



REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

2024-2025 IFRC network country plan

5 July 2024

Multi - Year Funding Requirement **CHF 2.45M**

In support of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia



33

National Society branches



200

National Society staff



2,400

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



3,000

Ongoing
emergency
operations



10,000

Climate and
environment



15,000

Disasters
and crises



110,000

Health and
wellbeing



25,000

Migration and
displacement



20,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Early warning and disaster risk reduction
- Climate change adaptation • Health needs
 - Migration-related needs
- Inclusion of vulnerable groups

Capacity development

- Sustainable resource mobilization and fundraising
- Partnerships • financial management
- Branch development • Communications
- Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

Key country data

Population **2.1M**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **78**

Population below poverty level **21.8%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Central
& South-eastern Europe, Sarajevo

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

Total 1.6M CHF

Total 0.85M CHF

Through the IFRC

→ **0.47M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **0.32M** CHF

Through Host National Society

0.8M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

850,000 CHF

**Projected funding requirements

IFRC Breakdown

Longer-term needs

150,000 CHF

Disasters & crises

150,000 CHF

Health & wellbeing

172,000 CHF

Migration & displacement

Participating National Societies

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*

Swiss Red Cross

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

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:

MGR65002

Longer-term needs:

MAAMK003

Hazards



Extreme heat and cold



Forest fires



Earthquakes



Landslides



Population movement

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE



The **Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia** was founded in 1945 within the Democratic Federal Yugoslavia. After the break-up of Yugoslavia in 1992, the organization operated as an independent National Society and became a full-fledged member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1995.

The work of the national society is regulated by a special Law on the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia. The organization consists of 33 Red Cross branches and the City Red Cross of Skopje. The role of the Red Cross of Republic of North Macedonia is to nurture the power of humanity, to be where needed, and to provide support for the various target groups of the population.

It performs an auxiliary role and supports the state authorities in carrying out various humanitarian tasks, according to the needs of the population. In cooperation with institutions and partners, the National Society works on disease prevention, improving health and alleviating human suffering through its own programmes in the field of education, health, and social care, for the benefit of communities.

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia reached 63,000 people by its long-term services and development programmes by 2022 and around 1200 people by its disaster response and early recovery programmes. In line with its Strategic Plan 2021-2030, the National Society focuses on three goals:

- Strengthen its ability to reduce risks, take early action and respond to crises by building strong local preparedness and response capacities and quickly recover from crises
- Empower communities to lead a safe, healthy, dignified lives and have opportunities to progress by having more choices and control over their lives
- Promote inclusive and humanitarian approach to enable positive transformative actions and build peaceful communities

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

North Macedonia, a parliamentary republic in Southeast Europe, gained independence in 1991 from Yugoslavia. It shares borders with Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Albania, with a population of around 2 million people. The country has a population density of 78.7 people per square kilometers. Most people identify as ethnic Macedonians, while there is a significant community of Albanians and smaller minorities of Turkish, Roma, Serbian, Bosniak, and Vlach communities.

As its economy continues to recover from shock of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Republic of North Macedonia's GDP

grew 2.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2022. Agriculture contributes around one-tenth to the GDP, with tobacco, fruits, vegetables, and dairy farming being significant. The country is highly prone and vulnerable to natural hazards such as floods, droughts, extreme temperatures, forest fires and earthquakes. It has further been affected by the Balkan Route migration path in recent years.

Women in the country continue to have limited access to assets, markets, resources, and decision-making processes. Gaps in wages and workforce participation also persist. Women continue to face discrimination in the form of an unfair hierarchical status between men and women, as well as exposure to violence, abuse, and exploitation.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information, see IFRC GO page [Ukraine and impacted countries crisis](#)

Emergency Operation	Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis
Appeal number	MGR65002
Duration	February 2022 – December 2025
Target areas	22.7 M (total); 1,300 (in North Macedonia)
Funding requirement	Total: CHF 800 M (IFRC); CHF 2.7 billion (Federation-wide) North Macedonia: CHF 1.33 M (IFRC); CHF 1.54 M (Federation-wide)
Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Operational Strategy	Revised Operational Strategy North Macedonia Response Plan
Link to revised appeal	Operation Update No.9

