



REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

2023 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec

23 October 2024

IN SUPPORT OF RED CROSS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA



33

National Society branches



33

National Society local units



4,000

National Society volunteers



200

National Society staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency Operations



1,390

Climate and environment



9,000

Disasters and crises



10,800

Health and wellbeing



59,859

Migration and displacement



19,320

Values, power and inclusion



50,300

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

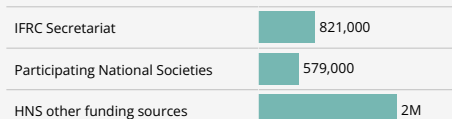
Country	Funding Requirement	3.4M
IFRC Secretariat	Emergency Operations Funding	345,000
	Emergency Operations Expenditure	201,000
	Longer-term Funding Requirement	821,000
	Longer-term Funding	221,000
Participating National Societies	Expenditure	220,000
	Funding Requirement	579,000
HNS other funding sources	Funding	178,000
	Expenditure	329,000
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	2M
	Funding	2M

Red Cross of North Macedonia

Overview



Funding Sources

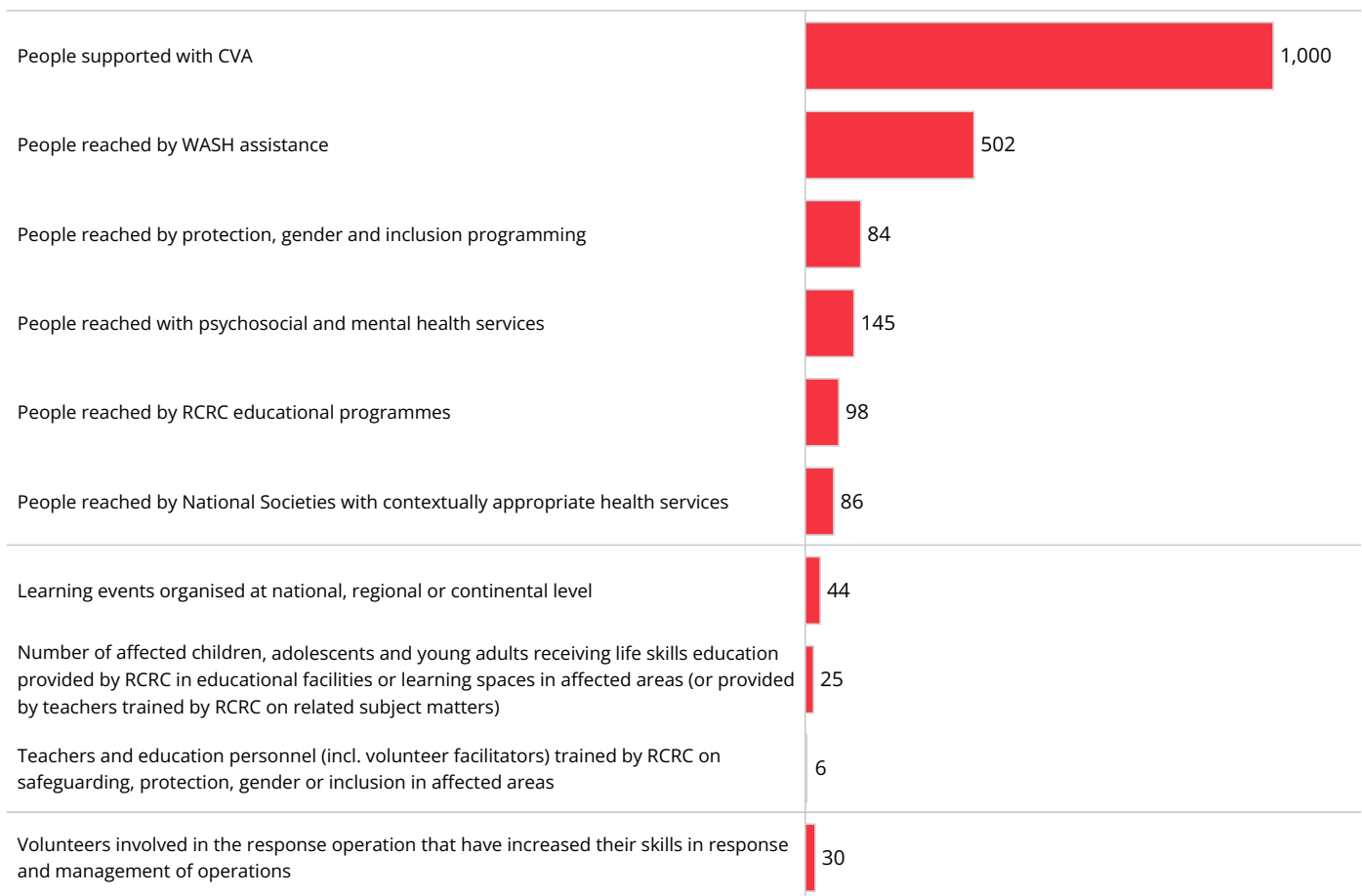


Appeal number **MAAMK003**

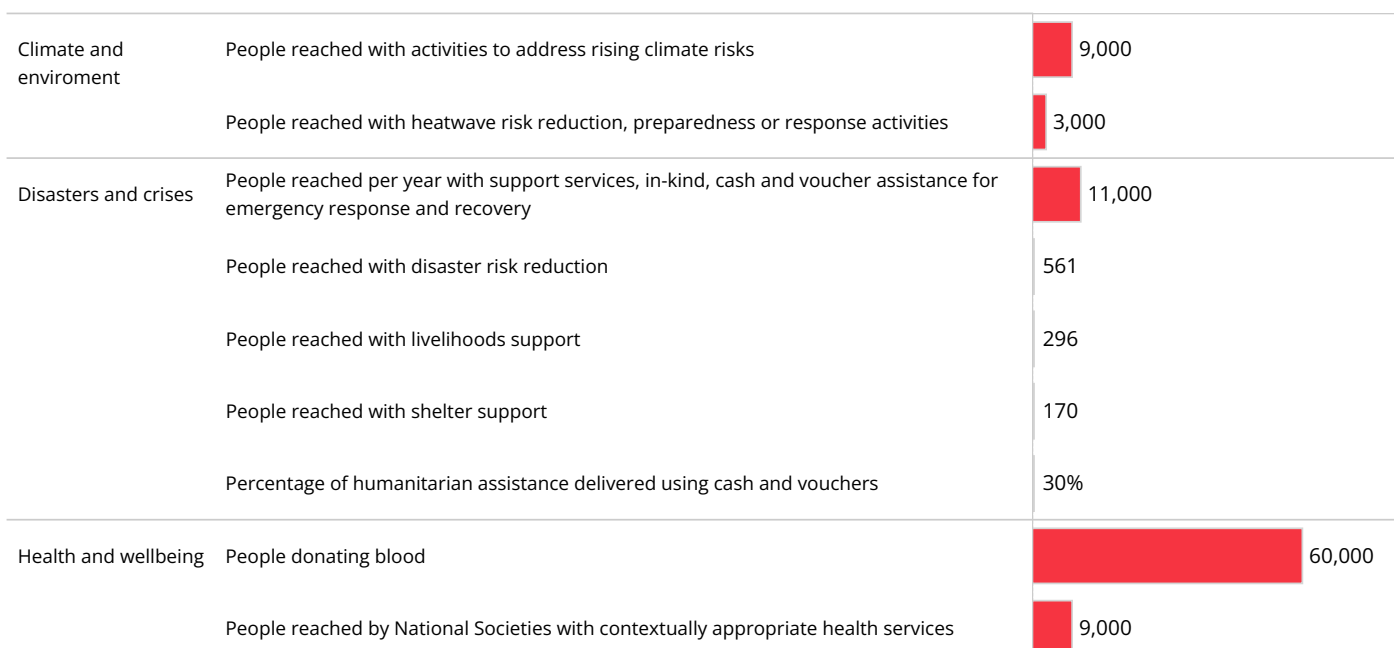
ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MGR65002 / Ukraine and impacted countries crisis

