



# NORTH MACEDONIA

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

19 December 2023

## IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA



34

National Society branches



200

National Society staff



2,600

National Society volunteers

## PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



9,000

Disasters and crises



3,000

Health and wellbeing



28,000

Migration and displacement



6,000

Values, power and inclusion



12,000

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

<b>Total</b>		Funding requirements		3.4M
<b>IFRC</b>	Longer-term	Funding requirements		821,000
<b>Participating National Societies</b>		Funding requirements		388,000
		Income		233,000
<b>Host National Society other funding sources</b>		Funding requirements		2M

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal number **MAA70003**



Црвен крст на Република Северна Македонија  
Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	9,000
	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response	3,000
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	3,000
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with disaster risk reduction	561
	People reached with livelihoods support	296
	People reached with shelter support	170
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	0%
	People donating blood	28,000
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People trained in first aid	17,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	3,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	1,000
	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	6,000
<b>Migration and displacement</b>	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
	People reached by National Society educational programmes	12,000
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	1,000

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>National Society Development</b>	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Yes

## 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
Austrian Red Cross	●					●	●
British Red Cross	●						
Danish Red Cross	●						
French Red Cross	●						
Irish Red Cross Society	●						
Italian Red Cross	●						
Norwegian Red Cross	●						
Swedish Red Cross	●						

Planned
  Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

The Republic of North Macedonia is highly prone and vulnerable to natural hazards such as floods, droughts, extreme temperatures, forest fires and earthquakes. In recent years, the Republic of North Macedonia has also been significantly impacted by the so-called “Balkan Route” that passes through the country, which migrants utilize while heading predominantly to western European countries.

Poverty and social exclusion still present challenges for part of the country’s population. With a high percentage of the population comprising of older people, the Republic of North Macedonia faces numerous problems related to an aging population, as well as challenges arising from existing economic and social conditions. Access to resources offered by support systems in the country is a challenge for certain vulnerable populations. Long-term unemployment among people who do not have adequate qualifications is a challenge for their competitiveness in the labour market.

## Key achievements

**The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia** responds to different health care and social needs, as well as providing support to people affected by disasters and migration.

Some of the major achievements in the first half of 2023 include:

1. Assistance provided to people affected by migration or displacement: 6,371 people assisted (2608 refugees/migrants, 3430 irregular migrants and 250 people from Ukraine).
2. Within the national campaign to support those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia, in cooperation with state institutions, companies and the people of North Macedonia, raised € 800,000 for Turkey and € 200,000 for Syria.
3. Social services were provided to assist the elderly and people with disabilities: 558 elderly and 317 persons with disabilities on a monthly basis.
4. Established the pilot phase of the “Emergency Button” services which is designed to support older people and people with disabilities: 110 people assisted.
5. Established a patient transport service targeting the elderly and people with disabilities who are not in life-threatening situation.
6. Conducted a national first aid campaign across the whole territory with children in primary and secondary schools: 3,701 young people reached via the campaign

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

<b>Emergency Operation</b>	UKRAINE AND IMPACTED COUNTRIES CRISIS EMERGENCY APPEAL
<b>Appeal Number</b>	MGR65002
<b>Duration</b>	46 months (28 February 2022 to 31 December 2025)
<b>Target Areas</b>	Ukraine and impacted countries
<b>Funding Requirement</b>	800 million Swiss francs through the IFRC Emergency Appeal 2.7 billion Swiss francs Federation-wide (for all countries impacted by the Ukraine crisis)
<b>Link</b>	<a href="#">Ukraine and impacted countries crisis - Emergency Appeal</a>

The IFRC has been providing vital support to the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia since the onset of the armed conflict in Ukraine, responding to the needs of Ukrainian citizens arriving in North Macedonia. The National Society has significantly strengthened its crisis management capabilities at both national and local levels, which is crucial for branches with limited human and financial resources.

The investments made and lessons learned during this operation are pivotal for future crises, serving as key elements in ensuring an adequate response. This forward-thinking approach includes readiness for potential assistance to refugees along alternative migratory routes, underscoring the ongoing commitment to adaptive and comprehensive humanitarian aid.

