



KYRGYZSTAN

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 4.9M**

Appeal number **MAAKG002**

In support of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan



46

National Society branches



273

National Society staff



3,048

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



181,000

Climate and environment



101,000

Disasters and crises



331,500

Health and wellbeing



100

Migration and displacement



100,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

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

Capacity development

- communications and resource mobilisation
 - internal systems strengthening
- organizational development and sustainability

Key country data

Population **6.7M**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **120**

Human Development Index rank **118**

Population below poverty level **25.3%**

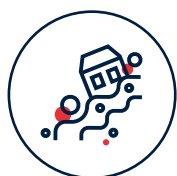
Hazards



Heat waves /
cold waves



Floods



Landslides



Earthquakes



Conflict and violence



Population
movement

Funding requirements

Total 4.9M CHF

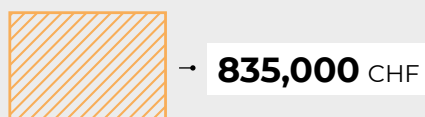
Through the IFRC



Through Participating National Societies



Host National Society



IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

15,000 CHF
Climate and environment

821,000 CHF
Disasters and crises

666,000 CHF
Health and wellbeing

49,000 CHF
Migration and displacement

228,000 CHF
Values, power and inclusion

942,000 CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross*

The Canadian Red Cross Society*

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Qatar Red Crescent

Red Crescent Society of the
United Arab Emirates

Red Cross Society of China

Red Cross of Monaco*

Saudi Arabian Red Crescent

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*

Swiss Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent Society



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan is the leading local humanitarian organization in Kyrgyzstan and was established in 1926. The National Society has 273 staff, 3,048 volunteers, and 46 district branches in all regions of the Kyrgyz Republic. Its auxiliary role is regulated by the National Law on the Red Crescent of Kyrgyzstan adopted in 2018. It cooperates with the Government's Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy.

The National Society continually promotes and supports its network of volunteers who provide daily social services across the country, and respond to emergencies. In recent years, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan has responded to multiple disasters and crises, such as cold and heat waves, floods, earthquakes, population movement and disease outbreaks. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan has been actively involved in preparedness and prevention activities across the country, working closely with the Ministry of Health, World Health Organisation and other partners. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan has also supported the national vaccination campaign across the country, sharing information, assisting at vaccination points, and ensuring better organization of the vaccination process.

According to its Strategic Development Plan 2022–2026, the National Society's four strategic aims are to:

- Contribute to disaster risk reduction by strengthening the capacity of communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, and by providing timely and effective assistance to affected populations
- Contribute to a decrease in the morbidity and mortality of the population by promoting a healthy lifestyle, preventing infectious and non-infectious diseases, and supporting social behaviour change activities
- Contribute to improving the quality of life of vulnerable groups within the population by developing an inclusive society, providing a set of necessary services aimed at meeting the social needs of key groups, and influencing the social behaviour of people
- Ensure the sustainable and comprehensive development of the National Society through ongoing and comprehensive capacity building across the organization, the development of a wide-range partnerships, and the diversification of the resource mobilization system.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Kyrgyzstan is a land-locked, lower-middle-income country that is located in the Central Asian region, bordering with Kazakhstan to the north, Uzbekistan to the west, Tajikistan to the south and China to the east. According to World Bank data, in 2021 the population of the country was 6.7 million people, with a GDP of 8.5 billion USD (GDP per capita 1,275.9 USD) and an average life expectancy of 71.6 years.

Kyrgyzstan is the second poorest country in Central Asia after Tajikistan and about a quarter of the population lives below the poverty line. Over half of the country is made up of agricultural land, consisting mainly of pasture. Kyrgyzstan is an import-dependent country, where most needed food items mainly come from outside

the country, including significant wheat, vegetable oil, and sugar imports from the Russian Federation. In Kyrgyzstan, the cost of some products has risen by up to 50%, and in the first four months of 2022, inflation was 7.1%. Between 2016 and 2019, poor families spent more than 60% of their income on food, leaving little room for other outgoings and hindering their ability to move out of poverty.