The international armed conflict in Ukraine continues, inflicting a devastating toll on the lives of people. The protracted crisis has resulted in massive civilian casualties, severe harm to critical infrastructure and livelihoods, and widespread displacement from front-line communities, leading to an alarming escalation in humanitarian needs, inside and outside of Ukraine. Millions of people have crossed borders from Ukraine into neighbouring countries and beyond. Most of these individuals have been displaced for nearly two years, and the gaps in meeting their needs are still increasing. Displaced people from Ukraine still require safety, assistance, and critical protection to lead dignified lives and restore their wellbeing and livelihoods.

First launched in February 2022, the IFRC Emergency Appeal was revised in May 2023, in support of the work of 18 National Societies including the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia who are responding to the crisis. The revised Emergency Appeal presents a substantial increase in people targeted, funding requirement and geographical coverage, to

support the National Societies in assisting people in Ukraine and other impacted countries affected by the crisis. It also represents a shift in response from an emergency phase to a protracted crisis scenario, while recognizing the need to remain agile and proactive in what continues to be a highly dynamic environment.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

More than 6,000 people fleeing Ukraine were estimated to have arrived in North Macedonia at the beginning of 2023. Through this revised emergency appeal, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia is providing targeted assistance to about 1300 people. Interventions consist of:

Health and care including water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

Training of volunteers and staff to provide [psychological first aid](#) and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) to people affected



Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia actively supports transit camps, assisting with food, water, first aid, hygiene kits, baby supplies, clothing, and tracing services, while preparing heated mobile houses for the approaching winter. (Photo: Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia)

by Ukraine crisis. Disseminate the information through Humanitarian Service Points ([HSPs](#)) to displaced people from Ukraine to access the public health system in North Macedonia, with particular attention to support for people with special needs. Support the most marginalized women among those displaced from Ukraine through distribution of [vouchers](#) for menstrual hygiene management.

[Shelter, housing, and settlements, multi-purpose cash](#)

Support the most marginalized people affected by Ukraine crisis through monthly unconditional cash and vouchers assistance ([CVA](#)) to cover their monthly dietary needs for a period of 18 months as well as for seasonal assistance for clothing and footwear.

Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), community engagement and accountability (CEA), migration

Facilitate integration of children within local communities by organizing afterschool activities in already established child friendly spaces. Disseminate information about Safeguarding (PSEA and Child Safeguarding) to general population with special focus on people displaced from Ukraine. Provide restoring family links ([RFL](#)) services including messages, calls, and access to the platform. Establish new HSPs or mobile HSPs at key border crossings in case of increases in new arrivals.

The **Swiss Red Cross** is extending supporting the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia in its response to the Ukraine crisis by providing support for refugees, migrants and persons on the move and support for local integration of persons under international protection and Healthy Aging Project.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Central and south-eastern countries in Europe are severely affected by climate change, which is creating critical situations requiring humanitarian action. The region is prone to various natural hazards, exacerbated by climate change, such as floods, droughts, landslides, and extreme weather conditions throughout the year.

A total of 50 per cent of the country's land is used for agriculture while forests cover [33 per cent](#). By 2023, Macedonia lost [48.0 kha of tree cover](#), equivalent to a 6.1% decrease in tree cover since 2000. As extreme weather events such as heat waves and decrease in precipitations occurs, the country's agricultural sector will be further negatively impacted which may in turn impact the overall economy.

However, as the country grapples with meeting the basic needs of the population, climate change mitigation is slow to take foremost priority. Yet, the [majority of the country's citizens agree](#) that climate change has a negative impact on the quality of life of children (40.4 per cent say it is very negative, 36.8 per cent mainly negative). Young people are more aware of the challenges and risks from the climate crisis and the possibility of achieving sustainable development.

