



MONTENEGRO

2025 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec



20 April 2026

IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS OF MONTENEGRO



23

National Society branches



23

National Society local units



156

National Society staff



1,578

National Society volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency Operations



3,569

Climate and environment



13,310

Disasters and crises



13,558

Health and wellbeing



15,644

Migration and displacement



2,880

Values, power and inclusion



8,876

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Red Cross of Montenegro	
Overview	Funding Sources
Funding	Not reported
Expenditure	Not reported
	IFRC Secretariat
	Not reported
	Participating National Societies
	Not reported
	HNS other funding sources
	Not reported

IFRC network	
Country	Funding Requirement 1.5M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term Funding Requirement 788,000
	Funding Not reported
	Expenditure Not reported
	Emergency Operations
	Funding 352,000
	Expenditure 346,000
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement 123,000
	Funding 226,000
	Expenditure 222,000
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement 610,000
	Funding Not reported

Appeal number **MAAME002**

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

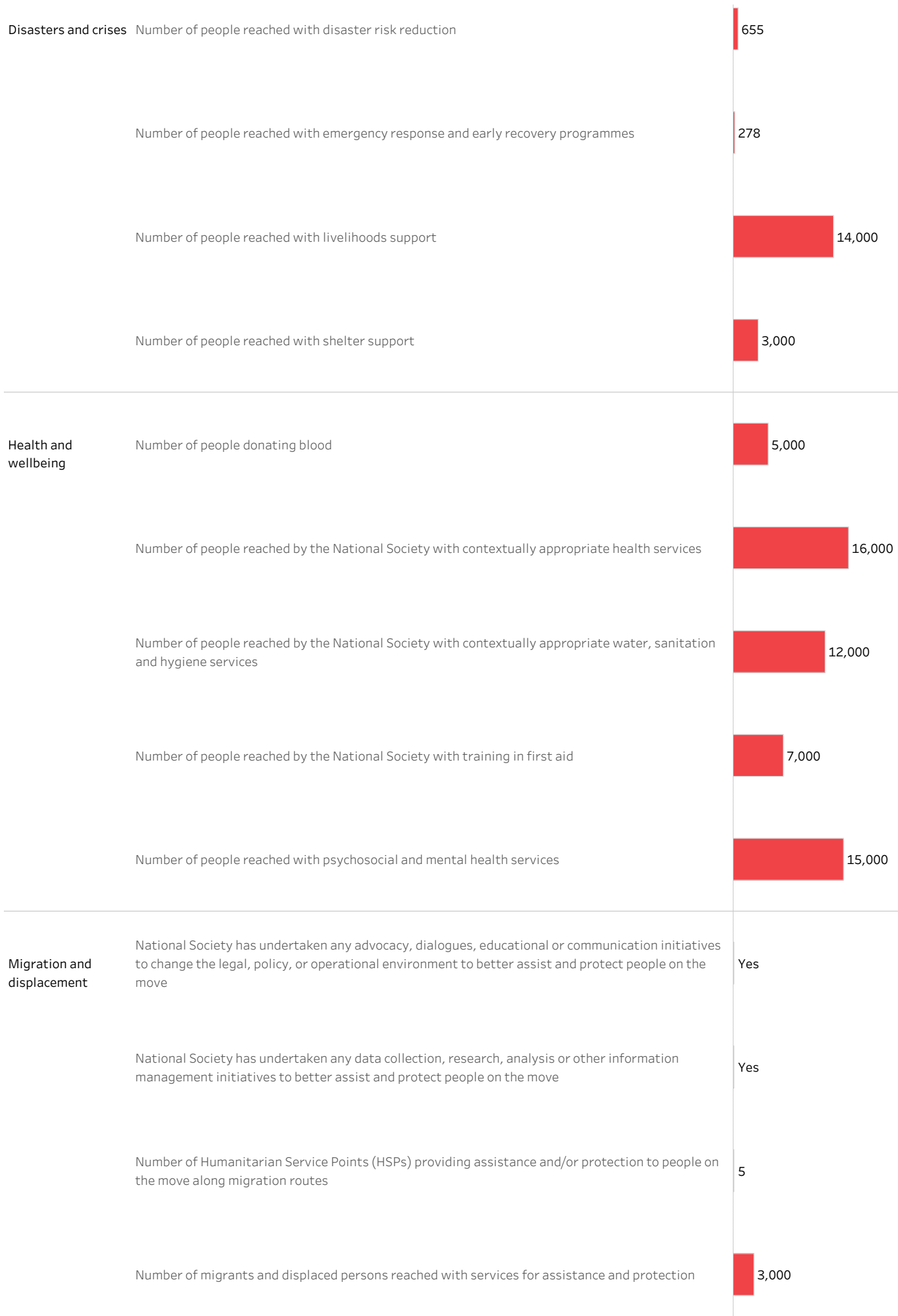
ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MGR65002 / Ukraine and Impacted Countries