The closure of state borders due to the crisis in Ukraine and sanctions on Russia has hit the region hard. As well as the impact of key food prices, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has also led to a steep decline in remittances into Central Asia, causing extreme poverty among families of migrants and their communities. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, two of the most migrant-dependent countries in the world, are the most severely affected.

Between the countries, border issues lead to recurring tensions and armed clashes, such as recent clashes at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border. The Great Silk Road, a connecting route between South Asia and Europe, is still used for illegal trade such as drug trafficking, smuggling weapons and human trafficking. Localized conflicts over land and water resources in the fertile Ferghana Valley (located on the territories of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) also play a part. The international political landscape also impacts Central Asian countries. While the Ukraine crisis dominates the political landscape and remains a major concern, the change in power in Afghanistan in 2021, has also threatened stability across the entire region.

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 – this has been exacerbated

by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has particularly affected older people. Increasing numbers of people with disabilities have also been noted for various reasons, including a lack of proper medical care. There are a growing number of ‘social orphans’ who are exposed to related traumas, and whose parents are often dependent on labour migration as a means of income and employment. Official statistics suggest that around one million citizens of Kyrgyzstan are currently outside of the country, while their children are often left with relatives or put into state institutions in the country.

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

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Due to its geographical location, Kyrgyzstan is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change in the Central Asian region and is facing the adverse effects of climate change. The continental climate leads to large seasonal variations in temperatures. In the Naryn River basin, temperatures can reach below -50°C in winter and exceed 40°C in the summer. In Kyrgyzstan, the average temperature has risen from 4.8°C to 6°C over 20 years. Over a worst-case scenario, [UNICEF](#) reports that the average temperature in Kyrgyzstan could rise by 8°C from today's average temperature over the next century. In Kyrgyzstan, rising temperatures are leading to more unpredictable seasonal weather and to more frequent and extreme events such as droughts, heat and cold waves, and to an increasing number of disasters, such as landslides, mudflows and avalanches.

More than 90% of Kyrgyzstan's territory is mountainous, and roughly half of all settlements are located 3,000 metres above sea level. Extreme weather patterns, such as heatwaves, cold waves and temperature rises, have an impact on disasters and can cause water-related disasters, such as floods, landslides and mudslides in mountainous areas. The number of avalanches and the amount of snowfall across the region have almost doubled in the last decade.

Another effect of climate change is glacial melting, which is relied upon as a source of fresh water in mountainous

regions. As the glaciers shrink, floods are occurring with greater intensity in some areas and causing water scarcity in others. These climatic changes lead to other environmental issues, including the deterioration of soil quality, loss of arable land, changes in water supply systems, accelerated soil erosion and depressed agricultural productivity.

Combined with population growth and increasing water demand, climate change effects are having a major social impact. Conflicts related to fresh-water access, decreased access to household heating, more intense heat waves, and increased overall demands on local electrical and power grids and hydro-electrical power dams, are becoming more common and causing problems. Central Asia is also badly affected by increased urban pollution.

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

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 has ratified all relevant, subsequent agreements, including the Paris Agreement. The Kyrgyz Republic has

prepared three National Communications which were submitted to the UNFCCC in 2003, 2008, and 2017, and is in the process of drafting a [National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\)](#). UNEP reports that as part of the NAP process, national strategies and action plans will be updated in the areas of emergency situations, forest and biodiversity, agriculture and water management, human health, and energy.

Main areas of support

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan 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 Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation in 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 trigger a high probability of adversely affecting people, especially vulnerable groups such as children, those living with disabilities, and older people. The National Society will also work to reinforce early warning systems at community level for a range of hazards, and increase public awareness on climate risks, in particular for heat waves.

