



# TAJIKISTAN

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 3.2M**

Appeal number **MAATJ003**

## In support of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan



**69**

National Society branches



**149**

National Society staff



**12,000**

National Society volunteers

## People to be reached



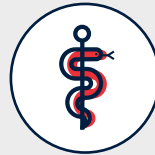
**84,500**

Climate and environment



**84,500**

Disasters and crises



**275,800**

Health and wellbeing



**20,100**

Values, power and inclusion

## IFRC network multiyear focus

### Longer term needs

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

### Capacity development

- disaster preparedness and response
  - cash readiness
- organizational development and sustainability

## Key country data

**Population**

**9.8M**

**Long-term Climate Risk Index**

**47**

**Human Development Index rank**

**122**

**Population below poverty level**

**26.3%**

## Hazards



Heat waves / cold waves



Floods



Landslides



Earthquakes



Conflict and violence



Population movement

## Funding requirements

**Total 3.2M** CHF

Through the IFRC

**1.7M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

**320,000** CHF

Host National Society

**1.2M** CHF

### IFRC Breakdown

#### Longer term needs

**594,000** CHF

Disasters and crises

**653,000** CHF

Health and wellbeing

**122,000** CHF

Migration and displacement

**340,000** CHF

Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

British Red Cross\*

The Canadian Red Cross Society\*

The Red Cross Society of China

German Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society\*

Red Cross of Monaco\*

Swedish Red Cross\*

Swiss Red Cross\*



# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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**The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan** was founded in 1927, making it the longest-standing humanitarian organization in the country. The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan” was adopted in 2010 and regulates the National Society’s auxiliary role. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan implements its programmes in complementarity with the initiatives of the public authorities, to ensure a meaningful consolidation and coordination with the efforts of all humanitarian actors. The National Society is one of the primary counterparts of the Committee of Emergency Situations under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, working closely with it to respond to emergencies and disasters under the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding. It has long-standing strong connections with the Ministry of Emergencies, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and other key national state agencies.

The National Society has 69 branches, 149 staff and a wide network of 12,000 volunteers across the country, and leverages e-volunteering support. Its structure consists of its Central Committee, based at headquarters in the capital, Dushanbe, two provincial branches (Sughd Province and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region),

two regional branches (Bokhtar and Kulob), and 14 district branches. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan’s strong local base of volunteers plays a key role in accessing people in remote areas and provided nationwide coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

In recent years, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has responded to multiple disasters and crises, such as cold and heat waves, floods, earthquakes, population movement and disease outbreaks. The National Society has been at the forefront of the national COVID-19 response, as a member of the National COVID-19 Task Force, National Platform for Emergency Response, and the COVAX technical working group.

According to its Strategic Development Plan for 2021–2025, the priorities of the National Society include disaster risk reduction and disaster response, first aid training, community-based health programmes and humanitarian aid for orphans and their family members through cash interventions. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is currently in the process of finalising a comprehensive National Society Development plan to ensure the sustainability and strengthening of its network.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

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### Joint situational analysis

Tajikistan has a [population](#) of almost ten million, a quarter of which lives in urban areas. Most people in Tajikistan belong to the Persian-speaking Tajik group (79.9%), but there are populations of Uzbeks (15.3%) and Russians (1%), whose numbers are falling due to emigration. The Pamiris of Badakhshan (a region in south-eastern Tajikistan and north-eastern Afghanistan) are considered as part of the Tajiks. The official language is Tajik, but Russian is also frequently used.

Tajikistan is the least developed country in the Central Asia region, and over a quarter of the population live below the national poverty line. 75% of the population live in rural areas and derive their livelihoods from the agricultural sector. Agriculture accounts for approximately 30% of the country’s GDP, but the agricultural base is characterized by limited arable land. In the limited areas where cultivation is practical, there is a

heavy dependency on irrigation, though the irrigation infrastructure in most areas is in disrepair and there is a risk of future water shortages.

