

TAJIKISTAN



2025-2027 IFRC network country plan

Multi-Year Funding Requirement CHF 12.3M

11 December 2024

In support of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan



4 National Society branches



69
National Society local units



165
National Society



National Society volunteers

People to be reached



30,000 Climate and environment



24,000 Disasters and crises



130,000 Health and wellbeing



4,000
Migration and displacement



Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Recurring disasters
 - Health needs
- Social vulnerabilities
- Population movement
- · Climate change adaptation

Capacity development

- Disaster preparedness and response
 - Cash readiness
- · Organizational development and sustainability

Key country data links

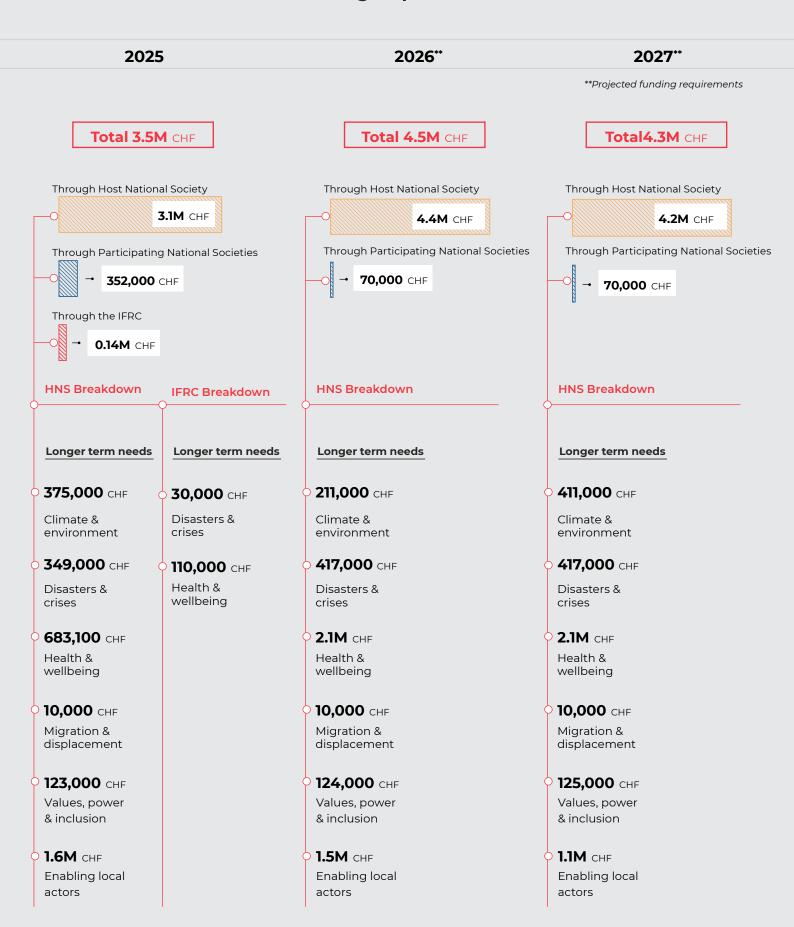
Human Development Index rank

World Bank Population figure

10.1M

World Bank Population below poverty line

Funding requirements



Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Emirates Red Crescent						•	
Finnish Red Cross	150,000						
Italian Red Cross	70,000					•	
Red Cross Society of China	132,000		•				•
Swiss Red Cross			•				

Total Funding requirement **CHF 352,000**

Hazards



Heat waves / cold waves



Floods



Landslides



Earthquakes



Conflict and violence



Population movement

Participating National Societies

Red Cross Society of China

Finnish Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates.

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAATJ003

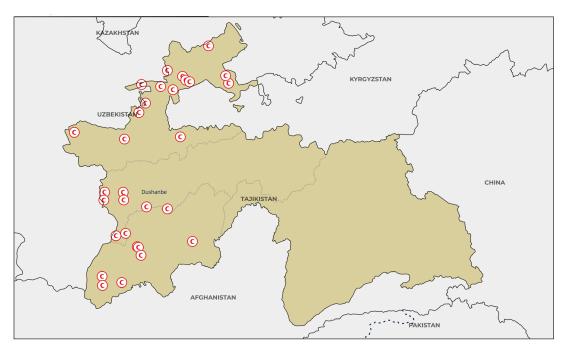
NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan** was established in 1927 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in its current form in 1997. The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan' was adopted in 2010 and regulates the National Society's auxiliary role. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan implements its programmes in complementarity with the initiatives of the public authorities, to ensure a meaningful consolidation and coordination with the efforts of all humanitarian actors. The National Society is one of the primary counterparts of the Committee of Emergency Situations under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, working closely with it to respond to emergencies and disasters under the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding. It has long-standing strong connections with the Ministry of Emergencies, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and other key national state agencies.

The National Society has 69 branches, 165 staff and a wide network of 10,388 volunteers across the country, and leverages e-volunteering support. Its structure consists of its Central

Committee, based at headquarters in the capital, Dushanbe, two provincial branches (Sughd Province and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region), two regional branches (Bokhtar and Kulob), and 65 district branches. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's strong local base of volunteers plays a key role in accessing people in remote areas and provided nationwide coverage during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. In recent years, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has responded to multiple disasters and crises, such as cold and heat waves, floods, earthquakes, population movement, border tensions and disease outbreaks, including COVID-19.

