



KAZAKHSTAN

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

24 November 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY OF KAZAKHSTAN



18

National Society branches



70

National Society staff



4,000

National Society volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



500,000

Disasters and crises



80,000

Health and wellbeing



16,000

Migration and displacement



269

Values, power and inclusion



170

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total	Funding requirements	3.5M
IFRC	Longer-term Funding requirements	1.6M
	Income	540,000
Participating National Societies	Funding requirements	1.9M
	Income	52,000
Host National Society other funding sources	Income	551,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal number **MAAKZ002**



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response	500,000
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	500,000
Disasters and crises	People reached with disaster risk reduction	80,000
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	2,000
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	1%
	People reached with livelihoods support	Applicable data not available
	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	16,000
Health and wellbeing	People trained in first aid	12,000
	People donating blood	2,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	157
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	Applicable data not available
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	269
	Data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move are available	Applicable data not available
	Advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move?	Applicable data not available
Values, power and inclusion	People reached by National Society educational programmes	170
	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	20
	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Applicable data not available

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation

Applicable
data not available

One National Society Development plan is in place

Applicable
data not available

National Society Development

Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented

Applicable
data not available

Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place

Applicable
data not available

Domestic advocacy strategies are developed, aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies

Applicable
data not available

Humanitarian diplomacy

National Society is participating in IFRC-led communication campaigns

Applicable
data not available

National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy

Applicable
data not available

Accountability and agility

National Society has strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms

Applicable
data not available

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support				
	Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
Italian Red Cross				●	●	
Red Crescent Society of the Unit..			●			
Red Cross Society of China			●		●	●
Spanish Red Cross				●		
Swedish Red Cross	●					
Swiss Red Cross				●		

■ Planned

■ Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Kazakhstan is currently facing a surge in measles and rubella cases – as of 16 June 2023, 1,229 measles cases have been reported. The incidence of measles stands at 14.07 per one million people (May 2022 – April 2023) which constitutes the fifth highest cases of measles in the European region according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) latest updates.

The current rise in cases is due to vaccine hesitancy, decreased immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic, other factors include misinformation, medical exemptions and inadequate communication on the benefits of vaccination. This situation is exacerbated by growing cases in neighbouring countries.

Key achievements

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan continues to operate normally and there are no significant accomplishments to report at this time.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The approved simplified Early Action Plan (EAP) for cold waves which is valid from 2022 to 2024 will be targeting approximately 82,000 individuals. Given Kazakhstan's expansive size and harsh winters, often leading to roadblocks for trucks, the primary goal of this EAP is to mitigate the impact of cold waves on vulnerable population groups, drivers and passengers. This would be achieved by providing protection from the cold, offering food and shelter, distributing heating devices and implementing measures to enhance awareness of road and traffic safety. The aim of the simplified EAP is to prevent frostbite and injuries, which can lead to health issues, fatalities and loss of income. This simplified EAP is expected to be activated in the second half of 2023 or early 2024 depending on weather forecasts.

In the Abai region, significant fires occurred, resulting in multiple casualties and extensive damage. The National Society, alongside other organizations, played a proactive role in containing and limiting the further spread of the fires.



Disasters and crises

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan has been diligently reinforcing both local and national capacities for emergency preparedness and response in the country throughout the period of 2021-2023 within the framework of the IFRC Central Asian programme. The funding for this programme is provided by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian

Assistance (BHA), and the IFRC and UNICEF are the contract holders responsible for its implementation. Under the auspices of the IFRC-funded programme, the National Society has successfully achieved the following:

- **Disaster Preparedness and Response:** strengthening community-based and child-centered emergency preparedness and response. Additionally, the integration of programming that is sensitive to climate change adaptation has been accomplished.
- **DRR:** enhancing children-centered community-based DRR interventions and school safety measures. This has led to heightened preparedness among children and their communities in the face of potential disasters, thereby minimizing their impact. Similar to above, programming has been integrated with a focus on climate change adaptation.
- **Youth Engagement:** involving young volunteers, as well as adolescent girls and boys, in disaster-prone areas to take part in community disaster preparedness efforts and comprehensive school safety initiatives. The awareness-building component related to climate change adaptation has also been incorporated.
- **Shock Responsive Social Protection:** The National Society's preparedness for cash-based interventions has been enhanced. Moreover, the programme has successfully provided multipurpose cash and voucher assistance to selected communities that are particularly prone to disasters.

