



# KYRGYZSTAN

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

23 October 2024

IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY OF KYRGYZSTAN



8

National Society branches



46

National Society local units



4,052

National Society volunteers



246

National Society staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment



18,647

Disasters and crises



91,985

Health and wellbeing



190,028

Migration and displacement



3,656

Values, power and inclusion



449,897

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement	5.4M	
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	Funding	786,000
		Expenditure	345,000
	Longer-term	Funding Requirement	3.2M
		Funding	3.7M
		Expenditure	2.8M
	Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	1.4M
Funding		1.6M	
Expenditure		1.4M	
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	835,000	

### Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan

Overview

Funding	5.9M
Expenditure	5.4M

Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat	Not reported
Participating National Societies	Not reported
HNS other funding sources	Not reported

Appeal number **MAAKG002**

In addition to: CHF 788,000 DREF Funding

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	19,000
	People covered by a functional early warning system (KRI)	10,000
	Implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)?	Yes
	Implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups?	Yes
	Developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks?	Yes
Disasters and crises	People reached with disaster risk reduction	92,000
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	36,000
	Number of affected children, adolescents and young adults receiving any form of education support provided by RCRC in affected areas	23,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	2,000
	People reached with shelter support	573
	People trained on implementing the PGI Minimum Standards	20
	Communities with early warning systems established in collaboration with RCRC	18
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	60%
Health and wellbeing	People reached with health promotion activities related to NCD management in emergencies	345,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	190,000
	People reached with immunization services	104,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	59,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	38,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	7,000
	People donating blood	1,000
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	4,000
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes	8
Values, power and inclusion	People reached by RCRC educational programmes	450,000
	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	192,000
	People whose access to education is facilitated through National Society programming	9,000

Is Community Engagement and Accountability integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)?	Yes
Percentage of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information	62%

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	6
	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of	5
National Society development	Youth engagement strategy developed or in place	Yes
	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
	One National Society Development plan in place	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	Participation in IFRC-led communication campaigns	Yes
	National Society has domestic advocacy strategies developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society is showing progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA policy to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative)	Yes
	Functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Bilateral Support						Multilateral Support
		Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Through IFRC
British Red Cross								✓
German Red Cross		●				●		
Italian Red Cross	394,000				●	●	●	
Kuwait Red Crescent Society						●		
Qatar Red Crescent Society						●		
Spanish Red Cross	278,000						●	
Swiss Red Cross	3.6M	●	●	●		●	●	
United Arab Emirates Red Crescent						●		

Total Funding Reported **CHF 4.2M**

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

Kyrgyzstan is a landlocked country in Central Asia and is characterized by its mountainous terrain, covering 93 per cent of its territory, which makes the country prone to natural hazards such as earthquakes, landslides and floods. Since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Kyrgyzstan has experienced significant political and economic transformations, shifting between different forms of governance, with the most recent transition being back to a presidential democracy in 2021. Despite efforts toward stability, the country continues to grapple with governance issues, corruption and ethnic tensions.

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has exacerbated economic challenges in Kyrgyzstan, as the country is heavily reliant on agriculture, mining and remittances, which constitute a substantial portion of its GDP. The economic impact has been felt through increased costs for essential food imports, inflation and rising housing and rental prices due to migration from Russia. Despite these challenges, Kyrgyzstan's economy showed resilience in 2023, with GDP growth projected at five per cent, and inflation rates stabilizing below 10 per cent by December 2023, aided by steady food sector dynamics.

Kyrgyzstan's diverse population, predominantly Muslim, faces public health challenges, notably a surge in measles and rubella cases in 2023. With over 7,000 cases reported, primarily among children and teenagers, the outbreak highlights issues of vaccine hesitancy and reduced immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Kyrgyz government, through the Republican Centre for Immunoprophylaxis, has responded with targeted vaccination campaigns, although rising cases are anticipated with the new academic year, signalling ongoing public health concerns.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan was successful in integrating climate-smart programming and environmental sustainability into its operations. The National Society introduced innovative global solutions to address climate change challenges, enhanced community capacities through community engagement and accountability (CEA) initiatives, and reinforced early warning systems to build resilience against environmental risks. The National Society's efforts in the community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) project safeguarded critical infrastructure across several vulnerable communities.