According to its Strategic Development Plan for 2021–2025, the priorities of the National Society include disaster risk reduction and disaster response, first aid training, community-based health programmes and humanitarian aid for orphans and their family members through cash interventions. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is currently in the process of finalising a comprehensive National Society Development plan to ensure the sustainability and strengthening of its network.



Location of Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Tajikistan, a landlocked Central Asian nation, shares borders with Afghanistan, China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Dominated by rugged mountainous terrain covering over 93 per cent of its land, the country has fertile western valleys, including the Fergana Valley and vital rivers such as the Amu Darya, Syr Darya and Vakhsh. These geographical features significantly shape the country's agriculture and water resources.

The population, estimated at <u>over 10 million</u>, is growing steadily. Ethnically, Tajiks make up the majority (80 per cent), followed by Uzbeks (15.3 per cent) and a small Russian minority (1 per cent). The eastern Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) is home to the Pamiri community. With a median age of approximately 24 years, Tajikistan has a young demographic. Despite a declining fertility rate, the life expectancy is relatively high at around 72 years. Education remains a strong point, with a <u>literacy rate of 99.5 per cent</u> due to the retained Soviet-era free education system, although rural education quality lags urban centers. Urbanization is increasing, though 73 per cent of the population remains rural. Dushanbe, the capital, is the largest urban hub, followed by Khujand, Qurghonteppa, and Kurgan-Tyube.

Tajikistan faces notable economic challenges as a low-income country, despite its natural resources and hydropower

potential. Infrastructure limitations restrict market access and exacerbate vulnerabilities to natural disasters. Agriculture is crucial, accounting for 22.6 per cent of GDP and employing 45.7 per cent of the workforce. Economic hardships have led to significant outward migration, with over a million Tajiks working in Russia each year. Remittances, which make up over 30 per cent of GDP, are vulnerable to decline, especially amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The economic strain is further aggravated by rising food prices, currency depreciation, and reduced tourism.

Security issues persist along Tajikistan's borders, including previous clashes with Kyrgyzstan. The border with Afghanistan presents ongoing challenges, and tensions in the GBAO between November 2021 and June 2022 highlighted internal security vulnerabilities.

Public health in Tajikistan is impacted by high maternal and child mortality rates, an escalating tuberculosis (TB) epidemic with growing drug-resistant cases, periodic disease outbreaks and limited access to water, sanitation, and hygiene. These challenges intensify during disasters, which are becoming more frequent and severe. Humanitarian needs are driven by rising food prices, socio-economic pressures from global crises, and the adverse impacts of climate change. Natural hazards mudflows, floods, landslides, earthquakes, avalanches, heat waves and cold waves—pose ongoing risks. Conflicts over land and water resources, particularly in disputed areas, also affect stability and resource allocation.



Volunteers of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan planted trees after a mudslide in Panjakent, Changal village in October 2023. (Photo: Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Tajikistan, predominantly mountainous, has a climate ranging from continental in the lowlands—characterized by hot summers and cold winters—to alpine in higher elevations, with greater precipitation in mountainous regions. Over 90 per cent of the country's terrain is mountainous, and nearly half of its settlements are located at altitudes above 3,000 meters, which exposes them to extreme weather patterns such as heatwaves and cold waves. These climatic conditions, exacerbated by climate change, lead to frequent and severe natural hazards, including floods, landslides, mudslides and avalanches. In fact, the number of avalanches and overall snowfall in the region has nearly doubled over the past decade.

The effects of climate change are particularly evident in Tajikistan's glaciers, which have receded by about a third since the 1930s. Projections indicate a further reduction of ice volume by 25-30 per cent by 2050. As glaciers continue to shrink, river run-off is expected to rise by 6-15 per cent, intensifying the risk of floods in some areas while heightening water scarcity in others. The World Bank's climate risk profile projects that Tajikistan's temperatures will increase at rates above the global average, with lowland areas regularly experiencing temperatures exceeding 40°C. This trend is anticipated to increase the frequency of extreme drought events from a 1-in-100-year occurrence to every 15 years under 2°C of global warming, potentially raising the annual drought probability to over 25 per cent by 2050. By 2035-2044, extreme river flooding is expected to impact an additional 6,000-7,000 people annually compared to historical averages.

Climate change is also intensifying environmental degradation. Soil erosion, reduced arable land, and deteriorating water resources are negatively impacting agricultural productivity, increasing the vulnerability of rural communities. With rising demand for water and household energy, there is growing competition for fresh water, exacerbated by population growth and strained hydroelectric power systems. Disputes over water resources are becoming more common, and the socio-economic impacts of climate-related disasters continue to challenge livelihoods and economic stability.

Economic growth is further constrained by environmental degradation caused by intensive agricultural practices. Heavy reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides for cotton cultivation poses risks to both public health and water quality. Air pollution from sources like the aluminum smelter in Tursunzade, a cement factory and Dushanbe's heating facility also affects local health. Additionally, the storage of radioactive waste from a Soviet-era enrichment plant in northern Chkalovsk, spread across 30 tailing dumps near residential

areas, presents serious safety concerns. Contamination from uranium, lead, and mercury mining continues to affect water resources, posing long-term health and ecological risks.

