12 February 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement CHF 20.34M

In support of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan





6

National Society branches



115

National Society staff



12,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



12,000 Climate and

environment



Disasters and crises



204,000 Health and

wellbeing



4,000Migration and displacement



Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year 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	10M		
INFORM Climate Risk Index	Low		
Human Development Index rank	122		
Population below poverty level	22.5%		

Funding requirements

2024 2025** 2026**

Total 6.34M CHF

Total 9.06M CHF

Through the IFRC Th

→ 2.2M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ 135,000 CHF

Host National Society

6.7M CHF

Through the IFRC

→ 765,000 CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ 62,000 CHF

Host National Society

5.5M CHF

**Projected funding requirements

Total 4.94M CHF

Host National Society

4.9M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

525,000 CHF

Climate and environment

1.4M CHF

Disasters and crises

200,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

81,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

33,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross*

The Canadian Red Cross Society*

The Red Cross Society of China

Finnish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*

Swiss Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent

Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates

*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAATJ003

Hazards



Heat waves / cold waves



Floods



Landslides



Earthquakes



Conflict and violence



Population movement

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan was founded in 1927, making it the longest-standing humanitarian organization in the country. It was <u>admitted</u> to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in its current form in 1997. 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, 155 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, border tensions and disease outbreaks, including COVID-19.

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.



Distribution of Tajikistan Red Crescent regional branches

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Tajikistan, a landlocked country located in Central Asia, is bordered by Afghanistan to the south, China to the east, Kyrgyzstan to the north, and Uzbekistan to the west. It is characteristic of mainly rugged mountains covering over 93% of its land. It features fertile valleys in the west, including the Fergana Valley, and is traversed by vital rivers like Amu Darya, Syr Darya, and Vakhsh.

The population of Tajikistan is estimated to be more than 10 million people increasing steadily. Tajikistan is predominantly inhabited by Tajik people (80%), with Uzbeks (15.3%) and Russians (1%) also part of its ethnic diversity. The Pamiri community resides in the eastern Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region. The median age in the country is around 24 years, indicating a significant proportion of the population being in younger age groups. Despite a declining fertility rate from approximately 3.0 children per woman, the country maintains an improved life expectancy of around 72 years. While Tajikistan exhibits a commendable literacy rate of 99.5% owing to free education from the Soviet era, challenges persist in rural education quality. Though the country has an urban population of only 27% and 73% is rural population, <u>urbanization</u> has been a notable trend in recent years. The capital city of Dushanbe is the largest urban center in the country, followed by Khujand, Qurghonteppa, and Kurgan-Tyube.

Tajikistan, a low-income country in Central Asia, grapples with economic woes. Despite possessing natural resources and hydropower potential, Tajikistan contends with infrastructure inadequacies, impeding access to markets and exacerbating vulnerabilities to natural hazards. Agriculture remains pivotal, contributing 22.6% to GDP and employing 45.7% of

the population. Owing to economic factors, including limited job opportunities and low wages, there has been significant outward migration in recent years and more than one million Tajiks migrate to Russia every year. Reduced remittances, declining tourism, currency depreciation, and increased food prices due to global crises like the Ukrainian conflict and COVID-19 have compounded the country's challenges. Remittances, constituting over 30% of the GDP, face potential declines amidst the Russia-Ukraine conflict, impacting food prices and the country's economy. Rising global commodity prices further strain Tajikistan's food security, with real unemployment figures exceeding official rates.

Border issues have led to recurring tensions and armed clashes, such as recent clashes at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border. Tajikistan also faces security challenges along its border with Afghanistan, evidenced by violent events in <u>Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO)</u> between November 2021 and June 2022. This situation saw limited access and internet cuts in the region, though the situation has since stabilized.

The country faces numerous health challenges, including relatively high maternal and child mortality rates, a growing TB epidemic and, most concerningly, 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.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



The climate in Tajikistan varies from continental with hot summers and cold winters to alpine in the mountainous regions, with ample precipitation compared to the lowlands. 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 hydroelectrical power dams, are becoming more common.

