



KAZAKHSTAN

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

23 October 2024

IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



ҚАЗАҚСТАН ҚЫЗЫЛ АЙЫ



18

National Society branches



18

National Society local units



7,795

National Society volunteers



111

National Society staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Disasters and crises



81,705

Health and wellbeing



47,999

Migration and displacement



2,414

Values, power and inclusion



1,417

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement		3.5M	
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations	Funding	105,000	
		Expenditure	73,000	
	Longer-term	Funding Requirement		1.6M
		Funding	230,000	
	Expenditure	43,000		
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement		1.9M	

Kazakh Red Crescent

Overview

Funding		2M
Expenditure		2M

Funding Sources

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

Appeal number **MAAKZ002**

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Kazakhstan faced a surge in measles and rubella cases in the second half of 2023. By the end of the year, 15,111 measles cases had been registered. The incidence of measles reached 770.71 per one million people (January - December 2023) which constituted the third highest measles rate in the [European region](#) according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) monthly update issued in February 2024.

The rise in cases was due to vaccine hesitancy, decreased immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic, other factors including misinformation, medical exemptions and inadequate communication on the benefits of vaccination. The situation was exacerbated by growing cases in neighbouring countries.

More than 1.2 million children were vaccinated against measles as part of supplementary mass immunization campaigns initiated in November 2023. According to the Committee on Sanitary and Epidemiologic Control of the Ministry of Health in January 2024, the epidemiological situation in the country stabilized and a decrease in incidence by 8 per cent comparing to December 2023 was registered.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan focused on extreme weather events such as cold waves and wildfires. A major highlight was the activation of the [Early Action Plan](#) (EAP) for cold waves, aimed at protecting vulnerable populations from severe cold, through the distribution of warm items and provision of essential services. Additionally, the National Society responded to wildfires in the Abai region, helping to mitigate damage and prevent further devastation.

Disasters and crises

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan provided critical [cash and voucher assistance](#) (CVA) to support families affected by flash floods, domestic fires and a mine blast, helping thousands of people recover from these events. It also activated Early Action Protocol/[DREF](#) for cold waves, distributing warm items and hot meals to vulnerable groups during extreme weather conditions. The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan further strengthened disaster preparedness and response capacities, focusing on [community-based risk reduction](#), school safety measures and cash-based interventions, while also partnering with UNICEF to address the needs of children in emergencies.

Health and wellbeing

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan achieved attestation as an [IFRC First Aid Global Reference Centre](#), enhancing its role in [first aid](#) education and regulatory support. The National Society trained nearly 50 per cent more individuals in first aid compared to the previous year and strengthened its capacity by recruiting new instructors. It also actively promoted blood donation, resulting in thousands of donations, and conducted health outreach efforts on tuberculosis, HIV and non-communicable diseases. Additionally, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan expanded its home care services and strengthened its [emergency health preparedness](#) and response through targeted training and peer collaboration.

Migration and displacement

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan provided [restoring family links](#) (RFL) services and social assistance to vulnerable groups. The National Society strengthened its capacity to deliver RFL services and implemented [Safer Access](#) protocols to ensure protection during these activities. Through partnerships and public awareness efforts, the National Society supported nearly 2,000 vulnerable foreign migrants and processed numerous RFL inquiries. In collaboration with UNHCR, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan provided critical CVA to refugees and asylum seekers, helping them access essential services such as healthcare, education and professional skills training, while also promoting their social integration and resilience.

Values, power, and inclusion

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan prioritized inclusive support for vulnerable populations including the 'Kind Packages' initiative, which provided food aid to pensioners and low-income families and the 'Care' Children's Educational Centres, which supported children from single-parent and low-income families. The National Society also expanded its food bank initiative, delivering aid to tens of thousands of socially vulnerable people, and established a training centre for visually impaired individuals to enhance digital literacy and independence. Further, the 'Only Mom' programme offered critical assistance to single mothers, while partnerships with UNICEF and UNHCR focused on supporting children and refugees, respectively, through education, social support and integration efforts. Staff and volunteers received specialized training to incorporate gender-sensitive and [community engagement](#) practices into their emergency responses.

