



BULGARIA

2025 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec



14 July 2026

IN SUPPORT OF THE BULGARIAN RED CROSS



28

National Society
branches



379

National Society
local units



543

National Society
staff



16,546

National Society
volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency
Operations



16,001

Disasters and crises



534,131

Health and
wellbeing



365,480

Migration and
displacement



43,940

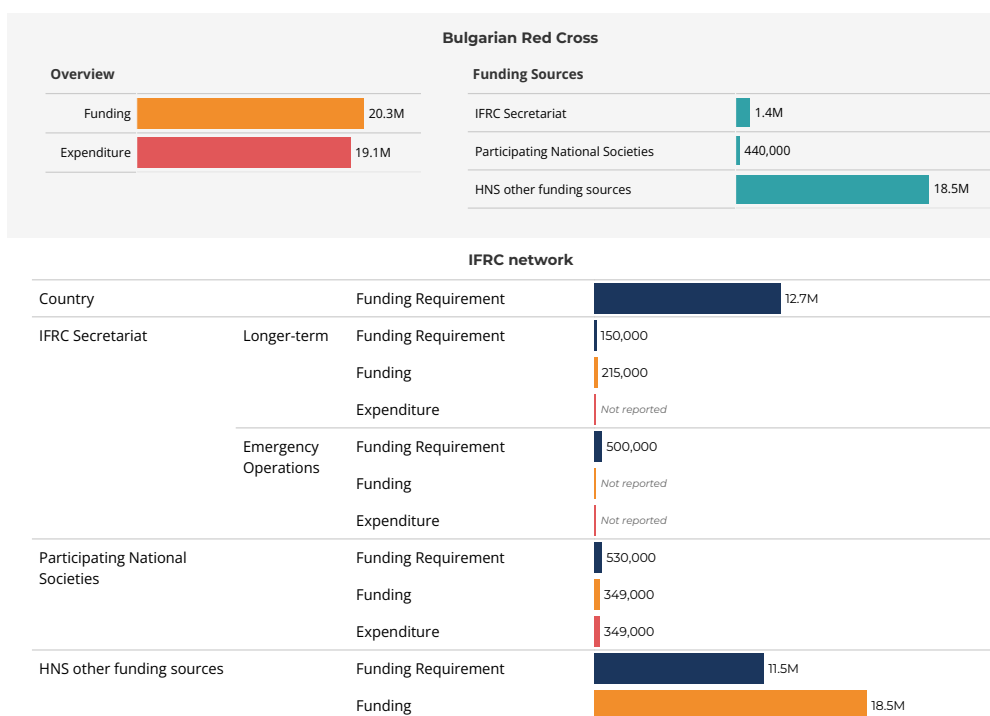
Values, power
and inclusion



2,276

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)



Appeal number **MAABG001**

*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MGR65002 / Ukraine and Impacted Countries

Accountability and agility	National Society has strengthened its integrity and reputational risk mechanism	Yes
	National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes
	National Society has a functioning data management system that informs decision making and supports monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of its actions	Yes
Climate and environment	National Society has received IFRC Network's support to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change	Yes
Disasters and crises	Number of people reached with emergency response and early recovery programmes	4,000
	Number of people who received food items through National Society response	3,000
	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction	143
Health and wellbeing	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate health services	17,000
	Number of people reached with psychosocial and mental health services	16,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	3,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society with training in first aid	409
	Number of people reached by National Society health promotion / awareness messages in social / mass media or large gatherings for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases	1
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns	Yes
	National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes

Migration and displacement	Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	366
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing assistance and/or protection to people on the move along migration routes	1
National Society development	There is a National Society Development plan in place	Yes
	National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	Yes
	National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies	Yes
Strategic and operational coordination	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the National Society is part of	2
Values, power and inclusion	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	2,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society's educational programmes	1,000
	Number of people whose access to education is facilitated through National Society's programming	1