### Disasters and crises

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan responded to various natural disasters, including floods in Batken, Issyk-Kul and Naryn by distributing hygiene kits, meals, providing cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to the affected population. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan has provided emergency assistance including food, shelter and medical aid to affected communities.

### Health and wellbeing

For the reporting period, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan played a crucial role in promoting public health through initiatives such as vaccination campaigns, health education and medical outreach programmes. The National Society contributed to improving access to healthcare services in remote and underserved areas. Within the COVID-19 Emergency Appeal, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan provided support through awareness campaigns, distribution of hygiene kits and facilitating access to essential services to vulnerable people.

### Migration and displacement

For the period January to December 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan helped vulnerable populations, including internally displaced people (IDPs) and socially disadvantaged individuals through the provision of relief supplies, legal assistance and psychosocial support to those in need.

## Values, power and inclusion

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan advocated for the rights and needs of vulnerable groups, including women, children and people with disabilities. The National Society worked towards creating a more inclusive and just society. Throughout 2023, awareness-raising activities for different types of groups were carried out. Through awareness campaigns and educational activities, the National Society promoted humanitarian principles, including respect for human dignity, impartiality, neutrality and the importance of international humanitarian law (IHL).

## Enabling local actors

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan introduced the New Way of Working (NWoW) to emphasize collaborative analyses, shared support plans and unified accountability frameworks, fostering a coordinated approach to humanitarian actions. Additionally, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's involvement in the IFRC-DG ECHO global Pilot Programmatic Partnership supported by the German Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross further strengthened disaster risk management, epidemic preparedness and humanitarian assistance efforts in the country.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's commitment to coordination was evident through regular exchanges and quarterly coordination meetings with partners. This proactive approach ensured alignment of support and action among partners, particularly during emergencies such as the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border conflict. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also engaged in extensive external coordination, marking its role in regional and international forums and collaborating with UN agencies and other global partners to enhance its humanitarian efforts. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also made progress in safeguarding and staff development by implementing regulatory documents on the [Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(PSEA\)](#). The National Society focused on improving its financial analytical capabilities and resource allocation to sustain its growth and impact throughout 2023.

## Changes and amendments

The German Red Cross decided to reduce its activities in Central Asia, leading to the eventual cessation of operations in the region. This decision negatively impacted the overall portfolio of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan. Currently, both organizations are working together to develop a phase-out strategy.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan made progress in integrating Climate-Smart programming and environmental sustainability into its initiatives. The National Society introduced innovative global solutions tailored to the challenges posed by climate change.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, through community engagement and accountability (CEA) initiatives, worked to enhance local capacities, promote active community involvement and develop strategies that build resilience against environmental changes.

In addition to these efforts, the National Society focused on reinforcing early warning systems at the community level for various hazards, particularly in raising public awareness about climate risks such as heatwaves. The National Society implemented non-regret early actions (early warning systems), reaching 18 vulnerable communities across Kyrgyzstan. These actions protected 10,225 people, 1,398 hectares of arable land, two strategic roads, three schools, two mosques, a sports school, two kindergartens, two warehouses and 13 barns. These initiatives were

part of the community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) project.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supports the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan with mechanisms such as the [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(IFRC-DREF\)](#) and Emergency Appeals to be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to the adverse effects of climate change. In line with this, in August 2023, the IFRC approved a DREF Early Action Protocol (EAP) for [Heatwave](#). The EAP was designed with the support of the **German Red Cross**, the [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](#), key ministries and agencies (Ministry of Emergency and Ministry of Health, and Kyrgyz HydroMet), as well as local municipalities and community leaders. It follows a previous heatwave protocol in place since 2021. Additionally, an EAP for [cold wave](#) was also revised by the end of 2023.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the IFRC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) with support from the German Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross and the IFRC. With support from the IFRC, the National Society is incorporating principles of the green response and green supply chain management into its operations.