Enabling local actors

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan focused on capacity-building, emergency preparedness and organizational development. Key achievements included conducting the [Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment](#) (BOCA) in multiple regions, enhancing disaster response readiness through comprehensive training and simulations and strengthening CVA programming. The National Society also launched a new electronic document management system to improve internal efficiency, initiated resource mobilization efforts for long-term financial sustainability and expanded its volunteer network. Additionally, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan actively engaged in national and international platforms to advocate for humanitarian issues, further solidifying its role in global and regional dialogues.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan particularly focused on extreme weather events such as cold waves and wildfires. A significant achievement was the activation of the simplified [Early Action Protocol](#) (EAP) for cold waves. The plan was initiated in December in the North-Kazakhstan region when temperatures dropped to minus 40°C.

The simplified EAP focuses on protecting vulnerable groups from extreme cold, particularly during the harsh winter months. It aims to prevent frostbite and other cold-related injuries that could lead to fatalities, health issues and loss of income. This plan is also designed to assist drivers and passengers stranded by roadblocks caused by severe winter weather. By providing heating devices, shelter, food and raising awareness about road and traffic safety, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan aims to reduce the negative effects of Kazakhstan's harsh winters. The EAP remained active, with the National Society continuously monitoring weather forecasts and preparing for further response actions in winter 2023-2024. The National Society also focused on increased community resilience, improved [disaster preparedness and response](#) capacities and efforts to secure funding for [disaster risk reduction](#) activities.

In addition to cold waves, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan responded to [devastating wildfires in the Abai region](#), which caused multiple casualties and widespread damage. Working alongside other organizations, the National Society played a vital role in limiting the spread of the fires, thereby preventing further destruction.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan to address climate-related challenges through the [IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund](#) (DREF) that provided essential funding for the activation of the simplified EAP for cold waves, enabling the prepositioning of critical relief items and resources. The IFRC also supported capacity-building initiatives to strengthen disaster preparedness and response capabilities within the National Society.

The **Italian Red Cross** partnered with the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan to enhance community resilience in West Kazakhstan. This collaboration focused on preserving lives, protecting livelihoods and strengthening recovery efforts in the face of disasters.



Disasters and crises

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

In 2023, one IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) was approved in Kazakhstan for cold wave.

NAME OF OPERATION	Kazakhstan- Cold Wave- Early Action Protocol
MDR-CODE	MDRKZ012
DURATION	2 Years (September 2022 to September 2024)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 219,998
PEOPLE TARGETED	82,000
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	Simplified Early Action Protocol- Kazakhstan Cold wave

The DREF/EAP allocation of CHF 219,998 was activated in December 2023 in the North-Kazakhstan region where the temperature dropped down to minus 40 degree Celsius. This supported the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan to respond to the cold wave by distributing prepositioned warm items to vulnerable population groups: homeless people and older people living alone. The essential non-food items included clothes, footwear and blankets. The National Society also provided hot meals and heaters to mitigate the impact of the cold wave. The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan kept monitoring weather forecasts in case cold waves hit target regions in winter until 2024 prompting response actions.

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan strengthened its disaster preparedness and response capabilities, aligning with the objectives set forth under the IFRC Central Asia programme. This initiative, funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), has been instrumental in reinforcing both local and national capacities for emergency management. Key achievements included the successful strengthening of community-based preparedness and response in two targeted communities within the Almaty region. This was accomplished through the prepositioning of disaster supplies, training local disaster management committees and distributing educational materials.

The National Society implemented disaster risk reduction strategies, focusing on school safety measures in two rural communities and 12 schools in Almaty city and the surrounding region. Activities involved training and equipping school disaster management teams, conducting [vulnerability and capacity assessments](#) (eVCA), developing contingency plans and implementing mitigation measures. Youth engagement initiatives were also prioritized, involving young volunteers in disaster preparedness efforts. Training sessions on earthquake preparedness and first aid were conducted, complemented by simulation exercises.