Although the official unemployment rate is 7.5% (2020), the real numbers may be much higher. The Russian Federation is still the top labour market for Tajik migrants who send back crucial remittances. However, with the Ukraine crisis, remittances from Russia to Tajikistan have started to fall significantly. By World Bank estimates, overall remittances equalled almost 27% of GDP in 2020, but the volume of money sent home from Russia has been falling and is expected to fall by 22 % by in 2022.

More violent fluctuations of prices in the global market for most major food commodities, fuel and lubricants, as well as turbulence around key logistics routes, have already caused substantial negative impacts on the food security situation in Tajikistan.

Border issues have led 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. The international political landscape also impacts Central Asian countries. The Ukraine crisis dominates the political landscape and remains a major concern, while the change in power in Afghanistan in 2021, combined with food shortages, have threatened stability across the entire region. Borders between Tajikistan and Afghanistan have been officially closed, but there remains a threat of a population influx when they reopen.

The country faces numerous health challenges, including relatively high maternal and child mortality rates,

a growing TB epidemic and, most concerning, the increase of drug-resistant TB, periodic outbreaks of infectious diseases, high prevalence of non-communicable diseases, and poor access to adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services. The situation is further exacerbated in times of disasters, which are increasing in their intensity and frequency.

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

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## Strategic priorities

### Climate and environment

Tajikistan is highly vulnerable to climate change. More than 90 per cent of Tajikistan'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, can cause a rise in floods, landslides and mudslides in mountainous areas. The number of avalanches and amount of snowfall across the region have almost doubled in the last decade.

The area in Tajikistan covered by glaciers has declined by approximately one third since the 1930s. As glaciers shrink, flooding will occur with greater intensity in some areas, while other areas may experience more water scarcity. Future projections indicate that by 2050 the ice volume of glaciers will decrease by 25–30% and river run-off is expected to increase by 6–15%, greatly increasing the risk from flooding and other water-related disasters.

The increasing impact of climate change is exacerbating these existing hazards and flooding and mudslides have been recognized as a key threat in Central Asia. According to the World Bank, such natural hazards, which are mostly linked to climate change, result in annual losses equivalent to approximately 20% of the country's GDP.

These climatic changes lead to other environmental issues, such as a deterioration of soil quality, loss of arable land, changes in water supply systems, accelerated soil erosion and depressed agricultural productivity.

As the likelihood of natural hazards increases, so does the vulnerability of the most exposed rural communities. This is further compounded by the socio-economic impact of disasters on livelihoods, agricultural productivity and water availability. Combined with population growth and increasing water demand, conflicts related to fresh-water access, decreased access to household heating, increased pollution, and increased overall demands on local electrical and power grids and hydro-electrical power dams, are becoming more common.

The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy presents a long-term (until 2030) outline of priority adaptation measures in the form of a basic project pipeline and will be implemented through successive National Adaptation Plans, which will provide concrete actions according to successive five-year timeframes. It identified four priority sectors as particularly vulnerable to climate change: i) energy, ii) water resources; iii) transportation; and iv) agriculture, which will be the same focal areas as for the National Adaptation Plan process.

The National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019–2030 also makes note of the importance of incorporating climate change into disaster risk reduction and disaster management activities, however there are no details in the plan at present to guide integration.

### Main areas of support

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan 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 integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into its disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will, in particular, further develop forecast-based financing, with a focus on heat and cold waves. This will guide its 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, older people and those living with disabilities.

The National Society will also work to reinforce its early warning systems at community level for a range of hazards, and increase public awareness on climate risks, in particular for heat waves.

## Disasters and crises

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

Central Asia is uniquely positioned as both extremely climate-vulnerable and disaster-prone. Common disasters and climate induced events in Tajikistan include heavy snowfall and avalanches, floods, droughts, mudflows, and landslides. The region is at high risk of earthquakes, and in Tajikistan there is cause for concern over the seismic safety of buildings and infrastructure in highly populated urban areas. Seismic zoning for Tajikistan ranges from 7 (very strong) to 9 (destructive) on the Medvedev–Sponheuer–Karnik (MSK-64) scale. An annual average of 23 earthquake-related disasters have been reported over the 1997–2018 period, with an annual average of two fatalities. A devastating earthquake affecting a major Tajik city could lead to significant numbers of fatalities and injuries and result in tremendous economic losses.