Disasters and crises	Number of people reached with emergency response and early recovery programmes	278
	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate health services	4,000
Health and wellbeing	Number of people reached with psychosocial and mental health services	3,000
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing assistance and/or protection to people on the move along migration routes	4
Migration and displacement	Number of people reached by the National Society's educational programmes	213
Values, power and inclusion	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	19

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
	National Society implements nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Yes
	Number of people reached with activities to address environmental problems	13,000
	Number of people reached with activities to address rising climate risks	11,000
	Number of people reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response activities	5,000



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	9,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society's educational programmes	6,000

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 covers health, accident and death compensation for all of its volunteers	Yes
	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 SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Austrian Red Cross	88,000					●	
Italian Red Cross						●	
Swiss Red Cross					●		
Turkish Red Crescent	138,000						

Total Funding Reported **CHF 226,000**

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

In 2025, Montenegro continued to build on its high human development, with a [High Development Index](#) of 0.862, placing it 48th out of 193 countries.

According to the data from [Employment Agency of Montenegro](#) Montenegro's labour market showed overall improvement throughout the year, with unemployment steadily declining from earlier months.

Women continue to make up the majority of the unemployed population, with 17,152 women compared to 11,146 men as of December 2025. Despite this, both groups saw a decline in unemployment over the year. As compared to December 2024, when 33,037 people were registered as unemployed, there is a reduction of 4,739 unemployed people, reflecting progress in labour market conditions.

Throughout the year, the labour market benefitted from increased hiring and active labour market programmes and unemployment rates reached historic lows during parts of 2025, with notable declines at mid-year and in the autumn months. Nevertheless, challenges remain, including persistent long-term unemployment and continued disproportionality in unemployment between women and men.

Despite these positive trends, the needs of vulnerable groups remained high and structural and institutional barriers continue to affect social and economic inclusion. Many people and families still face challenges related to poverty, disability, ageing, health issues and limited access to education or employment opportunities, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

The Red Cross of Montenegro actively contributed to shaping two key national frameworks led by the Ministry of Interior's Rescue and Protection Directorate. It supported the development of the National Plan for Rescue and Protection from Extreme Weather and Climate Events, which includes comprehensive risk assessments and is expected to be adopted by November 2025. At the same time, the National Society participated in the national working group on climate change, helping to draft the 'Risk Management, Prevention and Preparedness Measures of Montenegro' document, scheduled for adoption by the end of 2025. Through these efforts, the Red Cross of Montenegro strengthened its role as a key partner in national disaster preparedness and climate resilience planning.

Disasters and crises

During the reporting period, the Red Cross of Montenegro strengthened its operational and response capacities through national and international trainings and exercises. It expanded lifeguard and ski rescue skills, developed new water rescue instructors, and enhanced mountain rescue expertise. The Disaster Response Team improved readiness through flood simulations in Albania, national exercises in Cetinje, and NATO-led training in Bulgaria, while representatives joined the regional Disaster Management Coordinating Meeting in Sarajevo to advance cooperation, emergency response, climate adaptation, and [digital transformation](#).

Health and wellbeing

During the reporting period, the Red Cross of Montenegro strengthened its role in health promotion, [first aid](#), and psychosocial support by expanding training, certification, and awareness activities across the country. It enhanced the skills of lifeguards, rescuers, emergency responders, and young volunteers, while extending first aid training to migrants and refugees. The National Society promoted health education in schools and communities, provided medical support at public events, and launched campaigns such as World Tuberculosis Day awareness. Through the EU4Health Programme, it addressed occupational stress and burnout, while also advancing psychosocial support through a digital chatbot, psychological [first aid](#) training, staff care workshops, and spring camps for displaced families from Ukraine.

Migration and displacement

During the reporting period, the Red Cross of Montenegro strengthened its support for migrants, asylum seekers, and stateless persons through the Balkan Migration Programme, the [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), and a UNHCR-supported initiative on psychosocial and medical assistance. Mobile teams provided medical care, interpretation, medicines, and counselling at reception centres and in private accommodation, while volunteers assisted migrants in transit. The National Society also organized workshops on integration, skills development, and cultural understanding, distributed food and hygiene parcels, and facilitated access to mental health professionals.

Values, power and inclusion

In 2025, the Red Cross of Montenegro advanced its mission by supporting vulnerable communities and strengthening social protection services nationwide. The National Society concluded the third phase of the Roma Employment in Montenegro project, providing access to health and social rights, humanitarian aid, school supplies, and workshops for Roma and Egyptian families, while launching Phase 4 later in the year. At the same time, it remained the largest licensed provider of professional home care, expanding services to 1,340 people across 16 municipalities and training staff to improve quality. Through the Community Social Services for the Elderly Initiative, the Red Cross of Montenegro delivered preventive home visits, respite care, counselling, healthy ageing activities, and excursions for older people in Bar and Bijelo Polje, while preparing informal caregivers through accredited training. In September, the National Society launched Project HOPE, supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Social Protection, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, establishing care centres in Nikšić and Cetinje to provide consultations, home visits, healthy ageing activities, and caregiver training.