This initiative facilitated the engagement of dedicated professionals to assist branches in building their capacities, including the acquisition of vehicles and IT equipment, enhancement of workspaces, and the establishment of child-friendly spaces. These measures have empowered local branches to respond efficiently to the requirements of the displaced population.

The operation is an example of successful international support and cooperation in coping with the difficulties of conflicts and forced displacement.

## SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

---



### Livelihoods

---

As part of the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Appeal, 259 food parcels were distributed. 170 people were provided with a hot meal two times per week.



## Multi-purpose Cash

---

As part of the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Appeal, cash assistance was provided for 35 host families, and 15 people were supported with cash for healthcare needs.

Preparations for cash and voucher assistance through public procurement/tendering procedures (purchase of 120 value/consumer cards for 100 families from Ukraine with temporary stay in the Republic of North Macedonia for humanitarian reasons, as well as coverage for 20 socially vulnerable families, citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia).



## Health & Care

---

*(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)*

### **Mental health**

Forty people from Ukraine were reached with psychosocial support (PSS) through 12 group sessions. Individual PSS sessions were held with 7 women.

With support of IFRC Emergency Appeal funding, a workshop was held in the National Society training centre for 25 volunteers and staff for the provision of psychological first aid and psychosocial support to people affected by the Ukraine crisis. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the capacities of the team through personal development in order to provide timely and adequate PSS to persons from Ukraine.

### **Cash for health**

Cash assistance for health (health insurance) for 12 most vulnerable – elderly and people with chronically diseases – was provided.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

---

As part of the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Appeal, 259 hygiene parcels, 10 baby kits and 270 packages of diapers were distributed.

As part of supporting the homeless population, 170 people per week received services at the shelter, including access to water and hygiene.



## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

---

Restoring family links (RFL) services were provided to 15 people, using text messages, phone calls and access to the platform. Specifically with the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Appeal, 84 people were reached with protection, gender and inclusion activities, 25 people (beneficiaries, staff and volunteers) were trained in protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, 25 children cared for in child-friendly spaces, and 98 people reached with translation services.

With the support of the National Society, 17 children were enrolled in school and 216 Macedonian language classes were conducted.



## Community Engagement and Accountability

---

As part of the Ukraine and Impacted Countries appeal, six people were trained on community engagement and accountability (CEA).



## Migration

---

As part of the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Appeal, 250 people received various support from the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

---

Climate change and its effects across countries in the world are different. The majority of North Macedonia citizens agree that climate change has a negative impact on the quality of life of children. The National Society is working on reducing the current and future humanitarian impacts of climate change, protecting the environment and providing support to people coping with these challenges. The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia has a special focus on raising public awareness on adaptation to climate change and early warning of possible risks and disasters.

Young people are generally more aware of the challenges and risks related to the climate crisis and need to achieve sustainable development, as they are often actively involved in raising awareness such as carrying out peer education activities in schools and kindergartens.

Students in three schools received self-defence training. Five branches provided training for lifeguards (Skopje, Ohrid, Struga, Veles and Strumica); 38 lifeguards and two instructors were trained.

The National Society participated in four coordination meetings with the Centre for Crisis Management and the Protection and Rescue Directorate.

The National Society responded to heat waves by distributing 1,000 flyers and brochures with information about prevention and early detection of heat-related illnesses. Additionally, information was shared on social media, and 33 branches conducted activities to raise awareness about climate change and climate-friendly behaviours.



## Disasters and crises

---

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia acts to alleviate vulnerabilities and respond to challenges that arise from crises and disasters.

Key priorities are building capacities for risk reduction, early warning and crisis response through established, strong local structures, as well as capacities for disaster preparedness and response. The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia works on sustainable capacity building and coordination with a national and global network. Special emphasis is placed supporting frameworks for pooled resources and coordinated cooperation at national and local levels, in order to provide a timely response to crisis situations.

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia focuses on responding to the essential needs of the disaster-affected population by providing dedicated support in human resources, food, water and sanitation, hygiene products, shelter and cash support. The National Society strives to remain a national leader in humanitarian interventions.

The National Society carried out one simulation exercise in Strumica, with the participation of 167 people. A standardized training package for disaster management was developed, and then disseminated via two training-of-trainers events with branches and headquarters, reaching 60 employees and volunteers. One training-of-trainers event targeted authorities responsible for crisis management within the National Society, reaching 18 people. Disaster response teams were strengthened by trainings in Strumica and Veles, reaching 37 people.