Economic growth is constrained due to environmental degradation caused by factors such as soil erosion, water pollution, and deforestation. Cotton cultivation relies heavily on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, posing significant risks to public health and water quality. Local air pollution is attributed to the aluminum smelter in Tursunzade, a cement factory, and a heating facility in Dushanbe. The storage of radioactive waste from a Soviet-era enrichment plant in northern Chkalovsk, spread across approximately 30 tailing dumps near residential areas lacking proper safety regulations, poses a serious threat to public health. Additionally, the remnants of uranium, lead, and mercury mining in central Tajikistan have led to repeated contamination of water resources.

The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy presents a long-term outline (until 2030) of priority adaption 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 (DRR) 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.

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

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. The National Society is also a signatory to the Climate Charter.

The National Society seeks to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into its disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan works, in particular, to 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 also works to reinforce early warning systems at community level for a range of hazards, and

increase public awareness on climate risks, for heat waves. It participates in the Early Warning for All initiative (EW4All), leading on the preparedness to respond pillar. The launch event and first national consultation workshop for Tajikistan happened in August 2023.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is paying attention to the environmental footprint of its programmes and operations, in line with IFRC green response approach.

Planned activities in 2024

- Conducting risk assessments and community vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) that integrate climate change
- Development of climate-smart community disaster risk reduction plans and implementation of identified community level initiatives, including <u>nature-based</u> solutions
- Establishment of community level <u>Early Warning Systems</u>
- Conducting public awareness initiatives on climate change effects and related risks, in particular heat waves
- Conducting simulation exercises at community level as part of readiness for anticipatory action

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the **IFRC** Disaster Response Emergency Fund's (DREF) Anticipatory Pillar, two <u>early action protocols</u> with a validity of five years have been provided for the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan: <u>Heatwave</u> for the amount of almost CHF 250,000, approved in November 2021; and <u>Cold wave</u> for the amount of almost CHF 275,000, approved in November 2022. This support to the National Society is enabling it to undertake timely and effective early action with abnormal weather conditions having a high probability of affecting vulnerable groups such as children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is part of the 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 EU National Societies and the IFRC. The EU National Societies comprise the **German Red Cross** as the lead EU National Society, along with the Finnish Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross. In this connection, the German Red Cross has been supporting the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan with technical expertise in development of applications for forecast-based financing and anticipatory action. The National Society will continue working with communities to implement climate-smart and nature-based solutions to reduce disaster risk. With support from the IFRC, the National Society will incorporate principles of green response and green supply chain management into its operations.



For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page <u>Tajikistan</u>.

Tajikistan is categorized as medium on the <u>INFORM risk index</u>. The country is highly vulnerable to natural hazards, facing threats from heavy snowfall and avalanches, floods, earthquakes, and mudflows. The nation experiences an average of 70 mudflow events annually, causing significant monetary losses. Earthquake risks are high, impacting densely populated urban areas, with an average of 23 earthquake related disasters reported yearly. The latest drastic earthquake happened on <u>23 March 2023 in Sughd province</u>.

The estimated annual losses due to disasters could reach up to 5% of GDP for earthquakes and 1.4% for floods. However, the impact of even small-scale disasters, such as mudflows damaging infrastructure, is economically significant, often exceeding \$50,000 in housing replacement costs.

Tajikistan's <u>disaster risk management</u> relies on the Law on Protection from Emergencies, yet implementation gaps persist,

lacking standards for international assistance and integrating disaster risk reduction with climate adaptation measures. Inadequate infrastructure, poverty, and limited resources hamper disaster response and increase vulnerability. Lack of public awareness and education on disaster risk reduction further compounds these challenges.

Political tensions, especially conflicts over borders with Kyrgyzstan, add to instability and can escalate into violent clashes, displacing local populations and exacerbating vulnerabilities. Food insecurity is also prevalent, especially in rural and mountainous regions, with limited agricultural productivity, susceptibility to climate change, and high poverty rates contributing to severe food shortages for a significant portion of the population, with 27% living below the poverty line of \$1.90 per day. Before COVID-19, around 3.3 million Tajiks, a third of the population, faced food insecurity, and 1.6 million were severely food insecure.

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has a long history of working within disaster response, and employs a communitybased disaster risk reduction approach, integrating climate adaptation and collaborating with public authorities. The National Society is also taking proactive measures on conflict preparedness in those areas most affected. This includes the stockpiling of household items and staff refresher training.