IFRC network joint support

With the assistance of the Italian Red Cross, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan, is engaged in the process of empowering communities and enhancing resilience in West Kazakhstan. The primary goal is to preserve lives, safeguard livelihoods and fortify the recovery efforts in the face of disasters and crises within Kazakhstan. The anticipated outcomes encompass:

- enhanced resilience and minimized vulnerability within communities.
- reinforced capabilities in disaster preparedness and response, which includes fundraising for disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities
- deliberations and discussions regarding the draft law concerning the National Society along with the mechanisms for its ratification.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society conducted Training of Trainers (ToT) on first aid which was expanded to its 18 branches. With support from partners, the National Society developed and printed first aid training and Information, Education and Communications materials promoting first aid education to the public.

In first half of 2023, the National Society actively promoted voluntary, non-remunerated blood donations and increased donor retention and motivation. A large blood donation campaign covering 1,971 people was carried out.

With support from partners, the National Society strengthened preparedness and response capacities in emergency health, through a series of trainings, facilitation of peer learning and networking.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

With support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the National Society implemented a range of initiatives with regard to restoring family links (RFL). The National Society objectives include the following:

- Enhancing the capacity for RFL activities and implementing the concept of safer access in RFL operations both at the central level and across branches.
- Facilitating RFL efforts and meeting the humanitarian needs of vulnerable foreign migrants accommodated in reception and distribution centres under the Department of Internal Affairs in cities including Almaty, Astana, Karaganda, Taldykorgan and Taraz.
- Search and tracing service continues its operations, consistently addressing incoming inquiries and remains poised to swiftly respond to RFL needs during emergencies.
- The National Society is also cultivating collaborative partnerships with key RFL stakeholders, while also ensuring effective information dissemination to enhance public awareness of the RFL service among diverse sections of the population.

IFRC network joint support

With the support of the Italian Red Cross, the National Society is spearheading efforts to provide services that facilitate the adaptation and social integration of both internal and external migrants in Kazakhstan. The objective is to contribute to the effective adaptation of internal and external migrants and to mitigate social tensions. The expected outcomes are:

- Enhanced coping capacities among migrants are achieved through improved knowledge in disease prevention, reproductive health, social and legal support and active participation in volunteer endeavours.
- Improved resilience and skills of migrant children to navigate sociocultural differences, including those between rural and urban settings, cultures and regions.
- Prevention of discrimination and social isolation among migrant children accomplished through advocacy efforts and collaborative engagements with relevant stakeholders.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

As part of the strategic focus on Persons Vulnerable and Impacted (PVI), several projects have been carried out, encompassing:

1. "Kind Packages" initiative
2. "Care" Children's Educational Centers
3. Support to orphans
4. Training Center for People with Visual Impairments
5. "Only Mom" programme
6. IFRC support with CEA mechanism establishment
7. UNICEF Partnership Agreement to address the urgent needs of children in emergencies.

Under the programme supported by the METRO trading network, the National Society provided assistance in the form of food packages to isolated pensioners and low-income families with multiple children who found themselves in crisis situations. The initiative involved collecting packages containing essential food items and necessities for individuals facing crisis circumstances. The programme covered various cities including Aktobe, Almaty, Astana, Karaganda, Pavlodar, Semey, Taraz and Ust-Kamenogorsk.

In its “Care” Children’s Educational Centre, the National Society extended its assistance to children from families facing challenging life circumstances, including low-income families, single-parent households and pensioners caring for children. The programme covered cities such as Almaty, Astana and Turkestan.

In October 2020, the National Society, in collaboration with Metro Cash & Carry, launched the first food bank, named FOODBANK, in Kazakhstan. This initiative aimed to provide assistance to socially vulnerable segments of the population. The pilot project commenced in the city of Almaty. The concept of Kazakhstan’s food bank entails obtaining food products and other consumer goods from producers, distributors, retail networks and other organizations. These items are then distributed to those in need through the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan. Throughout the first half of 2023, this aid reached non-profit organizations that work with socially vulnerable population groups, benefiting a total of 3,945 families. The project is set to continue from 2023 to 2024, covering Almaty, Almaty region and Astana. The project’s scope encompasses 50,000 recipients.

With the assistance of the private company Beiersdorf, the National Society offers support in training individuals with visual impairments on skills related to working with Windows, Android, iOS platforms, as well as creating and editing audio files. This project is set to take place in Almaty, Almaty region, during the period of 2023-2024. A total of 60 individuals will be accommodated on an annual basis.