Humanitarian aid for flood affected areas reached 123 families, social welfare humanitarian aid reached 376 families, and four trucks of humanitarian aid were sent to Turkey to support survivors of the earthquake.



## Health and wellbeing

---

### Social services

Poverty and social exclusion still present challenges for part of the country's population. With a high percentage of the population comprised of older people, the Republic of North Macedonia faces numerous problems related to an aging population, as well as challenges arising from existing economic and social conditions. Access to resources available from support systems in the country is a challenge for certain vulnerable populations. Long-term unemployment among people who do not have adequate qualifications is a challenge for their competitiveness in the labour market.

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia offers vocational training for caregivers of the elderly, personal assistants of people living with disabilities, health aids to care for people with Alzheimer's disease and a program for palliative caregivers of frail people. By obtaining a state-recognized training certificate, vulnerable target groups have the opportunity to acquire appropriate professional competence to enhance their competitiveness on the labour market. In the last six month period, a total of 327 people facing long-term unemployment (44 men and 283 women) were trained.

To accompany the training, the National Society develops social service programmes to care for and assist the elderly and people with disabilities. Services are provided in clients' homes, so that they may remain as independent as possible. Through these services, people at social risk who were trained in caregiving are engaged, which reduces their vulnerability. The care service for the elderly covers a total of 558 people on a monthly basis, provided by 186 caregivers. Personal assistance for people living with disabilities covers 317 people a month, aged six to 65, and is provided by a 231 personal assistants.

Within social care programmes, 1,000 people have been supported with cash assistance. These people were from households with at least one family member over the age of 69.

### Health care

Despite significant global health gains and major medical advances, people in the Republic of North Macedonia continue to face interconnected health risks. Infectious diseases and the risk of epidemics and pandemics is a major concern for human health worldwide. Rates of non-communicable, chronic diseases will continue to rise worldwide. The National Society recognizes that collective mental health and visible and accessible psychological first aid and psychosocial support are particularly important for building an active and healthy life. Focus remains on ensuring that all people have safe and equitable access to health care. The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia does so by expanding health and social care and community first aid programmes to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.

The National Society continues to strengthen its first aid capacities by providing quality, science-based training. This contributes to making communities safe and healthy, preventing and reducing risks in everyday accidents and disasters.

Regular activities are conducted in the area of health promotion, prevention and reduction of the consequences for the population of infectious diseases. The National Society continues to implement different prevention activities in

support of the existing health services in country, ensuring protection of marginalized groups, with a special focus on people living with HIV/AIDS.

The capacities of the National Society to carry out mental health activities are continuously strengthened through the establishment of a Centre for Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support aimed at employees and volunteers in the National Society and the community.

### **Blood donation**

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia contributes to the promotion of voluntary blood donation to ensure that the country's needs are met for treating the sick and the injured. In the first six months of 2023, the National Society, in cooperation with the Institute for Transfusion Medicine, received more blood than necessary to support the national health system: 27,500 blood units, equalling 107% of the need.

### **Prevention activities**

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia carried out several prevention activities, including providing support for the mobile gynaecology ambulance to carry out 53 field visits and examining 508 women and girls from rural areas where there is no family gynaecologist. Additionally, the National Society conducted 85 educational lectures and workshops related to early recognition and prevention of chronic infectious and non-infectious diseases, reaching 1,559 people. Sterile equipment was distributed to people who inject drugs in Prilep, Veles and Kichevo. Items included needles, medical supplies, condoms and lubricants. They also received information, education and communication materials.

### **First aid**

The National Society trained 13,560 candidates to be drivers and to work in organizations in first aid. Additionally, 45 candidates from 16 branches were trained to be facilitators of first aid courses. A campaign for young people named "First aid saves lives!" reached 3,701 young people with first aid training.

### **Voluntary blood donation**

In the first half of 2023, 37 blood drives were organized in cooperation with the Institute for Transfusion Medicine, resulting in the collection of 27,500 blood units. A training seminar was held on the benefits of donating blood, and the Fifth Forum on Voluntary Blood Donation was organized by the National Society.