North Macedonia has enhanced its climate goals in the updated [Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDC\)](#), aiming for an 82% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, relative to 1990 levels. The NDC includes comprehensive targets across

the entire economy, with 63 policies and measures addressing emissions from all greenhouse gases in every sector.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In its pursuit to better address new and emerging risks and prevent them from occurring, the National Society aims to:

- Enhance local response and preparedness capacities alongside complementary international support mechanisms to be able to respond effectively to any emergency
- Reduce current and future impacts and consequences of climate and environmental crises
- Support people to adapt and cope with climate change, emphasizing its impact on health

Planned activities in 2024

- Raise awareness among young people about the impact of climate change and encourage positive practices and habits among the young population to overcome these challenges
- Encourage environmental activities such as recycling, afforestation, rationalization of energy use, and guerrilla actions for young people, and establish a Centre for Climate Change

- Conduct activities ensuring communities are more resilient and better protected from heat and cold waves targeting 2 million people in the country
- Produce and distribute 30,000 flyers and brochures to the population with information on measures for prevention and early recognition of the consequences of heat waves
- Establish early warning systems to disseminate information regarding potential heat waves or cold waves
- Organize five activities in 33 youth clubs through the green volunteerism programme covering about 10,000 young people
- Train 90 volunteers and ensure that communities, volunteers, and staff undertake comprehensive emergency activities to raise awareness of adaptation to climate change
- Organize five training sessions on cold wave preparedness and first aid for frostbite for Republic of North Macedonia border police personnel

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia by facilitating the exchange of resources, tools, and methodologies to strengthen its initiatives concerning climate and environment. The list of efforts include raising public awareness on climate change adaptation and early warning systems, establishing a climate change centre, organizing workshops and activities on recycling, afforestation, and energy conservation for youth, and conducting workshops on preventative measures.

The National Society will also receive support through collaborative efforts with its Federation partners, which include the IFRC Secretariat, participating National Societies, IFRC Reference Centres, Hubs, and Labs.



Disasters and crises

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

North Macedonia is prone to numerous natural hazards, including hydrometeorological hazards (floods, droughts, forest fires and landslides) geophysical disasters (earthquakes), biological hazards, ecological hazards, and food insecurity. Priorities of the region include improving community resilience, sustainable development, early warning and preparedness, and post-disaster coordination.

As the heat risk in the country is set to increase with time, the country will face heightened risk of heat waves and wildfires. Since July 2021, the Republic of North Macedonia experienced a heat wave that triggered severe fires across multiple regions. The fires persisted until around August, despite extensive efforts by state institutions and local communities to contain them. The wildfires caused extensive damage to forests, agricultural land, crops, and property, resulting in casualties, injuries from smoke inhalation, and significant destruction of homes and infrastructure in numerous villages. In response, the Government declared a state of crisis for the entire country in August 2021, which lasted for 30 days until early September.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia aims to strengthen its capacities for disaster preparedness and

response as part of its long-term objective. It strives to position itself strategically and invest resources focused on reducing disaster risks. The main goals of the National Society are to:

- Alleviate the vulnerabilities and challenges arising from all kinds of crises and disasters that impact the life of the people, especially the most vulnerable
- Effectively use technology and innovation to anticipate risks and disasters and provide proactive, early action and predictable funding
- Contribute to capacity building for preparedness, effective response, and recovery from disasters with the primary aim of supporting the most vulnerable population

Planned activities in 2024

- Respond to the essential needs of the disaster-affected population by providing dedicated support in human resources, food, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) products, shelter, and cash and voucher assistance (CVA) support
- Establish a Disaster Preparedness and Response Centre and restructure and improve the operational and logistical capacities for disaster preparedness and response
- Upgrade the national disaster management system and strengthen the organization's capacities for providing commodity reserves

- Educate the population for an appropriate response to disasters and nurture and improve cooperation with state entities
- Build capacities for risk reduction, early warning, and crisis response through established strong local structures and capacities for disaster preparedness and response
- Ensure the National Society maintains the capacity to provide humanitarian aid to 1000 families during disaster situations
- Create a working group for drafting regulations and reforming the National Society water safety activities and run national courses for water safety instructions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia with technical expertise, guidance, and resources to enhance the National Society's capacity and improve its preparedness for emergency response (PER), and recovery efforts. It will further assist with resource mobilization, enabling the National Society to access financial and material support for disaster-related initiatives, and needs assessments.