The **Italian Red Cross** collaborated with the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in community engagement and accountability (CEA) to bolster community resilience within the context of climate change.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) project in Kyrgyzstan to solidify the National Society's role in enhancing climate resilience throughout the country.



## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit IFRC GO page [Kyrgyzstan](#).

In 2023, the [IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(IFRC-DREF\)](#) was approved for three separate emergencies comprising the Kyrgyzstan Heatwave, the Kyrgyzstan Flood and the Kyrgyzstan Epidemic:

1

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	<a href="#">Kyrgyzstan - Heat wave 2023</a>
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRKG016
<b>DURATION</b>	3 months (August 2023 to November 2023)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 499,151
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	16,200

The IFRC DREF allocated CHF 499,151 from the Anticipatory Pillar to support the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's Heatwave Early Action Protocol (EAP). This allocation aimed to assist 16,200 vulnerable individuals in the Jalal-Abad, Osh and Batken province in Kyrgyzstan primarily focusing on vulnerable families, children residing in orphanages, and older individuals situated in care centres. This proactive approach was geared towards minimizing the adverse effects of heatwaves on these populations.

Additionally, an EAP for [cold wave](#) was also revised by the end of 2023. This forward-looking strategy aimed to address potential challenges posed by extreme cold conditions, further enhancing preparedness and response mechanisms.

## 2

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	<a href="#">Mudflows Kyrgyzstan Issyk-Kul province 2023</a>
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRKG017
<b>DURATION</b>	7 months (28 May 2023 to 31 December 2023)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 99,515
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	1000

The DREF allocation of CHF 99,515 in August 2023 supported the National Society in assisting approximately 1,000 people affected by mudflows that flooded houses, agriculture fields, roads and bridges in Ken-Suu and Uzun-Sai villages of the Tyup district, Issyk-Kul province following short-term heavy rains. The National Society assisted the affected population in [water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\)](#), conducting needs assessment and providing relief supply distribution of 145 hygiene kits among affected households.

## 3

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	<a href="#">Measles outbreak in Kyrgyzstan 2023</a>
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	MDRKG018
<b>DURATION</b>	3 months (31 August 2023 to 30 November 2023)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 139,117
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	70,000
<b>LATEST OPERATION UPDATE</b>	<a href="#">Kyrgyzstan Epidemic DREF Operation Update</a>

The DREF allocation of CHF 139,117 in August 2023 supported the National Society in responding to a measles outbreak following the deaths of two children. In both cases, the children did not receive vaccinations according to the National vaccination calendar, the parents refused due to religious beliefs. The National Society staff and volunteers held information sessions about the importance and necessity of vaccination, about the National vaccination calendar and the consequences of not vaccinating children. Awareness-raising activities were carried out in cooperation with the Republican Centre for Immunoprophylaxis in new buildings in Bishkek: Ak-Orgo, Ak-Ordo, Ak-Zhar, Ala-Too - where a lot of vaccine refusers are registered. Mobile vaccination team was also activated.

### **Progress of National Society against objectives**

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan collaborated with key partners to facilitate the development of tailored emergency preparedness plans and established Local Disaster Management Committees (LDMC) in various communities and schools across the country. A total of 366 members from the LDMCs in targeted communities participated in various events, including first aid, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation training and simulations. Additionally, 22,714 schoolchildren refreshed and acquired new skills through these training and simulations, while 18,647 individuals were reached through a range of climate change adaptation activities.

Through its mitigation projects, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan implemented infrastructure enhancements in disaster-prone areas, reducing the risks of avalanches, mudflows and earthquakes. These efforts directly contributed to safeguarding communities against frequent natural hazards in Kyrgyzstan. The National Society actively engaged in training initiatives, including enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments ([e-VCA](#)) and the preparedness for effective response ([PER](#)) plan of action. These initiatives aimed to strengthen the disaster management capabilities of both local communities and national institutions. A three-day e-VCA training was held in Osh in November 2023 with a total of 18 participants representing various branches. This diverse group, comprising five female and 13 male individuals, included both dedicated staff members and volunteers. The training aimed to enhance participants' understanding of e-VCA methodologies, fostering a comprehensive approach to disaster management. Throughout

the sessions, interactive discussions and hands-on activities were emphasized, creating an inclusive environment that encouraged active participation. The training successfully achieved its objectives, equipping participants with valuable skills and insights for more effective disaster response strategies. Feedback from participants highlighted the positive impact of the training, affirming its value in further strengthening the National Society's capabilities.

