



CROATIA

2024-2026 IFRC network country plan

30 September 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 5.32M**

In support of the Croatian Red Cross



132

National Society branches



1,739

National Society staff



8,944

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



22,000

Ongoing emergency operations



2,000

Climate and environment



10,000

Disasters and crises



2,000

Health and wellbeing



5,000

Migration & Displacement



10,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer-term needs

- Protection, gender and inclusion
 - Disaster preparedness
 - Risk reduction
 - Climate resilience

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
 - Digital transformation
- Disaster management capabilities
 - National Society development

Key country data

Population **3.9M**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **40**

Population below poverty level **18%**

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

2026**

Total 1.54M CHF

Total 1.88M CHF

Total 1.9M CHF

Through IFRC



→ **316,000** CHF

Through Participating National Societies



→ **60,000** CHF

Through Host National Society



1.2M CHF

Through IFRC



→ **250,000** CHF

Through Participating National Societies



→ **60,000** CHF

Through Host National Society



1.6M CHF

Through Host National Society

1.9M CHF

**Projected funding requirements

IFRC Breakdown

Ongoing emergency operations

66,000 CHF

Longer-term needs

250,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

French Red Cross

Italian Red Cross*

Japanese Red Cross Society*

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

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing Emergency Appeals:

MGR65002

Longer-term needs:

MAAHR002

Hazards



Earthquakes



Fires



Floods



Water Scarcity



Extreme Heat

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Croatian Red Cross** is one of the oldest humanitarian organizations in Croatia, with a rich history dating back to its establishment in 1878. The Croatian Red Cross was founded with the aim of providing humanitarian assistance and support to those in need, particularly during times of conflict and disaster. It was admitted as an independent and separate National Society to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1993.

Throughout its history, the Croatian Red Cross has played a vital role in responding to various humanitarian crises and emergencies. During the Croatian War of Independence, the Croatian Red Cross played a crucial role in assisting refugees, displaced persons, and those affected by the conflict.

The National Society operates as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field throughout Croatia, working closely with government agencies and other stakeholders.



By 2022, the Croatian Red Cross reached 5,35,000 people by long term services and development programmes, and 26,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Croatia, situated in Southeast Europe, spans a land area of approximately 56,594 square kilometers. The country is located along the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea, sharing borders with Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro. Its diverse topography encompasses coastal plains, river valleys, hills, and mountains, with the notable presence of the Dinaric Alps running through the western and central regions. Its coastline stretches over 1,700 kilometers along the Adriatic Sea.

Compared to the previous census conducted 10 years ago, Croatia has 9.25% less inhabitants. Croatia is facing challenges related to an aging population, declining birth rates, and emigration of the younger generation. Efforts are being made to promote sustainable population growth, enhance healthcare and social support systems, and create opportunities to retain and empower the country's youth.

Poverty remains a significant issue in Croatia, with a considerable portion of the population experiencing economic hardship. According to the latest data, the poverty rate in Croatia stands

at around 30%, highlighting the need for targeted measures and social support to address this ongoing challenge.

With 55.6 out of 100 points, Croatia ranked 22nd in the EU on the Gender Equality Index in 2019. Its score is 11.8 points lower than the average EU score. Between 2005 and 2017, Croatia's score increased by 5.3 points (+2.5 points since 2015). Croatia is progressing towards gender equality at a slower pace. Its ranking has remained the same since 2005.

The country faces various natural hazards such as floods, droughts, forest fires, and earthquakes. Climate change and extreme weather events pose significant risks to key sectors, infrastructure, and the population. There is a need for strengthening resilience, improving disaster preparedness, and implementing measures to mitigate the effects of climate change and protect the environment.