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	National Society has received IFRC Network's support to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change	Yes
	National Society implements environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction, clean-ups or reducing GHG emissions	Yes
Disasters and crises	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction	48,000
	Number of people reached with emergency response and early recovery programmes	4,000
	Number of people reached with shelter support	225
Health and wellbeing	Number of people donating blood	3,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate health services	17,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	361,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society with training in first aid	78,000
	Number of people reached with psychosocial and mental health services	16,000
Migration and displacement	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing assistance and/or protection to people on the move along migration routes	4

	Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	44,000
Values, power and inclusion	National Society has a Community Engagement and Accountability policy, strategy or plan	Yes
	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	2,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society's educational programmes	1,000

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Accountability and agility	National Society has a functioning data management system that informs decision making and supports monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of its actions	Yes
	National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes
	National Society has strengthened its integrity and reputational risk mechanism	Yes
	National Society is implementing a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
	National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns	Yes
National Society development	National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies	Yes
	National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	Yes
	There is a National Society Development plan in place	Yes

IFRC NETWORK BILATERAL-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Canadian Red Cross Society			●	●		●	
Hong Kong Red Cross, Branch of the Red Cross Society of Ch..					●		
Republic of Korea National Red Cross					●		
Swiss Red Cross	8,000				●		
Turkish Red Crescent	340,000			●	●		

Total Funding Reported **CHF 349,000**

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

Bulgaria is a South-Eastern European country located on the eastern Balkan Peninsula, bordering Romania to the north, Serbia and North Macedonia to the west and Greece and Türkiye to the south. The Republic of Bulgaria is a parliamentary democracy and a member of the European Union since 2007. In March 2024, Bulgaria joined the Schengen Area, marking a significant milestone in its European integration, and is set to adopt the euro currency from 1 January 2026.

Despite these advancements, the country has experienced a prolonged period of political instability in recent years. Between 2021 and 2024, Bulgaria held seven parliamentary elections, reflecting deep political fragmentation and challenges in forming stable governments. This period of instability resulted in delays in implementing key reforms and limited progress on the [National Recovery and Resilience Plan](#). A coalition government formed in early 2025 brought temporary stability, although it continued to face significant internal divisions.

Throughout 2025, the political environment remained volatile, with persistent tensions within the ruling coalition, particularly around judicial reform, anti-corruption efforts and the role of caretaker institutions. Public confidence in political leadership declined further amid perceptions of limited progress on governance reform and accountability. Judicial independence and corruption remained central issues in public discourse, prompting demonstrations in Sofia and other major cities calling for deeper institutional change.

Economic conditions in Bulgaria remained mixed. While the country has achieved notable poverty reduction over the past decade with absolute poverty decreasing significantly between 2015 and 2022 inequality and the at-risk-of-poverty rate remain among the highest in the European Union. Institutional weaknesses and governance challenges [continue to limit productivity growth](#) and constrain long-term development prospects. Economic growth was projected at around 2.7 per cent in 2025, although inflation remained elevated, affecting household purchasing power. Growth is expected to slow further in 2025–2026 due to global trade uncertainties, primarily through indirect effects on the European Union economy and investment sentiment.

Demographic decline represents a critical long-term challenge for Bulgaria. The country faces a rapidly ageing and shrinking population, with projections indicating that the working-age population (15–64 years) will decrease by nearly one-third between 2026 and 2060. This trend is expected to place increasing pressure on public services, labour markets and social protection systems. Although Bulgaria has made progress in labour market participation and social inclusion, disparities between population groups persist, and informal employment remains widespread.

Migration continues to shape Bulgaria's socio-economic context. Since the escalation of the international armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine in 2022, Bulgaria has hosted more than 205,000 displaced persons from Ukraine under Temporary Protection Status. This has required sustained efforts to provide humanitarian assistance, social services and integration support, placing additional demands on national and local systems.

By late 2025, political tensions intensified further following the presentation of the 2026 draft budget. Disagreements over spending priorities and concerns about transparency triggered renewed protests across the country. In December 2025, the Prime Minister resigned, leading to the appointment of a caretaker government tasked with managing the transition into 2026 and overseeing the country's euro adoption.