### **Emergency services**

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia, provides the 24/7 Emergency Button and patient transport services, targeting older people and people with living with disabilities. These services contribute to shaping and supporting the long-term healthcare system with a multi-stakeholder participatory approach. Partners include the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP), local municipalities and international donors. In the first half of 2023, 266 patients were transported within the City of Skopje, and 110 care users were engaged in the pilot phase of the Emergency Button. In March, collaboration agreements for undertaking patient transport service for the elderly were established with two local municipalities, Kisela Voda and Gjorce Petrov. Within the home help services in Skopje, 38 clients (28 women and 12 men) were supported by the Swiss Red Cross.

### **Migration response**

Medical and first aid assistance was provided for 1,872 migrants and refugees in reception centres in Tabanovce and Vinograd. As part of the Ukrainian response, 86 people were reached with primary health care services and referred to national public health institutions, 145 people were reached with mental health and psychosocial support services and 44 people were trained in mental health and psychosocial support.

### **Homeless services**

Nearly 1,000 medical check-ups were provided to people experiencing homelessness in the first half of 2023. Medications were provided when needed, as well as mental health services (which reached 500 consultations in six months).

### **Humanitarian aid**

Humanitarian aid was provided to 3,000 vulnerable people, providing a source of social protection:

- There were 164 (19 men and 145 women) long-term unemployed people who were trained as caregivers for older people and people living with disabilities. The trainings were organized with the support of participating National Societies and domestic donors
- Sixteen long-term unemployed people (two men and 14 women) were trained as care assistants for people with Alzheimer's disease
- Training was provided to seven long-term unemployed women to be palliative caregivers for frail people in home care
- A total of 558 elderly persons received home health care, as provided by 186 caregivers from the headquarters and eight branches; the services were supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
- There were 28 caregivers (4 men and 14 women) trained to recognize and support people at risk of family violence and gender-based violence
- Ten micro-projects supported 300 elderly people or people with living disabilities to increase social inclusion and community participation
- Day care centres and foster families cared for over 320 children and youth with disabilities, improving socialization
- Peer education campaigns to combat human trafficking raised awareness for over 400 young people
- An advocacy plan has been developed to promote the report on Access to Long-term Care which was developed within the framework of a regional project, financed by the European Union, with the support of the Austrian Red Cross

Personal assistance was provided for a total of 317 people living with disabilities at their homes, workplaces and in the community. Services were provided by 231 personal assistants, with volunteers from headquarters and seven branches. The services are supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

### **Mental health**

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia recognizes that community mental health, visible and accessible psychological first aid and psycho-social assistance are vital for living an active and healthy life. The National Society carried out several activities related to mental health:

- Psychosocial support services were provided to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. Forty people from Ukraine were reached through 12 group sessions
- Activities around healthy aging were implemented in four branches and the headquarters, serving more than 100 elderly people
- A psychosocial support hotline was made available in four branches: Veles, Kochani, Bitola, Gostivar, as well as the headquarters
- Fifty-one volunteers and employees received psychosocial support and psychological first aid via five group expressive art therapy sessions, 10 individual counselling sessions and nine employees were tested for burnout
- Psychosocial support was provided to 90 volunteers participating in the first aid competition
- There were 27 national level workshops on psychosocial support and psychological first aid that reached 515 participants (employees and volunteers).
- Psychological first aid training was provided to 57 employees and volunteers (nine men and 48 women)
- Five cycles of training in psychosocial support and psychological first aid in crisis situations reached 50 employees and volunteers
- One seminar was conducted on personal and professional development, resilience and team building
- The importance of mental health was promoted via three public discussions
- The Centre for Crisis Management received three trainings on psychosocial support and psychological first aid, focusing on communication skills and coping with stress
- The Military Medical Centre was supported by the Centre for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
- Ten homecare service users were screened for early signs of dementia

- Psychosocial support debriefings took place in five cities (Strumica, Tetovo, Skopje, Shtip and Veles), reaching 65 people: 44 rescuers, two drivers, 13 psychologists and six people from the Protection and Rescue Directorate
- Psychologists from the Red Cross and the Chamber of Psychologists received debriefing sessions after their service in the rescue operation in Turkey



## Migration and displacement

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia continues to work to ensure that all people who migrate are safe and treated humanely and with dignity, and that they receive the support they need to thrive in an inclusive society. The National Society focuses efforts on the most vulnerable women, children, people with special needs and asylum seekers.

