BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

23 October 2024

IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

DRUŠTVO CRVENOG KRSTA/KRIŽA BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE
ДРУШТВО ЦРВЕНОГ КРСТА/КРИЖА БОСНЕ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ
RED CROSS SOCIETY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

21	144	7,638	336
National Society branches	National Society local units	National Society volunteers	National Society staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement
25	29,315	64,207	27,815

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country			
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	Funding Requirement	2.1M
		Funding	10.2M
		Expenditure	7.5M
	Longer-term	Funding Requirement	1.3M
		Funding	2M
		Expenditure	1.5M
Participating National Societies		Funding Requirement	836,000
		Funding	2.0M
		Expenditure	1.9M

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Overview	
Funding	1.8M
Expenditure	4.6M

Funding Sources	
IFRC Secretariat	968,000
Participating National Societies	836,000
HNS other funding sources	*Not reported*

Appeal number **MAABA003**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and enviroment	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	25
	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response activities	25
Disasters and crises	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	3,000
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	3,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	29,000
	People reached with shelter support	27,000
Health and wellbeing	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services	23,000
	People reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	11,000
	People reached with immunization services	64,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	40,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	46,000
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	28,000

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

National Society development	One National Society Development plan in place	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Bilateral Support							Multilateral Support
National Society	Funding Reported	Climate and enviroment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Through IFRC
Austrian Red Cross								✔
British Red Cross								✔
Danish Red Cross								✔
Italian Red Cross	2.9M			●	●			✔
Japanese Red Cross Society								✔
Swiss Red Cross	2.4M		●	●	●			
Turkish Red Crescent Society				●				

Total Funding Reported **CHF 5.3M**

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

In 2023, Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced extensive rainfall, causing widespread flooding that worsened as floodwaters spread. Households suffered significant damage to homes and essential infrastructure, while numerous crops and agricultural lands were destroyed, impacting livelihoods. Additionally, hundreds of homes faced high humidity levels, posing ongoing health risks.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, a small country with a population of 3.5 million, faces significant socio-economic challenges. Around 18.56% of its population lives in absolute poverty, with nearly 50% vulnerable to falling into poverty due to factors like lack of education, limited economic opportunities, and recovery struggles from past conflicts. The population has declined from 4.5 million in 1991 to an estimated 3.2 million in 2023, with about 600,000 people emigrating in the past 13 years. Rural poverty is notably higher, at 19%, compared to 9% in urban areas, although 60% of the population remains in rural regions due to perceived agricultural security and a healthier environment.

Environmental protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina lags behind EU standards, with only 15% of wastewater recycled and significant air pollution. The country is also vulnerable to natural disasters, with 91 municipalities at high risk of floods and landslides. Recent assessments, such as the 2014 post-flood recovery needs assessment, emphasize the importance of local disaster resilience. Meanwhile, broader social issues in the region, including an aging population, emigration of the workforce and limited healthcare access, have affected the work of National Red Cross Societies. Rising temperatures, pollution, epidemics, and heat waves also pose growing public health concerns, particularly for older populations.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina implemented anticipatory measures for extreme weather events, focusing on educating youth and promoting climate-friendly actions like tree planting and river clean-ups. In collaboration with the UNFCCC, it hosted the first Local Conference for Youth Climate Action and participated in COP28 in Dubai, contributing to global climate efforts. The National Society made significant progress through partnerships, such as the RedUction carbon footprint calculator and youth projects like the Greening the Red contest.

Disasters and crises

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina strengthened its disaster response by training volunteers in disaster management, enhancing online disaster preparedness and promoting cross-border collaboration. In response to severe natural disasters, especially in the Una-Sana Canton and Prijedor region, it provided essential water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services to affected communities. The National Society planned to scale up the X-stock platform for cross-border emergency management and engaged in the Neighbours Help First project.

Health and wellbeing

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina actively promoted health and disease prevention, organizing over 400 workshops and campaigns, primarily targeting students and migrants. The National Society trained volunteers, students, and employees in first aid, held competitions, and secured a seat on the European First Aid Education Network's Steering Committee. Additionally, the National Society supported communities along the migrant route by distributing stoves and providing cash assistance during winter through the Winter Assistance 2022-2023 project. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina also started the process of obtaining the International Certificate for First Aid Education.