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan further enhanced its preparedness for cash-based interventions, providing multipurpose [cash and voucher assistance](#) (CVA) to 32 vulnerable households affected by domestic fires in Almaty city and the Almaty region. The National Society reached 572,306 individuals through information sessions, training, social media posts and outreach efforts aimed at educating communities on emergency preparedness and response.

In collaboration with UNICEF, a partnership agreement was established to address the urgent needs of children during unforeseen circumstances. This partnership focused on ensuring that the basic needs of vulnerable populations, particularly children affected by natural disasters or crises, were met. Initial activities included revising

needs assessment tools, developing key messages on [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS) for children and conducting market assessments to expedite procurement in emergencies.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan throughout 2023 including funding for capacity-building initiatives aimed at empowering communities and enhancing resilience, particularly in West Kazakhstan, in collaboration with the **Italian Red Cross**.

The IFRC also facilitated discussions surrounding a draft [disaster law](#) concerning the National Society, focusing on mechanisms for its ratification.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan achieved attestation as an [IFRC First Aid Global Reference Centre](#), strengthening its technical support to the Ministry of Health in developing a robust methodological and regulatory framework for [first aid](#). The first aid coordinator actively participated in the annual meeting of the First Aid International Expert Group, collaborating with Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus to share best practices.

To enhance its first aid education capabilities, the National Society conducted training sessions that not only improved the skills of existing first aid instructors but also led to the recruitment of eight new instructors. As a result, the number of individuals trained in first aid surged by nearly 50 per cent compared to the previous year, reaching a total of 26,358 participants in 2023. Additionally, trained staff and volunteers provided first aid during running marathons and showcased their skills during command post exercises organized by the Ministry of Emergencies.

In promoting blood donation, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan continued its collaboration with the Research and Production Centre of Transfusiology, national, regional and city blood centers. Through targeted promotion activities, the National Society engaged almost 48,000 individuals, resulting in 3,801 people donating blood and its components during organized campaigns.

The National Society also conducted sessions on tuberculosis (TB) and HIV prevention, reaching 11,499 individuals among schoolchildren, students and at-risk groups. Over 10,000 people received information on non-communicable disease prevention and health promotion through outreach efforts. Home care services were provided by three branches, benefiting 44 individuals, with 63 volunteers trained to deliver these essential services.

In the first half of 2023, the National Society launched a large blood donation campaign that successfully reached 1,971 people, promoting voluntary, non-remunerated blood donations and enhancing donor retention and motivation. Additionally, the Red Crescent strengthened its [emergency health preparedness and response](#) capacities through various training initiatives, facilitating peer learning and networking among health professionals.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical support to the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan throughout 2023 in improving the National Society's ability to deliver essential health services, including first aid, blood donation promotion and MHPSS.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (**ICRC**) supported the National Society to improve its capacity to provide psychosocial support services through targeted training for staff and volunteers. In total, five training events were held at both national and regional levels, reaching 90 participants, predominantly from local branches.



Migration and displacement

Progress by National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan focused on restoring family links (RFL) and providing social assistance to vulnerable groups. The National Society strengthened its capacity to deliver RFL services both at the central level and across its branches. This included implementing the concept of Safer Access in RFL operations to ensure the protection of staff and beneficiaries during these activities.

Throughout the year, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan facilitated RFL efforts, reaching almost 2,000 vulnerable foreign migrants housed in reception and distribution centres managed by the Department of Internal Affairs in cities such as Almaty, Astana, Karaganda, Taldykorgan and Taraz. The search and tracing service remained fully operational, processing 79 inquiries and standing ready to respond to RFL needs during emergencies.

The National Society also prioritized building partnerships with key stakeholders involved in RFL and actively engaged in disseminating information to the public to increase awareness of the service. As a result, over 6,000 people were reached through information dissemination activities, ensuring that diverse sections of the population were informed about RFL support.

In collaboration with UNHCR, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan implemented the 'Social Assistance to Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Kazakhstan' project, which provided critical cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to 465 vulnerable individuals. The project also helped refugees and asylum seekers access essential services such as healthcare, education and professional skills training. Additionally, language courses were offered to promote integration and self-sustainability. Advocacy efforts aimed to support the naturalization and regularization of the legal status of refugees and asylum seekers, ensuring that they were integrated into public welfare, healthcare and education systems at the same level as citizens.