In response to these challenges, Tajikistan has initiated several climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, extending to 2030, highlights key priority sectors—energy, water resources, transportation, and agriculture—and seeks to implement adaptive measures through successive National Adaptation Plans. The National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019-2034 acknowledges the importance of integrating climate change adaptation into disaster management, though specific implementation details are still under development.

Tajikistan is also a signatory to the 2017 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and in 2021, the government issued a joint statement with other Central Asian countries at COP26, underlining the region's shared climate vulnerabilities and emphasizing the potential for testing innovative resilience strategies. The updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of 2021 further commits to prioritizing hydropower, developing renewable energy, enhancing agricultural and forestry practices, improving disaster response, and increasing public awareness on climate resilience.

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led, climate-smart, disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services. The National Society is also a signatory to the Climate Charter.

The National Society seeks to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into its disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan works to further develop forecast-based financing, with a focus on heat and cold waves. This will guide its timely and effective implementation of early actions, when abnormal weather conditions trigger a high probability of adversely affecting people, especially vulnerable groups such as children, older people and those living with disabilities.

The National Society also works to reinforce early warning systems at community level for a range of hazards and increase public awareness on climate risks. The IFRC's enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) empowers communities to identify and understand their risks, vulnerabilities, and capacities, enabling them to take informed, locally-driven action to reduce disaster impacts – set out in risk-informed community action plans.

Planned activities in 2025

- Improve community-level awareness on climate change, its impacts and disaster risk reduction, while supporting local climate adaptation solutions and establishing early warning systems under the Early Warning for All (EW4A) initiative
- Implement community-driven disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures, incorporating epidemic prevention and preparedness, alongside community enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments (e-VCA) for resilience building
- Conduct climate risk assessments, develop community disaster risk reduction plans and update its contingency plans with in-country partners for effective climate response
- Raise awareness on climate adaptation and advocate with government bodies and agencies, supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement and enhancing national and local collaboration on climate issues
- Actively participate in the National Platform for disaster risk reduction, Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) and other thematic groups, strengthening cooperation with public authorities and regional bodies to address cross-border climate-induced risks
- Lead joint simulation exercises at the community level, developing and revising disaster risk reduction guidelines and monitoring practices for preparedness at community and school levels
- Participate in National Action Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) processes, working alongside UNDP and other agencies to ensure effective climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies are integrated into national policy

Train staff, volunteers and community stakeholders (e.g., health and education workers) on climate adaptation, forecast-based action, shelter, cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and community-level disaster risk reduction practices

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in implementing its objectives to address climate change and strengthen its national initiatives.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. The IFRC approved a DREF for heatwave Early Action Protocol in 2021, in support of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan. This will enable the National Society to utilise an immediate allocation of CHF 250,000 to implement early actions once triggers are met. The actions which include (e.g. readiness and prepositioning of stocks) are meant to support up to 5,580 people during an early action timeframe of five days. The protocol is meant to be in place for five years.

In 2022, the IFRC approved another <u>DREF for cold wave</u> Early Action Protocol. This will enable the National Society to utilise an immediate allocation of CHF 275,000 to implement early actions once triggers are met. The actions which include readiness and prepositioning of stocks are meant to support up to 6,565 people during an early action timeframe of four days. The protocol is meant to be in place for five years.

Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), and with the implementing support from EU National Societies, the Finnish Red Cross, the Italian Red Cross and the German Red Cross, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will develop applications for forecast based financing and anticipatory action. The National Society will continue working with communities to implement climate smart and naturebased solutions to reduce disaster risk. With support from the IFRC, the National Society will incorporate principles of green response and green supply chain management into its operations. Starting from June 2024, the IFRC has taken the lead in facilitating the implementation of the IFRC-DG ECHO PPP, replacing the German Red Cross in this role. The IFRC will support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan with technical expertise.

For real-time information on emergencies, see the IFRC GO page <u>Tajikistan</u>.

Tajikistan faces significant exposure to a range of natural hazards, including frequent heavy snowfall, avalanches, floods, earthquakes, and mudflows. The nation experiences an estimated 70 mudflow events annually, which lead to extensive damage and high economic costs, particularly in rural and mountainous areas where infrastructure is vulnerable. Earthquakes present substantial risks, with around 23 earthquake-related disasters reported each year, and densely populated urban areas are especially susceptible. The most recent major earthquake on 23 March 2023 in Sughd province highlighted these risks. Annual losses from such disasters could reach up to five per cent of GDP for earthquakes and 1.4 per cent for floods. Even smaller-scale events like mudflows can have significant economic impacts, often resulting in housing replacement costs exceeding \$50,000.

Food insecurity is also a pressing issue, especially in rural and mountainous regions where poverty rates are high, and agricultural productivity is limited. About 27 per cent of the population lives below the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day, contributing to food insecurity and limited access to essential resources. Prior to COVID-19, around 3.3 million people—a third of the population—experienced food insecurity, with 1.6 million severely affected. This situation has been exacerbated by climate change, which disrupts agricultural cycles, and by high poverty rates that limit resilience. The nation's reliance on subsistence farming leaves a large portion of the population vulnerable to climate-driven changes in weather and crop yields, further endangering food security.