Other activities planned by the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, with support from the IFRC network include to:

- Integrate climate change adaptation into community-based disaster risk management
- Support climate adaptation in communities, taking into account their specific context and needs
- Draw on participatory scenario planning to identify future climate risks and responses

- Integrate climate change adaptation and environmental protection into training modules for staff and volunteers
- Identify positive environmental practices for replication

Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership \(PPP\)](#) between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), with implementation support from the German Red Cross, as lead EU National Society, and from the Italian Red Cross, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan will use this opportunity to collaborate with local hydro-meteorological service and other partners to improve accessibility to forecast information for communities. With IFRC support, the National Society will also conduct online workshops on environmental sustainability (“Green Response”), green logistics and supply chain for its staff.

Disasters and crises

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

In addition to the weather-related, natural hazards and impacts of climate change outlined above, the entire territory of Kyrgyzstan is seismic and has nearly 3,000 earthquakes every year. Overall, the most common types of disasters in Kyrgyzstan are floods, landslides and earthquakes. The majority of landslides occur in the southern regions. 600 localities are located in zones prone to landslides, and are at constant risk from them, with on average, nearly 70 emergencies related to landslides and mudflows every year.

The overall economic cost of disasters accounts for 1.5% of Kyrgyzstan’s GDP or USD98.4 million in damage and losses. Kyrgyzstan ranks 79th in terms of disaster risk globally and 120th in terms of climate risk. While the risk level is not as high as other countries, the impact of disasters on Kyrgyzstan’s resilience and overall sustainable development is substantial. The country possesses a low coping capacity, which can amplify the long-term impact of disasters on people, livelihoods and environment.

Ferghana Valley, at the intersection of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, is becoming the most populated area in Central Asia. The region is susceptible to frequent tensions and border clashes. Repeated tensions since the collapse of the Soviet Union have left many areas disputed, leading to conflicts between residents. There have been multiple escalations in armed clashes between security forces in the last two

years, each of which has caused civilian injuries and led to evacuations. Such clashes further complicate access to critical water sources, affect livelihoods, and threaten stability.

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

Legal preparedness is key to increase the country's coping capacity to deal with disasters. Legal frameworks for disaster risk management in Central Asian countries tend to be insufficient. The disaster law framework in Kyrgyzstan is mainly focused on disaster response rather than preparedness. The Law on Civil Defense and the Law on International Emergency Assistance provide an overall framework for disaster risk management and international disaster assistance, however, there are no clear legal and policy frameworks guiding climate change or the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Main areas of support

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan carries out emergency response across the country by mobilizing teams and materials in its seven provincial and 38 district branches, alongside its headquarters in the capital, Bishkek. The National Society counts on 80 primary organizations and more than 100 functional local disaster management committees (LDMC) in various locations across the country. LDMC teams are ready for immediate activation and deployment, and carry out emergency needs assessment in the aftermath of a disaster. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan has 140 active and trained National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members based in the provincial branches and headquarters. Each team consists of 10 members and includes at least one disaster management expert, a first-aid specialist, a psychosocial support specialist, and experienced volunteers ready to be deployed within few hours after a disaster strikes.

The National Society takes proactive measures on conflict preparedness, given the situation in border areas outlined above. A lessons learnt exercise carried out after the response to border clashes in April 2021 led to the revising and improving of its response procedures and contingency stocks.

Over the last few years, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, supported by the IFRC, the German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent has implemented interventions based on cash and voucher assistance in support of both development projects and emergency response for vulnerable populations. The National Society seeks to further integrate cash and voucher assistance as a key modality to respond to the needs of people affected by disasters.