The National Society leads shelter coordination for floods and earthquakes under planning by the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) - the Government-humanitarian community disaster risk management partnership for Tajikistan. In this connection, it will continue with training of staff and volunteers, and engage with national stakeholders to enhance shelter management.

Recent innovative strategies such as cash assistance and forecast-based financing complement its institutional readiness. Since 2022, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has executed several cash interventions, notably during the border conflict between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Building a network of Financial Service Providers, developing internal procedures, and improving staff knowledge in cash assistance remain key focuses. Through a Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessment facilitated by the IFRC in 2022, the National Society identified its priorities as:

- A mid-term review and updating of the National Society's Disaster Risk Management Strategy
- Development of the National Society database on local disaster management committees, emergency response centres and volunteers
- Strengthening technical and instructional capacity of emergency operations centres (at central and regional branch levels)
- Development of guidance on the use of cash in emergencies
- Aligning the National Society's contingency plan with the REACT inter-agency contingency plan
- Integrate lessons learned from cash and voucher assistance (CVA) into the revision of the National Society's contingency plan.

Planned activities in 2024

- Provide timely and effective assistance to people affected by disasters and crises as they arise
- Strengthen CVA based on developed CVA roadmap
- Provide food packages to vulnerable families and cash assistance to orphans

- Carry out community-based disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities
- Conduct simulation exercises using a multi-hazards approach to preparedness for emergencies, epidemics, population movements, and border conflict
- Implementation of a pilot project on local disaster management committees, which entails creating, training, and equipping the committees to undertake disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction with epidemic preparedness incorporated.
- Replenishing of existing emergency stock
- Conducting annual refresher training for the National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT) and local disaster management committees
- A disaster response capacity assessment of headquarters and branches
- Enhancing capacities of staff and volunteers in shelter programming and shelter coordination, enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessment, and CVA

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's overall efforts to strengthen disaster readiness and response, reinforcing community resilience. IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will continue to be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. The IFRC launched a <u>DREF on border conflict with Kyrgyzstan</u> which started in late 2022, targeting approximately 2000 people with a funding of CHF 207,000. Another DREF appeal was launched in early 2023 when two earthquakes were registered on the territory of Tajikistan, targeting almost 2000 individuals with a funding of approximately CHF 189,000. The IFRC also supports the National Society on shelter coordination.. The IFRC also supports the National Society on shelter coordination.

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and DG ECHO, and with the support of EU National Societies and IFRC, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will work with targeted communities to reduce disaster risk. Local disaster committees will be trained and supported, and the National Society will continue to work with national authorities to enhance the legal framework for disaster management and update the Law on International Emergency Assistance (IDRL by-laws). The National Society will further strengthen its capacity in cash and voucher assistance, implementing the standard operating procedures and participating in the inter-agency cash working group. The Red Cross Society of China will support the National Society for a disaster risk reduction project, the German Red Cross supports disaster preparedness as part of the programme and beyond, and the Swiss Red Cross for cash and voucher assistance.

Health and wellbeing

In Tajikistan, <u>health expenditure</u> 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. Challenges persist in accessing healthcare due to limited infrastructure, a shortage of medical professionals, and financial constraints. Access often depends on private payments, leading to significant household debt and barriers to healthcare for impoverished communities. Key health challenges the country faces are around 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 <u>Under-five child mortality rate</u> 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.

<u>Tuberculosis</u> 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). According to WHO data published in December 2022, total estimated number of people with TB is 8,600 which is 600 cases more than estimated for 2020. The estimated number of MDR/RR-TB cases is 2700 or 31% of total TB cases. TB treatment coverage is 48%.

According to <u>UNAIDS</u>, 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 fueling 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 have 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. WHO reported the increasing number of confirmed measles cases in Tajikistan up to 451 in 2022, which is much higher than in previous 3 years (7 cases in 2019, 168 cases in 2020, 10 cases in 2021), and 153 confirmed measles cases in 2023 (data as of 9 May 2023). 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.

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

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. It actively contributes to epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response effort in country, with a close coordination with public authorities. 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. The National Society also works 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.