Migration and displacement

During the reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a declaration defining its role in managing migration and hosted the second migration conference on World Migrant Day. In 2023, the National Society transitioned from a project-based to a programme-based approach to strengthen its role in migration and displacement. Under the Global Route Based Migration Programme, the National Society contributed to discussions on mixed migration at the 14th Mediterranean Conference. Its mobile teams provided essential humanitarian aid, including medical care, psychosocial support, mine awareness education, livelihood assistance, hot meals, hygiene kits and public health awareness to migrants and refugees.

Values, power and inclusion

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina promoted humanitarian values through youth camps and workshops on community engagement and accountability (CEA), empowering young participants to take active roles in their communities. A lessons-learned workshop for the Winter Aid project introduced staff and volunteers to CEA principles in cash and voucher assistance (CVA). Additionally, the National Society distributed voucher assistance to displaced individuals from Ukraine and provided cash aid to households along the migrant route.

Enabling local actors

In line with the IFRC Strategy 2020 and IFRC Strategy 2030, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina focused on strengthening its capacities which included enhancing human resources at its headquarters through the hiring of new staff members, as well as continuing to develop the material and technical capacities across its entire network. In 2023, the National Society reached a significant milestone with the signing of the Joint Declaration of Intent between the United Nations (UN) represented by the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the National Society.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has implemented anticipatory measures to address extreme weather events like heatwaves and cold waves. A key focus is educating young volunteers and promoting peer-to-peer sharing of climate-friendly solutions, such as tree planting and river clean-ups.

The National Society in collaboration with the UNFCCC, hosted the first Local Conference for Youth Climate Action, that focused on engaging children and youth in climate initiatives. Bosnia and Herzegovina also participated in COP28 in Dubai, contributing to global efforts to address climate change under the Paris Agreement.

The National Society has made significant progress in the field of climate change with the Centre for Cooperation in the Mediterranean, including the Reduction carbon footprint calculator and the support for youth projects within the Greening the Red contest which highlighted joint efforts towards addressing environmental concerns and engaging the youth in sustainability initiatives. The local branches of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina also organized green action events aimed at cleaning areas and planting trees across the country.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina with technical and financial support for the implementation of its activities.

Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2023, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) was approved for two separate emergencies.

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina Flood 2022

NAME OF OPERATION	Bosnia and Herzegovina Flood 2022
MDR-CODE	MDRBA014
DURATION	4 months (24 December 2022 to 30 April 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 134,251
PEOPLE TARGETED	3,000
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Operations Update

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 134,251 in December 2022 supported the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in assisting approximately 3,000 people affected by the heavy rainfall which caused rivers to overflow, leading to flooding of local infrastructure, facilities and more than 300 households at the north-west of the country. The National Society supported the targeted people over a four-month period with assistance including essential household items, health, and water, sanitation and hygiene services.

2. Bosnia and Herzegovina Flood 2023

NAME OF OPERATION	Bosnia and Herzegovina Flood 2023
MDR-CODE	MDRBA015
DURATION	4 months (29 May 2023 to 30 September 2023)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 126,505
PEOPLE TARGETED	10,000
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Operations Update

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 126,505 in May 2023 supported the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in assisting approximately 10,000 people affected by heavy rainfall induced floods. The National Society supported the targeted people over a four-month period with assistance including cash and voucher assistance, health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina trained volunteers for disaster management. The efforts included improving online disaster preparedness training and promoting cross-border collaboration and joint proposal development.

In 2023, Bosnia and Herzegovina faced severe natural disasters, particularly in the Una-Sana Canton and Prijedor region. The National Society responded by distributing WASH brochures and providing essential water, sanitation, and hygiene services, along with delivering water, disinfectants and hygiene packs to affected communities.

The National Society also planned to scale up the use of the X-stock platform, a Red Cross initiative aimed at improving cross-border emergency management through shared stock management, in cooperation with other National Societies in the region and to engage in the Neighbours Help First project. It has increased the use of online platforms for disaster preparedness training, focusing on youth, while also coordinating cluster-based training, cross-border cooperation and joint proposal development.

To strengthen disaster preparedness and response capacity, the National Society signed an agreement to implement the X-Stock project. This project includes analyzing disaster risks and needs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, enhancing humanitarian capacities, and ensuring timely responses to vulnerable populations.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC The IFRC supported the National Society through its Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC DREF). It also supported the National Society in the development and implementation of comprehensive disaster preparedness and risk reduction strategies. The IFRC provided support to the National Society with its capacity-building and post-disaster recovery initiatives.

Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been actively engaged in health promotion and disease prevention activities. During the reporting period, the National Society organized over 400 workshops, lectures and campaigns on public health, reaching more than 10,000 people, primarily students.

Mobile Teams conducted several awareness activities covering public health, infections, hygiene and healthy living for migrants and refugees. Workshops on hygiene and healthy lifestyles were also held at temporary reception centres in Una-Sana Canton and Sarajevo Canton.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina implemented community-based health and first aid training for seven local branches focused on flood response. These branches subsequently organized workshops for local communities.

The National Society commemorated important health-related days, such as World No Tobacco Day, World Tuberculosis Day, World Health Day and World Voluntary Blood Donor Day, through various activities including education, street campaigns, blood donation drives and first aid demonstrations. It also conducted educational workshops to strengthen communication on immunization, educating 4,500 participants, including health workers and Red Cross volunteers in the Brčko District. Additionally, training sessions promoting breastfeeding were held for 100 participants from the health centre in Brčko, who then conducted outreach activities that reached an additional 400 community members.

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina educated individuals and students in first aid while also training candidates seeking driver's licenses and employees in workplace First Aid. The National Society held workshops for new first aid trainers, certifying several participants, and provided training for professional drivers.

During the reporting period, Red Cross Mobile Teams delivered medical and first aid assistance to migrants and refugees through numerous interventions and medical checks. The National Society organized first aid competitions for students at various levels, culminating in the Jubilee National First Aid Competition.

At the European First Aid Education Network's annual meeting in Malta, the National Society secured its first seat on the Steering Committee, with its Coordinator for health, care and first aid elected by representatives from multiple countries.

Additionally, the National Society's coordinator attended the Global Conference on Emergency Medical Assistance, where he led a session on educating youth in First Aid and received a special award from the President of the Saudi Red Crescent Authority for his contributions.

During the reporting period, the National Society organized a mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) workshop attended by its staff and volunteers. It focused on stress recognition, management strategies, the roles of helpers versus rescuers and self-help techniques.

Another mental health care workshop was conducted for employees of the Red Cross at various levels. The mobile teams of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina provided psychosocial support services to migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers throughout the year.

The National Society implemented 'Active Healthy Ageing' activities that focused on helping older citizens improve access to social, physical and public services. Red Cross in the Community conference took place in Sarajevo, celebrating the 10-year milestone of the Ageing and Health project. The event brought together over 150 participants, including project participants, local government representatives and members of various Red Cross organizations.

Additionally, the National Society provided support to communities along the migrant route, distributing stoves to households in need. It implemented the Winter Assistance 2022-2023 project, addressing challenges faced by socially vulnerable people during winter. This project provided cash assistance to numerous households across local communities.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided financial and technical support to the National Society in carrying out capacity-building, resource allocation and international collaboration, all aimed at enhancing healthcare infrastructure and response capabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It also assisted with training programmes and knowledge transfer to strengthen the National Society's capacity in mainstreaming and integration of mental health and psychosocial support into all programmes.

The **Italian Red Cross** provided technical assistance to the National Society in supporting the communities along the migrant route.

The **Swiss Red Cross** provided support to the National Society in hosting the Red Cross in the Community conference in Sarajevo. It also supported the National Society in implementing the Winter Assistance 2022-2023 project.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** supported the National Society in conducting workshops for new first aid trainers.

The National Society volunteers and staff providing first aid and psychosocial support at the Sarajevo Central Railway Station for migrants and refugees in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Photo: IFRC)

Migration and displacement

Progress by National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a declaration outlining its role in managing migration in the country. The second conference on migration, organized by the National Society was held in Sarajevo on 18 December 2023, on the World Migrant Day.

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina strengthened its role and mandate in migration and displacement by replacing a project-based approach with a programme-based approach within the National Society.

Under the Global Route Based Migration Programme, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina coordinated the discussion on the response to mixed migration and good coordination and cooperation practices at the 14th Mediterranean Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Cairo.

The mobile teams in Bosnia and Herzegovina delivered crucial humanitarian aid to migrants and refugees through medical care, psychosocial support and essential supplies distribution. Its sustained presence ensured that vulnerable population received necessary assistance, thereby aiding in the effective management of migration-related challenges.