Between January and June of 2023, 3,430 irregular migrants were supported with humanitarian assistance. The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia supported 2,608 refugees and migrants at reception centres in Vinograd and Tabanovce. The National Society mobilized humanitarian support teams to provide assistance to migrants and refugees deployed in temporary transit centres on the southern and northern borders, as well as along the mountainous border line with the Republic of Serbia. The teams provided 24/7 help and support to vulnerable groups, including first aid, psychosocial support, distribution of warm meals, food parcels, differentiated hygiene sets for males, females and children, water and medicines and medical assistance. Transportation to the nearest hospital was also provided to those in need. Mobile teams were located in the South, in the North, and one in the North specifically for irregular migrants. They were composed of four members each, including a general practitioner physician, two logistics assistants and one interpreter.

Additionally, the National Society provided assistance to 250 people from Ukraine staying in North Macedonia for humanitarian reasons. They received food and hygiene packages, as well as vouchers for clothes and shoes if needed. Volunteers and staff were linked to services in public institutions, including those providing medical and mental health care. Psychologists attended to the mental health needs of Ukrainian migrants, providing psychosocial support. At the request of affected migrants, Macedonian language classes have been organized for 40 people. On a monthly basis, within the child-friendly space, various educational and recreational activities are being implemented. In the first half of 2023, with the support of the IFRC and the Swiss Red Cross, 250 Ukrainian migrants were supported through these activities.

Within the migration response, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia distributed 1,537 shaving kits, 1,488 toothpastes and toothbrushes, 1,199 soaps and towels and 644 shampoos and boxes of tissues.



## Values, power and inclusion

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia works dedicatedly to promote international humanitarian law by organizing and promoting activities with different stakeholders. Target groups include youth, the North Macedonia army, the Ministry of the Interior, Parliament and other government ministries.

The National Society works to instil positive values among young people by carrying out activities that empower them to overcome various social problems in their communities. Additionally, key programmes are implemented, such as the national programme Red Cross in Action: Promotion of Human Values (RCA- PHV), whose main focus is encouraging peace, tolerance and coexistence.

Local integration support is made available for people under subsidiary protection in the Republic of North Macedonia and various activities contribute to integration processes for refugees and people under international protection in North Macedonia. Through offering assistance by trained professionals in this field, and with the support of local authorities, awareness is raised at the community level about migrants and their needs. The National Society contributed to government efforts to mainstream social services and integration support for migrants, providing individualized case management support to people not reach by government programmes.

Through the project “Poverty Reduction through Employment Opportunities and the Provision of Basic Needs for Homeless People”, people experiencing homelessness received training and psycho-social support. They also received technical skills training and individual support in seeking employment. In the first half of 2023, 20 individual employment plans were made, and 10 of those individuals will be included in a certified training to gain qualifications to work.

Sexual and gender-based violence information was shared with 50 people experiencing homelessness, and 20 women experiencing homelessness learned about sexually transmitted diseases, menstrual hygiene and reproductive health.

The National Society provides a variety of activities for children and youth. Within the education system, there are first aid trainings, youth clubs, information sessions about the Red Cross, activities related to health prevention, promotion of voluntary blood donation and promotion of volunteering. Over 11,500 young people were reached in the first half of 2023.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



### Strategic and operational coordination

In its auxiliary role to the government, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia supports state authorities in carrying out humanitarian work. In cooperation with institutions and partners, educational, health and social services programmes are implemented to prevent disease, improve health and alleviate human suffering. The National Society is actively involved in coordination meetings with the Crisis Management System in order to raise public awareness about disaster preparedness and meet the needs of vulnerable populations. Voluntary blood donation is promoted in order to meet the needs of the national health system, and first aid trainings are carried out regularly for different target groups. Prevention activities related to health, as well as social humanitarian activities, are provided for different sectors of the population.