Political instability and frequent border conflicts, particularly with neighboring Kyrgyzstan, add another layer of vulnerability. These conflicts periodically escalate into violent clashes, leading to population displacement and placing further strain on already limited resources. Border tensions can hinder response efforts, divert resources from development to security concerns, and disrupt critical supply chains. The impact of these conflicts on local communities exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and complicates efforts to build stability in border regions.

Although Tajikistan has established a legal framework for disaster management through the Law on Protection from Emergencies, several implementation challenges remain. Limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, and high poverty levels restrict the country's capacity to effectively manage and respond to emergencies. Standards for international assistance are underdeveloped, and integration of disaster risk reduction with climate adaptation measures remains limited. Furthermore, public awareness and education on disaster

preparedness are insufficient, heightening the nation's overall risk exposure to both natural and man-made hazards.

Economic challenges compound these issues. The country's limited financial resources and inadequate infrastructure affect its ability to withstand and recover from disasters. Poor road networks, lack of modern equipment and limited emergency response resources increase the impact of disasters, especially in remote areas. These factors create a cycle of vulnerability where economic development is impeded by recurring natural hazards, which, in turn, limits the nation's ability to invest in resilience measures.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has a long history of working within disaster response and employs a <u>community-based disaster risk reduction</u> approach, integrating climate adaptation and collaborating with public authorities. The National Society is also taking proactive measures on conflict preparedness in those areas most affected. This includes the stockpiling of household items and staff refresher training.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is involved in the Early Warnings for All initiative (EW4All), which aims to ensure everyone on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027. In this United Nations-led initiative, the IFRC is the lead of Pillar 4 on preparedness for response to warnings and is also actively engaged in Pillars 1 and 3 of Disaster Risk Knowledge and Warning Dissemination and Communication. The National Society, with IFRC support, will be working with national authorities to coordinate Pillar 4 and implement activities. The launch event and first national consultation workshop for Tajikistan for the EW4All initiative happened in August 2023. Since its launch, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has been pivotal in roadmap development for early warning improvements, culminating in a finalized plan endorsed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction Platform in July 2024. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan assists the Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES) in the preparedness and response under this initiative.

The National Society leads <u>shelter</u> coordination for floods and earthquakes under planning by the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT)-the Government-humanitarian community disaster risk management partnership for Tajikistan. In this connection, it will continue with training of staff and volunteers and engage with national stakeholders to enhance shelter management. Through a <u>preparedness for effective response</u> (PER) assessment facilitated by the IFRC in 2022, the National Society identified its priorities as:

 Align its contingency plan with the REACT inter-agency contingency plan

- Develop guidance on the use of cash in emergencies
- Integrate lessons learned from <u>cash and voucher</u> <u>assistance</u> (CVA) into the revision of its contingency plan
- Support the government to enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities by 2027 guided by the EW4All Roadmap

Planned activities in 2025

- Strengthen institutional preparedness through a systematic PER approach
- Conduct simulation exercises using a multi-hazards approach to preparedness for emergencies, epidemics, population movements and border conflict
- Implement a pilot project on local disaster management committees (LDMC) by creating, training, and equipping the committees to undertake disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction with epidemic preparedness incorporated
- Replenish existing emergency stock
- Conduct annual refresher training for the National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT) and LDMC members
- Strengthen technical and instructional capacity of emergency operation centres (at central and regional branch level)
- Enhance capacities of staff and volunteers on shelter programming and coordination

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's overall efforts to strengthen disaster readiness and response, reinforcing community resilience. The IFRC launched a DREF on border conflict with Kyrgyzstan which started in late 2022, targeting approximately 2000 people with a funding of CHF 207,000. Another DREF was launched in early 2023 when two earthquakes were registered on the territory of Tajikistan, targeting almost 2000 individuals with a funding of approximately CHF 189,000. The IFRC also supports the National Society on shelter coordination.

Under the <u>DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership</u>, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will work with targeted communities to reduce disaster risk. Local disaster committees will be trained and supported, and the National Society will continue to work with national authorities to enhance the legal framework for disaster management and update the Law on International Emergency Assistance (IDRL by-laws).

Additionally, at the August 2024 Regional Forum of Central Asian emergency authorities, Tajikistan and neighbouring countries approved a regional disaster risk reduction roadmap for 2025-2026, which includes recommendations to align national laws with IDRL Guidelines and international standards, based on an IFRC Regional Report conducted with CESDRR and EU support.

The **Red Cross Society of China** supports the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in its disaster risk reduction project.

The **German Red Cross** has been supporting the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan with technical expertise in development of applications for forecast-based financing.

The **Swiss Red Cross** through the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan is providing support to the National Society in the <u>CVA</u> project in Tajikistan.



Health and wellbeing

Health challenges in Tajikistan are compounded by low health expenditure, limited insurance coverage, and economic barriers. With per capita health spending around \$72 as of 2021 and health coverage at just 33.1 per cent, significant portions of the population, especially women, struggle to afford essential care. Private payments and informal fees prevent access to healthcare for impoverished families, leading to severe debt, with 26.7 per cent of households spending over 40 per cent of their income on healthcare.