The National Society also successfully enhanced the preparedness for cash-based interventions such as cash preparedness and provided multi-purpose cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to disaster-prone communities. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan played a key role in advocating for and promoting legislative initiatives related to disaster management. Working closely with the Ministry of Emergency Situations and other stakeholders, the National Society contributed to the development and adoption of by-laws for the "International Disaster Relief Law" and the Single Window principle, improving the legal framework for disaster response in Kyrgyzstan.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** and the **German Red Cross** supported the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in conducting training sessions, including a three-day e-VCA training in Osh. The German Red Cross continued its active presence in Central Asia, leading cross-border initiatives focused on community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. These efforts included collaboration with the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan and other National Societies in the region.

The IFRC and the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan provided technical assistance to the MES in drafting and finalizing by-laws related to the "International Disaster Relief Law." This collaborative effort aimed to strengthen the national disaster management system and enhance legal provisions for international emergency assistance in Kyrgyzstan.

The **Italian Red Cross**, the **Swiss Red Cross** and the **Spanish Red Cross** supported the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in the successful implementation of disaster risk management and resilience-building projects across the country.



## **Health and wellbeing**

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### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan focused on prevention of non-communicable and communicable diseases, enhancing community resilience, and strengthening its capacity in health-related areas. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan undertook targeted interventions to address prevalent non-communicable diseases, with particular emphasis on cardiovascular diseases and eye care. The eye care programme was a major highlight, reaching over 102,380 individuals in rural areas with information on eye health and providing primary eye examinations to 27,871 people, including 20,959 children, through 57 mobile health clinics in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also implemented several initiatives focused on the prevention and management of communicable diseases, particularly tuberculosis, HIV, sexually transmitted infections, viral hepatitis and COVID-19. Supported by USAID and FHI360, the National Society continued its efforts to combat TB and HIV. Under the 'Support for Tuberculosis Patients' project, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan provided home care services to 451 TB patients, reintegrated 444 patients into treatment and successfully completed treatment for 239 patients. The project also supported 121 children undergoing treatment, with 63 completing preventive therapy. The project also promoted voluntary non-remunerated blood donation and collaborated with mass media to raise awareness about health issues.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan responded to the ongoing COVID-19 challenges by integrating vaccination efforts into routine immunization. During a large measles epidemic, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan mobilized 150 volunteers to support the national vaccination campaign for children aged 9 to 84 months. The campaign reached 89,982 individuals including hesitant parents, community leaders and children, through various outreach activities, puppet shows, and social media campaigns. The National Society also produced and distributed 58,000 copies of information, education and communication (IEC) materials on routine immunization, supported mobile vaccination teams and conducted a study on immunization practices in Kyrgyzstan.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan focused on enhancing community resilience by raising awareness about zoonotic diseases, mobilizing volunteers for vaccination campaigns, and conducting household visits to promote immunization. The National Society conducted assessments of infection prevention and control (IPC) in health and social care facilities, organized training for medical staff and made improvements to IPC practices. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also engaged in mass gatherings and workshops to promote vaccination and strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, WHO, and other organizations. Additionally, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan was also involved in the One Health Roadmap workshops and harmonization efforts with WHO and participated in the European Week of Immunization.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC was instrumental in two major projects related to health and wellbeing: the DG ECHO Programmatic Partnership Project (PPP) and the USAID BHA Building Trust project. These projects focused on COVID-19 and other vaccination activities, as well as epidemic preparedness and response. Under the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the IFRC and DG ECHO, and with support from EU National Societies and the IFRC, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan continues strengthening epidemic preparedness and response. This was achieved by building the capacities of staff and volunteers in emergency health, including epidemic control, and in risk communication and community engagement. Staff and volunteers trained in Epidemic Preparedness and Response in Communities (EPiC) conducted health education activities in target communities to raise awareness on the prevention of diseases and the promotion of vaccinations. The National Society advanced the establishment of [community-based surveillance](#) systems. The IFRC facilitated a three-day training on public health in emergencies, equipping the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan staff and volunteers with the necessary skills for effective health response and preparedness. The IFRC also supported technical visits and thematic working groups aimed at strengthening the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's capabilities in epidemic and pandemic preparedness. The IFRC Central Asia Delegation organized a regional training on psychological first aid, that enhanced the National Society's capacity to provide [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS).