The National Society adopts a community-based health approach and seeks to strengthen partnerships and capacity building. It is working to review and update its existing health strategy to reflect new challenges. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's major objectives include:

- Improved access of the communities to health and social care services
- Increased recognition of the role of the National Society in health and social care
- Increased preparedness and response capacities to epidemics and public health needs in emergencies

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan also seeks to obtain international accreditation for its first aid training programme from the IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre.

Planned activities in 2024

- Expand community-based surveillance in targeted locations
- Improve people's access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), including safe drinking water, in selected districts
- Provide health education and psychosocial support alongside other assistance to orphans
- Conduct TB prevention activities and provide social support for people affected by TB
- Conduct social mobilization activities in support of national routine immunization programmes
- Provide first aid training for communities and first aid commercial courses include epidemic risk in simulation exercises for multi-hazards preparedness
- Strengthening technical capacity of emergency operation centres at central and regional branches
- Strengthen capacity for health in emergencies by refresher training and ensure availability of updated information, education, and communication (IEC) materials
- Train staff and volunteers in epidemic and pandemic preparedness in communities
- Train staff and volunteers in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Map health capacities of the National Society and create an internal database of trained staff and volunteers

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC aims to bolster the National Society's health and social care initiatives by leveraging their auxiliary role mandate and their standing MoU with Tajikistan's Ministry of Health and Social Protection. This long-term support includes enhancing the National Society's to respond to health needs in emergencies, and preparedness and response to epidemics and pandemics, introducing innovative strategies such as community-based surveillance in select locations across the country, Additionally, leveraging the National Society's accumulated experience in COVID-19 vaccine promotion, the IFRC will help elevate its role in routine immunization. The IFRC will provide technical assistance for the review of the National Society's health strategy, and support efforts to obtain international accreditation for the National Society first aid training programme via IFRC's Global First Aid Reference <u>Centre</u>. Efforts will be made to integrate MHPSS into various health and social care programmes and services, fostering stronger links between health initiatives and disaster preparedness and response efforts.

In collaboration with the Japanese Red Cross Society, the IFRC will support the implementation of a water and hygiene promotion project in specific districts of Tajikistan. This support encompasses capacity-building, advocacy, and technical assistance to strengthen the National Society's capabilities in these critical areas.

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and DG ECHO, and with the support of the Finnish Red Cross, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will continue to increase epidemic preparedness and response. Trained staff and volunteers will carry out community health and WASH education activities based on the results of the knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) survey.



Tajikistan is confronted by four critical issues driving migration patterns, and related migration-based impacts: the Russia-Ukraine international armed conflict and related obstacles in labour migration; continued instability within Afghanistan; the tensions in the Ferghana Valley and Northern Tajikistan; and water-based conflicts causing displacement of local communities.

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.

Political instability and ethnic tensions in the region frequently disrupt services and lead to sudden displacements. Afghanistan's recent turmoil has led to an influx of refugees into Tajikistan, adding to the vulnerable population including asylum seekers, internally displaced people (IDP), and migrants. Tajikistan has enacted laws safeguarding refugees, exempting those who claim refugee status from penalties related to illegal entry or stay.

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's overarching 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 National Society engages in enhancing access to essential services, and providing healthcare, vocational training, and family support for communities and labour migrants.

The National Society seeks ways to assist affected people on the move due to various circumstances, and to analyse migration trends and the underlying causes, focusing on Afghan refugees in Tajikistan post-Afghanistan crisis. It aims to aid in understanding population movement dynamics within the country, and in improving assistance to those affected including enhancement of services and extended coverage to a larger population.

Planned activities in 2024

- Improve access to assistance, protection, and information for migrants, including restoring family links
- Deliver psychosocial support to migrant communities
- Respond to population movement in Tajikistan, including potential refugee influx from Afghanistan
- Organize five information and educational training centres for labour migrants in Dushanbe, Kulob, Badakhshon, Sughd and Bokhtar, and a mobile clinic for multi-purpose use

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and DG ECHO, and with the support of the Italian Red Cross, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will increase its capacity to respond to potential population influxes and to address migration-related scenarios. Support from the Italian Red Cross will be aimed at enhancing the National Society's cooperation among countries of origin, transit, and destination as well as migrants' access to health and social services and HIV/harm reduction, to reduce HIV infection rates and stigma, and guaranteeing access to social, health and psychological services. The IFRC also supports the National Society on identifying anticipatory actions for border conflict population movement, piloting and establishing humanitarian service points (HSP) and facilitating a regional migration working group to enable due coordination and cooperation among National Societies in Central Asia.