The IFRC launched a DREF operation for a period of four months that ended in December 2021, assisting around 80,000 affected people with a budget of CHF 494,365. Actively engaged in the operation were the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, including the headquarters and 14 Red Cross branches, with the support of 300 volunteers and staff. Additionally, other organizations collaborating in the operation included the fire brigade, Crisis Management Centre, Directorate for Protection and Rescue, the army, police, and Ministry of Health.



Health and wellbeing

Health and well-being challenges in North Macedonia are influenced by demographic shifts, including an ageing population and the need to address health concerns of migrants. Eurostat data reveals a rising proportion of elderly individuals, with projections indicating a significant increase by 2050. This demographic shift necessitates enhanced health and social services, particularly for those requiring care at home.

Traditionally, families, especially women, have provided elderly care, but emigration and declining fertility rates require additional social care services. Climate-related risks like extreme weather events and air quality issues pose health threats, especially to vulnerable populations such as the elderly.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted blood donation and first aid training efforts, requiring renewed initiatives. In North Macedonia, persistent challenges like poverty and social exclusion affect certain vulnerable groups, with limited access to resources exacerbating health disparities.

Macedonia has a low prevalence of HIV, however, there has been a rising trend in newly registered HIV cases in recent years, with 2019 seeing the highest number of new diagnoses.

In October 2023, North Macedonia became the 28th nation to join the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health. This commitment aims to enhance efforts in water, sanitation, and hygiene, safeguard natural resources, and promote a

healthier environment for its population. To demonstrate its dedication to hygiene and sanitation, the government adopted a law decreasing the VAT for all menstrual pads from 18 to 5 per cent.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia aims to provide sustainable health services to protect the health of marginalized groups, especially people suffering from AIDS. To achieve these goals, the National society will:

- Ensure preventive health care by digitalization of traditional health preventive activities and first aid courses
- Reduce infectious diseases by conducting health promotion and preventive health education sessions
- Raise the level of knowledge and skills of different target groups to ensure correct provision of first aid by implementing new education programmes through an expert first aid centre
- Encourage voluntary blood donation and mobilize more blood donors from low-risk target groups through partnerships with youth, school clubs and other associations
- Establish strategic first aid related partnerships with key organizations and institutions

- Increase the capacity of National Society and the general population for coping with crisis by incorporating mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in crisis response

Planned activities in 2024

- Provide transport services for 300 people who are not in a life-threatening condition (older people, people with disabilities), and enable emergency call button services
- Establish a center for social medical services for the elderly, implemented under grants for 10 citizen associations, to improve the social inclusion of the elderly
- Strengthen capacities in mental health through the establishment of a centre for psychological first aid and psychosocial support aimed at staff and volunteers
- Distribute information, education, and communication materials to 700 people who inject drugs in the territory of the city of Prilep, Veles, and Kochani
- Conduct awareness-raising activities for 3,000 young people on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections
- Raise awareness of 4,000 young people on preventing diseases related to use of addictive substances and distribute sterile equipment, medical supplies, condoms, and lubricants
- Provide blood through blood drives collaborating with Institute for Transfusion Medicine
- Conduct community-building activities to promote positive mental health and well-being, reduce loneliness, and provide MHPSS, particularly in vulnerable communities

- Train young parents, pregnant women, motor vehicle drivers, paramedics and candidates from legal entities as part of the “First Aid Saves Lives!” campaign
- Organize workshops for the prevention of infectious and non-infectious diseases, and early recognition and prevention of chronic conditions, reaching at least 4,500 people
- Train caregivers on assistance of the elderly and people living with disabilities, as well as palliative caregivers such as care assistants of people with Alzheimer’s disease
- Organize training for personal care for people living with disabilities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide the National Society technical expertise, guidance, and resources related to health and psychosocial wellbeing. This support will aim to enable the National Society to develop and implement sustainable health programmes, strengthen community healthcare systems, and promote overall wellbeing.

Collaboration and knowledge sharing within the IFRC Network will further allow the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia to foster continuous improvement and innovation in its health-related initiatives over time. Resource mobilization efforts by the IFRC will assist the National Society in accessing financial and material support for its health programmes.