The **Italian Red Cross** supported various health-focused activities of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan.

The **Swiss Red Cross** played a key role in the implementation of the Eye Care Programme, which addressed vision-related issues across rural areas.



*Red Crescent staff members take care of the affected by border conflicts, providing food packages to older people in May 2023. (Photo: Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan)*



## Migration and displacement

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### Progress by National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's approach was comprehensive, combining humanitarian diplomacy, community engagement, needs assessments, training and direct assistance to vulnerable populations.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan actively engaged communities through various media initiatives to raise awareness about its mission and the challenges faced by displaced and migrant populations. The National Society organized three television shows in Osh, Batken and Jalal-Abad, designed in creative formats including tele-debates, talk shows and practical workshops. The focus was on disaster preparedness, climate change adaptation and the broader mission of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan. These programmes were instrumental in educating the public, fostering community involvement and enhancing the visibility of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's work in these regions.

Under the strategic priority on migration and displacement, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan with funding and technical support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), implemented several initiatives aimed at restoring family links (RFL). The RFL programme is crucial for individuals separated from their families due to migration, displacement, or other emergencies. In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's efforts in this area included assisting numerous cases where individuals were able to reconnect with their families. The National Society provided both technical support and direct aid to those in need.

In response to the Kyrgyz-Tajik conflict that erupted in September 2022, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan played a vital role in supporting the affected population from the conflict's onset until the end of winter in 2023. The National Society implemented a comprehensive cash and voucher assistance (CVA) programme to provide immediate relief to those impacted by the conflict. This initiative was funded through a combination of sources, including the DREF, contributions from the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's fundraising campaign, the IFRC-DG ECHO PPP and USAID.

As a result of these efforts, 2,788 families affected by the conflict received CHF 200 each in cash assistance. This financial support was critical in helping these families meet their basic needs during a challenging period, highlighting the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's commitment to providing timely and effective assistance to those in need.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supports the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and DG ECHO, with facilitating anticipatory actions as part of scenario planning for the high likelihood of population movement to recur following border conflict. Actions include the establishment of humanitarian service points (HSPs). The IFRC is also supporting the establishment of a regional migration working group to enable due coordination and cooperation among the National Societies in Central Asia. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan is part of this working group along with other six host and participating National Societies.

The **Italian Red Cross** has been supporting the National Society in increasing its capacity to address challenges related to migration, including through the development of a migration strategy.