MGR65002 Ukraine and impacted countries crisis



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	2,000
	People trained by National Societies in first aid	44,000
Migration and displacement	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	19,000
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes	10
Values, power and inclusion	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	1,000
	People reached by RCRC educational programmes	50,000

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

National Society development	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
	Youth engagement strategy developed or in place	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society have strengthened their integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Bilateral Support						Enabling Functions	Multilateral Support Through IFRC
		Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion			
Austrian Red Cross	419,000	●						✓	
Belgian Red Cross		●	●						
British Red Cross								✓	
Danish Red Cross								✓	
French Red Cross								✓	
Irish Red Cross Society								✓	
Italian Red Cross								✓	
Norwegian Red Cross								✓	
Swedish Red Cross								✓	
Swiss Red Cross	302,000								

Total Funding Reported **CHF 721,000**

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

The Republic of North Macedonia is highly prone and vulnerable to natural hazards such as floods, droughts, extreme temperatures, forest fires and earthquakes. In the recent decade, the Republic of North Macedonia has also been significantly impacted by the 'Balkan Route' that passes through the country, which migrants take along their journeys, predominantly to Western European countries.

Poverty and social exclusion still present challenges for part of the country's population. With a high percentage of the population comprising of older people, the Republic of North Macedonia faces numerous problems related to an aging population, as well as challenges arising from existing economic and social conditions. Access to resources offered by support systems in the country is a challenge for certain vulnerable populations. Long-term unemployment among people who do not have adequate qualifications is a challenge for their competitiveness in the labour market.

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. More than 6,000 people fleeing Ukraine were estimated to have arrived in North Macedonia in 2023.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia focused on raising public awareness about climate adaptation and [early warning systems](#), with young people actively participating in peer education initiatives. To safeguard communities from extreme temperatures, the National Society implemented a range of activities, including distributing bottled water during heatwaves and providing essential support to vulnerable groups during winter months. Additionally, the National Society conducted [first aid](#) training for police officers at border crossings to ensure effective injury management during cold waves.

Disasters and crises

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia strengthened its disaster risk reduction, crisis response and preparedness at both national and local levels. By coordinating with national and global networks, the National Society ensured a timely, efficient response to various crisis situations. Key efforts focused on sustainable capacity building, resource pooling and leveraging technology to anticipate risks and enable proactive early action. The National Society also provided essential support, including human resources, [shelter](#), [WASH](#) products, food and [cash assistance](#), while demonstrating leadership in both national and international humanitarian interventions.

Health and wellbeing

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia emphasized on equitable access to healthcare for vulnerable populations. The National Society expanded its health, social care and [community first aid programmes](#), training numerous individuals, including first aid facilitators and youth, in essential life-saving skills. It provided medical and first aid services to migrants and refugees in reception centres, while also focusing on health promotion and disease prevention, particularly for marginalized groups, including people living with HIV/AIDS. The establishment of a [centre for psychological first aid](#) enhanced mental health services for staff, volunteers and the community, and support was extended to those affected by the crisis in Ukraine. In collaboration with the Institute for Transfusion Medicine, the National Society exceeded its national blood donation targets and provided vocational training for caregivers and personal assistants, along with ongoing support for elderly and disabled individuals.

Migration and displacement

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia placed a strong emphasis on ensuring that migrants and displaced individuals are treated with dignity and provided essential support tailored to their needs. The National Society focused on protecting vulnerable groups, including women, children and asylum seekers, deploying mobile

teams to temporary transit centres at key border points. These teams offered continuous humanitarian assistance, delivering critical services such as first aid, [psychosocial support](#) and essential supplies, while also facilitating medical care when necessary. The National Society extended its support to displaced individuals from Ukraine, providing food, hygiene packages and connections to public services, while also creating child-friendly spaces for educational and recreational activities. Additionally, similar assistance was offered to individuals evacuated from Israel/Gaza and Afghanistan.

Values, power and inclusion

In 2023, the National Society actively promoted positive values among young people through initiatives such as the 'Red Cross in Action: Promotion of Humane Values' programme, which fosters peace, tolerance and coexistence. For refugees and individuals under international protection, the National Society collaborated with local authorities to offer integration support, raising community awareness about migrant needs and ensuring individualized case management for those outside government programmes. Furthermore, efforts to support homeless individuals included mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)), technical skills training and awareness sessions on crucial health topics.