Enabling local actors

During the reporting period, the Red Cross of Montenegro deepened its cooperation with international humanitarian organizations, diplomatic missions, and regional networks. The National Society hosted high-level visits and signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Association of Municipalities of Montenegro to enhance collaboration at the local level. It also marked its 150th anniversary with a celebratory academy in Cetinje, where it received the First-Class Order of the Montenegrin Flag, underscoring its historic role as the first National Red Cross Society in the Balkans. Participation in regional and European meetings further reinforced its voice on issues such as migration, fundraising, and humanitarian challenges.

The Red Cross of Montenegro secured approval for amendments to its Statute, launched the [Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment \(BOCA\)](#) in multiple local branches, and participated in the BOCA 2.0 Training of Trainers in Budapest. The National Society also advanced its fundraising efforts through a digital fundraising project and the EmpoweRED Scholarship Program. Staff and volunteers received training in safeguarding, risk management, and disaster preparedness, while the newly established International Humanitarian Law Commission worked to align national legislation with international obligations and raise awareness of humanitarian law. Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Red Cross of Montenegro submitted a pledge to the 34th International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference, reaffirming its commitment to promoting humanitarian law and strengthening national capacities.

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 real-time information on emergencies, see the IFRC GO page: [Montenegro](#)

Name	Ukraine and impacted countries crisis
Appeal number	MGR65002
Duration	46 months (28 February 2022 to 31 December 2027)
People to be assisted	22.7 M (total); 10,000 (in Montenegro)
Funding requirements	Total: CHF 800 M (IFRC); CHF 3.1 billion (Federation-wide) Montenegro: CHF 6 M (IFRC); CHF 6 M (Federation-wide)
Link to Revised Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal Ukraine and impacted countries crisis
Link to Latest Operational Strategy	Revised Operational Strategy Ukraine and impacted countries crisis
Link to National Society Response Plan	National Society Response Plan Ukraine and impacted countries crisis

Since the armed conflict in Ukraine began and escalated over time, the conflict has grown in complexity, producing multi-faceted and wide-reaching impacts. Humanitarian needs are particularly severe among those who remain at home in conflict-prevalent areas and with internally displaced persons (IDPs). At the start of 2023, the number of IDPs within Ukraine was estimated at 5.4 million. The spread of hostilities in Ukraine has resulted in over 20.4 million movements out of Ukraine since the escalation of the armed conflict. Most of the displaced people from Ukraine have entered the immediate neighbouring countries, primarily Poland, Russia, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Moldova. Following the action of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) by the European Union, 5 million displaced people from Ukraine have registered for temporary protection in EU countries.

According to official data from the Ministry of Interior, from the period of 24th February 2022 until 23rd January 2023, 91,547 displaced people from Ukraine entered Montenegro. Currently, there are 6,962 people from Ukraine in the country, which represents 1.12 per cent of the total population of Montenegro comprising 619,211 people. Since the beginning of the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, 7,861 people have applied for temporary protection in Montenegro.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

A regional Operational Strategy and a revised Emergency Appeal were developed with the support of a harmonized revision of the 17 National Society Response Plans and the Ukrainian Red Cross Society [One Plan for 2023 – 2025](#). The revised Emergency Appeal and Operational Strategy prioritize long-term programming, specifically focusing on integration activities for displaced people from Ukraine. This approach was further reinforced through a workshop in Budapest, where National Societies shared experiences, discussed challenges, and collaborated on designing an integration framework. Additionally, the IFRC Secretariat has mobilized Membership Coordination support to establish effective channels for engagement and coordination among regional and country-level stakeholders, including in-person meetings held in Budapest, Ukraine, and Geneva. The planned operations under the Montenegro Response Plan include:

Health and care including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH): Provide community-based health services to displaced people from Ukraine. Disseminate information accessing the public health system in Montenegro through [humanitarian service points](#) to displaced people. Provide psychological first aid through the helpline as well as through individual sessions to people who have been identified as the most marginalized and need more specialized support.

Continue delivering first aid training to volunteers and new staff as part of their onboarding. Provide psychological first aid through group sessions in collective shelters.

Shelter, housing and settlements: Provide winter assistance for clothing and footwear through [cash and voucher assistance](#) once a year. Support the most marginalized people through monthly unconditional cash or voucher assistance to cover their basic needs on a monthly basis for a period of 18 months. Provide one-off multipurpose cash assistance to displaced people from Ukraine in case of further escalation or increases in arrivals.

Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI): Establish new child-friendly spaces to support children in line with Movement standards. Facilitate integration of children within local communities by organizing after-school activities. Map services and disseminate information about referral pathways. Support integration and inclusion of displaced people from Ukraine through field trips and summer camps. Appoint a focal point for [PGI](#) within the National Society.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): Manage effective feedback mechanisms for the Ukraine response, including a helpline with Ukrainian-speaking operators, social media, and face-to-face channels. Set up one central case management system for categorizing and tracking community feedback collected through different feedback mechanisms. Strengthen electronic needs assessment, registration and feedback system using Kobo toolbox through different links and QR codes.

Migration and displacement: Ensure the provision of humanitarian services through already HSPs in local National Society branches. Establish new HSPs or mobile HSPs at key border crossings in case of increases in new arrivals. Provide information to asylum seekers people applying for refugee status or seeking temporary protection on procedures, steps, and rights through different channels. Provide support with documentation, counselling, and translation if needed. .