## Values, power and inclusion

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan provided home-based care to 1,500 elderly individuals, ensuring their health and well-being. Additionally, food distribution efforts reached over 5,000 impoverished families, and during Ramadan, the National Society distributed meat to more than 2,000 households across the country. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also focused on dignified ageing, supporting over 800 older people through various care and social support services. To empower single mothers, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan offered free sewing courses, benefiting 120 women and extended cash assistance to 3,000 vulnerable families. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also collaborated on women empowerment projects, directly supporting 200 women and focused on the welfare of orphans, with 726 children receiving financial and medical assistance.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also advanced in community engagement and accountability (CEA) mechanisms by designing and piloting a centralized feedback system across all seven branches. In 2023, the National Society conducted multiple capacity-building activities, including a series of training for staff and volunteers on CEA and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI). A total of 40 participants, including 20 focal points from all seven oblasts, attended a CEA and PGI training held in Issyk-Kul oblast, Bishkek. Additionally, a PGI in Emergencies training involved 20 participants. A CEA self-assessment and institutionalization workshop held in Bishkek in October 2023, bringing together key focal points and representatives from various departments, identifying strengths and areas for improvement.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also made improvements in data management by developing a database for the secure storage of beneficiary data. This included procuring necessary hardware and software and acquiring a license for secure database storage on the Bitrix server. Training was conducted for the headquarters and branch staff on CEA, PGI, data collection and data management. Additionally, an assessment was conducted across all seven branches to ensure the physical accessibility of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan buildings, resulting in the installation of ramps, handrails, covered seating areas and clear directional signage.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan through establishing sub-regional coordination with PGI focal points of Central Asian National Societies to discuss and share best practices and lessons learnt on related topics. Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and DG ECHO, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan will set up a feedback mechanism, including a hotline for specific vulnerable groups and will use the feedback data to regularly re-design and adjust its programme activities at the community level, and to develop and update its key information and communication materials for targeted communities. Staff and volunteers will be trained on 'data in action' and data collection, as well as on CEA and PGI. Training will include a component on feedback, using the IFRC Feedback Toolkit. The IFRC and the Netherlands Red Cross also supported the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan to launch the [ask.redcrescent.kg](http://ask.redcrescent.kg) website to map available services.

The **Qatar Red Crescent** supported the National Society for cash and vouchers assistance to vulnerable families.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supported the National Society in improving access to and quality of eye care services for disadvantaged communities of southern provinces, active and dignified ageing in Kyrgyzstan and empowerment for resilience.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** provided support to the National Society on improving the quality of social life through active community involvement.

The **Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates** supported the National Society to assist orphans in female single-headed families.

## **ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS**



### **Strategic and operational coordination**

#### **IFRC membership coordination**

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 New Way of Working (NWoW) programme has been introduced across 14 different nations including the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan. These innovative approaches encompass collaborative analyses of situations and requirements, the development of shared support plans at the country level, the establishment of a unified framework for accountability, the creation of a coordinated strategy for mobilizing resources, the adoption of a consistent implementation model, the integration of planning with the strategic priorities of the National Society, as well as the consolidation and alignment of resources and structures at the country level.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan is involved in the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between the IFRC and the DG ECHO, with implementation support from the **German Red Cross** as lead EU National Society, and from the **Italian 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](#) (CVA), risk communication and community engagement and accountability.

In addition to peer-to-peer collaboration between the Central Asian National Societies, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan partners with several National Societies remotely, including the **Red Cross Society of China**, the **Qatar Red Crescent**, the **Saudi Arabian Red Crescent** and the **United Arab Emirates Red Crescent**, and National Societies with presence in the region. The long-term support from sister National Societies includes:

The **German Red Cross** has a regional office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and a history of long-term cooperation with all five National Societies in Central Asia. The German Red Cross has supported multiple regional and cross-border community-based disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development projects, such as social structures development with the three bordering countries of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The **Italian Red Cross** has been engaging with National Societies in the region through projects and activities for more than ten years and has had its own permanent office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan since 2018. In Kyrgyzstan, it has supported the National Society in the development of its legal framework, in promoting women empowerment in the country through economic and social inclusion and in enhancing its disaster preparedness and response capacities.

The **Kuwait Red Crescent** has been supporting the National Society since 2020 with improving water supply and sanitation. The project was implemented in the Batken region of the Kadamzhai district inhabited by the “Sovetskoe” community. With a funding of USD 60,000, the implementation helped 700 households having improved access to potable water via rehabilitation of community water supply system. In 2023, the Kuwait Red Crescent also collaborated with the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan on implementation of a project to support the vulnerable communities in Batken province affected by border conflicts to fasten their recovery and return to ordinary life. With funding amount of USD 50000, 280 families received support in the form of essential household items.

The **Qatar Red Crescent** supports the National Society with food vouchers for low-income families during Ramadan month. In 2023, 623 families received vouchers for food items, excluding tobacco, alcohol beverages and chemical products.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has been supporting the volunteering model of National Societies in Central Asia. It is also supporting the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan with community-based disaster risk management in Bishkek, Talas, and Osh provinces.