Enabling local actors

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia worked on its capacity building at both local and national levels. A key milestone was the introduction of the 'Transformation-28' framework, a strategic initiative aimed at long-term development and organizational transformation over the next five years. This initiative, which emphasizes internal reorganization and the introduction of new services, was showcased at a promotional event that highlighted its goals and commitments in multiple languages. The National Society also undertook a comprehensive Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment ([BOCA](#)) to evaluate and strengthen local branches, complemented by a mentoring programme aimed at enhancing operational capabilities. Workshops on financial operations and regular training for staff and volunteers further reinforced the National Society's commitment to improving competencies and governance structures.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency Appeal name	Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis
Appeal No.	MGR65002
Target areas	22.7 million (total); 1,300 (in North Macedonia)
Duration	February 2022 – December 2025
Funding requirements	Total: CHF 800 million (IFRC); CHF 2.7 billion (Federation-wide) North Macedonia: CHF 1.33 million (IFRC); CHF 1.54 million (Federation-wide)
Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Operational Strategy	Revised Operational Strategy North Macedonia Response Plan
Last operation update	Operation Update No.9

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

coverage to support the National Societies in assisting people in Ukraine and other impacted countries. 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.

In 2023, the IFRC continued providing support to the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia in responding to the needs of people fleeing Ukraine and arriving in North Macedonia. Through the revised emergency appeal, the National Society has been providing targeted assistance to about 1,300 people, with a focus on individuals with disabilities, those over 65 years and mothers with young children, as they constituted the largest groups in need of support among those fleeing Ukraine. Interventions included the following:

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

Training of volunteers and staff to provide [psychological first aid](#) (PFA) and [mental health psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS) to people affected by the Ukraine crisis. Disseminate the information through Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) to displaced people from Ukraine to access the public health system in North Macedonia, with particular attention to support for people with special needs. Support the most marginalized women among those displaced from Ukraine through distribution of [vouchers](#) for menstrual hygiene management.

Shelter, housing and settlements, multi-purpose cash

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

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

Facilitate integration of children within local communities by organizing after school activities in already established child friendly spaces. Disseminate information about Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding to the general population with special focus on people displaced from Ukraine. Provide restoring family links (RFL) services including messages, calls and access to the platform. Establish new or mobile HSPs at key border crossings in case of increase in new arrivals.

The **Swiss Red Cross** has been supporting the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia in its response to the crisis in Ukraine and impacted countries by providing support for refugees, migrants and persons on the move and support for local integration of persons under international protection and the [Healthy Ageing Project](#).

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia continued to work on reducing the current and future humanitarian impacts of climate change, protecting the environment and providing support to people to cope with these challenges. Special attention was given to raising public awareness about adapting to climate change and [early warning systems](#) for potential risks and disasters. Young people played a pivotal role in these efforts, particularly through peer education initiatives in schools and kindergartens, helping to increase understanding of sustainable development.

The National Society prioritized the protection of communities from extreme temperatures, such as heat and cold waves. During heatwaves, activities included distributing bottled water at key locations, sharing health protection advice through educational materials, offering blood pressure checks and providing first aid assistance. Social media campaigns further spread vital information on health precautions during extreme weather. In winter, the National Society extended its outreach to vulnerable groups—such as the elderly, homeless and isolated individuals by working with local authorities to distribute essential items, including food, medication and clothing. Additionally, the National

Society organized first aid training for police officers at border crossings to help manage injuries during cold waves. Through these efforts, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia enhanced public resilience to climate-related risks while addressing immediate needs during extreme weather events.



Disasters and crises

Progress by the National Society against objectives

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

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia focused on building and enhancing capacities for disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and crisis response. By strengthening local structures and coordination with national and global networks, the National Society ensured a timely and effective response to crisis situations. Special emphasis was placed on sustainable capacity building and resource pooling at both national and local levels. Efforts were also made to improve disaster preparedness by upgrading the National Disaster Management System and enhancing the National Society's ability to maintain commodity reserves, aiming to solidify its position as a leader in humanitarian interventions.