In 2023, the IFRC and network partners will support the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in the following areas:

- Providing training for leaders and community members on relevant issues of disaster risk reduction and related areas, such as first aid, psychological first aid, restoring family links and others
- Conducting various activities, with the involvement of communities, on preparedness, response and recovery in case of emergencies
- Developing standards for the preparation, conduct, monitoring and evaluation of simulation / training exercises at the community level
- Developing a system of cash and voucher assistance as a universal tool of humanitarian support
- Providing annual training and re-training of members of the NDRT using updated materials and input from specialists
- Strengthening and optimization the National Society's emergency response procedures and mechanisms, including an annual revision of the contingency plan
- Working in partnership with the Disaster/ Emergency Response Coordination Team and Civil Protection Commission
- Developing and using training modules for staff and volunteers on disaster risk reduction, safer access, adaptation to climate change, early warning, emergency assessments, first aid, psychosocial support and humanitarian assistance, taking into account new, innovative approaches
- Advocating for, promoting and revising legislative initiatives (the Law on the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, International Disaster Response Law, and related to volunteering, charity, state social services, etc.) to support the National Society's work and impact on national disaster response

Under the [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#), the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan will focus on community-based disaster risk management. The National Society community-based disaster risk reduction model foresees conducting baseline surveys, which will cover all aspects of a community's life with special attention given to natural hazards and disaster risks. The model also entails the establishment, training and equipping of LDMCs, conducting simulation exercises, organizing school-based activities, implementing small scale mitigation projects, and awareness raising campaigns. As a means of ensuring sustainability, LDMCs will become the lowest structural body of the National Society's disaster response mechanism at community level. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan will also increase its capacities in cash and voucher assistance, through the increasing use of digital methods for secure data management and accountability.

Health and wellbeing

Today Kyrgyzstan's health system provides a state-guaranteed package of services but there are major gaps in population coverage and the scope of publicly funded care is limited. Only 73.6% of the population is currently covered; this means that almost a quarter of the population is not covered by the mandatory health insurance benefits package. This includes internal migrants, due to a lack of registration papers, and adolescents, who are no longer considered children but are not yet employed and thus not able to contribute to mandatory health insurance.

Primary health care services remain poor in relation to preventive activities and coverage. Tertiary care is only located in the capital, Bishkek, resulting in access barriers for people living in other parts of the country.

Overall Kyrgyzstan faces major health challenges in terms of both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Life expectancy in Kyrgyzstan had improved prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but was still one of the lowest in the WHO's Europe region (68 years for men and for 75 years for women). Kyrgyzstan has placed a particular focus on improving mother and child health. During the past decade there has been significant progress in reducing maternal mortality, however, the rate is still one of the highest in the WHO's Europe Region, with an estimated 76 deaths per 100,000 live births. Kyrgyzstan's new-born mortality has also been reduced, but at a much slower rate compared with the rest of Central Asia region (46% versus 70% in Central Asia).

Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) remains a considerable public health concern. Kyrgyzstan is one

of the 30 countries in the world with the highest rates of MDR-TB (around 29% of newly registered cases and 68% of previously treated cases are drug-resistant) and is among the 18 high-priority countries for TB in the WHO's Europe Region (WHO, 2020).

HIV remains an acute problem for Kyrgyzstan's health care system. [UNDP](#) reports that between 2013 and 2019, the number of registered HIV cases in Kyrgyzstan doubled (9135 in 2019).

The country remains vulnerable to recurring outbreaks of various vaccine preventable diseases. In 2019, DTP3 immunization coverage rate was reported as 95%, according to WHO and UNICEF estimates. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, immunization coverage rates decreased. The 2020 preventative immunization coverage indicated that the primary vaccination series had decreased by 9% compared to the same period in 2019.

Access to safe water and adequate sanitation is also a challenge in Kyrgyzstan. In rural areas, around 40% of people are not provided with clean drinking water, and a large proportion of rural settlements have outdated or no water supply or sewage systems.

Main areas of support

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan has a large capacity in health, in particular in first aid. All volunteers have completed a basic first aid training. There are 252 health trained volunteers across the country.