The **Austrian Red Cross** supports transportation services to healthcare facilities for individuals with non-life-threatening conditions.



Migration and displacement

The Balkan countries, including North Macedonia, have historically seen significant migration challenges due to their location as transit points to Europe. According to UNHCR, the country homes 1430 refugees, 15 asylum-seekers, and 521 stateless persons. The top countries of origin for those displaced are Ukraine and Kosovo.

According to UN data, 31 per cent of the North Macedonian population in 2019, or 658,264 people, were emigrants. The majority of these emigrants are men who emigrated primarily from North Macedonia are Turkey, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and Australia.

The COVID-19 pandemic magnified vulnerabilities among migrants and local populations. Political tensions increasingly

politicized humanitarian aid for migrants, complicating funding. Amid a shift towards migration restrictions in Europe, central and south-eastern European nations witness significant emigration, with North Macedonia experiencing a rise in migrants due to conflicts and economic hardships.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia aims to provide humanitarian protection and support to persons in the border regions with special emphasis on persons with deteriorating health through access to medical facilities. The objectives under this are to:

- Ensure that all people who migrate are safe and treated humanely and with dignity
- Enable all people to receive the support they need to thrive in an inclusive society
- Promote the protection of vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with special needs, and asylum seekers
- Provide humanitarian assistance and protection to migrants and host communities at key locations along migration routes
- Strengthen its capacity to analyze and address the needs of migrants and influence policy change through humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy

advocate for improved integration and overcoming policy gaps

- Provide humanitarian assistance or benefits from protection activities to 25,000 migrants and 2,500 people sheltered in transit centers
- Build skills of asylum seekers for their access to labour market in North Macedonia with direct support for social inclusion and integration
- Organize peer education to raise awareness of over 2000 young people in combatting human trafficking

Planned activities in 2024

- Assist migrants in transit centers and along the Balkan Route near the southern and northern borders of North Macedonia by providing first aid, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), food, hygiene kits, water, and medical supplies
- Provide restoring family links (RFL), humanitarian assistance and access to health care services to migrants and asylum seekers
- Reach 10,500 migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees in the country with its protective services (RFL, MHPSS, support to sexual and gender-based violence victims) and 7,000 people with first aid or health services
- Assist in integration of migrants in employment, education, and inclusion in host communities, and

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia is part of the IFRC three-year Global Route-Based Migration Programme, which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The IFRC will support the National Society through its federation partners such as the IFRC Secretariat, participating National Societies, IFRC Reference Centres, Hubs, and Labs. It will also assist the National Society in responding to migration issues with a collaborative approach as National Societies of the CSEE cluster have a strong need for jointly prioritizing coordination.



Values, power and inclusion

National Societies in the CSEE region collaborate with local authorities and ministries to implement projects benefiting marginalized groups, notably the Roma and Egyptian populations, who face chronic poverty and disparities in housing, employment, education, and healthcare. Roma children experience higher rates of poverty, malnutrition, and educational gaps compared to non-Roma peers. According to Minority Rights Group, Roma cannot participate effectively in public life, which is dominated by ethnic Macedonian-Albanian relations.

There is also a rural urban divide in the country. Elderly individuals, particularly those with chronic illnesses, encounter limited mobility and healthcare access, especially in rural areas due to inadequate infrastructure and transportation. Loneliness, poverty, and health issues are prevalent among older people, necessitating targeted support systems.

However, disparities between urban and rural areas persist, with rural communities often overlooked.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia is committed to promoting International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by organizing activities targeting various groups like students, army personnel, and government institutions. The National Society aims to instill positive values in youth and address social issues through the Red Cross in Action – Promotion of Humane Values programme. Its goal is to carry out about 100 projects annually to support community well-being and reach 2,500 people. Strategic communication will highlight the Red Cross's historical importance and its seven fundamental

principles, encouraging inclusive and compassionate humanitarian efforts.