Bulgaria in 2025 operated within a complex and evolving environment marked by political instability, governance challenges and economic pressures. While the country continues to advance in its European integration and has made progress in poverty reduction and social development, structural issues including demographic decline, inequality and institutional weaknesses persist. These factors, combined with the ongoing political uncertainty and economic transition towards euro adoption, created a challenging context for both governmental and humanitarian actors, with implications for policy continuity, service delivery and long-term development planning.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross advanced its environmental sustainability agenda by integrating renewable energy solutions into its operations, significantly reducing its carbon footprint while improving cost efficiency. This achievement reflects a strong institutional commitment to climate responsibility and demonstrates leadership in promoting sustainable practices within humanitarian operations.

Disasters and crises

During the reporting period, the Bulgarian Red Cross strengthened its disaster preparedness and response capacity through major investments in coordination systems, communication infrastructure and operational readiness. Enhanced national and regional coordination mechanisms, combined with expanded training and simulation exercises, improved the National Society's ability to respond effectively to emergencies while contributing to regional collaboration and knowledge exchange on emerging risks.

Health and wellbeing

In 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross significantly expanded its health and wellbeing services through large-scale outreach, training and service delivery. The National Society strengthened first aid capacity nationwide, increased access to health awareness and preventive care and reinforced emergency health response systems. Its work also included targeted support to vulnerable populations and active engagement in emergency health interventions, enhancing both community health outcomes and resilience.

Migration and displacement

The Bulgarian Red Cross enhanced its role in supporting migrants and refugees by delivering comprehensive, multi-service assistance across multiple locations. Through integrated protection, health, social support and livelihood services, the National Society improved access to essential services and strengthened inclusion for displaced populations, while also reinforcing protection mechanisms and supporting long-term integration efforts.

Values, power and inclusion

In 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross strengthened its institutional commitment to Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) by developing and adopting key policies, guidelines and operational frameworks. These efforts improved safe and inclusive service delivery, strengthened child protection systems and enhanced organizational standards in line with Movement frameworks, ensuring more accountable and people-centred programming.

Enabling local actors

The Bulgarian Red Cross strengthened its institutional capacity, youth engagement and operational agility in 2025 by investing in workforce development, improving communication systems, and advancing digital infrastructure. Enhanced youth leadership, participation in regional capacity-building initiatives and improved internal systems reinforced its ability to respond effectively to crises while positioning the National Society for future innovation and sustained humanitarian impact.

Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

In this reporting period, no changes or amendments were made by the National Society

Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Name	Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis
IFRC Appeal number	MGR65002
People to be assisted	22.7 M (total); 180,000 (in Bulgaria)
Duration	28 February 2022 to 31 December 2025
Funding requirements	Total: CHF 800 M (IFRC); CHF 2.7 billion (Federation-wide) Bulgaria: CHF 25.1M (IFRC); CHF 30.3 M (Federation-wide)
Link to Revised Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Link to Latest Operational Strategy	Revised Operational Strategy Bulgaria Final Report
Latest Operations Update	Operation Update No.13

The international armed conflict in Ukraine continues to cause widespread human suffering, resulting in large-scale civilian harm, destruction of livelihoods and infrastructure and prolonged displacement both within Ukraine and across borders. Many displaced people have now been living in displacement for an extended period, with gaps in assistance continuing to grow and urgent needs for protection, stability and sustainable recovery persisting.

Launched in February 2022 and revised in May 2023, the IFRC Emergency Appeal supports the response of 18 National Societies, including the Bulgarian Red Cross. In 2025, the situation in Bulgaria remained unresolved, with humanitarian needs varying among the different vulnerable groups that are in Bulgaria. With 73,880 displaced people from Ukraine with Temporary Protection Status remaining in Bulgaria (approximately 1.2 per cent of the total population of Bulgaria) as of October 2025, which includes an estimated 17,678 newly arrived people being granted temporary protection in 2025. [Recent surveys](#) among refugees from Ukraine living in Bulgaria indicated that around 42 per cent of respondents did not consider the need to visit Ukraine, citing security and other concerns, suggesting low short-term return intentions for a substantial share of the population. This indicates that there will be a continuing need to provide support to this segment of the population, with a focus being on supporting the integration journey of these families while the international armed conflict in Ukraine continues.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Livelihoods

In 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross, with support from partners, assisted 1,000 newly arrived displaced households (2,569 people) from Ukraine with 3,000 food parcels and 1,000 hygiene kits distributed through the [AccessRC](#) platform. Additionally, the winter soup kitchen in Plovdiv provided 24,400 meals between December 2024 and June 2025, supporting vulnerable displaced populations and host community members.