<u>Maternal</u> and neonatal health, tuberculosis, HIV and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) present serious public health issues. The maternal mortality rate, at 32 per 100,000 live

births as of 2023, remains high. Tajikistan is one of 30 countries with a high incidence of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), with 7,800 cases in 2022 and 28 per cent of these new cases being MDR-TB. HIV prevalence has also increased, partly due to drug trafficking routes that heighten vulnerability to HIV, particularly among drug users. NCDs are the leading cause of death, with a mortality rate of 876.1 per 100,000 people—among the highest in Central Asia. High rates of stunting further indicate chronic nutritional deprivation, influenced by early childbearing and maternal malnutrition.

Although Tajikistan maintains high vaccination rates—96 per cent for measles and 97 per cent for DTP3—outbreaks of

vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles still occur. The country's experience with COVID-19 highlighted vulnerabilities to infectious disease outbreaks, due to remote settlements, migration, and limited preventive resources.

Water and sanitation issues are severe, with only 55.2 per cent of people having access to safely managed water, and 12 per cent relying on surface water. Poor sanitation infrastructure particularly impacts rural areas, where just 3.2 per cent of households have flush toilets connected to a sewer system. This situation contributes to high rates of diarrheal diseases, which account for 26 per cent of deaths linked to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation. Addressing these pervasive health and infrastructure challenges is critical for improving health outcomes in Tajikistan.

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will focus on improving people's access to health and social services through the provision of community-based health programmes, strengthening partnerships and building the capacity of the staff, volunteers and communities to respond to health and other emergencies. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's major objectives include:

- Increased recognition of the role of the National Society in health and social care
- Increased preparedness and response capacities to epidemics and public health needs in emergencies

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan also seeks to obtain international accreditation for its first aid training programme from the IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre.

Planned activities in 2025

- Expand community-based surveillance in targeted locations
- Improve people's access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), including safe drinking water in selected districts
- Provide health education and psychosocial support alongside other assistance to orphans
- Conduct TB prevention activities and provide social support for people affected by TB
- Conduct social mobilization activities in support of national routine immunization programmes
- Provide first aid training for communities and first aid commercial courses including epidemic risk in simulation exercises for multi-hazards preparedness
- Strengthen capacity for health in emergencies by refresher training and ensure availability of updated information, education, and communication (IEC) materials

- Review and update the existing health strategy to reflect new challenges
- Conduct mapping of the National Society health capacities and create an internal database of trained staff and volunteers
- Train staff and volunteers in epidemic and pandemic preparedness in communities
- Train staff and volunteers in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society's health and social care initiatives by leveraging their auxiliary role mandate and their standing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tajikistan's Ministry of Health and Social Protection. This long-term support includes enhancing the National Society to respond to health needs in emergencies and preparedness and response to epidemics and pandemics, introducing innovative strategies such as community-based surveillance in select locations across the country.

Additionally, leveraging the National Society's accumulated experience in COVID-19 vaccine promotion, the IFRC will help elevate its role in routine immunization. The IFRC will provide technical assistance for the review of the National Society's health strategy and support efforts to obtain international accreditation for the National Society first aid training programme via IFRC's Global First Aid Reference Centre.

Efforts will be made to integrate MHPSS into various health and social care programmes and services, fostering stronger links between health initiatives and disaster preparedness and response efforts.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supports the National Society in the Healthy Community Project focused on girls' hygiene and WASH.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the National Society initiatives on accelerating local action in humanitarian and health crisis.

In collaboration with the Japanese Red Cross Society, the IFRC has supported the implementation of the water and hygiene promotion project in two districts of Tajikistan. This project will be expanded in additional districts based on the assessment and availability of additional resources from partners.

Under the DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will continue to increase epidemic preparedness and response. The IFRC will also support the advancement of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's first aid services by obtaining IFRC international accreditation for providing first aid training.



Migration and displacement in Tajikistan are influenced by regional conflicts, economic pressures and political instability. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has impacted labour migration and remittances, as many Tajik migrants, who traditionally work in Russia, face reduced opportunities and increased economic hardship. High unemployment within Tajikistan further fuels labor migration, with approximately 800,000 to 1,000,000 Tajik citizens, or about 20 per cent of the labour force, seeking work abroad. Migrant workers and their families face multiple risks, including health and safety concerns, human trafficking, and limited access to reintegration resources upon return.

The situation is exacerbated by periodic violence along the Tajik-Kyrgyz border in the Ferghana Valley, where disputes over water and land resources frequently result in displacement of communities. Additionally, recent tensions in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO), particularly the escalation in May 2022, have raised concerns about potential internal displacement from these areas.

Instability in neighboring Afghanistan remains a critical factor, with refugees crossing into Tajikistan to seek safety. According to the UNHCR, as of January 2022, around 7,510 Afghan refugees are in Tajikistan, and the risk of new arrivals persists if conditions worsen in Afghanistan. Tajikistan's refugee laws provide some protection for asylum seekers, exempting those who claim refugee status from penalties for irregular entry.

Environmental factors are also contributing to internal displacement, with <u>5,100 people displaced</u> within Tajikistan by the end of 2023 due to natural disasters. This reflects a rise in internal displacement from environmental causes, underscoring the compounded pressures facing vulnerable populations within the country.

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's overarching objective is to improve response to the basic needs and access to health, shelter and other services for migrants of all categories, including returnees. The National Society aims to engage in enhancing access to essential services and providing healthcare, vocational training, family support and implementing community-based disaster risk reduction activities for communities and labour migrants.