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of Montenegro has played an active role in shaping two key national frameworks initiated by the Ministry of Interior's Rescue and Protection Directorate. The first, the National Plan for Rescue and Protection from Extreme Weather and Climate Events, includes comprehensive risk assessments on extreme weather and climate hazards and is expected to be adopted by November 2025. In parallel, the National Society has contributed to the national working group on climate change, which is developing the Risk Management, Prevention and Preparedness Measures of Montenegro document, scheduled for adoption by the end of 2025. Through these efforts, the National Society continues to strengthen its role as a key partner in national disaster preparedness and climate resilience planning.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided both technical and financial support to the Red Cross of Montenegro, enabling its active participation in national policy development processes and ensuring alignment with broader regional and global resilience initiatives.



Disasters and crises

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Red Cross of Montenegro continued to strengthen its operational and response capacities through a series of national and international trainings. Sixteen license renewal assessments and four full training programmes prepared 645 lifeguards for deployment across Montenegro and abroad during the 2025 summer season. Additionally, two international water rescue instructor trainings were organized which resulted in nine

assistant instructors from the National Society earning the title of International Water Rescue Instructor, significantly enhancing national capacity for future lifeguard training and safety preparedness.

The National Society organized training for 10 ski resort rescuers from 13 to 16 February. Recertification was also provided to 13 rescuers who had completed training in a previous cycle. At the invitation of the Bulgarian Red Cross, three volunteers from the Red Cross Kolašin Rescue Team for Organized Ski Resorts attended specialized training on rescue operations in difficult mountain terrain, focusing on techniques for challenging and hard-to-reach areas.

The National Society's Disaster Response Team further honed its readiness by participating in international and national field exercises, including a flood response simulation in Shkodër, Albania, and the 'Cetinje 2025' exercise in Montenegro, both aimed at testing coordination, interoperability, and preparedness for large-scale emergencies.

In September 2025, the Red Cross of Montenegro Emergency Response Team joined the civilian-led exercise 'BULGARIA 2025', co-organized by NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre and the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior. The exercise was held in Montana, Bulgaria, and included a strategic component in Sofia for decision-makers, which addressed civil-military coordination, crisis management, preparedness, and the implications of emerging disruptive technologies.

In October 2025, Red Cross of Montenegro representatives attended the regional Disaster Management Coordinating Meeting in Sarajevo, organized by the IFRC for National Societies within the Central and South-Eastern Europe cluster. The meeting focused on strengthening regional and international cooperation, sharing best practices and tackling emerging challenges in disaster risk management. Discussions highlighted timely and effective emergency response, climate change adaptation, and the digital transformation of the humanitarian sector, with particular emphasis on the use of artificial intelligence for data analysis and reporting.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical and financial support to the Red Cross of Montenegro, facilitating advanced rescue trainings, cross-border cooperation, and participation in international exercises to strengthen overall disaster response capacity.

The **Bulgarian Red Cross**, the **Croatian Red Cross** and the **Red Cross of Kolašin** supported the National Society with rescue trainings.



As part of its psychosocial support efforts, the National Society engaged with children through a creative workshop.(Photo: The Red Cross of Montenegro)



Progress by the National Society against objectives

Throughout the reporting period, the Red Cross of Montenegro strengthened its role in health promotion, first aid, and psychosocial support across the country. A total of 1,652 people received certification through basic first aid training programmes designed for employees of companies, organizations, and individuals. In addition, 162 people successfully completed re-certification and 645 lifeguards passed the basic first aid examination.

The Red Cross of Montenegro delivered specialized training as well. Forty-seven employees from various organizations successfully completed the Basic Life Support and Automated External Defibrillator (BLS/AED) course. Through participation in local Red Cross first aid competitions, approximately 750 competitors acquired essential first aid knowledge and skills. More than 250 young participants qualified through local competitions and took part in the 50th National First Aid Competition organized by the Red Cross of Montenegro. It also extended its training to vulnerable groups, with around 150 migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and individuals with international protection completing basic first aid training.

The Red Cross of Montenegro also trained 150 members of the Protection and Rescue Service and 16 members of the Voluntary Firefighting Department, ensuring that emergency responders were equipped with vital skills. Through lectures delivered in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, and universities, approximately 1,500 people learned about the importance of first aid.

Beyond training, the Red Cross of Montenegro provided direct first aid and on-site medical support to more than 350 people during various events. To strengthen instructional capacity, 16 individuals successfully completed the First Aid Instructor Training, while 13 instructors renewed their certification through the re-certification process. On World Tuberculosis Day, the National Society launched a social media awareness campaign to highlight the importance of early prevention and treatment. In parallel, voluntary blood donation clubs continued to receive support to organize collection drives in cooperation with municipal branches, ensuring a steady supply for hospitals and emergency services.