The **Swiss Red Cross** has been collaborating with the Kyrgyzstan National Society since 2014, driven by a common goal around the sustainable implementation of programmes in support of the most vulnerable people in Kyrgyzstan. Current partnership projects are aligned with the National Society's strategic priorities in social care, public health, disaster risk reduction and organizational development. The multi-year partnership framework agreement covers the areas of fundraising, volunteer management and institutional preparedness for effective emergency response.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** established its delegation for Central Asia in 2019. Based in Bishkek, its aim is to extend its level of partnership with National Societies in the region. It cooperates with the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan to improve its preparedness in the fields of disaster management and social development, in line with the National Society strategic plan.

The **Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates** supports the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in providing financial assistance to orphans, children from low-income families and multi-child female headed households. Funds are mobilized through charity campaigns. In 2023, 726 orphan children benefitted from the financial assistance, and received medical assistance. Preliminary assessment revealed the need in dental care.

## Movement coordination

The Red Crescent society of Kyrgyzstan 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 accordance with the NWoW principles, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan has been regularly organizing quarterly coordination meetings with its partners within the Movement. During these meetings, each department provides the most recent updates, while Movement partners share updates on their respective activities. This proactive approach facilitates ongoing coordination among the Movement partners, fosters collaborative efforts in shared domains, prevents duplication of activities, and distributes responsibilities among the partners. In critical situations, such as the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border conflict, the frequency of these coordination meetings was adjusted as needed. For instance, during the initial two weeks of the conflict, daily meetings were held to address the urgency of the situation. Subsequently, the frequency gradually reduced until it reverted to its standard periodicity.

In Kyrgyzstan, **the ICRC** helps victims of violence, visits detainees, promotes international humanitarian law, renovates, and supplies health facilities, works with the authorities on the issue of missing persons and helps train the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan. The ICRC's support for Kyrgyzstan is covered by its regional delegation in Uzbekistan.

## External coordination

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan engaged in extensive coordination with various international and regional actors to enhance its humanitarian efforts. The year marked the 30th anniversary of Kyrgyzstan's UN membership, and the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan worked closely with UN agencies including UNDRR and UNICEF and maintained connections with the WHO country office. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan actively participated in joint policy advocacy coordinated by the IFRC, contributing to key initiatives such as the UN High-level Meeting on Tuberculosis, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the UNFCCC COP 28 on climate change. These policy efforts were shared with global partners, including WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO and others.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also played a vital role in regional and international forums, such as the Second Meeting of States Parties (MSP) of the Treaty on the [prohibition of nuclear weapons](#) (TPNW) and the Third International Humanitarian Forum on "Climate Change and Humanitarian Action" in China. The organization contributed to a regional workshop in Almaty focused on [disaster preparedness and community engagement](#) and participated in the Second High-level Dialogue on [Climate Change and Resilience in Central Asia](#).



## National Society development

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In March 2023, 17 key members of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's senior management including department heads and branch directors underwent an [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification](#) (OCAC) exercise. This assessment revealed that the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan had achieved a 73 per cent development level but identified several areas requiring improvement, including human resource development, internal and external communication, branch capacity, logistics, IT, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) and financial sustainability.

To address these areas, 12 facilitators from the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's headquarters and branches were trained in February 2023 to carry out self-assessments through the [Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment](#) (BOCA) tool. During the reporting period, five branches completed BOCA assessments, with plans to complete the remaining two by year's end and integrate these into the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's comprehensive planning. Under the IFRC-DG ECHO PPP, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also conducted BOCA training in Bishkek and assessments in five branches across the country, including Talas, Issyk-Kul, Batken, Osh and Djalal-Abad.

Additionally, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan collaborated with UNICEF and the IFRC on efforts to improve income-generating activities such as [first aid](#) training and mobile ambulance services.

## IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided continuous support to the National Society in implementing action plans deriving from the OCAC and BOCA assessment tools. The IFRC provided technical support to ensure the development and implementation of the mentioned inclusive multi-year long National Society development plan which addresses specific areas including financial sustainability, management and leadership development, HQ systems and structures, branch and volunteer management, as well as to ensure that the National Society itself and its branches are in a constant growth of their organizational capacity to provide better and regular services for communities. The longer-term support from IFRC network includes both technical support and funding, with more emphasis on findings from the assessment that the National Society conducted in the first half of 2023.