Croatia is dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights, as evidenced by its participation in international agreements. Croatia is located on the migration route known as the Balkan Route, which stretches from Greece towards Western Europe. As part of this route, Croatia has experienced an influx of migrants and refugees seeking to reach other European Union countries.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Name	Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis
IFRC Appeal number	MGR65002
Duration	April 2022- December 2025
Target areas	22.7 M (total); 15,240 (in Croatia)
Funding requirements	Total: CHF 800 M (IFRC); CHF 2.7 billion (Federation-wide) Croatia: CHF 9.27 M (IFRC); CHF 9.46 M (Federation-wide)
Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy Croatia Response Plan
Last operation update	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 Croatian Red Cross 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

Through this revised emergency appeal, the Croatian Red Cross is providing targeted assistance to about 15,000 people. Interventions consist of:

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

Community-based health and first aid ([CBHFA](#)) services are provided to displaced people from Ukraine. Information is

disseminated through local Red Cross branches to those displaced to access the public health system in Croatia, with particular attention on people with disabilities. Adequate mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) are offered to people affected by the crisis in Ukraine with focus on the most marginalized people, women, children, and older people.

Shelter, housing, and settlements, multi-purpose cash

Seasonal assistance is provided for clothing and footwear, through cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)), twice a year during summer and winter. Post distribution monitoring is also carried out. Assistance will meet the basic needs to the most marginalized local population through CVA, including food assistance for the people affected.

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

New child friendly spaces to support children, in line with Movement standards, will be established. Messages on preventing and responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), trafficking in persons, legal status, and related information, especially for marginalized groups such as persons with special needs, will be developed. The assessing, monitoring, and analyzing of PGI issues and trends, including through analysis of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data will be carried out.

Bilateral support is being extended to the Croatian Red Cross in its response to the Ukraine crisis by the following participating National Societies:

The **Swiss Red Cross** is supporting the Croatian Red Cross with financial contribution to implement [MHPSS](#) and [PGI](#) interventions targeting displaced people from Ukraine.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Croatia has an extensive coastline along the Adriatic Sea, where rising sea levels, driven by warming temperatures, are anticipated to bring significant changes. Coastal regions, including numerous inhabited islands, may experience notable impacts from these developments. During summer, the heightened risk of extreme weather events, such as wildfires and thunderstorms, exacerbated by meteorological shifts, could lead to crop damage, food insecurity, and other hazards like flooding, flash floods, and landslides.

Croatia faces a range of meteorological and natural hazards, impacting sectors like agriculture, water, and energy. Seasonal flooding, decreased precipitation, and periods of drought pose significant risks, with observed increases in temperatures and a trend towards more extreme weather events, notably droughts and heatwaves. Additionally, Croatia is vulnerable to earthquakes, forest fires, flooding, water scarcity, and extreme heat, with mountainous regions prone to flash floods. Further changes in temperature and precipitation patterns may exacerbate these risks, potentially leading to heightened heatwaves and overall warmer temperatures throughout the year. Such events can have substantial socio-economic

and environmental consequences, particularly affecting agriculture, water resources, and broader population health. Vulnerable groups, including those with limited economic means and the elderly, are particularly susceptible to the impacts of these natural hazards and the evolving effects of climate change.

The government of Croatia aims to cut its CO2 emissions by 45% by 2030 and to abandon coal by 2033. The transition to a low-carbon economy will require major investments in new energy infrastructure and increased renewable energy resources. To achieve its goal, the government has set up a 2030 National Energy and Climate Plan. The national strategy aims at a 36.4% share for renewable energy by 2030 and significant investment across the energy sector, including hydropower, wind farms, solar photovoltaic plants, and hydrogen energy. There are other environmental laws and plans in place such as Cleaner and More Energy Efficient Zagreb, Environmental Protection Act, The Nature Protection Strategy and Action Plan of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2017-2025, and Waste Management Plan of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2023-2028.



*The Croatian Red Cross teams delivered essential supplies and implemented preventive measures during heavy floods in May 2023.
(Photo: Croatian Red Cross)*

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Croatian Red Cross signed the [Climate and Environment Charter](#) for Humanitarian Organizations in October 2021 and aims to implement the goals by adopting documents and practices that will contribute to the mitigation and prevention.