Multi-purpose cash and Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

The Bulgarian Red Cross expanded its cash assistance programming, reaching 2,520 displaced people from Ukraine with winterization support totalling CHF 415,525. Under Cash for Protection, 141 vulnerable individuals received targeted assistance, while [Cash for Health](#) enabled 600 displaced people to access 1,531 medical reimbursements. Education support was provided to 200 children through vouchers for school supplies. A pilot CVA simulation also supported 69 households (215 people), strengthening operational readiness and systems.

Health and Care, including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

The Bulgarian Red Cross provided comprehensive health and psychosocial support services, reaching 16,001 people through MHPSS activities, including counselling, group support, art therapy and community sessions. This included 4,336 individual consultations delivered by trained psychologists. Additionally, 409 people were trained in [first aid](#), supported by new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) equipment and 827 individuals received training in Psychological First Aid ([PFA](#)) and staff care, strengthening community-based support systems.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

Strengthened protection and inclusion through policy development, training and direct support. A total of 1,789 staff and volunteers participated in 77 PGI awareness sessions, while 57 individuals were trained as trainers, expanding national capacity. Accessibility improvements were implemented in four regional branches, and 141 people were supported through Cash for Protection to move out of unsafe living conditions. Language classes reached 1,149 participants in Bulgarian courses and 77 in English, while 270 people benefited from translation services to access essential services.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

The National Society maintained strong community engagement through the [Greenline Helpline](#), which handled 6,233 calls (incoming and outgoing), providing information and support on services, assistance programmes and integration. The AccessRC platform was further utilized for registration and communication, while 19 community events engaged over 366 participants, promoting social cohesion. Renovation of the Sofia Community Centre and new case studies further strengthened feedback mechanisms and inclusive service delivery.



Bulgarian Red Cross initiatives support vulnerable migrants by illustrating purchase and distribution of food packs to the home address of the beneficiaries. (Photo: Bulgarian Red Cross)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Bulgarian Red Cross advanced its commitment to environmental sustainability and cost efficiency by completing the installation of a 115-kWh solar system and a 200-kWh battery system at its Training Centre in Lozen. Since becoming operational on 26 August 2025, the system has generated 7,000 kWh of renewable energy, contributing to reduced operational costs while preventing over 23 tonnes of carbon emissions. This initiative represents a significant step towards the National Society's objective of lowering its carbon footprint and promoting sustainable energy solutions across its facilities.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC continued to support the National Society with the procurement and contracting for the installation of the solar system.



Disasters and crises

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

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Bulgarian Red Cross strengthened its disaster preparedness and response capacity through significant investments in systems, infrastructure and training. A dedicated Emergency Operations Centre was established at the national headquarters in Sofia, enhancing coordination and decision-making through upgraded ICT and information management systems linking national and regional levels. The National Society also improved communication resilience by completing the first phase of its national radio network upgrade, including the installation of five digital base stations connecting regional warehouses and two mobile radio units supporting disaster response teams.

Operational readiness was further reinforced through six regional simulation exercises involving 280 disaster response personnel, promoting decentralized preparedness and capacity building. The Mountain Rescue Service delivered 515 training days, reaching 315 staff and volunteers, while water safety and rescue capacities were expanded through support to 2,342 people and large-scale training initiatives reaching 45,851 individuals across communities. Additionally, 624 personnel were certified in rescue and first aid for water-related incidents. The Bulgarian Red Cross also contributed to regional coordination and knowledge exchange by participating in the IFRC Disaster Management Coordinating Meeting, strengthening collaboration and preparedness for emerging risks, including climate change and digital transformation in humanitarian response.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC, along with the **Canadian Red Cross** supported the Bulgarian Red Cross with the IFRC Preparedness Fund to establish a dedicated Emergency Operations Centre at its national headquarters in Sofia, including upgraded information management and communication systems to enhance coordination with regional branches.