About 70% of disasters in the country are water related. Estimated average annual losses due to climate and disasters in Tajikistan could reach 1.4% of GDP in the case

of floods, and 5% of GDP in the case of earthquakes. Data provided by the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence, of the Government of Tajikistan, indicates that in 1997–2018 Tajikistan experienced approximately 3,460 disasters, or an average of one disaster every two days. Mudflows have been the most common disaster (an average of 70 events per year), and have the most deadly impact (an average of 35 fatalities per year). This is followed by avalanches (an average of 27 events and 6 fatalities per year). In most cases, mudflows and avalanches have very limited impact areas, but often occur during specific weather conditions, affecting several numerous locations at the same time.

The 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 and resilience.

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

## Main areas of support

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, with support from the IFRC network, will continue its community-based disaster risk mitigation initiatives, to address the urgent humanitarian needs of people affected by disasters and crises and to assist with their recovery. The National Society has a long history of working within disaster response, and is taking proactive measures on conflict preparedness in those areas most affected. This includes the stockpiling of household items and staff refresher training.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan puts significant effort into integrating innovation and investing in cash preparedness and implementation in different programmes and operations. It has also started up new forecast-based financing (FbF) projects with support from partners.

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

- Conducting community Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment ([eVCA](#))
- Holding awareness raising campaigns on preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for communities
- Conducting risk assessments and developing community DRR plans with communities
- Implementing community level DRR and mitigation initiatives
- Establishing community-level Early Warning System
- Conducting joint simulation exercises at community level
- Providing timely and effective assistance to affected populations
- Up-scaling cash and voucher assistance
- Strengthening disaster preparedness including through establishing emergency operations centres
- Conduct annual re-fresher training for the National Disaster Response Teams and Local Disaster Management Committee members
- Revising the National Society contingency plan, in coordination within country partners
- Replenishing existing emergency stocks

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, the Italian Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will increase its focus on community-based disaster risk management. This comprises comprehensive activities that will ultimately lead to safer and more resilient communities, able to sustain and overcome potential crises. The National Society will also strengthen its auxiliary role in relation to the national emergency preparedness and response system, through a bottom-up approach from the communities to national level. It includes the establishment of local initiatives and voluntary groups, known as Local Disaster Management Committees (LDMCs), which will be fully integrated into the lowest structural level of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan. Experience of LDMCs established from other projects will be replicated. The activities will cover seven remote geographical areas in the northern part of the country, which face challenges

of cross-border and multi-faceted natural hazards and man-made crises or impacts.

The PPP will also focus on the comprehensive inclusion of cash assistance, which will target communities living in disaster prone areas and affected by disasters, as well as refugees and asylum seekers. The National Society will enhance data collection capacities and develop targeting methodologies in order to address the most vulnerable households. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will improve the environmental sustainability of its humanitarian work through the training and mentoring of staff and volunteers on the IFRC's Green Response concepts and practical steps, developing its capacity to carry out simple environmental screening of projects/operations and deliver activities related to 'greening' the different sectoral interventions (WASH, etc.). This approach will also include integrating community-level awareness raising on positive environmental practices into any project/operation and greening the logistics, supply chain and fleet models and standards.

## Health and wellbeing

In Tajikistan [health expenditures](#) per capita and as a percentage of GDP are reported to remain low. A universal health [coverage index](#), which is an indicator of the level of delivery of effective, essential health services across the population, reported a coverage level of 47.9% in 2019. Key health challenges facing the country are in the area of maternal and neonatal health, tuberculosis and HIV, and non-communicable diseases.