As part of the ‘Only mom’ project, the National Society aims to provide social support to women who are single parents raising children under the age of three and who have found themselves in challenging life circumstances. This assistance includes offering material support in the form of food vouchers and providing psychological and social support. The project is set to be in effect from 2023 to 2024, spanning across two branches and benefiting a total of 400 women.

In collaboration with UNICEF, a Partnership Agreement has been established to address the urgent needs of children in Kazakhstan in times of unforeseen circumstances or emergencies. The objective of this partnership is by 2025, data-driven policies and plans are implemented to ensure a safe and clean environment. Children, adolescents and parents possess the knowledge and skills to protect the environment, ensure safety and respond to natural disasters. The primary requirements of the most vulnerable population, particularly children affected by natural disasters and other crisis situations (be it natural, technological, or conflict-related) are met.

With support from UNHCR, the initiative “Social Assistance to Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Kazakhstan” is being implemented. The objective of this initiative is that mandate holders have the chance for naturalization and regularization of their status and documents, and are integrated into public systems of social welfare, healthcare, and education on par with citizens. The fundamental needs of mandate holders will be met through cash and voucher assistance. The National Society will ensure that:

- By 2025, all UNHCR mandate holders have access to various opportunities, including documentation and naturalization.
- By 2025, all UNHCR mandate holders have the ability to actively engage in the social and economic life of host countries.

IFRC network joint support

With the assistance of the Emirates Red Crescent, the National Society has been operating the “Orphaned Children” project since 2005. This initiative spans across 18 branches and caters to 4,000 recipients, primarily focusing on children from families where a female is the sole parent.

With assistance from the IFRC:

- Comprehensive Emergency Assessment (CEA) modules have been incorporated into various specialized training programmes, providing the National Society with exposure to CEA concepts.

- The CEA officer and focal point for the National Society has been involved in regional CEA initiatives and participated in a CEA surge training in Georgia. This engagement has broadened their experience and comprehension of CEA principles.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

No activities reported during this reporting period.



National Society development

The ICRC is supporting the National Society in enhancing its readiness and effectiveness during emergencies. This assistance covers multiple areas, including training for instructors and trainers in first aid, drills for the National Disaster Response Team, collaborative simulations with government partners, public relations campaigns and social media outreach.

Additionally, ICRC has been actively engaged in bolstering the capabilities of both staff and volunteers through specialized training programmes. Notably, these initiatives have taken place in various locations like Astana, Aktau and Shymkent, concentrating on enhancing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) capacities.

With the assistance of the Swiss Red Cross, support was extended to the National Society's activities related to cash and voucher assistance. The objectives included:

- Effectively meeting the National Society's needs in relation to cash and voucher assistance programming.
- Facilitating the dissemination of knowledge in the field of cash and voucher assistance programming.
- Enhancing the quality of implementation and utilization of cash and voucher assistance components.
- Fulfilling the National Society's action plan with regard to activities related to cash and voucher assistance.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

To enhance trust and a better understanding of the National Society's role and activities, efforts in the first half of 2023 have been directed towards training new staff and volunteers. The following activities have been carried out:

- A session was conducted with the National Society's branch directors and staff issues related to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Fundamental Principles/Statutes.

Substantial efforts were dedicated to promotional posts on social media, resulting in an increase in subscribers and engagement. The current number of subscribers stands at 17,594 people. The National Society was mentioned in 14 news articles in Kazakhstan's information portals, covering topics such as emergency response to floods and assistance to Syria and Turkey.

IFRC network joint support

Both the National Society and the IFRC participated in the International Volunteer Forum, an event organized by the Kazakh government in Astana from 20-21 June 2023. During this forum, IFRC contributed insights on the role of volunteers in emergency scenarios while the National Society actively engaged on the session focused on volunteers in the realm of health. These interactions provided a platform to discuss crucial matters, express apprehensions and foster the spirit of volunteerism.

ICRC also conducted monitoring visits to different branches, enlisted the expertise of external consultants for legal matters (Status Law), facilitated discussions with authorities on safer access framework (SAF) and organized workshops focusing on international humanitarian law and the role of the Red Crescent in armed forces (SAF) in collaboration with key personnel and volunteers.

The “Volunteering Model in Central Asia” programme, bolstered by the Spanish Red Cross, includes the following components: Winter School for Volunteer Leaders; Summer Camp for Engaged Volunteers; National Volunteer Platform, as well as ongoing initiatives to attract, train, motivate and monitor volunteers.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

No activities reported during this reporting period.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 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.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

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](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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