During COVID-19, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan mobile brigades assisted patients with symptoms, as ambulance services were overloaded. The construction of new facilities in the Naryn and Kara-Balta branches strengthened the National Society's capacity to serve more vulnerable people. The National Society supported the Republican Centre for Health Promotion and Mass Communication of the Ministry of Health, by printing informational materials on COVID-19 vaccination, and volunteers provided outreach and information sessions for the general public, target groups, the private and public sectors (for example, commercial banks, sewing factories), educational institutions, and municipal institutions. Target groups included older people, TB and HIV patients, rural populations with limited access to health facilities and ethnic minorities. The volunteers used a peer-to-peer approach, helping to ensure the correct understanding of information, and provided necessary psychological support where needed. More than 900 volunteers from all branches were mobilized to organize and implement the vaccination roll-out at family

medicine centres and other vaccination points countrywide, and were responsible for patient registration, blood pressure measurements, and providing water.

In 2023, the IFRC and network partners will support the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in the following areas:

- Provision of primary health care to vulnerable groups
- Prevention of non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular and oncological diseases
- Prevention and treatment of eye diseases
- Prevention of communicable diseases, including tuberculosis (for people with TB and the general population), HIV and STIs (for people with HIV, key populations, youth and the general population), viral hepatitis (for the general population)
- Preparation and response to disease outbreaks/epidemics
- Social mobilization for immunization
- Promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation, including information sessions and public events among the general population
- Promotion of first aid courses, including conducting paid first aid courses among the population and for organizations, and free first aid training sessions for communities and the general population
- Provision of regular training for staff and volunteers on health, first aid and psychosocial support
- Contributing to a decrease in morbidity and mortality in the population, by promoting a healthy lifestyle, preventing infectious and non-infectious diseases, and promoting social behaviour change activities
- Strengthening the capacity of the National Society in first aid, both the material and technical base and the human resources

Under the Pilot Programmatic Partnership, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan will focus on expanding the scale and quality of its emergency health preparedness, including pandemic and epidemic preparedness at the community and national levels, in line with DG ECHO's health policies. This will be achieved by building the capacities of staff and volunteers in emergency health, including epidemic control, and in risk communication and community engagement. These trainings will be followed by simulation exercises, conducted by each of the implementing branches together with

the local government structures, regular round tables/information sessions with local stakeholders, and strengthening collaboration with mass media on awareness raising campaigns. To ensure sustainability, the local communities will be organized and capacitated so that the community members can take the leadership on epidemic and disaster responses.

Migration and displacement

Many people in Central Asia work abroad and send remittances to their home countries and the income received from these migrant workers is heavily relied upon in the region. There is large scale labour mobility in Kyrgyzstan. International labour migration mainly flows towards the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, where Kyrgyz migrants are engaged in manual labour and entrepreneurial activities. In addition, as many as 30,000 Kyrgyz migrants work in other countries. The main factors driving emigration from Kyrgyzstan are: high unemployment and lack of jobs, especially among young people, and the low level of development of the social security system.

Russia regularly hosts approximately one million labour migrants from Kyrgyzstan. The sanctions placed on the Russian Federation are likely to trigger a decrease in availability of work for labour migrants, lowering the amount of labour migrants from Kyrgyzstan to the Russian Federation. Migrant workers returning primarily from Russia and Kazakhstan need to find alternative employment opportunities in the country. There is also concern caused by the influx of Russian citizens into the country: some 50,000 people in the first quarter of 2022.

The biggest challenges for migrant workers are exposure to diseases, lack of access to medical services, human trafficking and other protection risks, vulnerable families left behind, and systemic lack of reintegration upon return. The growing number of 'social orphans' in the region is a cause for concern - these are children left behind with family members or in social institutions when parents move to other countries for work.

The dynamics of internal migration in Kyrgyzstan are characterized by rural-urban migration, with people moving from economically disadvantaged regions of the country to more prosperous areas. Among the most common destinations for rural residents are the capital city of Bishkek, the province of Chui, and the cities of Osh and Jalal-Abad. Internal migration accounts for 60% of the country's migration, with the remaining 40% moving internationally. As in many developing countries, rural-urban migration is a strongly increasing trend. Migrant settlements around the capital city of Bishkek

have led to the creation of informal settlements on the outskirts of the city, where basic infrastructure and services are often lacking.