The IFRC also organized the regional Disaster Management Coordinating Meeting held in Sarajevo from 15 to 17 October 2025, where the National Society participated alongside National Societies within the Central and South-Eastern Europe (CSEE) network, as well as representatives from the **Swiss Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross** and **Slovenian Red Cross**. This platform supported regional cooperation, exchange of best practices and joint discussion on emerging challenges in disaster management, including climate change adaptation and digital transformation in humanitarian response.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Bulgarian Red Cross strengthened community health outcomes through large-scale awareness, training and service delivery in 2025. Health awareness activities reached 357,118 people from vulnerable host communities through hygiene promotion under the food programme, alongside 503 targeted sessions for older people reaching 5,030 individuals. Youth-led initiatives further expanded outreach, with 44 health clubs engaging 440 participants and 50 training sessions reaching 780 people.

First aid and emergency response capacity were significantly enhanced. The Bulgarian Red Cross trained 65,867 drivers in first aid in line with national regulations, in addition to 5,380 people through paid courses, 5,960 individuals through combined first aid and psychosocial support training and 624 lifeguard graduates. Through the Helfi programme, 4,000 primary school children received first aid awareness and injury prevention education.

Blood donation efforts included 93 awareness campaigns, resulting in approximately 1,860 donations, complemented by an additional 1,207 donations collected in response to the nightclub fire in North Macedonia. Health assistance was also provided through the Cash for Health programme, supporting 261 newly arrived displaced people from Ukraine with 341 medical reimbursements.

Emergency health response capacity was demonstrated following the Kočani incident in North Macedonia, where the Bulgarian Red Cross supported hospitalized patients with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), deployed teams to assist the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia and delivered MHPSS training to strengthen local response.

Further progress was achieved in health in emergencies through the development of mobile health units, including training of 14 trainers, 118 basic life support providers and 50 mobile unit members. These teams were deployed in crisis contexts, supporting affected populations with first aid, evacuation assistance and essential relief. Additionally, large-scale public support was provided during the summer road safety campaign, reaching 845,000 people at the Bulgaria–Türkiye border with water and information services.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Bulgarian Red Cross in advancing health and emergency capacities throughout 2025.

The **Canadian Red Cross** supported a multi-year programme (2024–2026) to strengthen Health in Emergencies, including the establishment and training of mobile health units and basic life support capacity building.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) supported the Cash for Health programme, enabling medical reimbursements for displaced people from Ukraine. In addition, the Bulgarian Red Cross collaborated with the **Turkish Red Crescent** during the summer road safety campaign, helping large numbers of people at the border.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Bulgarian Red Cross strengthened its migration and refugee support services through a multi-service approach delivered across four community centres in Sofia, Burgas, Harmanli and Dobrich, including two Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs). In 2025, these centres provided integrated support to 43,940 migrants and refugees through consultations, referrals, access to health and social services and distribution of food and education vouchers. Targeted support included 1,188 individuals receiving individualized psychosocial support, 3,919 participating in group sessions and 2,052 assisted in accessing healthcare services. Additionally, 501 people received health awareness information, 765 were supported in enrolling in education, 243 received job placement and CV support and 546 attended Bulgarian language classes.

Further assistance to migrants and refugees was delivered through targeted programmes, including the distribution of 362 food vouchers and 1,250 hygiene kits, alongside first aid awareness activities and social inclusion initiatives for

children. The Bulgarian Red Cross also distributed 40 tons of clothing across all 28 regional branches and community centres and maintained services in the Yambol Migration and Integration Centre, providing access to accommodation, food, education and social support.