Maternal and child health-care services are particularly sensitive to failures in the healthcare system. Although the maternal mortality rates are steadily decreasing, maternal and child mortality rates in Tajikistan are still the highest in the region. The percentage of women (aged 15–49 years) attended at least four times during pregnancy by any provider is 64%. The [Under-five child mortality rate](#) is 32.28 per 1,000 live births, which is far above the desired level of child mortality of fewer than 25 deaths per 100,000 live births, under the Global SDG Agenda target.

[Tuberculosis](#) continues to be a major public health challenge in the country. Tajikistan is one of the 30 countries globally that has the highest burden of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB). In 2020, 8,000 people were estimated to have developed TB, which is 300 cases more compared to 2019. In 2019 2,400 people were estimated to have developed DR-TB, which in turn is 26% more than in 2018, showing an exponential increase.

According to [UNAIDS](#), the estimated number of people living with HIV in Tajikistan is currently about 14,300 (including 5,300 women, 7,900 men and 1,100 children under the age of 15). In 2020, around 1,000 new cases of HIV infection were identified across the different age groups (50% male and 50% female). Sharing a long land border with Afghanistan, Tajikistan has also been used as an illicit transport corridor for drugs from Afghanistan to Europe and other regions, and this is fuelling the country's growing HIV/AIDS spread, especially amongst people who inject drugs and spread the disease to other intravenous drug users and their sexual partners.

[Noncommunicable diseases](#) (NCDs) are the leading cause of death in Tajikistan. The age-standardized NCD mortality rate is 876.1 per 100,000 population, which is the highest in Central Asia and one of the highest in WHO's Europe region. The country's stunting rate is also the highest in Central Asia and WHO's Europe region and is the result of chronic nutritional deprivation. Early childbearing and maternal malnutrition has had negative influence on these rates.

The country has significantly reduced the risk of infectious diseases. Tajikistan has relatively high vaccination coverage rates against vaccine preventable diseases. According to the United Nations Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)), immunization coverage for the measles second dose by the nationally recommended age, has reached 96%, and is seen as one of the key measures of national performance on immunization. The DTP3 coverage rate is also high at 97%, according to the country's official estimates in 2020. However, the country remains vulnerable to recurring outbreaks of other vaccine preventable diseases, including polio, among others. The country experienced an outbreak of vaccine derived polio between November 2020 and March 2021 and has embarked on a catch-up vaccination campaign against polio in certain age groups. The Covid-19 pandemic showed that Tajikistan is highly vulnerable to similar crises due to its massive migration processes, remote settlements and lack of preventive measures.

Tajikistan is the country most severely affected by inadequate water and sanitation services in Central Asia. Only 55% of the population have access to safely managed water and only 81% have access to any basic drinking water services. 12% of the population are reliant on surface water for their daily water needs. It is estimated that 26% of deaths in the country are related to diarrhoea, caused by unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and inadequate personal hygiene.

## Main areas of support

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is engaged in a variety of health activities and seeks to expand its action to address the multiple health challenges facing the population. The National Society played a significant role during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on the rolling out COVID-19 vaccination and ensuring the catch-up on delayed or missed routine vaccinations, closing persistent gaps in maternal, child and neonatal health care, which widened during the pandemic, and supporting the recovery from COVID-19 of vulnerable people, including those in elderly care facilities. It will continue to respond to the recurring threats related to COVID-19 and its variants.

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

- Improving access to medical and social services
- Providing health promotion for communities ([community-based health and first aid](#))
- Training communities on responding to health emergencies and responding to food insecurity in children
- Building capacity and service provision for mental health, psychosocial support and basic health needs
- Expanding work on routine immunization and promoting the COVID-19 vaccine
- Delivering case detection and care for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis
- Working on polyclinic care through a joint clinic with the Iranian Red Crescent, which provides haemodialysis, orthopaedics, as well as a palliative care component for cancer patients. The clinic also provides medical care for vulnerable groups, such as lonely older people and people living with disabilities
- Implementing a Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) project
- Holding blood donation information campaigns
- Supporting preventative health measures
- Providing First Aid training for communities and First Aid commercial courses
- Providing First Aid training for National Disaster Response Teams and technical equipment for First Aid the National Society's regional centres

