



# HUNGARY

2025 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec



20 May 2026

## IN SUPPORT OF THE HUNGARIAN RED CROSS



**20**

National Society  
branches



**1,443**

National Society  
local units



**950**

National Society  
staff



**8,841**

National Society  
volunteers

## PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency  
Operations



**10,000**

Climate and  
environment



**10,000**

Disasters  
and crises



**15,000**

Health and  
wellbeing



**500,000**

Migration and  
displacement



**10,000**

Values, power  
and inclusion



**15,000**

*No information at time of publication. Figures reflect targeted reach in 2025 plan*

Appeal number **MAAUH001**

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

# Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

## Context

Hungary is a landlocked country in Central Europe, bordering Austria, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The landscape is predominantly flat or gently rolling plains, divided by the Danube, the country's main river. The system of government is a parliamentary democracy; the head of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister.

Hungary's demographic situation is characterized by an ageing population and a declining birth rate, despite significant family support policies. Emigration, driven by low incomes and other factors, contributes to population decline and may cause labour shortages.

Hungary faces environmental challenges, including pollution, deforestation and biodiversity loss. Industrial activities and outdated infrastructure contribute to environmental degradation, and air pollution is a significant problem in urban areas. The population is highly environmentally conscious, with the majority recognizing the need for adaptation measures.

Social cohesion in Hungary is threatened by discrimination, social exclusion and poverty, especially among minority communities. The country is directly affected by the international armed conflict in Ukraine, which has a significant impact on its economic, political and social processes. As a result of the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, a significant number of refugees have arrived in the country, with hundreds of thousands fleeing Ukraine. 25,64,194 refugees from Ukraine were registered in Hungary on 31 July 2025, of whom 44,625 were granted temporary protection status (TPS) in 2024. Refugees arriving from Ukraine face several challenges, including access to housing, necessities, healthcare, education and employment. The rapidly changing and uncertain economic and regulatory environment in Hungary also poses challenges, with risks including inflation and rising energy prices.

## Key achievements

### Disasters and crises

Throughout 2025, the Hungarian Red Cross sustained a nationwide humanitarian response to people displaced by the international armed conflict in Ukraine, ensuring continuity of essential assistance amid a challenging and evolving context. The National Society maintained a strong operational presence across all counties, delivering food, essential household items, hygiene support and shelter services through a combination of National Society-operated facilities and partnerships with municipalities and service providers. As access to state-funded accommodation became increasingly restricted, the Hungarian Red Cross adapted its [shelter](#) strategies, strengthened coordination with local authorities and prioritized the most vulnerable households. Complementary initiatives integrated health support, winter assistance and food rescue approaches, while holistic services including referrals, language learning and livelihood-related support contributed to social cohesion and early self-reliance. Cash and Voucher Assistance ([CVA](#)), alongside nutrition-focused programming, further enabled affected households to meet priority needs in a dignified and flexible manner.

### Health and wellbeing

In 2025, the Hungarian Red Cross reinforced access to health and care services for people displaced from Ukraine and vulnerable host community members through an integrated, community-based approach. Multi-functional health service points provided accessible entry points for health promotion, primary healthcare and referrals, ensuring timely support during the winter period and beyond. Mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) services were embedded across health activities, strengthening community resilience and addressing the impacts of displacement, while parallel investments expanded national MHPSS capacity. The National Society also integrated water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) interventions into shelters and community settings, improving living conditions and reducing public health risks. Needs-based assistance combining health screenings, food support and hygiene

items was delivered through coordinated branch-level action, supported by strengthened monitoring and inclusive data practices, reinforcing accountability and quality across health programming.

### **Migration and displacement**

Integration remained a central pillar of the Hungarian Red Cross response during the reporting period, with activities increasingly transitioning from emergency assistance toward longer-term, community-based support for displaced people and migrants. Building on earlier life-saving interventions, the National Society strengthened access to services, education, language learning and social cohesion initiatives, enabling more sustainable settlement pathways. Through the SEM project and related initiatives, local branch capacities were enhanced to deliver inclusive, integration-focused services such as child-friendly spaces, catch-up education and community activities. Active engagement by the Migration Department supported coordination, learning and strategic planning, while collaboration with national and international partners reinforced responsive and context-specific programming. Despite challenges related to mobility and legal uncertainty, the Hungarian Red Cross continued targeted outreach to improve awareness of available support and ensure more equitable access.

