstan have been lobbying for tighter emissions and environmental controls.

As the likelihood of natural hazards increases, so does the vulnerability of the most exposed communities. This is further compounded by the socio-economic impacts of disasters on livelihoods, agricultural productivity and water availability.

Main areas of support

The National Society is part of the IFRC [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led, climate-smart, disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

In line with the above, in 2023 the IFRC network will support the National Society to further integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation in its disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities.

The National Society will, in particular, further develop forecast-based financing, with a focus on heat and cold waves. This will guide the timely and effective implementation of early actions when abnormal weather conditions have a high probability of adversely affecting people, especially vulnerable groups such as children, those living with disabilities, and the elderly. The National Society will also work to reinforce early warning

systems at community level for a range of hazards, and increase public awareness of climate risks, in particular for heat waves.

The IFRC will support the National Society and its network partners to interconnect investment in climate change mitigation and action, with disaster preparedness and risk reduction in Kazakhstan through:

- Establishing flood and drought early warning systems in pilot regions
- Organizing an orientation session on the forecast-based financing concept and procedures within the National Society and with relevant national stakeholders
- Coordinating with potential partners on funding opportunities for forecast-based financing and develop a simplified Early Action Protocol for cold waves
- Conducting training for National Society staff and volunteers on climate change adaptation
- Conducting environmental needs assessment in pilot communities and identify relevant activities for 2024 and 2025

Disasters and crises

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

Due to its geographic location, Kazakhstan is highly exposed to earthquakes, floods, mudflows, landslides, storms, droughts, extreme temperatures and forest fires. Natural disasters and extreme weather events threaten human lives, damage livelihoods and the country's infrastructure. Between 1990 and 2022, the frequency of heavy snowfalls and heavy showers increased significantly. River floods in mountainous regions increased by 100% and mudslides doubled over the same period (The Economist, 2018). Climate change impacts will further increase the intensity and frequency of these natural disasters.

According to the 2022 report of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), the average annual losses from floods are estimated at USD419 million, which is more than seven times the average annual damage of USD57.6 million from earthquakes. The highest loss rate in the country is in Almaty (USD46.8 million), followed by Turkestan (USD 8.9 million) and Zhambyl (USD1.6 million) regions.

Kazakhstan also regularly experiences high temperatures, with average July monthly maximum temperatures

of over 30°C. Various projections suggest that peak summer temperatures could reach levels that are dangerous to the health of people, as well as for crops and animals.

Linked to this is the impact of two primary types of drought - meteorological (usually associated with a precipitation deficit) and hydrological (usually associated with a deficit in surface and sub-surface water flow, potentially originating from the region's wider river basins). Droughts currently affect two thirds of Kazakhstan's land area and are a regular feature of climate change. Droughts of a magnitude that is extremely rare at present in Central Asia (100-year droughts) are projected to become up to 10 times more common under these warming scenarios.

Food security remains an issue throughout the region, largely due to growing inflation, price fluctuations in the global food market, increasing fuel prices, and the disruption of logistic routes. The region has a low capacity for absorbing shocks, with decreasing levels of resilience and preparedness to deal with the increasing number of complex risks, all of which amplifies the long-term impact of disasters on people.

Main areas of support

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan is planning to enhance cooperation with government agencies, civilian sector organizations, business sector and local communities, as well as use additional international support mechanisms to improve disaster response capability. Its work will result in a more rapid and effective response to any emergency in any part of the country. Moreover, the National Society will promote greater involvement of trained staff and volunteers in response activities to support other National Societies, through IFRC global emergency response tools.

Over the next five years, the National Society will endeavour to reduce the current and future humanitarian impact of climate and environmental crises, focusing on supporting vulnerable groups to maintain their well-being in the face of these multiple crises. This includes supporting the government in strengthening legal preparedness for disasters, particularly climate-related disasters, and strengthening the auxiliary role of Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in decision-making platforms, laws and policies on disaster risk management.

Restoring family links remains an important focus of the National Society. Using the global Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement network for restoring family

links, the National Society will continue to help people to determine the fate of missing persons, search for relatives, reunite or restore contact with family members, with whom communication had been lost as a result of wars, man-made and natural disasters, escape or exile, and migration.