In rural areas, nearly 75% of the people live below the poverty line. Women suffer disproportionately from this poverty. In Tajikistan, challenges persist regarding women's rights, as 65 out of every 100,000 live births result in maternal deaths, while discrimination and inequality are prevalent in social, economic, and political spheres. Gender-based domestic violence remains widespread, with only a fraction of cases reported. Although 20% of married women have experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence by their husbands, only one in five victims files a report.

Access to education remains a challenge in Tajikistan, particularly for girls and children from marginalized communities. According to UNICEF, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have the highest rates of adolescent pregnancy in the region. Available data show that girls and boys in Central Asia are not being adequately protected from violence, exploitation, and abuse. Child marriage remains common in Tajikistan where one in every eight girls are married before 18 years of age, while adolescent boys are at much greater risk of intentional homicide. Where there is data, boys are more likely to be in child labour and hazardous labour while girls have a greater burden of household chores, and girls are more likely to be trafficked than boys.

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 placed in residential institutions. Children affected by migration often find themselves marginalized, without proper psychosocial support or lacking access to quality services. 85% of children are upset when their parent leaves for migration, and 27.7% of children feel hopeless.

In Tajikistan, around 330 thousand people are over 64 years of age. According to surveys, they represent one of the most vulnerable and socially excluded groups in Tajik society, especially single elderly persons. There are about 150 thousand people with disabilities in Tajikistan, 1.6 % of them are children.

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, as part of its mission, works to provide immediate aid to vulnerable people, advocate for their rights, and build long-term solutions. Through partnerships and initiatives, the National Society aims to enhance the quality of life of vulnerable groups, fostering inclusivity, dignity, and resilience in Tajikistan. The National Society seeks to mainstream protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), and community engagement and accountability (CEA) in their programmes and emergency response activities.

Planned activities in 2024

- Establish and provide mandatory briefings for staff and volunteers on PGI in emergencies including for SGBV, Safeguarding (Child Protection & PSEA), disability inclusion, trafficking
- Strengthen CEA approaches within the National Society by identifying gaps and actionable areas of improvement through a CEA self -assessment workshop with support from partners
- Develop a community engagement and accountability policy and strategy
- Development of a structured national feedback mechanism and integrating feedback mechanism within all programmes and operations
- Ensure that all feedback data collected is disaggregated according to age and sex

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and DG ECHO, and with the support of EU National Societies and IFRC, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will continue to institutionalize PGI and CEA within its operational structure, through policies, training, and workshops. The National Society initiatives will be bolstered by IFRC's guidance and assistance, particularly in targeting vulnerable groups and developing inclusive programs from disaster preparedness to intervention stages. The National Society aims to comprehensively assist highly vulnerable groups comprising children under 5, adolescents, pregnant women, elderly individuals, persons with disabilities, single female-headed households, minorities, those in poverty who have lost belongings, disaster-affected individuals in high-risk contexts, those lacking healthcare or access to water and sanitation, migrants, internally displaced persons, and victims of violence. 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 IFRC's support will also enable the National Society to incorporate robust risk communication and community engagement strategies, facilitating active community participation and local knowledge integration at all levels of their programs. Developing a comprehensive CEA strategy will reinforce a people-centric approach across the board.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2018. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, and is at the workplan phase. The PER Approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan strives to further develop its organizational structure by strengthening the capacities of branches, staff, and volunteers, and is currently finalizing a comprehensive National Society development plan, aligned with its Strategic Development Plan for 2021-2025.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan implements its programmes complementary to the initiatives of the public authorities and coordinates and collaborates with a range of other actors and stakeholders. This collaborative engagement extends to building networks and facilitating the exchange of critical information. It seeks to strengthen national, regional, and international cooperation through:

Actively participating in the improvement of regional and cross-border cooperation in Central Asia, and taking part in wider international cooperation, including within IFRC disaster response activities

- Conducting round tables with interested parties on mutual cooperation, including with government authorities, NGOs, and other partners
- Diversifying resource mobilization channels approaches

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in maintaining a high degree of cooperation and coordination with various development actors, programmes, embassies, donor agencies, and other key players involved in the development landscape of Tajikistan.



Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's comprehensive National Society development plan under draft is integrating insights from assessments such as the IFRC Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) and Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) conducted in 2022 and 2023.

The plan covers human resources, branch development, safety and security, volunteering and youth, financial and administrative management, sustainability, and communication. Key planned activities include:

- Establishment of a working group for the National Society's development strategy and action plan
- Development of training modules covering various areas such as disaster response, climate change, shelter, communication strategies, and psychosocial support
- Establish information and educational training centres across different regions

- Provide seminars for staff and volunteers on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, fundamental principles, and humanitarian values
- Engage youth instructors working in local branches into the dissemination of humanitarian values
- Implement safety protocols, training, and insurance for volunteers involved in crises
- Review and enhance volunteer management systems
- Increase National Society membership and formulate a fundraising policy
- Renovate headquarters and branches with modern communication equipment

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC intends to use various <u>funding sources</u> including the ECHO PPP project, IFRC Capacity Building Fund, and work with participating National Societies to bridge the gaps outlined in the National Society development action plan, such as with the Italian Red Cross for youth and volunteer management. Additionally, the National Society will leverage digital fundraising mechanisms to garner increased donations to support the plan.

Furthermore, the IFRC will offer technical assistance to ensure the comprehensive and long-term implementation of the National Society development plan. This will enhance the Society's organizational capacity, improve services for communities, and foster continuous growth and development of both the National Society and its branches.



Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan stands as the sole National Society in the region with a Humanitarian Diplomacy Strategic Action Plan, outlining activities aimed at strengthening this aspect from 2023 to 2025. The National Society aims to establish and systematize humanitarian diplomacy efforts, persuading decision-makers and opinion leaders to prioritize the needs of vulnerable people while upholding fundamental humanitarian principles through advocacy, negotiation, communication, and formal agreements. Moreover, there is a crucial need to enhance public awareness and education regarding disaster risk reduction measures and address the impact of climate change on disaster risk.

The high-level objectives of the National Society under humanitarian diplomacy include capacity building initiatives and disaster law and auxiliary role initiatives such as:

- Establishing humanitarian diplomacy capacity within the National Society
- Advocating for effective and protective disaster related laws, policies, and regulations
- Providing advice to their government in the analysis, drafting and implementation of effective disaster-related laws and policies
- Improving official/legal recognition of its auxiliary role in disaster risk management

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and DG ECHO, and with the support of EU National Societies and IFRC, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will work with the Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES) to move forward the Law on International Emergency Assistance (IDRL by-laws).

The IFRC will provide support comprising capacity-building, advocacy, research, and technical assistance to the government for law or policy development, building on past assistance provided in disaster law, and advocacy. The IFRC will provide the following support to the National Society in scaling up its humanitarian diplomacy:

- Assist in reviewing the progress of current humanitarian diplomacy strategic action plan at the end of each third quarter
- Research and present potential humanitarian diplomacy opportunities for the following year, collaborating with the National Society to finalize the selection
- Help map stakeholders and define a strategic action plan for humanitarian diplomacy
- Internally support the establishment of a working group for humanitarian diplomacy and foster external collaboration for joint humanitarian diplomacy efforts
- Integrate humanitarian diplomacy aspects aligning with the existing communication strategy within all programmes and projects of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan
- Support the National Society's Disaster Law initiatives with a focus on expanding their leadership in disaster law and legislative advocacy, especially in climate-smart disaster laws



Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

As part of its National Society Development plan, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has identified several priority areas and related activities pertaining to reinforcing accountability and agility. These include to:

- Strengthen the financial and administrative base of the organization
- Strengthen the capacities of staff and volunteers for effective financial and administrative management
- Conduct workshops on financial management at headquarters and branches
- Enhance capacities in procurement and logistics
- Train leadership at national and branch levels in human resource management
- Train leadership at national and branch levels on monitoring and evaluation
- Conduct five workshops for 22 staff and volunteers on monitoring and evaluation for branches in Sogd, GBAO, Kurgan-tube, Kulyab
- Conduct training seminars on programme planning
- Identify digital transformation priorities and implement these priorities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in all its accountability strengthening efforts.