Throughout the year, the National Society responded to the essential needs of disaster-affected populations, providing critical support in human resources, food, [water, sanitation and hygiene](#) (WASH) products, shelter and [cash and voucher assistance](#) (CVA). A key focus was also on leveraging technology and innovation to anticipate risks, allowing for proactive early action and securing predictable funding for future disasters. To further strengthen disaster response capabilities, a standardized disaster management training package was developed. This was shared in two training of trainers' events, reaching 60 staff and volunteers from branches and headquarters. An additional training event targeted 18 authorities responsible for crisis management within the National Society. Disaster response teams in Strumica and Veles were also strengthened, with 37 people receiving specialized training.

One of the major activities in 2023 was a large-scale simulation exercise in Strumica, involving 167 participants, which helped test and improve crisis response readiness. In terms of humanitarian aid, 123 families affected by floods received support, while an additional 376 families benefited from social welfare humanitarian aid. Furthermore, four trucks of humanitarian assistance were sent to Türkiye to support survivors of the earthquake, demonstrating the National Society's active role in international disaster relief efforts. The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia, in collaboration with state institutions, companies and the general population, raised CHF 789,336 for Türkiye and CHF 193,676 for Syria through a national campaign aimed at supporting populations affected by the earthquake.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia with technical expertise, guidance and resources to enhance the National Society's capacity and improve its preparedness, emergency response and recovery efforts.

The IFRC will continue providing support to the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia in responding to the needs of people fleeing Ukraine and arriving in North Macedonia under the [Ukraine and impacted countries crisis](#) emergency appeal throughout the duration.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia focused on ensuring equitable access to health care, particularly for vulnerable populations. The National Society expanded its health, social care and community [first aid](#) programmes. It trained 13,560 candidates in first aid, including drivers and workers from various organizations, while 45 facilitators from 16 branches were certified to lead first aid courses. Additionally, the youth campaign 'First Aid

Saves Lives!' reached 3,701 young people with first aid training. Medical and first aid services were provided to 1,872 migrants and refugees in reception centres in Tabanovce and Vinojug.

In health promotion and disease prevention, the National Society focused on marginalized groups, particularly people living with HIV/AIDS. The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia conducted 85 educational sessions on the prevention of chronic infectious and non-infectious diseases, reaching 1,559 people. The National Society also strengthened its mental health services by establishing a centre for psychological first aid and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), which supports staff, volunteers and the community. The centre operates through four key components: staff and volunteer psychosocial support, community engagement, crisis response and institutional collaboration, offering psychological first aid and MHPSS training to National Society staff, volunteers and the national psychosocial support team.

As part of its response to the crisis in Ukraine, 86 people received primary health care services, 145 were reached with MHPSS services, and 44 people were trained in MHPSS. The National Society also launched a psychosocial support hotline in Veles, Kochani, Bitola and Gostivar, as well as at headquarters.

In partnership with the Institute for Transfusion Medicine, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia fulfilled 107 per cent of the national blood donation quota by collecting 27,500 blood units. A training seminar on the benefits of blood donation and the fifth forum on voluntary blood donation were also organized.

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia continued to offer vocational training for caregivers, personal assistants for people with disabilities and health aides for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and palliative care. In 2023, 408 long-term unemployed individuals were trained, while social service programmes supported 760 elderly people monthly, through 257 caregivers. Personal assistance was provided to 387 people living with disabilities by 280 personal assistants. The National Society also supported 300 elderly or disabled individuals through 10 micro-projects aimed at enhancing social inclusion. Over 320 children and youth with disabilities were cared for in day care centres and foster families.

Additionally, the National Society operated a 24/7 Emergency Button and patient transport service for the elderly and disabled, further expanding its support to vulnerable populations.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides the National Society technical expertise, guidance and resources related to health and psychosocial wellbeing.