By addressing tensions through enhanced communication, education, and community involvement, the National Society aims to work toward mitigating divisions, encouraging inclusion, and fostering empathetic communities, aligning with the Red Cross Movement's dedication to nurturing humanitarian values and contribute to the creation of a more harmonious society.

Planned activities in 2024

- Promote preventive programmes targeting youth to address issues like human trafficking and antisocial influences, raising awareness and protecting individuals at social risk
- Involve marginalized communities in decision-making processes, collaborating with the government, businesses, and civil sectors to enhance socialization and inclusion, especially in rural areas
- Provide employment opportunities and Red Cross certification to vulnerable groups in training centers, social and health services, thrift shops, and other economic ventures
- Provide humanitarian aid to 10,000 vulnerable people through resource mobilization efforts involving its 32 branches and the City Red Cross of Skopje
- Strengthen the professional and practical skills of long-term unemployed individuals in caring for the elderly and persons with disabilities

- Hold campaigns for the protection of the Red Cross emblem, strengthening IHL dissemination activities through meetings between club members and the National Committee for IHL

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical guidance and resources to support the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia in integrating humanitarian values like humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) into its initiatives. This assistance will work to ensure these principles are embedded throughout the National Society's programmes and operations.

Through collaboration and knowledge sharing within the IFRC Network, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia will learn from the experiences of other National Societies, fostering innovative approaches to community engagement and accountability (CEA). This exchange of expertise strengthens the National Society's ability to make a lasting impact.

The IFRC will also provide financial and material support to enable the National Society to implement its various initiatives. The National Society will uphold and reinforce the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Notably, innovative services like the emergency button for older adults and people with disabilities in Skopje have been established with the **Austrian Red Cross** support.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia 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 Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is

at the work plan 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 IFRC network is committed to support the National Society in its development, according to its priorities.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Collaborate and establish long-term strategic partnerships with government institutions, civil society, international organizations, and the corporate sector and agencies to address community challenges
- Mobilize resources to meet the needs of diverse population groups guided by its policy on the mobilization of funds and strategic directions
- Establish an efficient, sustainable system to mobilizing funds at national and local levels

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia by offering technical expertise, guidance and resources for enhancing its strategic and operational capacities. The IFRC also assists in resource mobilization, strategic initiatives, and joint planning and response coordination during emergencies.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen approaches to volunteer management by providing a participatory work model and effective support to volunteers, and acknowledging their commitment and work
- Provide volunteering engagement opportunities for the elderly, inter-generational cooperation, and people with disabilities and other marginalized groups
- Improve financial sustainability through asset mobilization
- Continued focus on branch development with the aim of ensuring the delivery of sustained, quality humanitarian services to vulnerable communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical expertise, guidance, and resources to assist the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia in its National Society development efforts. This support will include capacity building, training programmes, and knowledge sharing. The IFRC will also support the Red Cross of Macedonia in its applications to National Society development such as the IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF) and the ICRC-IFRC National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA).



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Build strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, including governments, diplomatic missions, international organizations and civil society actors to facilitate cooperation, collaboration and joint advocacy efforts
- Advocate for the adherence to international humanitarian norms and laws, including the Geneva Conventions and other relevant treaties, to ensure the protection and

assistance of affected populations during armed conflicts and other emergencies

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia in strengthening its humanitarian diplomacy efforts aligned to the IFRC [humanitarian diplomacy policy](#). The IFRC will help the National Society to effectively engage with various entities to advocate for [fundamental principles](#) and promote the rights and well-being of vulnerable populations.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Advance the use of [digital technology](#)
- Promote quality services with transparent implementation of joint initiatives, especially in times of economic challenges, to build trust with partners
- Invest in increasing transparency, in strengthening [integrity](#) and support systems, and in building an openness to listen, engage and act
- Upgrade systems to protect and support staff and volunteers, including mental health and psychosocial support, so they can respond safely and effectively
- Incorporate new technologies and digital practices and use of collective knowledge to improve the well-being of people