The IFRC network's overarching regional objective is to continue its commitment to being the primary responder in a crisis or disaster, while improving response mechanisms such as cash and voucher assistance preparedness.

The IFRC and network partners will support the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in the following areas:

- Conducting risk assessments in pilot communities and developing risk profiles for those communities
- Based on the results of risk assessments, conducting risk informed awareness raising campaigns in target communities
- Implementing small-scale, structural and nature-based disaster risk reduction projects, based on risk assessment and enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment results, with involvement of community resources and partnerships
- Integrating cash programming into any new programme or DREF funded operations
- Developing and adapting contingency plans
- Enhancing the response capacity of the National Society by providing shelter and non-food item training and establishing/replenishing non-food item stocks
- Training youth volunteers to be actively engaged in preparedness and response activities
- Building capacity of the National Society and government partners in disaster law and legislative advocacy, including on climate-smart disaster laws
- Facilitating peer learning and networking with government and other partners on key disaster law, including with the centre for emergency and disaster risk reduction
- Engaging the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in partnerships with humanitarian/development actors, legal networks and academic organizations on disaster law, including through joint research and advocacy initiatives

- Strengthening the National Society's auxiliary role in its domestic arrangements, including through recognition and awareness of its role in relevant laws, policies and plans on disaster risk management and related humanitarian thematic areas

Health and wellbeing

Implementation systems for state-provided free health care in Central Asia are varied and coverage gaps persist, leaving some people unprotected by the mandatory health insurance benefits package. As a result, many poorer households have been forced into private spending on health care, worsening their financial burdens.

Spurred by the heavy impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Kazakhstan's health system, the country has made significant investments in its healthcare system and social services, with USD76 million of capital investments (an increase of 37.3 % between April 2021 and March 2022). The country has a high coverage of over 95% for three doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP) vaccinations, seen as a measure of national performance on immunization.

Kazakhstan is in the world's top 30 countries with the highest levels of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. The HIV epidemic also continues to grow in the country. Non-communicable diseases are estimated to account for 87% of all deaths in Kazakhstan, with 16% of all deaths resulting from obesity. Since the country is highly vulnerable to climate change, an increase in ambient temperature may increase the number of deaths from cardiovascular diseases, particularly among vulnerable groups. Kazakhstan also has the highest rate of road traffic fatalities in Central Asia: 24.2 per 100,000 population per year, according to the WHO Global Status Report on Road Safety. Mental health issues are also a problem in the country.

There has been a significant decline in unpaid voluntary blood donation in Kazakhstan over the last decades. The National Interagency Programme for Unpaid Voluntary Blood Donation Development averages the national donor performance at 17 donations per 1,000 people instead of WHO-recommended 25 donors.

It is estimated that 11% of the population live without access to safe drinking water, which also affects levels of sanitation and hygiene and leads to deaths from diarrhoea. In 2022, Kazakhstan planned to provide all its cities and villages with clean drinking water within five years. However, since more than 50% of the country's total water flow is generated outside its borders, some parts of the country are prone to freshwater shortages.

Sustained periods of high heat can affect regional water supplies and raise the risk of water-borne diseases.

Main areas of support

The IFRC network has an overarching regional objective for health and wellbeing in Central Asia and that is to strengthen health facilities, raise awareness of health issues, improve the capacity and training of health staff, provide direct health and WASH services, anticipate and alleviate the health needs of vulnerable populations, and promote stronger physical, mental and psychosocial health outcomes.

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan continues to respond to recurring threats related to COVID-19 and its variants, focusing on rolling out ongoing COVID-19 vaccinations. The National Society is also working on reviving delayed and missed routine vaccinations, closing persistent gaps in maternal, child and neo-natal health, which have widened during the pandemic, and supporting the recovery of very vulnerable people including those in elderly care facilities.