The goals to handle the climate and environmental crises include prevention and adaptation activities of the Croatian Red Cross. These measures aim to:

- Educate population to raise awareness and to teach what measures should be taken in everyday life to reduce our personal carbon footprint and contribute to preservation of nature
- Empower most vulnerable groups for responding to both predictable as well as unpredictable events
- Enhance people's capacity to anticipate, respond to, and quickly recover from crisis
- Help people in need and those who are affected by emergencies to stay physically healthy and develop resilience to psychosocial challenges
- Reduce environmental footprint in all its programmes and invest in searching for and conclude new formal and informal partnerships with relevant stakeholders at national and local levels

Planned activities in 2024

- Develop new and strengthen existing volunteering programmes aimed at [nature-saving actions and ecological activities](#)
- Design promotional campaigns and concrete local volunteer [ecological actions](#) through youth clubs
- Educate and train future members of intervention teams, volunteers and staff as well as students, teachers, and

wider public on disaster preparedness and climate changes

- Train water rescue teams involved in emergency operations to support people affected by floods when they deliver food, water, medicines, and carry out evacuation
- Organize ecological workshops for children including collection of waste from the seabed and creative workshops under the "Red Cross in the Blue Frame" project
- Organize the collection of waste from the seabed in Croatian National Parks (Brijuni, Kornati and Mljet) and Parks of Nature (Telascica, Lastovo and Elafite Islands) under the project "Dive for clean Adriatic Sea" in cooperation with diving clubs

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC through its Country Cluster Delegation in Sarajevo and Regional Office in Budapest, will provide strategic support, technical expertise, and support in resource mobilization and supports capacity building for climate resilience and preparedness. The Croatian Red Cross, as part of the IFRC, will collaborate with its Federation partners that support its climate and environment priorities. Participating National Societies provide targeted funding in selected fields, technical expertise and recommendations for decision making. The Croatian Red Cross also has access to [IFRC Reference Centers](#) as well as IFRC Hubs and Labs for innovation, experimentation, learning, knowledge sharing and networking opportunities.

The Croatian Red Cross will continue to work and cooperate with the Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean by testing and promotion of carbon footprint calculator developed by the **Spanish Red Cross**.



Disasters and crises

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

The [INFORM country risk profile](#) shows that while Croatia ranks 132 on country risk ranking with comparatively high risk of floods and earthquakes, the most common disasters and crises in Croatia including climatic hazards such as rising temperatures and droughts.

The assessment of a devastating 6.4 magnitude Petrinja earthquake suggests it caused €11 billion in damages and losses. Average damages from earthquakes and flooding are

estimated at US\$147 million per year, while a catastrophic event, such as a 1-in-100-year earthquake, can cause over US\$2 billion in damages. The impact of the 5.5 magnitude [Zagreb earthquake](#) in 2020 was significantly higher than typical large-scale earthquakes, as it struck Zagreb's historic centre, resulting in substantial damage.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Croatian Red Cross is one of the stakeholders within the civil protection and is usually in charge of coordinating

humanitarian sector organizations and their response and humanitarian relief.

- In crises response, continue to provide humanitarian relief items (food and non-food), MHPSS services, RFL services, and referral to other services and institutions including medical, social, and educational.
- Help with organizing temporary and more permanent accommodation in case of displacement of people from their homes
- Strengthen crisis response teams with high level of disaster preparedness, responding adequately to crisis situations.

Planned activities in 2024

- Improve the system of youth field units and prepare young people to act as volunteers in crisis situations as support for its teams of first responders
- Organize a youth camp for participants to share experiences and get educated together in the field of emergency preparedness, climate change, and international humanitarian law
- Purchase tools and equipment for the National Intervention Team and plan a national exercise for the National Intervention Team
- Educate and train future members of intervention teams about volunteer management cycle to organize effective volunteering during crisis response
- Organize training for the heads of crisis headquarters at the county level (20 people each in 4 regional centers)

following the adoption of the new act on the Civil Protection System and operational plans

- Coordinate and conduct 6 introductory training for 100 members of the intervention teams at the county level in cooperation with working groups and trained lecturers

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Croatian Red Cross in disaster response and recovery operations. This support includes mobilizing resources, providing humanitarian aid, and assisting in the coordinating relief efforts. Additionally, the IFRC will help the Croatian Red Cross build local capacities by training volunteers and promoting community-based initiatives to enhance resilience and preparedness for future disasters.