As part of the EU4Health Programme, a total of eight one-day seminars were organized on the topic of preventing occupational stress and burnout. A total of 94 participants from the Ministry of the Interior, Rescue and Protection Directorate, the Centre for Social Work and Ski Resort Rescue Services from several municipalities (Herceg Novi, Bar, Kolašin, Berane and Rožaje) attended the training.

The activities were designed to provide participants with practical knowledge, tools and strategies to effectively cope with the emotional and physical demands of their professions, with a special focus on acknowledging the unique experiences and needs of each person. The thematic units covered the concept of stress, crisis and trauma, recognition of common reactions to crisis events, individual and team coping strategies and the role of organizations.

The digital chatbot platform for psychoeducation and the promotion of mental health and well-being within the Ukrainian community has provided 2,892 services since its establishment in January 2025 until the end of October 2025.

From 7 to 9 March, the National Society organized a Training of Trainers in Psychological First Aid in cooperation with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's MHPSS Centre. This valuable training brought together staff and volunteers from different organisations, with the goal of enhancing their ability to deliver Psychological First Aid (PFA) to displaced people from Ukraine. It provided participants with in-depth knowledge and the essential facilitation skills needed to take on the role of trainers in this critical field.

In March, a training session titled 'Staff and Volunteer Care' was held for 14 team members, including staff, volunteers and team coordinators. The training covered key concepts related to the psychosocial well-being of staff and volunteers, as well as their roles and responsibilities in providing support to others.

In July 2025, a total of 16 Red Cross of Montenegro team leaders successfully completed training in PFA and advanced first aid skills. The training strengthened the capacity of National Society team leaders to respond more effectively in emergencies by combining advanced first aid with PFA skills. Participants were equipped not only to address the physical and emotional needs of affected people, but also to provide support and guidance to their own team members.

From March to June, a series of spring camps were organized for 99 people, including parents, children and older people from Ukraine, aimed at promoting mental health and psychosocial well-being. These camps focused on fostering a sense of connectedness, building stress management and coping skills, all within a supportive and inclusive environment. Many activities were facilitated by members of the Ukrainian community, enhancing cultural relevance, promoting peer support and fostering a sense of ownership.

The Red Cross of Montenegro developed and disseminated various PFA and psychoeducation material, including first aid+PFA and All My Feelings cards, for adults and children. These resources are available in Montenegrin, English and Ukrainian.

In the first week of September, an end-line study was conducted to evaluate the overall success and impact of the EU4Health project. The results of the final evaluation confirmed a high level of user satisfaction and significant improvement in psychosocial well-being, sense of safety, belonging, and self-efficacy.

In October, the Red Cross of Montenegro held the closing conference of the EU4Health project, presenting the key results achieved throughout its implementation. The event gathered representatives from the RCM local branches, international partners, including the IFRC and Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, Good Deeds Charity and the national Protection and Rescue Service together with members of the Ukrainian community. The conference highlighted the essential role of mental health as a core component of crisis response while providing a platform for knowledge exchange and enhanced cooperation among national institutions, international organizations, civil society actors and affected communities.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical and financial support to the Red Cross of Montenegro, facilitating the delivery of first aid and psychosocial trainings, supporting digital mental health initiatives, and strengthening community resilience and volunteer well-being.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of Montenegro implemented the Balkan Migration Programme and the Global Route-Based Migration Programme. A mobile team operated at the Reception Centre in Božaj, consisting of a doctor, a field worker, and a translator. Through this programme, the Red Cross of Montenegro provided support to 2,355 migrants and asylum seekers. The team conducted 642 medical examinations and delivered 1,136 interpretation services and information-sharing sessions. Medicines were distributed to 216 people at the Reception Centre in Božaj and to 45 people at the Foreigners' Reception Centre. Volunteers from the Local Red Cross Organization of Rožaje assisted migrants in transit, ensuring timely support.

The Red Cross of Montenegro also organized workshops and information sessions for 209 participants. These included CV writing workshops and sessions on cultural differences, designed to help migrants develop essential skills for building social networks and accessing the labour market. In addition, the organization distributed 625 food and hygiene parcels to migrants and asylum seekers. Beyond direct service provision, the National Society participated in the international Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO) meeting. It also conducted a study visit to the Albanian Red Cross and hosted a study visit for mobile teams from the Albanian Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Božaj Reception Centre, fostering regional cooperation and knowledge exchange.

The Red Cross of Montenegro also implemented the project Psychosocial and Medical Support to Forcibly Displaced Persons and Stateless Persons, supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). A mobile team was deployed at the Reception Centre in Spuž, consisting of one medical doctor and two social workers until June. Another mobile team, composed of two field workers and one social worker, provided support to beneficiaries living in private accommodation. Through these activities, the Red Cross of Montenegro assisted 525 people, including asylum seekers, individuals with international or temporary protection, and stateless persons.