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



A volunteer delivering food parcels to an elderly person in Skopje as part of the National Society support services for the elderly. (Photo: Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia)



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia prioritized ensuring that migrants and displaced people are treated with dignity and provided with essential support. The National Society focused on protecting vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with special needs and asylum seekers. Mobile teams were deployed in temporary transit centres at the southern and northern borders, as well as along the mountainous border with Serbia, providing 24/7 humanitarian assistance. These teams, each consisting of a general practitioner, two logistics assistants and an interpreter, delivered critical services such as first aid, MHPSS, warm meals, food parcels, water, medicines and hygiene kits tailored to men, women and children. They also provided medical assistance and transported individuals to hospitals when necessary. Over the course of the year, the teams supported 17,765 migrants with humanitarian aid.

Additionally, the National Society extended support to displaced people from Ukraine residing in North Macedonia for humanitarian reasons. Assistance included the distribution of food and hygiene packages, as well as vouchers for clothes and shoes. Staff and volunteers helped link Ukrainian migrants to public services, including medical and mental health care. Psychologists provided essential psychosocial support, and a child-friendly space facilitated educational and recreational activities, benefiting a total of 254 people from Ukraine. The National Society also provided similar support to 43 people evacuated from Israel/Gaza and 45 people from Afghanistan, ensuring that these displaced individuals also received the help they needed to navigate their challenging circumstances.

IFRC network joint support

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

The IFRC supports the National Society in responding to migration issues with a collaborative approach as National Societies of the Central and South-Eastern Europe cluster have a strong need for jointly prioritizing coordination.

The **Swiss Red Cross** also supported project activities of the National Society during the year.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia focused on youth, vulnerable groups and marginalized populations. The National Society worked to instil positive values among young people through initiatives such as the national programme 'Red Cross in Action: Promotion of Humane Values (RCA-PHV)', which aims to promote peace, tolerance and coexistence. As a result, 1,059 students received educational training, 150 community-based projects were developed, benefiting 4,609 individuals and 27 debates were held in schools, engaging 900 students in discussions about social issues and community improvement.

For refugees and individuals under international protection, the National Society provided integration support in collaboration with local authorities and trained professionals. This assistance helped raise awareness at the community level about the needs of migrants and contributed to the government's efforts to mainstream social services and integration processes. Individualized case management was offered to those not reached by government programmes, ensuring no one was left without necessary support.

The National Society also supported homeless individuals through the 'Poverty Reduction through Employment Opportunities and the Provision of Basic Needs for Homeless People' project. Participants received MHPSS, technical skills training and individual employment plans with 20 such plans developed in the first half of 2023. Ten individuals were enrolled in certified training programmes to gain work qualifications. Additionally, awareness sessions on sexual

and gender-based violence were held with 50 homeless individuals and 20 homeless women received information on sexually transmitted diseases, menstrual hygiene and reproductive health, contributing to improved health and wellbeing in this vulnerable group.

IFRC network joint support

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

The **Austrian Red Cross** supported the National Society with innovative services such as the emergency button for older adults and people with disabilities in Skopje.



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.

Movement coordination

The Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia 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** provides support in training for general dissemination and disseminators for the International Humanitarian Law (IHL), activities for restoring family links (RFL) and provides workshops with media representatives in the Republic of North Macedonia. The activities are aimed at spreading the idea, vision and mission of the Movement.

External coordination

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia coordinated with various actors to support humanitarian work in its auxiliary role to public authorities. The National Society worked closely with the Crisis Management System to raise disaster preparedness awareness and meet the needs of vulnerable populations. Coordination with local mayors helped strengthen branch capacities and enhance disaster response at the community level.

The National Society also supported victims of natural disasters, such as the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, raising one million Euros through a national fundraising campaign. Regular coordination meetings were held with Movement partners, state institutions and the private sector to respond to priority needs, ensuring effective delivery of humanitarian aid and services to vulnerable groups, migrants and displaced populations. In collaboration with the North Macedonia Army and the Ministry of the Interior, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia promoted IHL and protection of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems across the country.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia progressed in capacity building at both local and national levels, with a focus on National Society development and long-term transformation. A key achievement was the launch of the 'Transformation-28' framework, a strategic initiative aimed at transforming the National Society over

a five-year period. This development process, initiated in 2022, is being implemented in three phases: participatory consultations, the preparation of a development framework and a final phase for implementation (2024-2028). The framework emphasizes internal reorganization, the introduction of new services and activities and defining cooperation modalities with partners.