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in establishing transparent financial systems, robust reporting mechanisms, and efficient procurement processes, fostering accountable resource use and donor confidence. Additionally, it supports assessments and evaluations to identify areas for improvement, while enhancing programme implementation. Through technical assistance, the IFRC will support the National Society in strengthening its capacity in project management, monitoring, evaluation, and data analysis. It will also facilitate learning from experiences and best practices of other National Societies through knowledge exchange platforms, fostering continuous improvement and innovation in humanitarian efforts. With facilitation support from IFRC, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia will learn from other National Societies' experiences and best practices on disaster response, humanitarian action, and community-based programmes.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia through its country cluster delegation in Sarajevo and its regional office in Budapest, focusing on strategic coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy, with accountability as a cross-cutting theme, all of which are aimed at strengthening the National Society's auxiliary role. In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Society through [DREF operations](#) on population

movement, wildfires, and extreme weather conditions, as well as the regional Emergency Appeal on the Ukraine crisis.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC supported the National Society in various areas including vaccination efforts, crisis health management, mental health preservation, psychosocial response capacity building, [healthy ageing](#), and migration activities.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The **Austrian Red Cross** has engaged in well-established, long-term collaboration with the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia through bilateral cooperation and regional EU projects. This partnership aims to enhance capacities in various areas such as healthy ageing programmes, social

services, caregiver education, disaster preparedness, and mental health support. Support has also been provided for the establishment of regional training centres and the COVID-19 pandemic response.







The **Italian Red Cross** has supported the development of capacities of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia to assist vulnerable target groups. The Italian Red Cross also provided support to the National Society in assisting migrants passing through North Macedonia.

The **Swiss Red Cross** provides support for the development of National Society capacities, healthy and active ageing, development of social services, and education for caregivers of the elderly and people with disabilities. With the support of the Swiss Red Cross, the National Society conducted awareness raising activities during the COVID-19 pandemic on vaccination, developed volunteer management, and supported migrants.



The Republic of North Macedonia faced a heat wave causing severe fires in several regions, when the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia provided immediate support to response teams in distributing food and water to affected people and firefighting brigades. (Photo: Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia)

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Austrian Red Cross	192,000						
Italian Red Cross							
Swiss Red Cross	137,000						

Total Funding requirement

329,000

Movement coordination

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia 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. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

In the Republic of North Macedonia, **the ICRC** provides support in training for general dissemination and disseminators for international humanitarian law, and activities for establishing family ties, and provides a workshop with media representatives. The activities are aimed at spreading the idea, vision and mission of the Movement.

Coordination with other actors

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia collaborates with authorities, participates in coordination mechanisms and diverse partnerships, as part of its auxiliary role in supporting disaster response, long-term initiatives, and humanitarian coordination at both national and international levels.

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia actively engages with the National Emergency Management Authority that coordinates disaster management efforts nationwide. The Ministry of Interior usually leads this mechanism. The National Society also engages with the Ministry of Health for health-related emergencies and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy for social support initiatives. The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia participates in rapid assessments to evaluate the needs of affected communities and plays a significant role in providing immediate assistance, including shelter, food and essential supplies.

The National Society engages in longer-term work through collaborations with the Ministry of Education and Science on educational initiatives, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Economy on rural development programmes, and the Ministry of Social Affairs on social inclusion projects.

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia, along with the IFRC and other network partners, actively participates in inter-agency coordination mechanisms and working groups to ensure a coordinated humanitarian response. This includes collaborations with national and local actors such as UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector and academic institutions to facilitate joint initiatives, knowledge exchange, and resource mobilization for community development and resilience-building efforts.



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](#)
- [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](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with [IFRC Strategy 2030](#), 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.

Contact information

Sait Saiti

Secretary General
Red Cross of the Republic of
North Macedonia
T +389 7221 4554
saiti@redcross.org.mk
ckrm.org

Maria Kristensen

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Central
& South-eastern Europe, Sarajevo
T +387 60 348 6699
maria.kristensen@ifrc.org

Andrej Naricyn

Head of Strategic Partnerships
& Resource Mobilization
IFRC Regional Office for Europe, Budapest
T +367 04306528
andrej.naricyn@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

Lead
IFRC Global Strategic Planning & Reporting Centre
New Delhi
sumitha.martin@ifrc.org