The National Society conducted 26 workshops and information sessions on integration, helping beneficiaries adapt to their new environment. It facilitated 30 meetings and consultations between beneficiaries and mental health professionals, ensuring access to psychological support. In total, the Red Cross of Montenegro provided 909 instances of psychosocial and medical assistance. To further strengthen resilience, the National Society offered financial assistance to 13 people, enabling them to meet urgent needs.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC, together with the **Swiss Red Cross** and the UNHCR, provided financial and technical support to the Red Cross of Montenegro, enabling the continued delivery of medical, psychosocial, and humanitarian assistance to migrants, refugees, and stateless persons.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The third phase of the project Roma Employment in Montenegro (REM) concluded in March 2025. During this period, the Red Cross of Montenegro facilitated access to social and health care rights for members of the Roma and Egyptian community. Knowledge about the importance of maintaining health improved through Family Centre workshops, and 150 community members increased their engagement with health institutions by participating in 50 workshops throughout the year. The Red Cross of Montenegro also distributed 55 humanitarian aid packages, supporting the daily needs of the 10 most vulnerable families in the Konik settlement. In addition, 320 school-aged children received school supplies, while 270 children were provided with New Year gift packages. At the end of 2025, the National Society began implementing Phase 4 of the REM project, with further development planned for 2026.

In 2025, the Red Cross of Montenegro remained the largest licensed provider of professional home care services for adults and older people, including those with disabilities requiring level IV support. The license expanded to cover 1,340 individuals, and 134 professional home care workers delivered services across 16 municipalities, fully in compliance with the Law on Social and Child Protection and relevant secondary legislation. On 13 March 2025, the Red Cross Training Centre in Sutomore hosted a workshop on standards and procedures in home care services, attended by 13 representatives from Red Cross organizations. Participants reviewed the Rulebook on Community-Based Support Services, discussed key documents, and exchanged experiences to improve the quality and consistency of home care. Shortly after, from 21 to 24 March 2025, the House of Solidarity in Sutomore hosted an accredited training programme for 26 women, equipping them with skills in caring for older people and people with disabilities. The training covered responsibilities of care, teamwork, burnout prevention, communication, conflict resolution, and first aid. To ensure quality and mitigate risks, the Red Cross of Montenegro also organized 12 monitoring visits during the year.

As part of the two-year Community Social Services for the Elderly Initiative, launched on 1 November 2023 in Bar and Bijelo Polje with support from the Ministry of Finance under the Directorate for Finance and Contracting of EU Assistance Funds, the Red Cross of Montenegro provided a range of services. These included preventive home visits, respite care, counselling for older people and informal caregivers, and healthy ageing workshops. One accredited training programme prepared 22 volunteers as informal caregivers, while a pilot respite care service delivered 48 sessions in Bar and Bijelo Polje. A total of 217 older people received 357 consultations on exercising their social and health care rights, and 81 informal caregivers benefited from 141 consultations. Social workers and nurses carried out 795 preventive home visits to assess health and social conditions, while 56 healthy ageing activities strengthened functional capacities and social engagement. The initiative also organized two excursions, one to Gusinje for beneficiaries from Bijelo Polje and another to Ostrog Monastery for beneficiaries from Bar. To improve coordination, seven meetings were held with local stakeholders, and two round tables on multisectoral services were organized. A proposal for licensing the respite care service programme was also developed.

In September 2025, the National Society launched Project HOPE – Holistic Community-Based Care for Older People and Informal Caregivers in Montenegro, supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Social Protection, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. The project, designed to run for 12 months, focuses on older people in both urban and rural areas of Nikšić and Cetinje. Community care centres were established in both municipalities, providing services tailored to the needs of older people and their caregivers. The centres conducted 27 individual consultations, carried

out 30 preventive home visits for socially isolated older persons, and organized four healthy ageing activities. In addition, five family caregivers received training and consultations delivered directly in home settings.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC, alongside the **Italian Red Cross**, provided financial and technical assistance to the Red Cross of Montenegro, enabling the continued delivery of inclusive social services, home-based care, and community engagement initiatives that promote dignity, equity, and participation.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

Progress by the National Society against objectives

IFRC membership coordination

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

The **Bulgarian Red Cross**, the **Croatian Red Cross** and the **Red Cross of Kolašin** supported the National Society with rescue trainings.

The **Italian Red Cross** established its Regional Delegation in Podgorica within the Red Cross of Montenegro headquarters in 2015 to lead humanitarian and international cooperation activities, focusing particularly on the Balkans in Europe. The long-standing partnership between the National Societies predates the opening of the Italian Red Cross delegation in Podgorica. Its primary support to the Red Cross of Montenegro encompasses health, social, and migration sectors, along with assistance in organizational development, resource mobilization, monitoring, and coordination.

The **Swiss Red Cross** has been supporting the Red Cross of Montenegro in the work with migrants and asylum seekers in Podgorica and Pljevlja through mobile teams since 2020.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** provided technical and financial assistance to the Red Cross of Montenegro for strengthening institutional safeguarding systems, advancing risk management practices and reinforcing the National Society's contribution to promoting and implementing International Humanitarian Law in Montenegro.

Movement coordination

The National Society 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 Red Cross of Montenegro enjoys good cooperation with the regional delegation of the ICRC located in Belgrade, Serbia. A Partnership Framework Agreement defines cooperation in capacity building and joint operations in Montenegro. The cooperation is related to the promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) such as training of staff and volunteers, organization of round tables with relevant stakeholders, support in the Safer Access Framework approach, and restoring family links (RFL) activities.