In support of these, the IFRC leverages existing funds from the global IFRC-DG ECHO [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) and the [IFRC Capacity Building Fund](#) to cover the development gaps.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports in financial sustainability and branch development.

An expert from the **Netherlands Red Cross** supported the National Society to provide assessments and recommendations in the improvement of the commercial first aid training and ambulance mobile team.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supports the National Society through its project on volunteering model in Central Asia, 2020-2024.

The **Swiss Red Cross** also supports the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in strengthening of the volunteer management system.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan played a crucial role in facilitating high-level engagements and policy discussions. In May 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan organized and coordinated meetings between IFRC Secretary General, Mr. Jagan Chapagain and key government officials during his visit to Central Asia, which included Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. A highlight of this diplomatic effort was the [meeting with the President of the Kyrgyz Republic](#). The discussions during these meetings covered a wide range of pressing issues including humanitarian challenges, climate change action plans and strategies to address border conflicts. Meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Emergency Situations further underscored the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's commitment to addressing critical policy considerations and fostering collaboration with government bodies.

The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also engaged in activities aimed at developing and institutionalizing its [humanitarian diplomacy policy](#). These efforts included a visit from the Central Asia regional delegate on humanitarian diplomacy, multiple online discussions organized by the IFRC, and the presentation of a model humanitarian diplomacy policy. The policy is expected to be finalized and adopted by the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan in the first half of 2024. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also utilized television programmes to effectively communicate its mission, role and values to the public, thereby raising awareness of its initiatives, particularly those related to disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also promoted vaccination campaigns in the reporting period, particularly targeting remote areas.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC, located in the same building as the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan headquarters in Bishkek, provided essential assistance in promoting sustainable development and enhancing the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan's capacity in humanitarian diplomacy, advocacy and capacity building.

In collaboration with the IFRC, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan engaged in joint advocacy with various Kyrgyz ministries and agencies throughout 2023, particularly in areas related to the implementation of the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL). This partnership also extended to organizing significant national events, such as the International Day of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The IFRC Secretary General's visit, facilitated by the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, further emphasized the importance of high-level diplomatic engagements and developing a comprehensive humanitarian diplomacy policy.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan focused on enhancing community engagement and accountability (CEA). These efforts included integrating CEA measures into operations, solidifying CEA practices within the institutional framework, drafting a CEA policy and preparing to pilot a three-channel feedback mechanism supported by the IFRC-DG ECHO PPP. Additionally, a call centre was established to facilitate an efficient feedback mechanism, thereby strengthening its accountability to the communities it serves.

In the area of human resources, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan has prioritized safeguarding, staff safety, security and development. A major achievement in 2023 was the development and approval of regulatory documents on the Prevention against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). The National Society also aims to enhance its financial analytical skills and allocate resources effectively to continue improving its overall performance.

During the reporting period, the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan focused on several key activities to enhance its operational efficiency and responsiveness. Continuous upgrades to the 1C accounting system significantly improved financial management and transparency. The implementation of a customer relationship management (CRM) system, particularly in digitizing warehouse management, streamlined inventory processes and ensured better resource allocation. The National Society also modernized its website to improve communication and engagement with stakeholders. New systems for salary and personnel management were introduced, enabling more efficient payroll processing and human resource management. Both headquarters and branches were equipped with necessary technical tools to support daily operations. The Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan also collaborated with UNICEF and the IFRC on a project that included PMER training and the introduction of an electronic HR management system.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** and the **Swiss Red Cross** have been key partners of the National Society in providing both financial and technical assistance to ensure the successful implementation of various initiatives under digital transformation. The IFRC supported the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan to implement new systems for accounting, CRM and personnel management, as well as to modernize its digital presence and establish a robust feedback mechanism.



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

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Kyrgyzstan 2023 Financial Report](#)

**Note:** For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRKG016](#), [MDRKG017](#), [MDRKG018](#)

- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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