The National Society also seeks ways to assist affected people on the move due to various circumstances, and to analyse migration trends and the underlying causes, focusing on Afghan refugees in Tajikistan post-Afghanistan crisis.

Planned activities in 2025

- Prepare for and respond to potential refugee influx from Afghanistan
- Improve access to assistance, protection and information for migrants, including restoring family links
- Deliver psychosocial support to migrant communities
- Organize five information and educational training centres for labour migrants in Dushanbe, Kulob, Badakhshon, Sughd and Bokhtar, and a mobile clinic for multi-purpose use
- Continue collaboration with government agencies, UNHCR and other organizations supporting refugees and asylum seekers and raise awareness of the needs of vulnerable people

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society on identifying anticipatory actions for border conflict population movement, piloting and establishing <u>humanitarian service points</u> (HSP) and facilitating a regional migration working group to enable due coordination and cooperation among National Societies in Central Asia.

Under the <u>DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership</u>, and with the support of the Italian Red Cross, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will increase its capacity to respond to potential population influxes and to address migration-related scenarios. Support from the Italian Red Cross will be aimed at enhancing the National Society's cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination as well as migrants' access to health and social services and HIV/harm reduction, to reduce HIV infection rates and stigma, and guaranteeing access to social, health and psychological services.

The ICRC in Dushanbe, together with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan responds to people's needs resulting mainly from armed conflict and violence through a wide range of humanitarian activities, including restoring family links services and strengthening the National Society's multidisciplinary emergency preparedness and response skills. Based on its mandate, the ICRC also promotes international humanitarian law (IHL) and universal humanitarian principles among armed and security forces and academic institutions.

Values, power and inclusion

In Tajikistan, social and economic inequalities disproportionately affect women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Poverty remains a pervasive issue, with nearly 75 per cent of rural residents living below the poverty line. Women are especially impacted, facing widespread discrimination and limited opportunities in social, economic, and political spheres. Domestic violence against women is prevalent, but most cases go unreported; around 20 per cent of married women experience violence from their husbands, with only a small fraction seeking formal assistance.

Access to education is a significant barrier, particularly for girls and marginalized communities. High rates of adolescent pregnancy and early marriage hinder opportunities for young girls, and one in eight girls is married before age 18. Children in Tajikistan, especially those affected by migration, are at risk of marginalization, violence, and exploitation. As many migrant parents leave children with relatives, these children often lack adequate psychosocial support and access to essential services, with a considerable number placed in residential institutions.

The <u>elderly and individuals with disabilities</u> represent some of the most vulnerable populations in Tajikistan. There are approximately 330,000 people over 64 years of age and 150,000 people with disabilities, including children. Social protection programmes cover only 26.6 per cent of the population, a rate considerably lower than the global average.

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan works to provide immediate aid to vulnerable people, advocate for their rights and build long-term solutions. Through partnerships and initiatives, the National Society aims to enhance the quality of life of vulnerable groups, fostering inclusivity, dignity, and resilience in Tajikistan. The National Society seeks to mainstream protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) in its programmes and emergency response activities. The National Society will also work on creating child-friendly spaces to ensure that, especially during emergencies, all children have access to a safe and supportive environment.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will strengthen engagement with and accountability to communities through integrating feedback mechanisms within all programmes and operations, as well as develop a structured national feedback mechanism. It will also ensure that all feedback data collected is disaggregated according to age and sex.

Planned activities in 2025

- Raise awareness within communities on the importance of inclusion and respect to prevent domestic violence
- Develop a community engagement and accountability policy and strategy
- Strengthen a participatory approach to ensure that communities are included at different stages of programme planning and implementation
- Strengthen CEA approaches by identifying gaps and actionable areas of improvement through a CEA selfassessment workshop with support from partners
- Provide mandatory briefings for staff and volunteers on PGI in emergencies including for sexual and genderbased violence (SGBV), safeguarding, child protection and protection against sexual abuse (PSEA) and disability inclusion

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan to incorporate risk communication and community engagement strategies, facilitating active community participation and local knowledge integration at all levels of their programmes. Developing a comprehensive CEA strategy will reinforce a people-centric approach across the board.

The **Emirates Red Crescent** will assist the National Society in its support for orphans' programme.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the National Society initiatives on migration and the youth and drug abuse programme.

Under the DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will continue to institutionalize PGI and CEA within its operational structure, through policies, training and workshops. The National Society initiatives will be strengthened by IFRC's guidance and assistance, particularly in targeting vulnerable groups and developing inclusive programmes from disaster preparedness to intervention stages.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) and the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2022 and 2023. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the workplan phase. The PER Approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is focused on enhancing its organizational structure by building the capacities of its branches, staff and volunteers. A comprehensive National Society development plan has been created, aligned with the Strategic Development Plan for 2021-2025. As the current strategy spans 2021-2025, a key upcoming task for the Society is to develop a new strategic plan extending from 2025 to 2030.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan implements its programmes complementary to the initiatives of the public authorities and coordinates and collaborates with a range of other actors and stakeholders. This collaborative engagement extends to building networks and facilitating the exchange of critical information. It seeks to strengthen national, regional, and international cooperation through:

Participating in the improvement of regional and crossborder cooperation in Central Asia and taking part in wider international cooperation and IFRC disaster response activities

- Conducting round tables with government authorities, NGOs and other partners
- Diversifying resource mobilization channels approaches

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue supporting the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in maintaining extensive cooperation and coordination with development actors, embassies, donor agencies and other potential partners involved in the development landscape of Tajikistan to build networks and facilitate the exchange of critical information.