Periodic conflicts in the Ferghana Valley and in border areas with Tajikistan also have a high potential to generate migration from the affected areas. Only half of the 1,000-kilometre Kyrgyz-Tajik border territory has been marked, which leads to ongoing conflicts between the two armies.

Since 2021, Kyrgyzstan has been exposed to a secondary population influx from Afghanistan. The Government has been ready to support ethnic Kyrgyz living in Pamir, Afghanistan, in their return and reintegration to Kyrgyzstan, and has appealed to the international community for assistance. The number of ethnic Kyrgyz living in Afghanistan is over 1,000.

Main areas of support

The IFRC network's overarching regional objective for Central Asia is to improve the situation for migrants of all categories and to ensure meet their basic needs through better access to health services and shelter. This includes supporting returnees. The approach comprises humanitarian diplomacy, community engagement, needs assessments, training and the provision of assistance.

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

- Targeted interventions tailored for vulnerable communities, such as 'social orphans' and labour migrants
- Psychosocial support for migrant communities
- Capacity building for staff and volunteers in restoring family links and in psychosocial support for migrants
- Knowledge sharing for programme improvement

Under the [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#), the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan will focus on capacity building for staff and volunteers as part of the preparation for possible population movement in the country as a result of the different situations outlined above. The National Society will improve response planning and explore new methods of work with displaced people, including strengthening needs assessment and providing psychosocial support. The National Society will also ensure a strong focus on the protection needs of people on the move who are particularly vulnerable.

Values, power and inclusion

The ongoing socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict continue to affect vulnerable groups. Economic crises, loss of livelihoods, work uncertainty and fear for the future expose people to severe pressures. This has created conditions for negative survival mechanisms that lead to forms of exploitation and abuse. Women, girls and vulnerable groups are at an increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence due to shifts in social safety nets, limited access to information, and disruption of specialized services. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing gender inequalities and worsened mental health issues. Its long-term effects vary depending on sex, gender, age, disability, legal status and ethnicity. Violence against women is widespread and takes many forms, including domestic violence, bride kidnapping, trafficking, early marriages, polygamy and physical abuse.

Gender equality is an ongoing issue in Central Asia. LGBTQ and minority communities are significantly marginalized and vulnerable in some areas. 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 widespread and surrounded by a culture of silence.

Due to the widely held belief that people living with disabilities are unable to live independently, many are confined to their homes. There is also a severe lack of proper medical care for people living with disabilities. There are over 198,000 people registered with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan according to data from the National Statistics Committee. Older people are also socially excluded from their communities, particularly single elderly people.

Another vulnerable group is 'social orphans'. These are children whose parents are dependent on labour migration for their income. More than 11% of children aged 0–17 years in Kyrgyzstan have at least one biological parent living abroad. They are often left with relatives or put into children's homes, making them vulnerable or exposed to violence or abuse. More than 11,000 children live in Kyrgyzstan's 117 children's homes, and 6% of them have no living parents.

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, to improve the identification of and responsiveness to the diversified needs of target communities. This will include establishing sub-regional coordination with protection, gender and inclusion focal points of Central Asian National Societies to discuss and share best practices and lessons learnt on related topics.

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

- Developing comprehensive modules to work with vulnerable groups: lonely older people, people with disabilities, orphans/children from disadvantaged families, homeless people, migrants/refugees, people in difficult life situations, unemployed women
- Improving interaction with target communities (access, provision of necessary services, advocacy, capacity strengthening, livelihoods support)
- Providing training for community leaders and members on developing an inclusive society
- Providing comprehensive psychosocial support to vulnerable people
- Providing income-generating sewing courses for women

- Arranging support and development of hospices and provision of palliative care
- Developing standards for inclusive provision of social and humanitarian assistance
- Strengthening the capacity of communities and key groups through their active involvement in programmes to improve their quality of life
- Ensuring the fulfilment of obligations and updating of cooperation agreements with the state system on rendering social and humanitarian assistance to the population

Under the Pilot Programmatic Partnership, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan will set up a feedback mechanism, including a hotline, for specific vulnerable groups and will use the feedback data to regularly re-design and adjust its programme activities at the community level, and to develop and update its key information and communication materials for targeted communities. Staff and volunteers will be trained on “data in action” and data collection, as well as on community engagement and accountability, and protection gender and inclusion. Training will include a component on feedback, using the IFRC Feedback Toolkit.