- Ensuring access of the population and school students to deliver clean drinking water and sanitation measures (girls hygiene) through a water sanitation and hygiene project
- Building capacity in the National Society health department around community-based surveillance and setting up an early warning system for disease outbreaks
- Ensuring the capacity building of the National Society's health department, with a particular focus on infection and epidemic control
- Developing mental health and psychological support guidelines
- Controlling and preventing of burnout among volunteers and employees
- Reviewing the National Society's health strategy to reflect new challenges
- Increasing and expanding partnerships on health and strengthening cooperation with departments of the Ministry of Health, other international organization and the IFRC network

Under the [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#), the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will focus on preparatory activities to prevent and respond to epidemics and pandemics, as well as establish and contribute to the strengthening of Community Based Surveillance (CBS) alongside local actors, community networks and volunteers as community responders. This comprises updating its information awareness raising materials related to pandemics and epidemics and the spread of communicable diseases, including water and vector-borne diseases. National Society staff and volunteers will be trained through technical support from EU National Societies, using the applicable IFRC tools and methodologies. It will also receive logistical capacity building support and pre-positioning of equipment, materials and supplies to be used in health emergencies.

## Migration and displacement

At present, Tajikistan is confronted by four critical issues which are driving migration patterns and related, migration-based impacts: the Russia/Ukraine conflict and related blocks in labour migration; continued instability within Afghanistan; the tensions in the Ferghana Valley and Northern Tajikistan; and water-based conflicts.

The main factors driving emigration from Tajikistan are high unemployment, especially among young people, and an underdeveloped social security system. An estimated 800,000 to 1,000,000 Tajik citizens, representing

up to 20% of the labour force, have left the country. The priority destination for migrant workers from Central Asia has traditionally been the Russian Federation, however, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has led to a sudden decline in labour migration, causing significant unemployment and reduced remittances.

The biggest challenges for migrant workers are exposure to disease, lack of access to medical services, human trafficking and other protection risks, vulnerable families left behind, and a systemic lack of reintegration upon return. The growing number of 'social orphans' in the region is a cause for concern. As parents migrate, children are often left with relatives, and in many cases with grandparents, who may struggle to meet the needs of the growing children, many of whom are ultimately placed in residential institutions. [According to UNICEF](#), children affected by migration often find themselves marginalized, without proper psychosocial support and lacking access to quality services. 85% of children are emotionally traumatised when their parent migrate, and 27.7% of children reported "feeling hopeless".

The change in leadership in neighbouring Afghanistan has also led to refugees crossing the border into Tajikistan. As of January 2022, about 7,510 people from Afghanistan had taken refuge in Tajikistan, according to UNHCR figures. If conditions worsen in Afghanistan, these numbers are likely to increase.

Periodic conflicts in the Ferghana Valley and northern Tajikistan along the borders with Kyrgyzstan, also have the 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 conflicts between the two armies. The latest mounting tensions in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region of Tajikistan, escalated to higher degree in May 2022 in the Rushon area and led to multiple deaths among civilians. These outbreaks can also trigger internal displacement. Unresolved issues related to the distribution of water and land and illegal border crossings also lead to frequent unrest.

## Main areas of support

The IFRC network's overarching regional objective is to improve response to the basic needs and access to health, shelter and other services, for migrants of all categories, including returnees. The support will comprise humanitarian diplomacy, community engagement, needs assessments, and training.

The IFRC launched a [regional Emergency Appeal](#) in mid-August 2021 to support National Societies in the

region bordering Afghanistan, including Tajikistan. The National Societies initiated preparedness and readiness actions and, where relevant, response activities to support the population movement. Based on the National Societies' mandates and roles in their respective countries, the IFRC network developed contingency plans and established coordination mechanisms with national authorities. The Emergency Appeal ended in December 2022, but the interventions it supported are expected to continue under this plan as needed and could be scaled up in there were influxes of population movement.