On 17 October 2023, the National Society promoted 'Transformation-28' during an event attended by both domestic and international guests. The framework was presented in Macedonian, Albanian and English, in a comprehensive package that included an action plan and accompanying flyers. The focus for the next five years will be on integrating the development commitments of volunteers and staff into annual operational plans, which will enhance success, responsibility and responsiveness to service beneficiaries.

The National Society also assessed the capacities of its branches through the [Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment \(BOCA\)](#). A team of nine trained facilitators conducted assessments in six branches in 2023. To further strengthen branch capacity, a mentoring development programme was completed in eight branches focusing on areas such as administrative improvements, infrastructure, human resources, programme implementation and resource mobilization.

A financial operations workshop was held in May 2023 in Struga, where members of the National Society's governing board and financial commission discussed best practices and challenges, outlining steps to improve financial processes. Regular training and meetings were conducted to improve staff and volunteer competencies across programme areas. The National Society continued to develop policies, rulebooks and documents to ensure compliance with legal regulations and Movement policies.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia's development efforts in 2023 through the BOCA initiative to assess and strengthen its branch structures. The IFRC also provided technical assistance in the mentoring development programme, enhancing the capacities of local branches. Additionally, the IFRC supported the National Society's efforts to strengthen financial operations and improve governance structures, contributing to more effective service delivery.



Humanitarian diplomacy

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia focused on strengthening its [humanitarian diplomacy](#) efforts to build sustainable partnerships and advocate for the protection and care of vulnerable populations by pursuing bilateral and multilateral partnerships with both official bodies and informal networks to influence decision-makers and stakeholders in favour of basic humanitarian principles and values. The National Society invested in incorporating humanitarian diplomacy into all areas of its work, ensuring that these efforts were sustainable and strategic.

To improve its capacity in humanitarian diplomacy, the National Society adopted best practices to enhance its advocacy actions and solidify its position as a trusted partner. One of the primary goals was to raise awareness about the needs of vulnerable populations and promote adherence to humanitarian principles in decision-making processes.

Additionally, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia dedicated itself to promoting IHL in the country. Throughout the year, it organized activities and campaigns in collaboration with key stakeholders such as youth groups, the North Macedonia army, the Ministry of the Interior, Parliament and various government ministries. These efforts aimed to increase understanding of IHL and the importance of humanitarian principles, positioning the National Society as a leader in humanitarian advocacy in North Macedonia.



Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia implemented a self-assessment tool to evaluate the existence of integrity protection mechanisms within the National Society. As a result, several important policies were developed and adopted, including policies for the Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), sexual harassment in the workplace, child protection and whistleblower protection. To ensure proper implementation, instructions were prepared, and extensive training sessions were held for branch presidents, secretaries and staff. Additionally, an online reporting and response system is being developed to handle potential violations, aligning with the unified approach within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The National Society also prioritized financial accountability and sustainability by establishing new partnerships and seeking alternative funding sources. These efforts helped ensure financial stability and enhanced the effective use of resources across projects and programmes. To ensure alignment with organizational and donor standards, the National Society conducted regular monitoring visits to its branches, reviewing financial reports and programme activities. This reinforced accountability for the use of funds and provided transparency on how work was conducted.

In terms of decision-making, the National Society actively involved community members and partners in the design and execution of projects, making processes more inclusive. Investments were made in new technologies to enhance operational efficiency, particularly in areas such as communication, record-keeping, volunteer management, membership management and disaster management. Software upgrades were initiated to improve the digital capacities of the National Society, allowing for more agile responses to emerging needs.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross Society of the Republic of North Macedonia through its Capacity Building Fund (CBF) for the National Society's implementation of the self-assessment tool and for addressing gaps in policy and practice.



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 Republic of North Macedonia 2023 Financial Report](#)
- [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](#)

Contact information

Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia
ckrm.org

Maria Kristensen

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

Andrej Naricyn

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

Sumitha Martin

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