Enabling local actors

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan is committed to strengthening its capacities and has 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 is committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is in the initial planning phase. PER is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, then take action to improve.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan has highlighted specific issues that require support. These include developing a single holistic National Society Development plan, resource mobilization, and communications and public relations at headquarters and branches. Organizational systems and processes, such as human resources, planning, monitoring, evaluation

and reporting, and community engagement and accountability, will also be a key priority.

Main areas of support

The planned activities, with support from the IFRC network, include:

- Strengthening communications, public relations and resource mobilization at headquarters and branches
- Improving digital transformation through the provision of teleconference facilities for remote participation in Movement forums, meetings and discussions, training and capacity building initiatives, and other actions to strengthen capacities at branch level
- Conduct continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure the quality of the organization's activities

- Systematically training staff in areas such as planning monitoring evaluation and reporting, communications, analytical approaches and strategic thinking etc.
- Developing the National Society's fundraising system (individual and corporate), improving the traditional donation system (boxes, charity events, in-kind donations), and generally developing the National Society's income-generating activities
- Setting up the National Society's Reserve Fund
- Developing a single holistic National Society Development plan
- Ensuring the development of the National Society's headquarters, regional branches, district representations and primary organizations
- Improving interaction between the headquarters and regional branches of the National Society (improving standard communications and introducing innovative methods of internal communications)
- Strengthening the membership system
- Strengthening the financial management of the organization (strategic analytics and decision making, analysis of income and expensiture, auditing and monitoring)
- Further developing organizational systems and processes, such as human resources, planning monitoring evaluation and reporting
- Optimising staff management through a system for assessing and motivating employees (a grading or performance management system)
- Improving volunteer management systems, and developing a "School of Volunteering"
- Developing the insurance system for staff and volunteers, as well as for the property of the National Society
- Developing the organization's integrated security system
- Improving the material base of the National Society (construction and repair of offices, warehouses, purchase of vehicles, purchase of office equipment, furniture, materials, etc.)
- Ensuring warehouse and inventory management

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC's Central Asia Delegation is based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. It supports the National Societies to collaborate, through formal and informal exchange platforms, exchange visits, and online and in-person meetings.

The IFRC supports the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan on disaster management and preparedness, disaster risk reduction, health, community engagement and accountability, cash and voucher assistance, disaster law, humanitarian diplomacy and positioning with authorities, branch and volunteer development, leadership support and development, financial sustainability and systems development. The IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, IFRC supported the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations in relation to population movement linked to border conflicts, earthquakes, heat and cold waves, and disease outbreaks. DREF operations launched in September 2022 will cross over to the beginning of 2023. Since the beginning of

the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its [global Emergency Appeal](#), has supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to analyse the humanitarian context, assess humanitarian situations and needs, agree common priorities, co-develop common strategies to address issues, such as obtaining humanitarian access and acceptance, 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 and development actions and assistance, and efforts to reinforce the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan is part of the IFRC network's New Way of Working initiative, piloted

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
German Red Cross	CHF 0.35M								
Italian Red Cross	CHF 0.05M								
Spanish Red Cross									
Swiss Red Cross	CHF 0.73M								
Turkish Red Crescent	CHF 0.24M								
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent									

Total

1.37M

in 14 countries as a new model of membership coordination. The initiative places a country's National Society at the centre with the IFRC network surrounding it to optimize the power of working as one". It involves sharing resources, knowledge, and common standards for greater impact. Particular attention is given to collective planning, with participating National Societies participating in multi-year country plan to ensure that the resources and expertise of the network are used in a complementary and efficient way.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan is involved in a global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), with implementation support from the **German Red Cross** as lead EU National Society, and from the **Italian Red Cross**. The partnership implements activities in disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, humanitarian assistance and protection for people on the move, cash and voucher assistance, risk communication, and community engagement and accountability.

The partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with the potential for greater, longer-term impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the

world's biggest international donor for humanitarian assistance.

In addition to peer-to-peer collaboration between the Central Asian National Societies, the participating National Societies providing support to the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan are the following: German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent. The Red Cross Society of China, Qatar Red Crescent, Saudi Arabian Red Crescent and the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, all provide support remotely.

The German Red Cross has a regional office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. It has a history of long-term cooperation with all five National Societies in Central Asia, and has implemented multiple regional and cross-border, community-based disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and development projects with them. Since 2013, the German Red Cross has been undertaking a cross-border social structures development programme, engaging with the three bordering countries of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It aims to support the National Societies in their structural and institutional development, paying particular attention to the capacity building of field branches.

In the last five years, the German Red Cross has been focusing on assisting the National Societies with innovative programming such as cash and voucher assistance and forecast-based action for heat and cold

waves. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the German Red Cross provided substantial assistance for the National Societies to conduct emergency response operations, which included food and non-food items assistance to vulnerable people, and cash and voucher assistance to the most affected families and households. It encourages the National Societies to pay attention to the issues of gender equality, and the protection of rights and lives of people with disabilities, especially women and girls, who are the most vulnerable.

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. In Kyrgyzstan, it has supported the National Society in the development of its legal framework, in promoting women empowerment in the country through economic and social inclusion, and in enhancing its disaster preparedness and response capacities.

The Spanish Red Cross has been supporting the volunteering model of National Societies in Central Asia. It is also supporting the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan with community-based disaster risk management in Bishkek, Talas and Osh provinces.

The Swiss Red Cross has been collaborating with the Kyrgyzstan National Society since June 2014, driven by

a common goal around the sustainable implementation of programmes in support of the most vulnerable people in Kyrgyzstan. Current partnership projects, totaling a budget of CHF3.3 million, are aligned with the National Society's strategic priorities in social care, public health, disaster risk reduction and organizational development. The multi-year partnership framework agreement covers the areas of fundraising, volunteer management and institutional preparedness for effective emergency response. In Kazakhstan, the Swiss Red Cross has a bilateral agreement with the Kyrgyzstan National Society to develop cash and volunteer assistance, resource mobilization and capacity building.

The Turkish Red Crescent Society established its delegation for Central Asia in 2019. Based in Bishkek, its aim is to extend its level of partnership with National Societies in the region. It cooperates with the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan to improve its preparedness in the fields of disaster management and social development, in line with the National Society strategic plan.

The Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates supports the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in providing financial assistance to orphans, children from low-income families and multi-child female headed households.

Movement coordination

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) work closely together throughout Central Asia. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#). The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan organizes monthly coordination meetings to update International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners about ongoing activities, highlights and upcoming priorities, and Movement partners also share information about their ongoing activities and priorities. The National

Society also proactively provides Movement partners with regular situation reports during emergencies.

The ICRC supports the National Societies in Central Asia on restoring family links, international humanitarian law, mental health and psychosocial support, and emergency preparedness 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 Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC helps victims of violence, visits detainees, promotes international humanitarian law, provides supplies to health facilities, and works with the authorities on the issue of missing persons.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan works closely with the authorities, in particular the Ministry of Emergency, Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Health, and State Agency for Youth Affairs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Society, supported by the IFRC, took an active part in coordination bodies, such as the risk communication group, composed of representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Culture, the Republican Center for Public Health, the Republican Center of Immunization, and of international partners such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan has partnerships with external partners, including USAID, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), to improve the effective implementation of relevant programmes.

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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