External coordination

In line with its mission, the Red Cross of Montenegro is committed to developing and expanding its cooperation with other international humanitarian organizations. The National Society of Montenegro cooperates with the diplomatic-consular sector in Montenegro, as well as with many international organizations including the EU delegation, the UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, IOM, WHO, the USAID and a variety of international networks.

Additionally, the Red Cross of Montenegro is a member of the 'Neighbours Help First' network that gathers Southeast European National Societies (SENS), IFRC and ICRC. Through this network of National Societies sharing a common background and facing similar challenges, there has been strong regional cooperation in many areas, especially in connection with emergency response.

Since 2008, the Red Cross of Montenegro has been a full member of the International Life Saving Federation and the only organization in the country that is licensed to conduct courses for lifeguards on water.

On 14 April 2025, a high-level delegation from the Turkish Red Crescent visited the Red Cross of Montenegro. The visit reaffirmed the long-standing partnership between the two organizations and highlighted their commitment to strengthening cooperation. Discussions focused on addressing shared challenges, supporting vulnerable populations, and reinforcing the role of national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies within the broader International Movement.

On 16 May 2025, the Red Cross of Montenegro signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Association of Municipalities of Montenegro. This agreement formalized their shared interest in enhancing collaboration at the local level. The memorandum aims to strengthen the role of local Red Cross organizations, improve living conditions for citizens, and promote joint initiatives in social and child protection, as well as other areas of common interest.

In July 2025, the National Museum of Montenegro, in collaboration with the Red Cross of Montenegro, opened the exhibition A Century and a Half of Humanity. Through documents, photographs, artifacts, awards, and memorabilia, the exhibition offered visitors a comprehensive view of the National Society's history and its role within the world's largest humanitarian network, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

From 13 to 14 October 2025, the President, Secretary General, and International Relations Advisor of the Red Cross of Montenegro attended the annual leadership meeting of European National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, hosted by the Monaco Red Cross. Representatives from 45 National Societies across Europe and Central Asia discussed current developments, with particular attention to reduced humanitarian funding and the challenges posed by rapidly changing circumstances.

Later that month, from 22 to 23 October 2025, representatives of the Red Cross of Montenegro participated in the ninth annual meeting of small European National Red Cross Societies, hosted by the Luxembourg Red Cross. The meeting provided a platform to exchange experiences on migration, fundraising, volunteering, and cybersecurity. IFRC Secretary General Jagan Chapagain addressed the gathering, emphasizing the growing tension between national interests and global solidarity, particularly in the context of migration, health, and climate-related disasters.

The Red Cross of Montenegro marked its 150th anniversary in November 2025 with a celebratory academy at the Government House in Cetinje. The event honored the organization as the first National Red Cross Society in the Balkans and the 22nd in the world. During the ceremony, the President of Montenegro, Jakov Milatović, awarded the Red Cross of Montenegro the First-Class Order of the Montenegrin Flag, recognizing its contributions to national identity and humanitarian values. The organization also presented its highest honours, the Medal and the Golden Emblem, to individuals who made outstanding contributions to its development. The academy brought together government officials, diplomats, religious leaders, neighbouring National Societies, NGOs, and partners, and featured a documentary film showcasing the organization's history and humanitarian impact.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Red Cross of Montenegro maintained active communication with the Joint International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes. The National

Society sought approval for the Draft Amendments to its Statute, and on 27 January it received confirmation that the revised Statutes conform with the standards outlined in the Guidance for National Society Statutes 2018.

The Governing Board of the Red Cross of Montenegro adopted a decision to initiate self-assessment and strengthen local Red Cross organizations through the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment ([BOCA](#)). The plan is to implement BOCA in at least 12 local branches over an 18-month period. In May, the organization organized a training for BOCA facilitators with support from the IFRC, piloting the methodology in Bar, Budva, and Cetinje. Between June and October 2025, BOCA was further implemented in seven branches, including Herceg Novi, Plav, Andrijevića, Rožaje, Berane, Kotor, and Tivat. In December 2025, the BOCA Coordinator of the Red Cross of Montenegro participated in the BOCA 2.0 Training of Trainers in Budapest. The workshop prepared trainers to strengthen National Societies' capacity in applying the updated methodology, focusing on technical knowledge, facilitation approaches, and the logic of the new BOCA 2.0 matrix.

As part of the IFRC Emergency Appeal for Ukraine and impacted countries, the Red Cross of Montenegro invested in preparedness by procuring essential equipment for emergency response teams, including tents, canopies, folding tables and chairs, and personal equipment sets. These investments strengthened the organization's emergency response capacity and supported the sustainability of its operations. Nineteen staff members and volunteers also participated in disaster management and refresher training during the reporting period.