The long-term support from the IFRC extends beyond immediate response activities. It focuses on strengthening local institutions, promoting risk reduction measures, and advocating for policies that prioritize disaster preparedness and mitigation. This approach contributes to sustainable development and empowers communities to better cope with future disasters and crises.

The IFRC's support also extends to addressing the underlying causes of crises, including conflict, poverty, and inequality. It works in collaboration with other humanitarian and development partners to advocate for peace, social justice, and equitable access to resources. By promoting comprehensive and holistic approaches to disaster management, the IFRC plays a vital role in reducing vulnerabilities, saving lives, and improving the well-being of communities affected by disasters and crises.



Health and wellbeing

Data from the Croatian Central Bureau of Statistics reveals that the demographic statistics underscore challenges in Croatia, with more deaths than births recorded in recent years, affecting the country's population growth. In 2021, Croatia had 36,508 births compared to 62,712 deaths, resulting in 26,204 more deaths than births. The average life expectancy at birth in Croatia in 2021 was 76.8 years for both sexes, with women having a higher life expectancy of 79.9 years compared to 73.7 years for men.

Leading causes of mortality, notably circulatory diseases, and neoplasms, emphasize the importance of effective public health measures. In 2021, circulatory diseases claimed 23,184 lives, with a mortality rate of 597.7 per 100,000 population, while neoplasms were responsible for 13,571 deaths, with a mortality rate of 349.9 per 100,000 population. Deaths

caused by COVID-19 numbered 8,557, with a mortality rate of 220.6 per 100,000 population.

The success of the Croatian Mass Immunization Programme is evident in disease suppression, with most vaccine-preventable diseases showing satisfactory conditions. For instance, diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, rubella, mumps, and polio have been effectively controlled, with minimal to zero reported cases in recent years.

Water supply and quality monitoring are critical for public health, with about 92.7% of the population connected to public water supply systems. The government's monitoring initiatives aim to ensure compliance with safety standards, with public water supply systems accounting for about 92.7% of the national supply of drinking water.

Blood donation initiatives further contribute to healthcare resilience, with a total of 192,125 doses of blood collected throughout Croatia in 2022, including 151,865 doses collected by the branches of the Croatian Red Cross.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Croatian Red Cross will:

- Continue with prevention activities particularly aimed at the most vulnerable including the older and socially marginalized persons to achieve enhanced public well-being and healthcare outcomes
- Ensure the provision of essential services, promotion of health awareness, and advocacy for equitable access to medical resources
- Educate people of all age groups with a special focus on educating the older population on self-help techniques
- Focus on recruiting the youth and female voluntary blood donors to continue securing blood supply in Croatia together with the transfusion service