The IFRC and network partners will support the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in the following areas:

- Expanding the National Society's home care programme and obtaining additional equipment and tools, such as wheelchairs and walking aids
- Expanding the new initiative on road safety education for school children, with the Global Road Safety Partnership
- Promoting a healthy lifestyle and prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Conducting a country assessment of climate change impacts on health and livelihoods, with the IFRC Climate Centre and Kazakhstan's Meteorological Institute
- Enhancing the National Society's capacities in community-based health and first aid and in mental health and psychosocial support
- Promoting COVID-19 vaccines and blood donations
- Initiating new tuberculosis and HIV care and support activities
- Strengthening preparedness and response capacities in emergency health and epidemics and pandemics

Migration and displacement

More than 3.5 million working migrants live in Kazakhstan, representing 20% of the population. These figures

include the repatriation of “oralmans” (ethnic Kazakhs), migration for personal reasons or as part of a university exchange, and both regulated and unregulated labour migration flows. Many migrant workers from other Central Asian states sought work in Kazakhstan due to its economic growth, high standard of living, visa-free regime and geographical proximity, leading to sharp increases in labour migration before the COVID-19 pandemic and many migrant workers have remained without a regular status. This compounds challenges around service provision and exacerbates poverty levels. It also creates barriers to accessing health and social services and education, and makes migrant workers vulnerable to human trafficking, sexual slavery, infectious diseases, integration challenges.

The scale of internal migration in Kazakhstan is also growing. Urbanization has created centers of gravity and people living in villages and small towns are moving to large cities in search of work and a better life. Without proper regulations and socialization of internal migrant workers, marginalization is inevitable.

Although the Republic of Kazakhstan does not have direct borders with Afghanistan, the country is identified as secondarily affected by population influx from Afghanistan. Kazakhstan has been hosting refugees from Afghanistan, Syria and other countries for many years. According to the UN Refugee Agency, approximately 7,000 refugees and asylum seekers are currently seeking residence in Central Asia, including in Kazakhstan, almost all of them from Afghanistan.

Main areas of support

The IFRC network has an overarching regional objective to improve access, for migrants of all categories, to basic services to meet their needs, including in health, shelter and social services. This support will comprise humanitarian diplomacy on behalf of all migrants and asylum seekers, support for community engagement and needs assessments, and training in legal and social services support integration.

The IFRC and network partners will support the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in the following areas:

- Sharing knowledge on legal rights and improving access to basic services for labour migrants, including through the translation of information material into the relevant languages and the establishment of information points
- Providing mental health and psychosocial support for labour migrants and training of volunteers on mental health and psychosocial support services

- Preparing the National Society to be actively engaged in responding to potential refugee influx (Afghan refugees and asylum seekers)
- Retaining additional volunteers for provision of information to working migrants and training those volunteers on Red Cross Red Crescent induction, mental health and psychosocial support and protection

Values, power and inclusion

Although Kazakhstan is a relatively young nation, the proportion of people aged 65 and older will increase from 8% in 2022 to 14% in 2050 of the total population, reaching 3.4 million people. The proportion of older people differs from region to region, with the northeast of the country and parts of central Kazakhstan (except Nur-Sultan city) sharing a similar situation to the ageing populations in Europe, whereas the southern and western regions and Nur-Sultan city, experience a lower proportion due to increasing birth rates. There is also a large difference between the life expectancy of women and men (9.9 years in 2019) in the older age group, with up to 1.8 times more women than men.

According to official data, as of 1 January 2022, 700,000 people with disabilities live in Kazakhstan (3.6% of the population), 98,300 of which are children. This is an increase on the 13,131 children identified with disabilities for the first time in 2021. The number of people with disabilities is rising due to an increasing burden of chronic diseases and due to the ageing population. About 80% of facilities in the country are inaccessible for people with disabilities, with 20% accessible. Due to the widely held belief that people living with disabilities are unable to live independently, many are confined to their homes and there is also a severe lack of proper medical care.

Another category of vulnerable people is orphans. Of Kazakhstan's five million children, approximately 26,000 are considered orphans without parental care. Efforts to keep children with their biological families have been facilitated by the early identification of family problems and the provision of comprehensive state assistance to families in difficult situations. Kazakhstan has been undertaking actions in accordance with the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to curb the growth of the number of orphanages and is only placing children in them as an extreme and temporary measure. In May 2017, the Kazakh Ministry of Education and Science approved new rules for Centres to Support Children in Difficult Life Situations – organizations that are distinct from orphanages. Their expanded

activities aim to help children in adverse family conditions, those from disadvantaged families and those suffering cruel treatment and to provide psychological, social and legal assistance to mitigate family problems at an early stage.