In addition, the Bulgarian Red Cross supported the integration of displaced people from Ukraine through accommodation and livelihoods assistance. This included 873 consultations on access to services, 75 households receiving financial support for long-term accommodation, 265 individuals supported in accessing the labour market and 81 participants enrolled in Bulgarian language courses.

The Bulgarian Red Cross also reinforced protection services through the Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme, initiating 246 new tracing cases (covering 492 people), processing 30 unidentified body cases and supporting the rescue of 24 migrants in cooperation with authorities. In addition, 79 visits were conducted to detention centres, contributing to ongoing protection monitoring and service delivery.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** provides technical and financial support to the Bulgarian Red Cross through the Global Route-Based Migration Programme. IFRC support further enabled the Bulgarian Red Cross to contribute to the development of a global integration framework aimed at supporting refugees upon arrival in host countries.

The **Republic of Korea National Red Cross** supported targeted assistance for migrants and refugees, including food vouchers, hygiene kits and integration activities.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supported the implementation of the 'Scaling up Restoring Family Links (SuRFL)' project (2025–2026), contributing to enhanced tracing services, protection response mechanisms and outreach activities across the country.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** contributed in-kind support through the provision of 165 pallets (40 tons) of clothing and supported ongoing service delivery at the Migration and Integration Centre in Yambol.

The **ICRC** supported the Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme. Additionally, The ICRC, the Republic of Korea National Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross, contributed funding and technical support to sustain assistance to displaced people from Ukraine despite broader funding reductions.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross strengthened its institutional framework and service delivery in Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) through the development and adoption of key policies, systems and services. A revised Child Protection Policy was developed and formally adopted in December 2025, informed by field-level consultations through two regional workshops and supported by an external legal review. In parallel, a new PGI Guideline was developed in collaboration with staff and volunteers from headquarters and regional branches, accompanied by a practical step-by-step tool to support its implementation. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Child Friendly Spaces were also finalized and approved, aligning the National Society practices with IFRC standards and strengthening safe programming for children.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** supported the Bulgarian Red Cross in strengthening its PGI and protection systems by guiding the National Society in aligning its SOPs with IFRC standards.

The **Canadian Red Cross** provided technical support for policy development, including the revision of the Child Protection Policy and the development of the PGI Guideline.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Bulgarian Red Cross closely partners with the IFRC, benefiting from technical support, capacity building and resource mobilization for emergency response and community programmes. Operating within the IFRC's Central and South-Eastern Europe Regional Office, the Bulgarian Red Cross engages in knowledge exchange, collaboration and advocacy with neighbouring National Societies.

The **Canadian Red Cross** supported the Bulgarian Red Cross since the onset of the conflict in Ukraine. It has been one of the key partners supporting the National Society to provide support to displaced people from Ukraine living in Bulgaria. This has recently included protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) focused support in 2024 and 2025 with activities such as Bulgarian language classes, Cash for Protection, Cash for Education, CFSs and peer-to-peer mentoring. In addition, the Canadian Red Cross has a bilateral agreement with the National Society that is targeting the development of ten Mobile Health Units that are being trained and enhanced with equipment provided through this ongoing partnership.

The **Republic of Korea National Red Cross** is continuing to provide support to Bulgarian Red Cross, specifically targeting displaced people that are countries other than Ukraine. This support has and continues to be critical for the Refugee and Migration Service, with reduced funding from long-term partners creating challenges for the National Society and many other NGOs that have typically provided support to this target group.

The **Swiss Red Cross** is supporting Bulgarian Red Cross to strengthen engagement with migrant beneficiaries, communities and institutional stakeholders. It includes integrating the Community, Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach into Restoring Family Links (RFL) and protection services, enhancing collaboration with partners, building a knowledge base for the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) Framework in migration crises, embedding humanitarian diplomacy throughout activities and fostering regional cooperation through knowledge sharing and best practices.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** is working with the Bulgarian Red Cross to strengthen coordination of activities along the common border and is currently developing plans that would allow emergency response items to be stockpiled within Bulgaria, that would then be available for neighbouring countries in the event of an emergency. Community-based projects, migration and health are among the other cooperation pillars. Operational partnerships have been further strengthened with the Turkish Red Crescent, including exploring arrangements for prepositioning regional emergency stocks in the National Society's main warehouse and extending an existing cooperation agreement with the Shumen Regional Branch.