To reinforce its fundraising and resource mobilization capacities, the Red Cross of Montenegro received a small grant for the project Strengthening Digital Fundraising in the Red Cross of Montenegro, running from 13 October 2025 to 31 May 2026. The project aims to attract individual donors, both one-off and regular, to support the organization's programmes. In addition, with IFRC support, the Project Manager for Resource Mobilization was awarded the EmpoweRED Scholarship Program for Financial Sustainability in 2025, providing an opportunity to enhance skills and acquire advanced knowledge in resource mobilization.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provides technical and financial support to the National Society towards its development initiatives. The IFRC support consists of helping the National Society in developing organizational development priorities, developing strong branch network that deliver quality humanitarian services through operational excellence, and other targeted areas of assistance required for the overall development of the National Society.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In February 2025, a representative of the Red Cross of Montenegro participated in the Training of Trainers on Safeguarding and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH), organized by the IFRC with support from the Turkish Red Crescent. The training strengthened understanding of safeguarding principles and their application within the IFRC and National Societies. It also developed a pool of trained staff capable of cascading safeguarding practices internally and fostering a culture of accountability to protect staff, volunteers, and stakeholders.

In May 2025, another representative of the Red Cross of Montenegro attended the Operationalising Safeguarding Workshop, organized by the IFRC. This workshop enhanced the capacity of National Society personnel by equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to integrate safeguarding practices into their daily work. The initiative aimed to streamline safeguarding approaches across roles, functions, and departments, ensuring cohesive and effective implementation.

In June 2025, two representatives of the Red Cross of Montenegro joined the Risk Management Workshop in Albania, organized by the IFRC and facilitated by the Turkish Red Crescent. The sessions focused on enterprise risk management, strategic approaches, the risk management cycle, and the assurance framework. Participants explored practical ways to strengthen risk management systems within National Societies in the Central and South-Eastern Europe cluster.

The Red Cross of Montenegro also actively contributed to the work of the newly established International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Commission. The Commission reviewed Montenegro's participation in relevant IHL treaties and conventions, worked to align national legislation with international obligations, and developed proposals to ratify additional

protocols, including the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions. It raised awareness of IHL among public authorities, the security and health sectors, universities, and civil society, while organizing training sessions, workshops, roundtables, and producing educational materials.

Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, the Red Cross of Montenegro submitted a pledge to the 34th International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference titled Promoting International Humanitarian Law and Strengthening National Implementation Capacities in Montenegro. The pledge will be implemented through the efforts of the IHL Commission, reinforcing Montenegro's commitment to advancing humanitarian law and strengthening national capacities.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC**, with the support of the **Turkish Red Crescent**, provided technical and financial assistance to the Red Cross of Montenegro. This collaboration strengthened institutional safeguarding systems, advanced risk management practices, and reinforced the National Society's contribution to promoting and implementing International Humanitarian Law in Montenegro.

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 Mid-year 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

SUCCESS STORIES



1

Integration of Refugees from Ukraine

When Juliya fled the war in Ukraine with her children and arrived in Montenegro, she had almost nothing to help her survive. In those difficult first days, the Red Cross of Montenegro became her lifeline. The National Society provided not only material assistance but also psychological support, helping her family adapt to life in a new country.

“In the life of my family and our adaptation to the new country, the Red Cross plays a very important role. I am deeply grateful to all the staff working in this organization – to me personally, they are not strangers, but our friends who have stood by us in both joyful moments and during difficult times. We strive to participate in all the events organized by the Red Cross in our town, with sincere respect for their work, because when it was hardest for us – they were always there,” said Juliya, a refugee from Ukraine, currently residing in Tivat.

Today, Juliya and her children actively participate in events organized by the Red Cross of Montenegro in Tivat. Juliya emphasizes that the Red Cross of Montenegro played a vital role in her family's integration, turning a time of hardship into a journey of resilience and hope.





2

Home Care for Older People in Budva: A Story of Compassion

“I live in a small, modest apartment in the basement of an old building. The years have pressed me down, but I haven’t given up. I’ve always been a fighter,” shares one beneficiary of the Red Cross of Montenegro’s home care programme in Budva. Born in Bosnia, she recalls her youth filled with joy, song, and laughter. With her family far away and her days often passing in silence, she found comfort and support through the Red Cross of Montenegro.

When she fractured her spine a few years ago, volunteers ensured she would not go hungry. They brought her hot meals daily and provided financial assistance, as her small pension barely covered living expenses. “The Red Cross is my second home,” she says, describing how the National Society became her lifeline.

Her caretaker, Rada, became a beacon of light in her quiet days. Rada visits regularly, bringing groceries, helping to keep the apartment tidy, and most importantly, offering conversation, kindness, and a smile. “When the doorbell rings, my heart leaps with joy because I know I haven’t been forgotten,” she explains. The Red Cross of Montenegro also organizes birthday celebrations for her, ensuring she feels valued and connected. In earlier years, she joined trips with other beneficiaries, enjoying moments of laughter and companionship. Today, the team takes her to medical appointments and calls daily to check on her well-being.

“My story is about people who didn’t let forgetfulness cover a life full of warmth,” she reflects. Through the home care programme, the Red Cross of Montenegro continues to bring dignity, joy, and human connection to those who need it most.

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

- [ME_Montenegro AR Financials.pdf](#)
- [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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