Planned activities in 2024

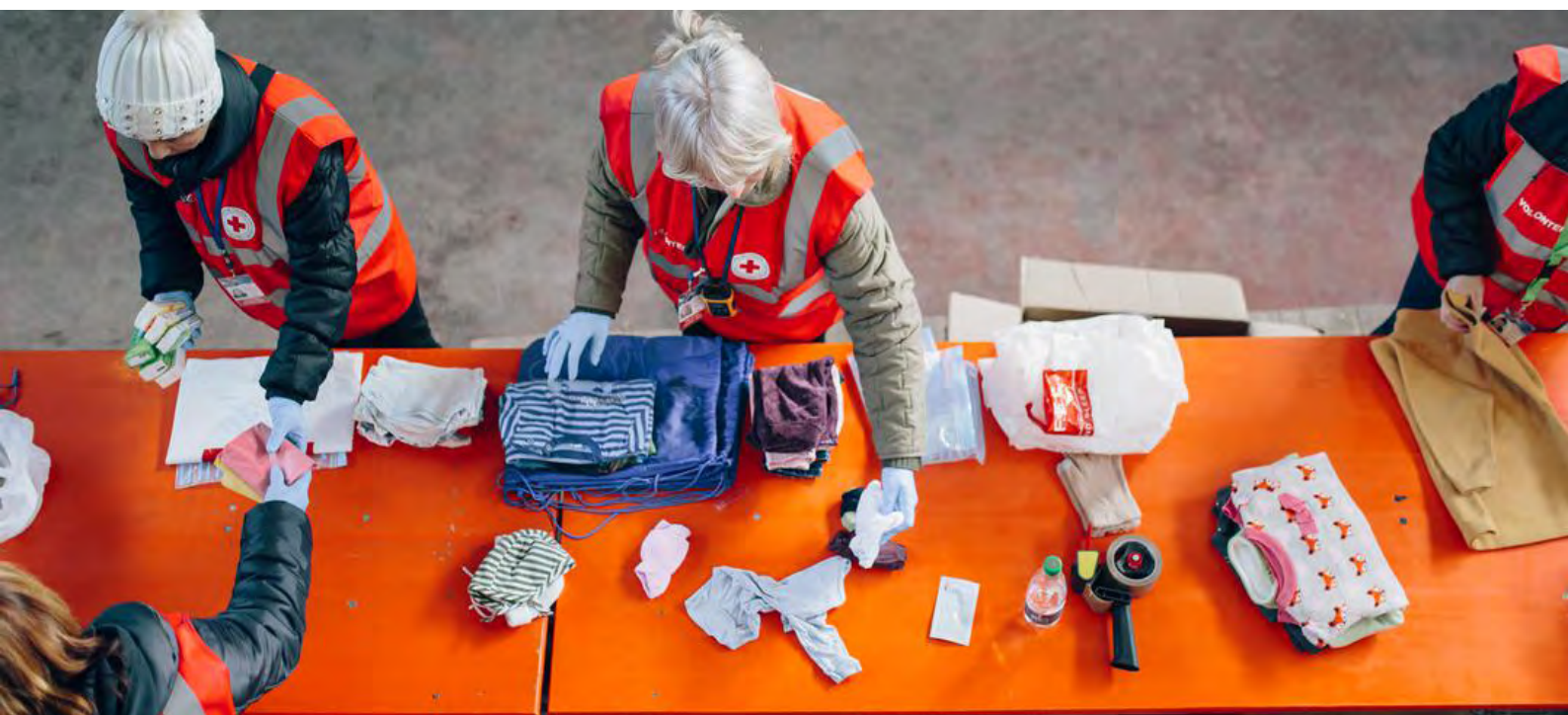
- Continue providing psychological first aid and integrate MHPSS into other programmes including migration, volunteerism, water lifesaving service, and tracing service
- Raise awareness on the importance of mental health by observing relevant days such as World Mental Health Day
- Continue engagement in “Climate Change and Health” project implemented in 2022 by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia for protection from heat and cold

- Continue consultations as part of compiling the handbook “Help and Care at Home” for homecare providers taking care of infirm elderly beneficiaries
- Implement programmes for the elderly encouraging them to preserve their functionality and independence
- Promote blood donation through media campaigns, public events, and camps to increase the number of young voluntary blood donors, especially women
- Continuously implement harm reduction activities and drug abuse reduction programmes financed by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia since 1998

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the Croatian Red Cross with community health programmes, promoting health education and enhancing access to healthcare services, particularly in underserved areas. This includes training volunteers and supporting outreach initiatives to address specific health needs.

Furthermore, the IFRC will support the Croatian Red Cross in strengthening health emergency preparedness and response. This involves enhancing the capacity of local health teams, promoting early warning systems for disease outbreaks, and coordinating with relevant authorities to ensure an effective health response during crises. The IFRC will also work on promoting disease prevention and control, focusing on vaccinations, hygiene practices, and disease surveillance.



Croatian Red Cross volunteers sort donated clothes which are then given to refugees in Slavonski Brod transit camp. (Photo: Croatian Red Cross)



Migration and displacement

Croatia predominantly serves as a transit country for migrants arriving from neighbouring Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Ministry of Interior's border police has implemented changes in practice, resulting in a rising number of migrants confined within Croatian territory enroute to western European countries. These migrants are issued "Order to Leave" permits, providing a 7-day window to legalize their stay and organize their onward journey. The Border Police Directorate has revised its entry protocols, resulting in a reduction or complete cessation of pushbacks. However, this has led to an increase in the number of migrants detained in detention centres due to irregular entry or stay, as well as infractions committed within reception centres for asylum seekers.