### **Values, power and inclusion**

The Hungarian Red Cross made substantial progress in embedding protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and accountability principles across its humanitarian response in 2025. With a strengthened focus on women, children, older people, Roma communities and persons with disabilities, the National Society mainstreamed [safeguarding](#), child-friendly approaches and PGI practices into services spanning health, relief and migration. Institutional systems were reinforced through policy development, organizational self-assessments, staff training and structured working groups, strengthening consistency and quality across branches. Child-friendly spaces and developmental initiatives provided safe environments that supported both children and caregivers. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) mechanisms were consolidated through a central Helpdesk and complementary feedback channels, ensuring two-way communication and enabling community feedback to inform programme adaptation. These efforts enhanced trust, inclusion and participation, despite continued systemic and capacity-related challenges.

### **Enabling local actors**

Under the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency Appeal, the Hungarian Red Cross advanced significant National Society development efforts to strengthen local capacities, preparedness and institutional sustainability while responding to the crisis. Decentralized service delivery was reinforced through empowered branch-level action, enabling timely and context-specific assistance across the country. Volunteer engagement and training expanded, integrating protection and accountability principles into community outreach. The National Society initiated strategic planning for long-term organizational development, strengthened fundraising systems and invested in digital tools to support sustainability, accountability and real-time decision-making. Preparedness capacities were upgraded through revised operational procedures, targeted training and improved coordination structures, enhancing readiness for future crises. At the same time, governance, accountability and information management systems were strengthened, positioning the Hungarian Red Cross for more agile, transparent and resilient humanitarian action beyond the emergency response.

## **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 IFRC GO page [Hungary](#)

<b>Name</b>	Ukraine and impacted countries crisis
<b>Appeal number</b>	MGR65002
<b>Duration</b>	March 2022-December 2025
<b>People to be assisted</b>	22.7 M (total); 214,120 (in Hungary)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	<b>Total:</b> CHF 800 million (IFRC); CHF 2.7 billion (Federation-wide) <b>Hungary:</b> CHF 20.5 million (IFRC) CHF 25.6 million (Federation-wide)
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Revised Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Revised Operational Strategy</a> <a href="#">Hungary Response Plan</a>
<b>Link to Operations Update</b>	<a href="#">Operational Update No. 13</a>

The international armed conflict in Ukraine continues, inflicting a devastating toll on the lives of people. The protracted crisis has resulted in massive civilian casualties, severe harm to critical infrastructure and livelihoods and widespread displacement from front-line communities, leading to an alarming escalation in humanitarian needs, inside and outside of Ukraine. Millions of people have crossed borders from Ukraine into neighbouring countries and beyond. Most of these individuals have been displaced for nearly two years and the gaps in meeting their needs are still increasing. Displaced people from Ukraine still require safety, assistance and critical protection to lead dignified lives and restore their wellbeing and livelihoods. Between February and November 2022, over 1.8 million people crossed from Ukraine and 1.7 million from Romania to Hungary due to the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine. In January 2023, the influx was approximately 6,000 – 10,000 people arriving daily in Hungary from both Ukraine and Romanian borders respectively. The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine continues affecting several locations within Hungary, including, but not limited to, locations at the borders with Ukraine, Romania, Serbia and Austria, as well as in and around Budapest.

First launched in February 2022, the IFRC Emergency Appeal was revised in May 2023, in support of the work of 18 National Societies including the Hungarian Red Cross who are responding to the crisis. The revised Emergency Appeal presents a substantial increase in people targeted, funding requirement and geographical coverage, to support the National Societies in assisting people in Ukraine and other impacted countries affected by the crisis. It also represents a shift in response from an emergency phase to a protracted crisis scenario, while recognizing the need to remain agile and proactive in what continues to be a highly dynamic environment.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

In the immediate aftermath of the international armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the Hungarian Red Cross, supported by the IFRC and operating across all counties of Hungary, launched a nationwide humanitarian response.

The IFRC supported the Hungarian Red Cross in mobilizing its Disaster Management team and responding at branches, cross-border points and public transportation hubs where people displaced from Ukraine were met and the first wave of response was provided. Recognizing the scale of displacement and the critical needs of people arriving, the IFRC worked closely with Hungarian authorities and the Hungarian Red Cross leadership to advocate for humanitarian space and to establish the country's first national-scale multipurpose cash response for displaced persons.

By 2025, the humanitarian needs of vulnerable population in Hungary, including people displaced from Ukraine, entered a protracted and complex transition phase, requiring a realignment of priorities away from broad-scale cash

support and toward more targeted, thematic interventions. While the cash components phased out, the Hungarian Red Cross and IFRC refocused on:

- Winterization support through essential household items distributions, especially for vulnerable households and children
- Health screening and outreach services, as an auxiliary to the public authorities in selected counties
- Institutionalization of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), with increased integration of protection principles across the National Society operations and strategies
- Advocacy and communications support, ensuring the voices of displaced and vulnerable people remained heard in national and regional decision-making
- Fundraising support to sustain essential services and scale durable, locally driven solutions

In line with the Unified Country Plan 2025–2027, the IFRC continues to support the Hungarian Red Cross in strengthening its auxiliary role, fostering localization, community resilience and inclusive access to services as the operating environment becomes increasingly shaped by long-term integration and legal uncertainty surrounding Temporary Protection Status (TPS).