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

- Improving access to assistance, protection and information for migrants, including restoring family links
- Delivering psychosocial support to migrant communities
- Setting up five information and educational training centres for labour migrants in Dushanbe, Kulob, Badakhshon, Sughd and Bokhtar, and a mobile clinic for multi-purpose use
- Preparing for an Afghan refugee influx

Under the [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#), the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will seek ways to render assistance to affected people on the move due to various circumstances. It will analyse migration trends, as well as the specific causes that drive people to take migration routes, through collected records on migration and displacement. Particular attention will be paid to Afghan refugees who entered Tajikistan following the crisis in Afghanistan – this is complementary to the National Society actions under the Emergency Appeal that was launched by IFRC in September 2021 and to the labour migration actions. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will facilitate an understanding of overall population movement dynamics (migratory, displacement, other movement) within the country, and will help to optimize assistance for the affected population on the move. Activities are expected to result in vulnerable people on the move having access to humanitarian assistance and protection in a safe, responsible and participatory manner, whether in an in-camp or out-of-camp setting. The initiative represents a complementary support to the current actions of the IFRC network partners and provides an opportunity to consolidate current services and promote greater population coverage.

## Values, power and inclusion

Throughout Tajikistan, women face discrimination and inequality in social, economic and political life. Their representation in Tajik politics and decision-making remains below international standards. Gender-based domestic violence is prevalent in Tajikistan, and is surrounded by a culture of silence. Although 20% of married women have experienced emotional, physical or sexual violence from their husbands, only one in five victims files a report. In the rural areas of Tajikistan, nearly 75% of people live below the poverty line. This statistic disproportionately affects women according to [UN Women](#). The highest risk of poverty occurs in households headed by women, particularly women without an education or with many children. For every 100,000 live births, 65 women die from pregnancy-related causes and the adolescent birth rate is 42.8 per 1000 live births.

In Tajikistan around 330,000 people are over 64 years of age and according to [UNDP](#) surveys, they represent one of the most vulnerable and socially excluded groups in Tajik society, especially single, older people. In Tajikistan, there are around 150,000 people official registered with disabilities, 1,6% of which are children. Another vulnerable group is 'social orphans', children left behind with family or institutions when their parents migrate to find work.

## 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 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 in the Central Asia National Societies to discuss and share best practices and lessons learnt on related topics.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan strategy is to mainstream protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability in their programmes and emergency response activities.

Under the [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#), vulnerability and other specific criteria have been established according to the different intervention sectors and considering an inclusive approach in all community-based actions. This would focus on families with one or more members with any of the following vulnerability conditions:- children under 5 years of age; adolescents; pregnant women; Longley, Ilderly people; people living

with disabilities; single female-headed households; other population minorities); people living in poverty who have lost their belongings and livelihoods; people affected by disasters and living in contexts of multiple threats; people without access to health services; people without access to a minimum quantity or quality of water, or without access to adequate sanitation facilities; all categories of migrants and other people on the move, including internally displaced people or those in need of protection; and people affected by other situations of violence. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan aims at targeting the most vulnerable groups, among these persons within a comprehensive approach. This includes ensuring capacity and understanding of the different needs among the National Society staff and volunteers, and involving persons with disabilities or organizations working with persons with disabilities in planning and delivering the different pillars of the action. This will aim to ensure that services from disaster preparedness to epidemic prevention and cash interventions are inclusive and accessible and designed together with person with disabilities. The Finnish Red Cross aims to bring an existing partnership with a disability organization, that has years of experience working in Tajikistan with local organizations, to ensure streamlining disability inclusion into the wider programming.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will also focus on integrating risk communication and community engagement and accountability (CEA) in programming, in order to ensure that communities are active partners at all stages of the programming cycle. This commitment will reflect the importance of two-way communication with communities and the integral role it plays in the execution of high-quality programmes and operations. Building on existing tools and community participation approaches and using them in different contexts, will help the National Society network (regional and district branches) to further integrate mechanisms to foster safe, accessible and equitable community participation, and to expand community feedback systems and make them part of standard operating procedures. This will enable the National Society to prioritize the use of local knowledge, skills and capacities to drive local action that is effective and acceptable. An important component of the project is the development and implementation of a CEA strategy, which will ensure a people-centred approach and participation of all actors throughout all stages of the programme or operation.