The focus was also placed on improving the resilience and skills of migrant children, helping them navigate sociocultural differences, such as those between rural and urban environments or varying cultural contexts. Efforts to prevent discrimination and social isolation among migrant children were advanced through advocacy and collaboration with relevant stakeholders.



Anticipating risks, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan activated early action and distributed warm clothes, blankets, heaters and hot meals to support the most vulnerable in December 2023. (Photo: Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan)

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical support to the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan for its work in migration and displacement throughout 2023. The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan is also 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 **Italian Red Cross** supported the National Society in the adaptation and social integration of both internal and external migrants.

The **ICRC** supported the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in providing RFL services.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan focused on supporting vulnerable populations through various projects and initiatives. Under its strategic focus on Persons Vulnerable and Impacted (PVI), several key projects were implemented.

The 'Kind Packages' initiative provided critical support to isolated pensioners and low-income families with multiple children facing crisis situations. This project, supported by the Metro Cash & Carry trading network, delivered food packages to individuals across cities including Almaty, Astana, Karaganda and Pavlodar, reaching a total of 1,207 people.

The 'Care' Children's Educational Centres catered to children from low-income, single-parent families and pensioners caring for children in Almaty, Astana and Turkestan. The programme assisted around 150 children by offering [educational support](#) and care services to help improve their quality of life.

The National Society's food bank initiative continued its work, collecting food and other consumer goods from producers, distributors and retail networks such as Metro Cash & Carry. The aid was distributed to non-profit organizations that support socially vulnerable groups. In 2023, this food bank programme reached 36,617 people in Almaty, the Almaty region and Astana, providing critical support to families in need.

A training centre for people with visual impairments was established with support from the private company Beiersdorf, where 60 individuals in Almaty were trained in using Windows, Android and iOS platforms, as well as in creating and editing audio files. This initiative aimed to equip visually impaired individuals with digital skills to enhance their independence and employability.

The 'Only Mom' programme provided vital social support to women who are single parents raising children under the age of three and facing challenging life circumstances. The programme, which is set to run from 2023 to 2024 across two branches, is expected to benefit 400 women by offering food vouchers, psychological and social support.

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan also continued its collaboration with UNICEF, under which the National Society addressed the urgent needs of children in emergencies. This partnership aims to implement data-driven policies that ensure a safe and clean environment for children, while also equipping them, their parents and adolescents with the knowledge to protect the environment and respond to natural disasters.

The 'Social Assistance to Refugees and Asylum Seekers' initiative supported by UNHCR provided CVA to refugees and asylum seekers with a focus on naturalization, regularization of documents and integration into public social welfare, healthcare and education systems. By 2025, all mandate holders are expected to have access to naturalization opportunities and be actively engaged in the social and economic life of Kazakhstan.

To ensure that staff and volunteers were familiar with the [minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion \(PGI\) in emergencies](#), two staff members participated in an online training in May 2023 on mitigating gender-based violence risks during national emergencies that enhanced the National Society's ability to incorporate gender-sensitive practices in its emergency responses. The National Society also participated in training on [community engagement](#)

and accountability (CEA) to broaden its understanding and implementation of CEA principles. The CEA focal point participated in regional initiatives and attended CEA surge training in Georgia, further improving the National Society's expertise in this field.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** supported the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan with policies, procedures, training and workshops tied to PGI, and to improve the identification and support for the diversified needs of target communities. The IFRC in collaboration with UNICEF conducted an online training on mitigating gender-based violence risks during national emergencies. Additionally, the IFRC ensured CEA modules were integrated into specialized training programmes.

The **Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates** supported the National Society to continue its 'Orphaned Children' project, which has been operational since 2005 and reaches approximately 4,000 children across 18 branches.

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 following participating National Societies provide support to the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan:

The **Italian Red Cross** has been engaging with National Societies in the Central Asia region through projects and activities for more than 10 years. Since 2021, the Italian Red Cross has been supporting the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan in the development of its legal framework and with disaster management projects to increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of communities in Taskalinskiy, a district of West-Kazakhstan Oblast. It is also supporting programmes working on the reintegration of migrants and plans to continue strengthening collaboration through financial and technical support.