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Disasters and crises

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

#### Progress by the National Society against objectives

Throughout 2025, the Hungarian Red Cross sustained its humanitarian response to people displaced by the international armed conflict in Ukraine, with a continued focus on meeting immediate basic needs, supporting [safe shelter](#) and facilitating access to essential services. A core component of this response remained the large-scale distribution of food, clothing, essential household items and other essential goods. These activities were implemented nationwide through all county branches and reached displaced people residing in shelters, National Society regional offices, designated donation and help points, as well as private accommodations.

Between January and June 2025, the Hungarian Red Cross provided shelter and accommodation-related support to displaced people through both Hungarian Red Cross-operated facilities and partnerships with municipalities and service providers. In January, a total of 287 people were accommodated in shelters operated by the National Society, including the Dorkász facility and the Hajdú-Bihar County Branch, while the Csongrád-Csanád Branch supported 33 people housed in a municipality-run shelter in Hódmezővásárhely. In February, support expanded to 235 people accommodated through various service providers in Hajdú-Bihar County, alongside limited placements in Budapest, including at the Madrid Street Shelter for people with refugee status.

Despite continued needs, legislative amendments introduced in 2024 significantly affected access to subsidized accommodation for displaced people, placing increased pressure on the shelter sector. These legal and policy changes restricted eligibility for state-funded housing, exposing an estimated 2,000–3,000 people displaced from Ukraine to heightened risks of homelessness. As a result, the Hungarian Red Cross was required to adapt its shelter strategies rapidly, strengthen coordination with local authorities and prioritize the most vulnerable households in the context of limited capacity.

To address gaps in winter assistance and unmet health-related needs, the Hungarian Red Cross launched a targeted initiative integrating health promotion, access to primary healthcare services and the distribution of food and essential household items through multi-functional service points. The initiative aimed to reach 2,000 people in vulnerable situations. By mid-2025, a total of 2,723 people had received health screenings, while food assistance reached 2,380 individuals, contributing to improved access to essential services during a critical period.

In parallel, the Hungarian Red Cross maintained a strong operational presence in humanitarian aid distribution throughout the year. County branches including Pest, Komárom-Esztergom and Zala conducted regular and ad hoc distributions of food, clothing and hygiene items. These efforts were increasingly complemented by food rescue initiatives, enabling timely, environmentally sustainable and locally tailored assistance.

Beyond material support, the Hungarian Red Cross provided holistic assistance aimed at strengthening social cohesion and integration. Displaced people living in and around shelters received information and referrals related to education, healthcare and employment opportunities, with interpretation support where needed, particularly through the Hódmezővásárhely branch. The Hungarian Red Cross staff worked closely with municipalities and local businesses to identify job opportunities and vocational pathways, supporting early steps toward self-reliance.

Language barriers remained a key challenge to integration; therefore, the Hungarian Red Cross continued to offer Hungarian language courses and catch-up sessions across several counties under the SEM project. These activities improved participants' ability to navigate public services and increased their prospects for employment and social inclusion.

Under the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency Appeal, the Hungarian Red Cross implemented targeted actions that contributed to early livelihood recovery. While the primary operational focus remained on lifesaving and basic needs assistance, several interventions supported economic resilience indirectly and directly. These included administrative assistance, employment referrals, and unconditional and sector-specific cash-based interventions.

Cash and voucher assistance (CVA) played a central role in enabling displaced households to meet self-identified priority needs in a dignified and flexible manner. The Hódmezővásárhely branch operated a grocery and hygiene voucher programme, providing weekly support to particularly vulnerable groups. From January 2025 onwards, eligibility was focused on minors and people aged over 65, ensuring targeted assistance to those most at risk.

In addition, the Hungarian Red Cross successfully implemented the 'Eat Better Get Better' initiative, which combined cash-based assistance with nutrition education. Through two complementary project components, vouchers for healthy food were distributed alongside educational workshops and tailored information materials. Across Budapest and six regional county branches, a total of 150 displaced people, primarily older individuals, participated in the programme. Overall, 400 vouchers with an individual value of CHF 76 were distributed, supported by Recipe Booklets and interactive sessions promoting healthy, affordable diets. All planned activities were completed on schedule, meeting programme indicators and contributing positively to participants' well-being.