Multi-year high level objectives of the **National Society**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's comprehensive National Society development plan under draft is integrating insights from assessments such as the IFRC OCAC and BOCA conducted in 2022 and 2023. The plan covers human resources, branch development, safety and security, volunteering and youth, financial and administrative management, sustainability and communication. Key planned activities include to:

- Establish a working group for the implementation of the National Society's development strategy and action plan for 2021-2025
- Develop training modules covering various areas such as disaster response, climate change, shelter, communication strategies and psychosocial support
- Promote volunteerism through initiatives that engage volunteers in communicating humanitarian principles and values
- Establish and maintain partnerships with local communities to broaden outreach and integrate diverse approaches

- Renovate headquarters and branches by improving infrastructure and resources across provinces, including transportation and communication equipment
- Strengthen external communication and visibility by integrating communication strategies into all programmes
- Strengthen branches and headquarters' capacities, focusing on staff, volunteers and departmental development
- Enhance volunteer management systems, safety and youth engagement, including training for young leaders and support for marginalized communities
- Develop and implement a resource mobilization strategy to ensure financial sustainability
- Conduct seminars for staff and volunteers on the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, fundamental principles and humanitarian values
- Hire an Organizational Development Manager to support capacity building and coordinate branches development
- Establish training and information centres regionally to support ongoing staff and volunteer education

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan with both technical assistance and <u>funding</u>. The National Society development action plan approved by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan management outlines the activities, funding availability, timelines and other collaborating partners who will contribute to these initiatives. Implementation will be backed by the Capacity Building Fund (<u>CBF</u>), the IFRC and ICRC's joint National Society Investment Alliance (<u>NSIA</u>) and the <u>DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership</u>.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the National Society initiatives on youth and volunteer management.

The approved National Society development action plan will also be shared with other participating National Societies and potential donors to secure additional funding for unmet needs. Additionally, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's digital fundraising platform and newly launched donation page are expected to enhance financial support for the National Society development plan.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In 2024, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan stands as the sole National Society in the region with a Humanitarian Diplomacy Strategic Action Plan, outlining activities aimed at strengthening this aspect from 2023 to 2025.

The National Society aims to establish and systematize humanitarian diplomacy efforts, persuading decision-makers and opinion leaders to prioritize the needs of vulnerable people while upholding fundamental humanitarian principles through advocacy, negotiation, communication and formal agreements. Moreover, there is a crucial need to enhance public awareness and education regarding disaster risk reduction measures and address the impact of climate change on disaster risk. The high-level objectives of the National Society under humanitarian diplomacy include capacity building initiatives and disaster law and auxiliary role initiatives such as:

- Establish humanitarian diplomacy capacity within the National Society
- Advocate for effective and protective disaster related laws, policies and regulations
- Improve official/legal recognition of its auxiliary role in disaster risk management

- Provide advice to their government in the analysis, drafting and implementation of effective disaster-related laws and policies
- Integrate humanitarian diplomancy elements including the existing communication strategy in all programmes and projects
- Establish a working group for humanitarian diplomacy and foster external collaboration for joint humanitarian diplomacy efforts
- Review the progress of current humanitarian diplomacy strategic action plan at the end of each third quarter
- Research and finalize the selection of potential humanitarian diplomacy opportunities for the following year

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society's <u>disaster law</u> initiatives with a focus on expanding its leadership in disaster law and legislative advocacy, especially in climate-smart disaster laws. These activities will contribute to the National Society's implementation of Resolution No. 7, "Disaster Laws and Policies that Leave No One Behind," adopted at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The IFRC will also support the Tbilisi Commitments

on addressing the climate crisis and advancing humanitarian diplomacy, adopted at the 11th European Regional Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference. The IFRC will support in capacity-building, advocacy, research and technical assistance to the government for law or policy development, building on past assistance provided in disaster law and advocacy.

Under the <u>DG ECHO-IFRC Pilot Programmatic Partnership</u>, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will work with the Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES) to move forward the Law on International Emergency Assistance (IDRL by-laws).



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has identified several priority areas and related activities pertaining to reinforcing accountability and agility. These include to:

- Strengthen the capacities of staff and volunteers for effective financial and administrative management
- Conduct workshops on financial management at headquarters and branches
- Enhance capacities in procurement and logistics and train leadership at national and branch levels in human resource management
- Identify <u>digital transformation</u> priorities and implement these priorities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in all its accountability strengthening efforts. Under the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and DG ECHO, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will pursue its

digital transformation along with 24 participating National Societies who receive technical guidance in developing and implementing digital transformation strategies. The IFRC, with technical support from the **Netherlands Red Cross** and the **Spanish Red Cross**, facilitated workshops in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to collect feedback from various stakeholders regarding the current and future state of digital maturity. A digital transformation roadmap will capture short-term activities and long-term ambitions for digital transformation and a suggested governance structure.