The **Spanish Red Cross** has been supporting the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan's youth and volunteer development since 2020, with the aim of strengthening capacity in volunteer management.

The **Swiss Red Cross** has a bilateral agreement with the National Society to develop CVA, resource mobilization and capacity building.

The **Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates** supports the National Society in providing financial assistance to orphans, children from low-income families and multi-child, female headed households.

Movement coordination

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan 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 National Societies in Central Asia in restoring family links, international humanitarian law (IHL), mental health and psychosocial support and emergency preparedness and response programming. It informs governmental authorities on IHL and its integration into legislation, academic curricula and the practices of military

and security forces. In Kazakhstan, the ICRC and the National Society work closely together on restoring family links services, which were reactivated after the civil unrest in January 2022.

External coordination

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan cooperates and coordinates with the authorities and is a member of the Interagency State Commission on Disaster Preparedness and Elimination. Other key collaborations include partnerships with the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Guard and relevant local authorities and institutions in the emergency and medical fields.

The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan also collaborates with a variety of external institutional partners and the private sector. For many years, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been supporting a National Society project for refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan and elsewhere, while the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been supporting the National Society's COVID-19 response. The National Society also holds partnerships with businesses such as PepsiCo, Nestlé, Kimberly-Clark, Mars, Coca-Cola, Colgate-Palmolive, Procter & Gamble, Beiersdorf, Wolt and inDrive.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society conducted Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) training for facilitators and implemented BOCA exercises in four regional branches—Karaganda, Pavlodar, Abai and East-Kazakhstan. These exercises helped identify areas for improvement in branch operations, strengthening local capacities and leadership.

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan also focused on enhancing its readiness and effectiveness in responding to emergencies. This was achieved through the implementation of multiple initiatives, including comprehensive training programmes for instructors and trainers in first aid as well as drills for the National Disaster Response Team. Collaborative simulations with government partners further enhanced the National Society's capacity to respond to national emergencies. These efforts were supported by public relations campaigns and targeted social media outreach to raise public awareness about disaster preparedness. Staff and volunteers were also trained in MHPSS in Astana, Aktau and Shymkent. These programmes aimed at strengthening the capacity of the National Society to provide psychological support during emergencies, helping to address both immediate and long-term mental health needs in affected populations.

Another key area of focus was the cash and voucher assistance (CVA) programming. The objectives included meeting the National Society's needs for effective cash-based interventions, disseminating knowledge in this area and improving the overall quality of CVA programming. The National Society successfully implemented its action plan related to cash assistance, and the capacities of staff were significantly enhanced through specialized training.

The resource mobilization strategy was also a key component of the National Society development plan. The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan focused on creating a stable team with the necessary skills to manage funds from diverse sources, thereby increasing financial resources to support its humanitarian work. To further diversify funding streams and achieve financial self-sufficiency, the National Society worked on implementing innovative financing solutions in partnership with international organizations, with an aim to secure long-term financial stability and expand the scope of services provided across Kazakhstan.

Under the 'Volunteering Model in Central Asia' programme the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan organized a summer camp for volunteers. This initiative aimed at attracting, training, motivating and monitoring volunteers, further enhancing the volunteer network.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan's development goals through the IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF). Additionally, the IFRC also supported the National Society in conducting BOCA.

The IFRC also focused on improving the financial sustainability of the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan. Efforts were made to explore opportunities for unrestricted income generation, such as through membership fees, corporate

partnerships and innovative financing. The membership strategy was also reviewed with IFRC's assistance to ensure stronger community engagement and greater financial independence.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supported the National Society in implementing the volunteering model in Central Asia programme.

The **ICRC** supported the National Society in enhancing readiness and effectiveness in responding to emergencies.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan actively participated in national and international platforms to advocate for vulnerable populations and promote its humanitarian agenda. The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan engaged in a series of joint policy asks aimed at influencing global and regional discussions on key humanitarian issues.