Cooperation meetings were held on a regular basis with local mayors in order to improve existing programmes at the local level, strengthen capacities of the branches and ensure effective disaster preparedness and response in communities. Joint provision of stock reserves was coordinated in order to best meet the needs of target populations.

As well as activities for emergency operations, the National Society provides services to assist victims of armed conflicts in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, as well as services to those affected by natural disasters. In the first half of 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia supported survivors of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, raising €1 million through a nation-wide fundraising campaign.

Volunteers disseminate information on international humanitarian law, particularly with the North Macedonia Army and the Ministry of the Interior. The National Society actively works throughout the country to promote the principles and ideals of the Movement and to raise awareness about protecting the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems.

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia actively promoted development of partnerships with the different actors of the Movement, state institutions, the private sector and other organizations, in order to provide comprehensive support to those in need. Cooperation with partners was aimed at implementing joint initiatives to respond to priority needs of different target groups, creating common values, and sharing and upgrading resources and capacities. In cooperation with Movement partners, and other international and local partners, support was provided for programme activities and humanitarian aid for vulnerable populations and irregular migrants, as well as social and economic services for the national population.



## National Society development

---

In the first half of 2023, the National Society invested in capacity building activities at local and national levels. With the support of the IFRC, the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment got underway to better understand how local Red Cross structures can be stronger, more relevant and sustainable. Assessment facilitators were trained, and three branches carried out the pilot assessment.

The transformative process, “Transformations 28”, was initiated in 2022. As a result, a document will soon be available that serves as a guide for operationalizing the organization’s strategic commitments in accordance with the IFRC Strategy 2030. Concrete steps are presented in a transformation plan spanning a five-year period. The changes are an expression of the ambitions and commitments of the National Society to build partnerships at national and local levels, improve lives and strengthen institutional capacities. The short and long-term activities within the transformation plan aim to build a National Society that is more structured, effective and functional, thus more successful at handling implementation and operational challenges. The overall process aims to assess and revise existing services in order to best reflect the needs of communities served. The process also strives to improve the reputation and visibility of the National Society in national and international spaces.

Employees and volunteers have received training at national and local levels to enhance human resource management competencies. The National Society continues to invest in developing policies, procedures and other documents to ensure compliance with legal regulations and Movements Principles and policies.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

---

Building sustainable relations is the primary work of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia related to humanitarian diplomacy. The National Society fosters bilateral and multilateral partnerships, both official and informal, in order to influence decision makers and other stakeholders in favour of basic humanitarian principles and values, and the most vulnerable populations. Partnerships are sought out for the implementation of activities with vulnerable populations, and investments are being made to incorporate humanitarian diplomacy into all work.

The National Society continues to upgrade its capacities, based on good practices, in order to improve humanitarian diplomacy approaches and actions, strengthen its position as a trusted partner and provide care for the most vulnerable.



## Accountability and agility

---

The National Society continues to establish new partnerships to ensure alternative sources of funding in order to enhance financial stability and better achieve the organization’s goals. Significant investments have been made to improve financial accountability at national and local levels, improve the use of project and programme resources and operate effectively and efficiently.

By enhancing accountability for spending, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia may have clearer insight into how work is carried out and whether it is in accordance organizational and donor standards. This will enable the National Society to be more transparent, and obtain data that can drive organizational change. Branches receive regular monitoring visits to review programme and project financial reports, and ensure all work is aligned with donor requirements and national financial standards.

The National Society continues to expand its efforts to include community members and partners in decision making and project design. Investments are made to improve effectiveness by using technologies to improve communications and record keeping. Software is being adopted to enhance the digital capacities of the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia, including systems in volunteer management, membership management and disaster management.



### **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](#)

#### **Contact Information**

---

##### **Maria Kristensen**

Head of Delegation  
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation  
for Central & South-eastern Europe,  
based in Sarajevo  
**T** +387 60 348 6699  
[maria.kristensen@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.kristensen@ifrc.org)

##### **Andrej Naricyn**

Head of Strategic Engagement  
& Partnerships  
IFRC Regional Office for Europe,  
Budapest  
**T** +36 70 430 6528  
[andrej.naricyn@ifrc.org](mailto:andrej.naricyn@ifrc.org)

##### **Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia**

**W** [redcross.org.mk](http://redcross.org.mk)