Since 1991, Kazakhstan has aimed to provide legislative support to women. It was the first Central Asian country to establish a national entity to promote gender equality. Nevertheless, persistent gender imbalances remain, particularly in wages and access to employment and career opportunities.

Main areas of support

The IFRC network's overarching regional objective is to support the National Societies with policies, procedures, training and workshops tied to protection, gender and inclusion, and to improving the identification and support for the diversified needs of target communities. This will include establishing sub-regional coordination through protection, gender and inclusion focal points in the Central Asia National Societies, to discuss and share best practices and lessons learnt on related topics.

Community engagement and accountability and protection, gender and inclusion online training in English and offline training in Russian will also provide technical support, covering feedback mechanisms, behaviour change communication, data collection and analysis, to ensure the National Society is able to develop and adapt programming, in line with community knowledge, attitudes, practices, needs and preferences, for greater impact.

The IFRC and network partners will support the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in the following areas:

- Enhancing the National Society's capacity for an organization-wide, inclusive programming approach that considers risks, vulnerabilities, capacities, across genders and other diverse groups and includes protection issues
- Reviewing pandemic response disaggregated data to design non-discriminatory preventive measures
- Assisting single female-headed households through cash and voucher assistance and income generation activities
- Providing support to families in difficult situations in order to maintain children within their own families
- Strengthening preparedness and response, by including protection analysis, and through taking into account different gender roles, risks, vulnerabilities and capacities
- Improving the National Society's awareness to ensure that staff and volunteers are familiar with the [Minimum Standards for Protection, Gender and Inclusion in emergencies](#) and other protection, gender and inclusion minimum requirements essential for their programmes and operations
- Improving the National Society's awareness to ensure that Red Crescent programmes and services are accessible for people with disabilities

Enabling local actors

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan is committed to pursue its institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2012. The OCAC self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

The National Society has, since then been working on its organizational capacity strengthening and is open to change, further learning, implementation of innovative ideas and adaptation to the changing reality. It aims to deepen and widen its capacity to save lives and support people, increasing their resilience individually and in communities. The National Society will continue to improve the knowledge and technical expertise of

staff and volunteers through regular training and development of new approaches, deployment of resources and building new partnerships. It will also focus on developing the local branches closest to affected populations - two new regions of Ulytau and Zhetisu will require additional attention and the establishment of Red Crescent branches.

The current legislative framework of the Republic of Kazakhstan does not consider the new legal status of the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan, which differs from other organizations and only indirectly falls under existing legal acts. This impacts the effectiveness and timeliness of the National Society's humanitarian activities, as well as access to state support required to facilitate the mobilization of various resources and limits the National Society's ability to fulfill its unique

role in relation to international obligations assumed by Republic of Kazakhstan. This will require the negotiation and adoption of a separate law. Over the past few years, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan has been working on a relevant draft law to define the new legal status of the National Society, eliminate legal conflicts and establish relations with the state bodies.

Main areas of support

The IFRC and network partners will support the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in:

- Developing the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan's image, positioning, and partnership through humanitarian diplomacy
- Setting up a Digital Humanitarian Diplomacy Hub in Almaty to increase awareness of the IFRC network as a key actor in humanitarian diplomacy in Central Asia
- Strengthening the National Society's legal base and auxiliary role
- Improving digital transformation
- Streamlining planning and reporting to ensure more strategic partnerships
- Integrating and using evidence-based findings, lessons learned and post-distribution monitoring data
- Diversifying income streams at national level and establishing a stable resource mobilization team with the necessary skills
- Strengthening the financial and administrative base of the organization the capacity of staff members and the role of volunteers
- Supporting leadership development
- Reviewing the National Society's current membership strategy
- Strengthening its branch and volunteer structures and systems
- Considering innovative ways to engage volunteers of the future via schools, universities, and social media platforms

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC's Central Asia Country Cluster Delegation is based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and has a country presence in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The IFRC supports the National Societies of the region to collaborate, through formal and informal exchange platforms, exchange visits, and online and in-person meetings. By working together and with the IFRC, the National Societies in Central Asia stay up to date, relevant and influential in their approach to addressing humanitarian trends and challenges.