The National Society took part in key international and regional events. In June 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan participated in the International Volunteer Forum organized by the Kazakh government in Astana. The event brought together over 40 speakers from 34 countries, and the National Society spoke about the role of volunteers in health, highlighting its contributions to COVID-19 response, disaster management, first aid, psychosocial support and voluntary blood donation. The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan's advocacy focused on the need for government policies that create an enabling environment for volunteerism, increased youth engagement in volunteering and the importance of cross-sectoral participation.

In September 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan contributed to the fact and action sheet on tuberculosis (TB), which was presented at the UN High-level Meeting on TB. In October 2023, it participated in policy asks for the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, advocating for greater focus on disaster prevention. The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan was also actively involved in regional dialogues. In the same month, it participated in a World Bank regional workshop discussing the Central Asia Regional Study on Resilience and Low-carbon Cities, where it shared its humanitarian insights on urban development and climate resilience.

In November 2023, the National Society contributed to a fact and action sheet on climate change adaptation, which was shared in advance of the UNFCCC COP 28. These policy documents were disseminated to international bodies, including WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, the World Bank and USAID, helping to position the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan as a key player in humanitarian diplomacy. In November again, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan participated in the Third International Humanitarian Forum on "Climate Change and Humanitarian Action" in Suzhou, China. The forum attracted government officials. Additionally, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan was involved in the Second Meeting of State Parties (MSP) of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in New York, reflecting its commitment to global disarmament efforts. The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan also spoke at the Regional Forum-Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Authorities of Central Asia in November, emphasizing its role in disaster risk management.

In December 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan took part in the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva. The National Society shared its experiences in supporting refugees and asylum seekers in collaboration with UNHCR and raised concerns about ensuring a sustainable future for these vulnerable groups.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** helped coordinate and amplify the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan's humanitarian diplomacy efforts through its policy ask initiatives, ensuring that the National Society's priorities reached international stakeholders such as WHO, UNDP and USAID.

In December 2023, the IFRC and the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) co-organized a regional consultative workshop on International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) in Central Asia. The event gathered emergency management authorities and humanitarian actors from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, alongside the Red Crescent National Societies of the region, to discuss effective implementation of

regional emergency response coordination mechanisms. The workshop marked an important step in aligning regional disaster response with international standards, reinforcing the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan's advocacy for better humanitarian laws in Central Asia.

Additionally, the IFRC supported the Red Crescent in networking with key stakeholders and coalitions. A new Humanitarian Diplomacy staff profile was added to the IFRC's Central Asia Country Cluster Delegation structure, based in Kazakhstan. The IFRC also facilitated the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan's participation in other international forums.

The **Red Cross Society of China** organized the Third International Humanitarian Forum on "Climate Change and Humanitarian Action" in Suzhou, China. Representatives from 26 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies were also present in the forum.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan initiated a project to establish an electronic document management system. This project, aimed at modernizing the internal operations of the National Society, focused on automating workflows, improving data management and strengthening internal communication channels.

The initial phase of the project, which involved the procurement of hardware and software as well as the adaptation of the system, was successfully launched. By streamlining document handling and centralizing information, the new system is expected to significantly enhance the National Society's ability to manage operations efficiently. These improvements will facilitate faster decision-making processes, reduce manual errors and increase transparency within the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan. This system represents a crucial step towards modernizing the National Society's operations in terms of [digital transformation](#).

Additionally, in line with improving accountability, the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan has made ongoing efforts to align its operational procedures with international best practices. These efforts have helped to strengthen its financial management, procurement processes and governance structures, ensuring that the National Society remains transparent and responsive to both internal and external stakeholders.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical guidance to ensure that the National Society adheres to IFRC financial and procurement procedures, maintaining high standards of transparency and efficiency in its operations to ensure consistency and compliance.

The IFRC also provided financial support through [CBF](#) to the National Society for the implementation of the electronic document management system which has facilitated the transition of the National Society to a more agile and efficient operational model. By working closely with the National Society, the IFRC has helped ensure that the technological upgrades not only meet the current needs but also set a foundation for long-term operational sustainability and accountability.



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 Kazakhstan 2023 Financial Report](#)
Note: For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRKZ012](#)
- [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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