The National Society also focused on providing restoring family links (RFL) services in the field and in temporary reception centres across several cantons, assisting many individuals with essential services such as internet access and phone charging. The National Society also distributed cash and voucher assistance to displaced individuals from Ukraine, benefiting many households across Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also provided support to local populations along the migrant route through cash assistance, reaching numerous households and communities.

Additionally, the mobile teams also educated migrants on mine awareness to prevent injuries in affected areas, offered livelihood support, distributed hot meals at temporary reception centres and provided hygiene kits to those in need. Various awareness-raising activities focused on public health, infections, hygiene and healthy living for migrants and refugees.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina with technical and financial assistance for its activities. It also supported the National Society in providing humanitarian aid to migrants and refugees through mobile teams.

Under the Global Route Based Migration Programme, the **Red Cross of Montenegro** provided assistance to the National Society in coordinating a discussion at the 14th Mediterranean Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Cairo.

Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina engaged in promoting humanitarian values through youth camps and disseminating information to volunteers and the broader community. During the youth summer camp, a workshop on community engagement and accountability (CEA) was organized for participants. This workshop aimed to empower and engage youth, recognize their crucial role as active contributors to their local communities by providing them with strategies for greater involvement and responsibility in various daily activities.

Additionally, a lessons learned workshop was conducted for employees and volunteers involved in the Winter Aid project, introducing them to the fundamentals of CEA and its significance within cash and voucher assistance (CVA) activities. A CEA workshop was also held during the community-based health and first aid training for local Red Cross branches participating in the DREF operation for floods.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with technical and financial assistance for its activities.

The National Society received support from UNHCR and Catholic Relief Services for providing cash voucher assistance to displaced individuals from Ukraine.

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.

IFRC network partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina include the **Austrian Red Cross**, **British Red Cross**, **Canadian Red Cross Society**, **Danish Red Cross**, **German Red Cross**, **Italian Red Cross**, **Japanese Red Cross Society**, **Swiss Red Cross** and **Turkish Red Crescent**.

Movement coordination

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross 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 in Sarajevo primarily contributes to tracing services and restoring family links, mine risk education, first aid and mental health and psychosocial support, dissemination of Red Cross values and National Society development.

External coordination

The National Society worked closely with other humanitarian actors, the UN, international NGOs, and local NGOs to coordinate responses. It also signed a joint declaration of intent with the United Nations, represented by the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This Declaration underscored a shared commitment to cooperation in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina strengthened its human resource capacities.

In terms of strengthening the financial sustainability, a market analysis on potential domestic resource mobilization opportunities was completed while the activities will be implemented in the course of 2024.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina also finalized the proposal and budget for remaining phase of headquarter building renovation. The activities will be continued through 2024.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided financial assistance to the National Society with the reconstruction of its building.

Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina worked towards strengthening its auxiliary role and mandate. The National Society strengthened partnerships and advocated for humanitarian principles by building cooperation with national and international stakeholders, improving access to vulnerable populations and safeguarding the well-being of humanitarian workers. It actively engaged in diplomatic efforts to ensure respect for humanitarian principles, secure access to those in need and protect humanitarian actors. These efforts contributed to a more effective and principled response to crises and emergencies.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation peer workshop on humanitarian negotiation and migration response in Sarajevo which brought together 25 humanitarian workers from 19 organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Greece.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC has supported the National Society in capacity building and to strengthen its diplomatic efforts. It also provided assistance in establishing partnerships with government bodies, NGOs and donors for advancing advocacy for humanitarian principles, access to vulnerable communities and the safety of humanitarian personnel.

Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina ensured the quality and effectiveness of programmes by improving financial management and control systems and raising the knowledge and awareness of staff and volunteers on integrity issues, rules, reporting mechanisms and their own protections and obligations.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina enhanced the quality and effectiveness of its programs by improving financial management and control systems. It also raised staff and volunteer knowledge and awareness on integrity issues, rules, reporting mechanisms, as well as their protections and obligations.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in implementing monitoring and evaluation processes to assess the impact and effectiveness of its programmes and activities. It also supported the National Society in optimally utilizing its enterprise resource plans to enable real-time financial information for periodic reporting to donors, partners, and other stakeholders.

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina 2023 Financial Report
  Note: For emergencies for which financial report is not yet available, see: MDRBA014 and MDRBA015
- 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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