In addition, the IFRC is supporting the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in disaster risk reduction activities, contingency planning, hygiene promotion in communities and schools, community level disaster management teams, and public awareness on disaster risk reduction and preparedness. Together with Swiss Red Cross, the IFRC is working with the National Society's resource mobilization and disaster management teams, in developing resource mobilization capacities and cash preparedness. The support will be further extended to include contingency planning, national disaster response team trainings and forecast based action.

In recent years, IFRC supported the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#) in relation to floods, cold waves and droughts. A DREF operation launched in October 2022 for a cold wave will cross over to the beginning of 2023. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global Emergency Appeal, supported the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in its COVID-19 response.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to analyse the humanitarian context, assess the humanitarian situation and needs, agree common priorities, co-develop common strategies (for example, to obtain greater humanitarian access or acceptance), jointly mobilize funding and other resources, clarify consistent public messaging, and monitor progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clear humanitarian action and ongoing links to recovery and development assistance, and optimize the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Italian Red Cross	CHF 0.00M		●				●		
Red Cross Society of China			●	●		●			
Spanish Red Cross	CHF 0.02M						●		
Swiss Red Cross								●	
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent	CHF 1.89M					●			

Total

1.91M

The following participating National Societies provide support to the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan: Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society. Additionally, the Red Cross Society of China provides support remotely. There is also peer-to-peer collaboration between the Central Asian National Societies. The details of that support are outlined below:

In 2020, **the Red Cross Society of China** supported the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan to resume providing homecare services for elderly people in need of assistance and for people with special needs. Pilot areas included the regions of Karaganda, Kostanay and Kokshetau, and the two major cities of Astana and Almaty. It has also regularly supported the National Society with voluntary blood donation activities since 2014.

The Italian Red Cross has been engaging with National Societies in the region through projects and activities for more than 10 years and has had its own permanent office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan since 2018. Since 2021, the Italian Red Cross has been supporting the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in the development of its legal framework, and with disaster management projects to increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of communities in Taskalinskiy, a district of West-Kazakhstan Oblast. It has expressed an interest

to support programmes working on the reintegration of migrants and plans to continue strengthening collaboration through financial and technical support.

The Spanish Red Cross has been supporting the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan's youth and volunteer development since 2020, with the aim of strengthening capacity in volunteer management. This project involves updating volunteer management framing documents, developing a system for motivating and retaining volunteers, and improving the centralized volunteer database, with the aim of improving the range and quality of services that the National Society provides.

The Swiss Red Cross has a bilateral agreement with the National Society to develop cash and volunteer assistance, resource mobilisation and capacity building.

The Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates supports the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in providing financial assistance to orphans, children from low-income families and multi-child, female headed households. The first co-project between the Red Crescent of the United Arab Emirates and the National Society was launched in 2002 and assisted 50 children. Support from the Red Crescent of the United Arab Emirates has increased since then, and the project assisted more than 3,000 children in 2022.

Movement coordination

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) work closely together. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC supports the National Societies in Central Asia in restoring family links, international humanitarian law,

mental health and psychosocial support, and emergency preparedness and response programming. It informs governmental authorities on international humanitarian law and its integration into legislation, academic curricula and the practices of military and security forces. In Kazakhstan, the ICRC and the National Society work closely together on restoring family links services, which were reactivated after civil unrest in January 2022.

Coordination with other actors

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan cooperates and coordinates with the authorities and is a member of the Interagency State Commission on Disaster Preparedness and Elimination. Other key collaborations include with the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Guard, and relevant local authorities and institutions in the emergency and medical fields.

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan also collaborates with a variety of external institutional partners and

the private sector. For many years, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been supporting a National Society project for refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan and elsewhere, while the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been supporting the National Society's COVID-19 response. The National Society also holds partnerships with businesses such as PepsiCo, Nestlé, Kimberly-Clark, Mars, Coca-Cola, Colgate-Palmolive, Procter & Gamble, Beiersdorf, Wolt and inDriver.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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