Most migrants aim to bypass Croatia for asylum and solicit this permit themselves, hoping to cross borders. Stringent border controls along the Slovenia-Croatia border have resulted in few successfully crossing, often leaving them in Croatia without rights and homeless. All three detention centres in Croatia have operated at near-full capacity throughout 2022, prompting plans to expand the detention centre in Ježevo.

While the exact count of migrants is uncertain, local Red Cross branches report a daily increase in numbers, especially near border regions like Istria County, Rijeka City, and Zagreb City. This situation has created a void in responsible organizations to aid migrants, potentially leading to a humanitarian crisis if it persists. Detainees are staying longer, some up to six months, facing limitations on freedom, scant interaction with the outside world, and mental health struggles exacerbated by histories of torture, language barriers, and a lack of stress-reducing activities.

Croatia also faces high emigration. Factors such as the decline in living standards, high unemployment rates, lack of permanent jobs, and general dissatisfaction pushed 40,424 people to move out of Croatia in 2021 alone. The top destination countries were Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Austria, and Kosovo. The most significant number of people who migrated abroad were aged between 20 and 39 years old.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Croatian Red Cross 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 National Society aims to respond effectively to a diverse range of evolving crises through its aim to:

- Provide humanitarian assistance and services, including MHPSS and RFL services in government run reception and detention centres to all categories of migrants in Croatia
- Provide shelter and psychosocial support to migrants identified as victims of human trafficking and enable them to access legal, medical, education, labour, and social services

Planned activities in 2024

- Continue providing humanitarian assistance, psychosocial support, restoring family links and protection to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in Croatia
- Raise awareness in local community and enable contact to support integration process
- Organize workshops and conduct social activities to prevent human trafficking and protect the most vulnerable groups
- Continue supporting access of services for people under international protection, including medical assistance, education and skills training for employment and livelihood opportunities
- Provides direct assistance to migrants identified as victims of human trafficking
- Advocate for protection and well-being of migrants and refugees

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will work closely with the Croatian Red Cross to enhance its capacity in responding to the needs of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The support includes technical expertise, resource mobilization, and capacity building in the area. This enables the Croatian Red Cross to provide vital services such as emergency relief, access to healthcare, psychosocial support, and assistance in the process of integration and social inclusion.

Through its network, the IFRC will foster coordination among various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners, to ensure a comprehensive and collaborative response to migration and displacement issues in Croatia. The long-term support aims to

strengthen the resilience of affected communities and facilitate their successful integration into the host society.

The Croatian Red Cross with the support of **ICRC of Swiss Red Cross** will continue its support to people in detention centres through humanitarian assistance, services, and workshops, including individual and group psychosocial support. It will

organize annual workshops for strengthening capacities of immigration detention MoI staff. The workshops will include exchanging experience, yearly overview of the situation in all 3 detention centres (Ježev, Trilj and Tovarnik), activities conducted by the National Society, and police treatment of migrants among other things.



Values, power and inclusion

In Croatia, 91.7 per cent of legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality under the SDG indicator, with a focus on violence against women, are in place. However, as of December 2020, only 47.5 per cent of indicators needed to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective were available. Critical challenges for gender equality remain in the labour market, women's roles in politics and business, care-work distribution, the situation of Roma girls and women, and multiple discrimination of women with disabilities.

Croatia is considered a tier 2 country as a destination, source, and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically conditions of forced prostitution and forced labour. Despite a decrease of children at-risk-of-poverty from 21.4 per cent in 2017 to 16.8 in 2020 (higher for boys), the persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate for children increased to 12.9 per cent in 2020 and remains a source of concern.

In Croatia, a mismatch between secondary school programmes and the labour market needs is believed to negatively influence the high youth unemployment (NEET rate for 15-24 year olds in 2019 was 11.4 per cent for males and 12.1 per cent for females). Distance learning revealed underlying inequities, primarily concerning the digital gap, domestic violence, and the necessity of free school meals for poor children. The need for mental health and psychosocial support for teachers and students is recorded to have increased.