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and DG ECHO, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will pursue its digital transformation. The IFRC, with technical support from the Netherlands Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross, facilitates workshops to collect feedback from various stakeholders with regard to the current and future state of digital maturity. A digital transformation roadmap will capture short-term activities and long-term ambitions for digital transformation and a suggested governance structure.

The National Society has also received an award of CHF 50,000 from the IFRC Capacity Building Fund to enhance resource mobilization, chiefly focusing on developing a digital fundraising page, implementing a customer relationship management system, organizing digital fundraising campaigns, and conducting branch development events. This initiative aims to establish a sustainable digital donation infrastructure, increase donor engagement, and effectively manage donor and member relationships. The system will ensure continuity by preserving fundraising data, enabling informed decisions, and securing the project's sustainability even during staff turnover.

THE IFRC NETWORK

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, the 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.

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 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 Civiml 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.

Several sister National Societies provide long-term support to the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, remotely or with presence in-country:

The Red Cross Society of China is a recognized as a strategic partner of the National Society in Tajikistan and has been providing support since 2013 in the form of IT equipment, emergency stocks and fleet over several years. The organizations are involved in an 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.

The **Finnish Red Cross** has sustained an active partnership with the Red Cross Society of Tajikistan for almost 20 years. Cooperation between the two National Societies is focused on the areas of health, WASH, and disaster management. It has been funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, the European Union, and Finnish Red Cross funding itself. In recent years, the cooperation has expanded to areas such as disability inclusion and anticipatory action, with a link to enhanced forecasting capacities of the national meteorological service.

The German Red Cross operates in Central Asia through offices in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) and Dushanbe (Tajikistan). It collaborates with the Central Asia Red Crescent Societies focusing on structural development and capacity building of field branches. The German Red Cross has implemented cross-border projects and supported the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan with humanitarian aid innovations such as financial assistance and forecast-based actions since 2018. During the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2021), German Red Cross aided the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan with emergency relief, including food, household items, and cash and voucher assistance to vulnerable families. The German Red Cross emphasizes the importance of gender equality and safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as women and girls, who face significant vulnerabilities within Tajik society.

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.

The **Qatar Red Crescent Society** supports the National Society in providing humanitarian aid during the holy month of Ramadan in the form of food packages for needy families, persons with limited abilities, and residents of boarding schools and orphanages in the country.

The Swiss Red Cross through the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan is supporting the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, in the development of cash and voucher assistance (CVA). The CVA programme aims to aid in the form of cash or vouchers to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable populations affected by emergencies, disasters, or other challenging situations. The programme enables beneficiaries to make choices and prioritize their own essential needs, such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education.

The Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates supports the National Society in supporting orphans.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Finnish Red Cross	135,000						
German Red Cross			•				
Italian Red Cross							

Total Funding requirement

135,000

Movement coordination

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) 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 Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0.

The ICRC's support in Tajikistan is provided through its regional delegation in Uzbekistan which helps the authorities to promote international humanitarian law and other humanitarian norms, and integrate them into legislation, academic curricula and the practices of military and security forces. The ICRC also helps boost the capacity of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, and supports the mine risk education, emergency preparedness and response, and restoring family links programmes of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan.



In a preparedness exercise organised by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, students learned how to leave classrooms quickly and provide first aid to the injured in Panjakent, Changal village of Tajikistan. (Credit- RCST)

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 and Civil Defense which covers disaster response and other crises. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is an active member of the national platform on disaster risk reduction. 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 Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) platform. Under REACT planning, the National Society leads shelter coordination for floods and earthquakes. It also actively participates in health sector coordination, led by the Ministry of Health and WHO.

For the 2022 response to population movement from Afghanistan the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, together with the IFRC, coordinated with the interagency working group and sub-groups on infrastructure, WASH, health, cash and voucher assistance and shelter. 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 monthly 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 Organization 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.



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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans
- Subscribe for updates
- <u>Donor response</u> on IFRC website
- Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) data
- Operational information: <u>IFRC GO platform</u>
- National Society data: <u>IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System</u>
- Evaluations database

This plan reflects the priorities of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC <u>Strategy 2030</u>, representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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