Movement coordination

The Bulgarian Red Cross ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. In April 2025, the Movement Coordination Agreement between the Bulgarian Red Cross, the IFRC and the ICRC was signed, enhancing coordination, complementarity and collective impact in humanitarian response while reinforcing support to the National Society. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0.

The ICRC supports the Bulgarian Red Cross based on its mandate, offering technical expertise, capacity building and advisory support. This includes assistance in disaster management, health services, civilian protection, Restoring Family links (RFL) services and International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

External coordination

The Bulgarian Red Cross maintained strong coordination with public authorities at national and sub-national levels through mechanisms led by relevant ministries and government agencies. In line with its [auxiliary role](#), the National Society actively participated in needs assessments, first response operations and registration processes during emergencies, while also partnering with state institutions on longer-term initiatives in health, social welfare, education, civil protection and humanitarian development.

The Bulgarian Red Cross engaged in inter-agency coordination alongside the IFRC and Movement partners, including participation in sectoral coordination platforms, working groups and where relevant, shelter coordination mechanisms. It further strengthened collaboration with international stakeholders such as UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations and diplomatic missions, supporting knowledge exchange and resource mobilization. At the national level, the National Society continued to build partnerships with local authorities, civil society, academia and the private sector to support resilience-building and community-based initiatives.

Engagement within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was further reinforced through strengthened collaboration with IFRC and ICRC headquarters in Geneva, including contributions to global policy discussions and participation in high-level working groups on the implementation of the IFRC Strategy. The National Society also expanded its involvement in the [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#) and contributed to the development of a global integration framework to support refugees.

Regionally, the Bulgarian Red Cross completed its two-year term as secretariat of the [Neighbours Help First Network](#), formally handing over the role to the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross strengthened its institutional capacity and future workforce development by engaging young people through its internship programme. During the reporting period, 10 interns aged 15 to 26 were hosted, with participation comprising 80 per cent male and 20 per cent female. The majority (70 per cent) were recruited from high schools in Sofia, while the remainder came from abroad. Interns contributed to key organizational priorities, including the digitalization of Restoring Family Links (RFL) requests, aligning Sustainable Development Goals with the National Society's humanitarian actions and supporting the International Department with reporting, summaries and adaptation of materials for bilateral cooperation. This initiative contributed to building a pipeline of skilled young people, strengthening the National Society's future volunteer and staff capacity.

The Bulgarian Red Cross advanced [youth engagement](#) and leadership development by hosting the 26th European and Central Asia Youth Assembly in Sofia from 25–28 September 2025, convening young representatives from 35 National Societies.

In addition, the Bulgarian Red Cross took part in the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) 2.0 training in December 2025, gaining practical knowledge on the updated methodology and benefiting from peer learning and experiences shared by other National Societies engaged in branch capacity strengthening.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Bulgarian Red Cross in strengthening organizational development and volunteer management capacities through targeted learning and exchange opportunities. This included participation in an IFRC workshop on Volunteer Development, where the National Society expressed interest in applying IFRC organizational assessment tools at national and regional levels.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Bulgarian Red Cross hosted the 26th European and Central Asia Youth Assembly bringing together young representatives from 35 National Societies and began with a Humanitarian Diplomacy training attended by 67 youth leaders. The assembly provided a platform for learning, collaboration and skills development, enabling participants to enhance negotiation techniques, develop advocacy messages and design action plans to engage decision-makers. The programme also benefited from contributions by distinguished speakers including national stakeholders, and concluded with a networking reception that fostered partnerships, reflection and strengthened diplomatic engagement among participants.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC, in collaboration with the European and Central Asia Youth Network and the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation to Central and South-Eastern Europe, co-organized and supported the Youth Assembly. The event was delivered in partnership with the Bulgarian Red Cross and included technical facilitation of the Humanitarian Diplomacy training, as well as contributions from Movement representatives, including the IFRC Vice President ex officio (**Swiss Red Cross**).