The National Society has also received an award of CHF 50,000 from the IFRC <u>Capacity Building Fund</u> to enhance resource mobilization, chiefly focusing on developing a digital fundraising page, implementing a customer relationship management system, organizing digital fundraising campaigns, and conducting branch development events. This initiative aims to establish a sustainable digital donation infrastructure, increase donor engagement and effectively manage donor and member relationships. The system will ensure continuity by preserving fundraising data, enabling informed decisions and securing the project's sustainability even during staff turnover.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC's Central Asia Country Cluster Delegation is based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and it has a presence in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. It supports the National Societies to collaborate, through formal and informal exchange platforms, exchange visits and online and in-person meetings. With its in-country presence, the IFRC is supporting the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan on disaster management, disaster risk reduction, health, finance, and administration, and is extending support from other country offices on humanitarian diplomacy, community engagement and accountability, cash and

vouchers assistance and disaster law. The IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

Over the past ten years, the IFRC has supported the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan with over twenty Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations in relation to floods, earthquakes, cold and heat waves, droughts, disease outbreaks, food insecurity, border conflict, civil unrest and population movement. In 2023, the IFRC supported the National Society with one new <u>DREF operation for earthquake</u>.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging, and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development assistance and contribute to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan is part of the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the DG ECHO and IFRC, and as such, is receiving the implementation support of the **Italian Red Cross** and the **Finnish Red Cross**, as well as the coordination support of the IFRC. The partnership implements activities in disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, humanitarian assistance and protection for people on the move, cash and voucher assistance (CVA), risk communication and community engagement and accountability (CEA).

This partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with the potential for greater, longer-term impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the world's biggest international donor for humanitarian assistance. The partnership is scheduled to end in mid-2025.

The following participating National Societies have provided support to the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan:

The **Red Cross Society of China** is recognized as a strategic partner of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and has been providing support since 2013 in the form of IT equipment, emergency stocks and fleet over several years. Both the National Societies are involved in an ongoing, joint project to

strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities through community-based disaster risk reduction and capacity building. The project aims to increase the resilience of the most disaster-prone communities in southern Tajikistan through active engagement in comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures.

The **Finnish Red Cross** has sustained an active partnership with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan for almost 20 years. Cooperation between the two National Societies is focused on health, WASH and disaster management, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, the European Union and the Finnish Red Cross itself. In recent years, the cooperation has expanded to areas such as disability inclusion and anticipatory action with a link to enhanced forecasting capacities of the national meteorological service.

The **Italian Red Cross** has been engaging with National Societies in the region through projects and activities for more than 10 years and has had its own permanent office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan since 2018. The Italian Red Cross supports the activities of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan at a technical and financial level. It has supported the National Society in developing its volunteer mobilization capacities through youth engagement and development, and in enhancing migrants' access to health and social services, while improving cooperation between migrant countries of origin, transit and destination. More recently, the National Society has started focusing on HIV and harm reduction, aiming at reducing HIV infection rates and stigma, and guaranteeing access to social, health and psychological services.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in development of CVA through the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan. The CVA programme aims to help in the form of cash or vouchers to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable populations affected by emergencies, disasters, or other challenging situations. The programme enables beneficiaries to make choices and prioritize their own essential needs, such as food, shelter, healthcare and education.



aid to the injured in Panjakent, Changal village of Tajikistan. (Photo: Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan)

Movement coordination

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan 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 has supported humanitarian assistance and protection in Tajikistan since the early 1990s, focusing on those affected by conflict. The ICRC supports 'mine risk education,' 'emergency preparedness and response,' and 'restoring family links' in Tajikistan. During the conflict, the ICRC facilitated Red Cross Messages (RCMs) to help reunite separated families. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's mine risk education programme raises awareness about landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) to promote safe behaviors in affected communities. Additionally, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan's emergency preparedness and response programme works to enhance disaster preparedness through risk assessments, early warning systems and collaboration with local authorities.

Coordination with other actors

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan coordinates extensively with national authorities, international organizations and humanitarian partners to support disaster response, health and social protection initiatives across the country. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with the national Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES), the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan plays an active role in disaster response, aligning its efforts with CoES under a Cooperation Agreement effective through 2027.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and local authorities, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan works to enhance community resilience and address public health and educational needs. Collaborations extend to humanitarian organizations including UNICEF, WFP, IOM, Mercy Corps and OSCE, contributing to coordinated and comprehensive support for communities.

Since 2023, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has also worked with UNDRR to advance the "Early Warning for All" initiative, focusing on improving disaster preparedness and response capabilities in Tajikistan. The King Salman Foundation partners with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan to provide aid for orphans and vulnerable children, delivering financial, educational, healthcare and social services to improve their well-being and prospects.

As an integral member of the National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT), the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan coordinates efforts within the humanitarian sector. By working closely with the CoES and Civil Defense, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan reinforces national disaster management initiatives, ensuring that its programmes complement and strengthen public sector actions.



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 16 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.

About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2025 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC <u>Strategy 2030</u>, representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Explanatory note on funding requirements

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and
 often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency
 and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources
 of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2025 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-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) 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 network country plans
- All plans and reports
- Data on National Societies on <u>IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System</u>
- Live data on active emergency operations on IFRC GO platform
- Live data on IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Anticipatory and Response pillars
- · Evaluations and research databank
- Donor response reports

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