Croatia has the lowest rate of early school leaving in the EU (3.0 per cent in 2019, compared with the EU average of 10.2 per cent). The quality and relevance of education and training, however, is a challenge (European Commission, 2019). Participation in vocational education and training (VET) at upper secondary level is among the highest in the EU, while the share of learners in three-year VET programmes and in apprenticeships has decreased significantly due to demographic changes. The employment rate of recent VET graduates increased sharply from 45.7 per cent in 2015 to 73.9 per cent in 2019.

In Croatia, several key governmental policies, action plans, commitments, and coordination mechanisms are aimed at enhancing access to quality education, ensuring youth participation, preventing violence and discrimination, promoting gender equality, and fostering community

engagement. Notable strategies include the National Strategy for Education, Science, and Technology, which outlines the country's approach to education and lifelong learning. Additionally, the National Youth Strategy focuses on youth empowerment, participation, and well-being.

To address protection issues, the National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence is a significant commitment. This strategy aims to tackle gender-based violence and provide comprehensive support for survivors. Inclusion efforts are guided by the National Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality, aiming to eliminate gender-based discrimination and promote equal opportunities for all. Croatia also implements the National Programme for Roma, focusing on the social inclusion and empowerment of marginalized communities.

The local democracy and decentralization strategy aims at enhancing citizen participation in decision-making processes. Additionally, the Law on Associations facilitates civil society involvement and accountability mechanisms. These policies and commitments collectively contribute to a more inclusive, gender-sensitive, and protective environment in Croatia.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Croatian Red Cross aims to create an inclusive society that respects human rights, promotes gender equality, and embraces diversity, while actively engaging in community-based initiatives to address the root causes of exclusion and promote social cohesion. The National Society will achieve this through its objectives to:

- Ensure protection, empowerment, and full inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized individuals
- Address issues of violence, discrimination, and exclusion across various dimensions such as gender, ethnicity, disability, and age
- Conduct advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity-building, and collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners

Planned activities in 2024

- Encourage inclusion and provide ongoing support to participating institutions, and improve the content, design and functionalities of the “Safer Schools and Kindergarten” online platform
- Develop education material and pedagogical tools for working with youth and volunteers on different subjects including picture books, video games, apps, puppet shows, short movies, animated movies, theatre plays, music, art and exhibitions
- Cooperate with the Teachers Training Agency within formal educational curricula so they can continue to spread the topics of Croatian Red Cross through their work
- Continue implementing the “Interdisciplinary Field School in the Croatian Red Cross Education Centre” programme to provide interactive workshops on Red Cross themes

- Spread humanitarian ideas through the “Humanity Corner” programme among preschool children to prepare them for responsible participation in the democratic development of society
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical expertise, guidance, and resources to help the Croatian Red Cross in implementing programmes and initiatives that promote inclusivity, respect for diversity, and the empowerment of vulnerable populations. This includes support in developing and implementing policies and practices that uphold human rights, gender equality, and social inclusion.

It will also facilitate knowledge exchange and learning platforms, enabling the Croatian Red Cross to benefit from best practices and experiences from other National Societies. This will strengthen the capacity of the Croatian Red Cross to effectively respond to the evolving needs of the most vulnerable populations and to promote a culture of inclusion and respect.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Collaborate with the IFRC and ICRC headquarters on issues related to the Movement’s global policies
- Participate in preparation and conduct forums of the National Societies of the Balkan region and take a leading role in the dialogue to establish lasting partnerships
- Increase visits to and from other National Societies and organizations for transferring good practices and knowhow at different levels, as well as to initiate joint activities and projects

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical expertise, guidance, and resources to assist the Croatian Red Cross in developing and implementing strategic plans and operational frameworks. This support includes identifying priorities, setting objectives, and designing programmes aligned with community needs. This assistance will enable the Croatian Red Cross to enhance its ability to mobilize resources, coordinate with relevant actors and effectively respond to emergencies and crises.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Launch an internship programme for volunteers to work on specific activities and projects to support the implementation of ongoing programmes as well as strengthening new programmatic endeavours
- Integrate the youth into its governing structures