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Bulgarian Red Cross strengthened its accountability and operational agility by completing the procurement, installation and digitalization of its national radio network. The upgrade connected all four regional warehouses, their respective regional branches, the national warehouse and training centre in Lozen, and the headquarters in Sofia through a modern digital system. This improved network enhances communication reliability and ensures continuity of operations during disasters and emergencies.

The National Society also strengthened its preparedness for emerging technologies by participating in a regional workshop on 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Humanitarian Context' held in Sarajevo in December 2025. Through this engagement, the National Society gained practical insights into how AI can support humanitarian operations, disaster response and long-term planning.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Bulgarian Red Cross to strengthen its communication infrastructure and preparedness capacities through the IFRC Preparedness Fund. The IFRC also organized the regional workshop on Artificial Intelligence enabling participation and knowledge exchange for the Bulgarian Red Cross.

The **Canadian Red Cross** contributed with financial support to the upgrade and digitalization of the national radio network.

Q4. AFFECTED PERSONS (PEOPLE REACHED)

See cover pages

Q5. PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

See Strategic Priority on 'Values, power and inclusion' under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q6. RISK MANAGEMENT

This information is not available in Annual Reports

Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

See Strategic Priorities or Enabling Local Actors, where relevant under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q8. LESSONS LEARNED

Nothing to report

ANNEX 1. IFRC APPLICATION OF THE 8+3 REPORTING TEMPLATE

The IFRC network structures its result-based management along five Strategic priorities and four Enabling functions, developed based on the IFRC network's [Strategy 2030](#):

IFRC network Strategic Priorities	IFRC network Enabling Functions
SP 1 - Climate and environment	EF 1- Strategic and operational coordination
SP 2 - Disasters and crises	EF 2 - National Society development
SP 3 - Health and wellbeing	EF 3 - Humanitarian diplomacy
SP 4 - Migration and displacement	EF 4 - Accountability and agility
SP 5 - Values, power and inclusion	

The Federation-wide results matrix provides a standard way for the IFRC network to measure its progress towards Strategy 2030 implementation and supports consistent quality of the IFRC network planning, monitoring and reporting. To further advance coherence in monitoring across the IFRC network, a [Federation-wide Indicator Bank](#) has been developed and integrated into the Federation-wide monitoring systems for emergencies and longer-term work, structured along the Federation-wide results matrix as well. Signatory of the Grand Bargain Agreement, the IFRC has committed to its monitoring and reporting standards through integration of the 8+3 reporting template contents into its results-based management approach. The following mapping demonstrate the way in which this report aligns with 8+3 reporting:

8+3 template	IFRC network Annual Report (with variance in structure in red)
Core Questions	
1. Overall Performance	Overall Performance
2. Changes and Amendments	Changes and amendments
3. Measuring Results	Measuring Results
4. Affected Persons	Cover pages with indicators values
5. Participation & AAP	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 5: Values, power and inclusion – Community Engagement and Accountability
6. Risk management	Risk management
7. Exit Strategy and Sustainability	Under Q3 sub-sections by Strategic Priority/Enabling Function where relevant
8. Lessons Learned	Lessons learned
Additional Questions	
1. Value for Money/ Cost Effectiveness	Not included in annual reports
2. Visibility	Not included in annual reports
3. Coordination	Under Q3 Enabling Function 1: Strategic and operational coordination
4. Implementing Partners	Cross-cutting, with a focus on support to localization through the Q3 Enabling Functions 1 to 4
5. Activities or Steps Towards implementation	Cross-cutting in Q3 Strategic Priorities and Enabling Functions
6. Environment	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 1: Climate and environment



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

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods, and may be incomplete. 'Not reported' could sometimes mean 'not applicable'. Also note that funding requirements are already reflected in the published 2025 IFRC network country plan. The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network has sought 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
- **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) 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.
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [BG_Bulgaria AR Financials.pdf](#) (Note: The financial report link will be fed when the report is available).
- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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