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## Enabling local actors

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is committed to strengthening its capacities, and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2012. It also carried out a Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) in 2022. The self-assessments are intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies or branches as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

The National Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is in the initial workplan 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 and take action to improve them.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan identifies National Society development as a key focus area. It strives to further develop its organizational structure by strengthening the capacities of branches, staff and volunteers.

It is currently finalizing a National Society development plan. The National Society will introduce new and innovative approaches to ensure access to humanitarian services for all vulnerable population groups. It aims to expand its partnerships, engage communities and integrate its approaches, with a focus on self-sufficiency, sustainability and development.

### Main areas of support

Planned activities with support from the IFRC network include to:

- Systematize humanitarian diplomacy, persuading decision makers and opinion leaders to act, at all times, in the interests of vulnerable people, and with full respect for the fundamental humanitarian principles, and undertaking advocacy, negotiations, communications, formal agreements and other measures to meet these goals
- Strengthen the National Society's image, positioning, and partnerships

- Conduct round tables with interested parties on mutual cooperation, including with government authorities, NGOs and other partners
- Integrate the existing communication strategy in all programmes and projects of the National Society
- Actively participate in the improvement of regional and cross-border cooperation in Central Asia, and take part in wider international cooperation, including within IFRC disaster response activities
- Diversify resource mobilization channels and approaches
- Strengthen the financial and administrative base of the organization and the capacities of staff and volunteers to improve the effective financial and administrative management of the National Society
- Establish a working group for the implementation of the National Society Development Strategy 2021–2025
- Hire an Organizational Development Manager to support capacity strengthening and coordinate branch development
- Carry out a phased renovation of headquarters and branches, including the provision of the latest communications equipment
- Develop and revise existing standard training packages for leadership, psychosocial support, first aid, training of trainers for volunteers on humanitarian education. Provide contracts for specialized volunteers
- Develop and promote training modules on disaster risk reduction, epidemic preparedness and response, climate change adaptation, early warning, needs assessments, shelter, cash and voucher assistance, protection gender and inclusion, community engagement and accountability, restoring family links, planning monitoring evaluation and reporting, psychosocial support, and humanitarian assistance, with the use of innovative processes and training approaches
- Revise safety/security protocols, and provide security training for volunteers
- Provide volunteers involved in emergency response with personal protective equipment, safety protocols, and psychosocial support
- Provide insurance for volunteers
- Revise the volunteer management system, including recruitment and training, and facilitate the recruitment of new volunteers (online registration and online/physical training for new volunteers)

## THE IFRC NETWORK

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### The IFRC

**The IFRC's** Central Asia Country Cluster Delegation is based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and it has a presence in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. It supports the National Societies to collaborate, through formal and informal exchange platforms, exchange visits, and online and in-person meetings.

With its in-country presence, IFRC is supporting the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan on disaster management, disaster risk reduction, health, finance and administration, and is extending support from other country offices on humanitarian diplomacy, community engagement and accountability, cash and vouchers assistance and disaster law. The IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.










Over the past ten years, IFRC supported the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan with over twenty Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#) in relation to floods, earthquakes, cold and heat waves, droughts,

disease outbreaks, food insecurity, border conflict, civil unrest and population movement. Two DREF operations launched between October and December 2022 crossed over into the beginning of 2023. The National Society of Tajikistan also received support through the IFRC [regional Emergency Appeal](#) on population movement from Afghanistan from August 2021 to December 2022. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its [global Emergency Appeal](#), has also supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response.

### IFRC membership coordination

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 to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access and acceptance, mobilize funding and other resources, clarify consistent public messaging, and monitor progress. This also means ensuring that

## 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
Finnish Red Cross	CHF 0.12M								
German Red Cross									
Iranian Red Crescent	CHF 0.11M								
Italian Red Cross	CHF 0.10M								
Red Cross Society of China									

### Total

0.32M

strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clear humanitarian and development assistance, and reinforce the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan 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, the **Italian Red Cross** and the **Finnish 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, and risk communication, community engagement and accountability.

The partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes and working towards greater 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 biggest international aid donor in the world.

In addition to peer-to-peer collaboration between the Central Asian National Societies, the following participating National Societies provide long-term support to the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan: Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross and Italian Red Cross, and the Red Cross Society of China provides support remotely.

**The Red Cross Society of China** is a recognized as a strategic partner of the National Society in Tajikistan and has been providing support in the form of IT equipment, emergency stocks and fleet over several years. The organizations are involved in a ongoing, joint project to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities through community-based disaster risk reduction and capacity building. The project aims to increase the resilience of the most disaster-prone communities in southern Tajikistan through active engagement in comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures. Support from the Red Cross Society of China enables the National Society in Tajikistan to build capacities and scale up services to save lives, protect livelihoods and strengthen recovery from crises in disaster prone areas.

**The Finnish Red Cross** has partnered with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan for nearly 20 years. Their work is focused on health, water, sanitation and hygiene, and disaster management. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland, the European Union and the Finnish Red Cross have funded this work. In recent years, the partnership has expanded to areas such as disability inclusion and anticipatory action, building on the enhanced forecasting capacities of the national meteorological service.

**The German Red Cross** has a country office in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. 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 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 field branches and capacity building.

In the last five years, the German Red Cross is 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 providing food and non-food items assistance to vulnerable people and cash and voucher assistance to the most affected families. It encourages the National

Societies to pay attention to issues of gender equality, the protection of rights and lives of people with disabilities, especially women and girls, who are in the most vulnerable positions.

**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. The Italian Red Cross supports the activities of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan at a technical and financial level. It has supported the National Society in developing its volunteer mobilization capacities through youth engagement and development, and in enhancing migrants' access to health and social services, while improving cooperation between migrant countries of origin, transit and destination.

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## Movement coordination

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized, such as for the response to the Afghan population movement crisis in 2022. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement 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.

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## Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan maintains strong relationships with a range of government bodies, at central and local levels. It has effective and well-established partnerships with key stakeholders, including a memorandum of understanding with the National Committee of Emergency Situations which covers disaster response and other crises. It also has strong connections with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and other key national state agencies.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the IFRC are represented and play an active role in various humanitarian working groups and platforms at the national level, such as the Food Security and Livelihoods Sector clusters, and the UN and state-led REACT platform.

For the 2022 response to [population movement from Afghanistan](#) the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, together with the IFRC, coordinated with the inter-agency working group and sub-groups on infrastructure, WASH, health, cash and voucher assistance and shelter. It also actively participates in health sector coordination, led by the Ministry of Health and WHO.

The National Society worked with the Committee of Emergency Situations to coordinate response planning, and jointly reviewed contingency plans for coordinated action in a multi-hazard scenario, including border conflicts and a population influx. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, in partnership with UNHCR, closely coordinated with border guards on the monitoring of borders, and conducted regular visits to border areas to get direct updates from relevant personnel. For refugee

monitoring, the National Society coordinated bilaterally with the Ministry of Internal Affairs on a monthly basis to ensure updates on population movement and to inform planning for activities to support refugees and asylum seekers in Tajikistan. Coordination meetings were also held with UNHCR, the Refugees, Children and Vulnerable Citizens group (RCVC), UNICEF, Mercy Corps, Ariana Afghan Diaspora and other partners, to support Afghan refugees residing in Tajikistan. The National Society holds bilateral partnerships with UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, IOM and Mercy Corps to support population movement.

The National Society also cooperates with other humanitarian organizations in disaster management, and has especially strong ties with the UNICEF country office and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) country office. It cooperates and coordinates with other international actors such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), embassies, and donor agencies in Tajikistan. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan partners with the King Salman Foundation on its support to orphans.

#### **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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### **National Society**

**W** [www.redcrescent.tj](http://www.redcrescent.tj)

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