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Croatian Red Cross to expand its youth and volunteer network.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Share information with government institutions, NGOs, and other partners about the components of the Movement and the auxiliary role of National Societies
- Disseminate knowledge about emblem protection, the role of the Red Cross in conflict and disaster situations, its fundamental principles, and internal regulations
- Promote the ratification, promulgation, and effective implementation of all major international humanitarian law instruments in liaison with relevant state institutions at national level
- Organize and join information campaigns to promote the identity of the Movement and promote respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) norms

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will give access to guidance, training and resources to build the capacity of Croatian Red Cross in humanitarian diplomacy, including effective communication, negotiation and coordination with relevant stakeholders. Through ongoing collaboration, Movement partners help the Croatian Red Cross to effectively represent the needs and concerns of vulnerable populations, foster partnerships with government entities and international organizations, and contribute to shaping humanitarian policies and practices at the national and international levels.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Commit to accountability towards stakeholders and become agile in meeting the needs of vulnerable populations
- Establish robust systems for financial management and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the efforts of the Croatian Red Cross to enhance transparency, integrity and responsible governance within the organization. This includes guidance, training, and resources to enhance the capacity of the Croatian Red Cross in financial management as well as planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Additionally, the IFRC will assist in building the organization's adaptive capacity, enabling it to respond effectively to evolving humanitarian challenges.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The Central and South-Eastern Europe (CSEE) regional office of the IFRC oversees operations in Croatia. The IFRC supports the Croatian Red Cross in line with the core functions of the Secretariat.

The IFRC provides various types of support to the Croatian Red Cross, including technical assistance, capacity building, and coordination of international assistance during emergencies. The IFRC also provides technical support such as guidance on

disaster risk reduction, health programming, MHPSS, volunteer management and community resilience.

The IFRC has supported the Croatian Red Cross operations through emergency appeals and the [Disaster Relief Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#), including earthquake operations and assistance to people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. The IFRC also supports the Croatian Red Cross with [capacity building funds](#) (CBF) for innovation and digitalization.

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 Croatian Red Cross receives support from the following participating National Societies:

The **French Red Cross** supports the Croatian Red Cross in health and wellbeing initiatives with its long-term programmes.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will continue its support to the National Society to reach people in detention centres through humanitarian assistance, services and workshops, including individual and group psychosocial support.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
French Red Cross	60,000						

Total Funding requirement

60,000

Movement coordination

The Croatian Red Cross 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](#).

The ICRC supports the Croatian Red Cross based on its mandate, offering technical expertise, capacity building, and advisory support. This includes assistance in disaster management, health services, civilian protection, restoring family links ([RFL](#)) and humanitarian law. The Croatian Red Cross maintains regular communication and coordination with the ICRC through the ICRC office in Belgrade.

Coordination with other actors

The Croatian Red Cross collaborates with public authorities at national and sub-national levels through coordination mechanisms led by relevant ministries and agencies. It actively participates in assessments, first response activities and registration processes during disasters, showcasing its auxiliary role. The organization also forms partnerships with ministries and departments for longer-term work, addressing issues in the areas of health, social welfare, education and civil protection.

The Croatian Red Cross has extensive experience working with migrants and is a regular member of several national coordination groups, including the 'Working Group for Integration of Foreigners in Croatian Society' led by the Governmental Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities. One of the key tasks of the working group is to support activities of the government for enhanced reception

and integration of refugees. It is a member of the Anti-trafficking National Referral Mechanism. The National Society also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Interior in 2019 to provide psychosocial support and restoration of family links services in detention centres, becoming the only organization that has access to all categories of migrants in Croatia. Additionally, the Croatian Red Cross is a member of the multi-sectoral committee for protection of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children established by the Ministry of Social Policy.

The National Society closely collaborates with national and international organizations such as UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, JRS, Médecins du Monde and the Croatian Law Centre. Additionally, it collaborates with the private sector, academic institutions and NGOs to leverage expertise and resources for resilience-building and community development.



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 Croatian Red Cross, 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.

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