The Hungarian Red Cross' response continued to be shaped by a complex operational environment. Donor funding reductions, including the discontinuation of UNHCR support, limited the availability of transitional shelter solutions previously provided in 2024. High demand for accommodation significantly exceeded available shelter capacity, while rising inflation, energy prices and limited employment opportunities further constrained displaced households' ability to secure sustainable housing.

Many displaced people also presented complex and intersecting vulnerabilities, including disabilities, chronic illnesses and heightened risks of gender-based violence, necessitating tailored case management and specialized services that stretched existing resources. In the livelihoods and cash assistance sector, legal and labour market barriers, combined with language constraints and non-recognition of qualifications, continued to limit access to formal employment. High inflation reduced the purchasing power of cash assistance and the short-term nature of support restricted longer-term recovery and financial resilience.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** provides both financial and technical support to the National Society's response towards disasters and crises. IFRC funding mechanisms such as the disaster response emergency fund (DREF) and the IFRC Emergency Appeal are utilized by the National Society in times of disasters and crises to effectively support those who face immediate needs during times of emergency.

Under the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency Appeal, the Hungarian Red Cross implemented activities with the support of the IFRC and participating National Societies. IFRC support enabled the delivery of unconditional multi-purpose cash assistance and sectoral cash assistance to people displaced from Ukraine, contributing to their ability to meet essential needs in a flexible and dignified manner.

The response was further supported by contributions from the American Red Cross, **French Red Cross**, **Canadian Red Cross**, **Netherlands Red Cross** and the **Australian Red Cross**. This support allowed HRC to sustain Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) programmes, including support to particularly vulnerable groups such as older people and minors.

As part of the 'Eat Better Get Better' initiative, data collected through satisfaction and needs assessment questionnaires was shared with the IFRC for analysis, contributing to programme monitoring and learning.



*Hungarian Red Cross is handing out fresh food, water and fresh fruit for children as well as baby food to the newly arrived migrants at the border point in between Hungary and Austria from the neighbouring Croatia who continue their journey to Austria, aiming for Germany and other countries in northern Europe. (Photo: Hungarian Red Cross)*



## Health and wellbeing

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Hungarian Red Cross implemented health and care interventions aimed at improving individual and community health outcomes for people displaced from Ukraine, as well as vulnerable members of host communities in Hungary. The response combined direct health services, community-based outreach, health promotion activities and referrals, ensuring timely and accessible support in a protracted crisis context.

In response to urgent unmet needs during the winter period, the Hungarian Red Cross launched a targeted health and assistance initiative aimed at reaching 2,000 people in vulnerable situations. The intervention was delivered through multi-functional health service points, which integrate health promotion, primary healthcare services and complementary humanitarian assistance. Activities included health screenings, sensitization sessions and the distribution of food and essential household items. While procurement and distribution of relief items were ongoing until May 2025, health-related activities commenced in January 2025 to ensure support during the most critical winter months.

By March 2025, multi-functional health service points were operational in six branches including Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Pest, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Budapest, Zala and Győr-Moson-Sopron, providing rapid health screenings and support for accessing healthcare services. By August 2025, the Hungarian Red Cross expanded this network to eight counties, with the inclusion of Fejér and Komárom-Esztergom. These service points supported both displaced people from Ukraine and members of host communities facing heightened health risks and barriers to healthcare access. By the end of October 2025, a total of 2,723 displaced people from Ukraine had been reached through this initiative, contributing to improved health outcomes and early identification of medical needs.

Recognizing the mental health impacts of forced displacement, the Hungarian Red Cross integrated mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) into its health and care response, supported by DG SANTE funding. Trained staff and volunteers delivered basic MHPSS services in community settings and facilitated referrals for individuals requiring specialized care. These services particularly benefited single-parent households, older people and individuals living in temporary shelters. While the availability of basic MHPSS increased, demand for structured and longer-term mental health support, especially for children, trauma survivors and socially isolated older people continued to exceed system capacity. This gap was partially mitigated through DG SANTE funding and a parallel expansion of the Hungarian Red Cross' MHPSS capacity at the national level.

The health response also incorporated water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions to mitigate public health risks among displaced populations. These included the distribution of adult, baby and menstrual hygiene kits across shelters and branch locations, hygiene promotion sessions conducted in temporary shelters using culturally appropriate materials in Ukrainian, Hungarian and Russian, and the installation and maintenance of handwashing stations and sanitation facilities in Hungarian Red Cross-operated shelters, including in Dunaújváros. These efforts contributed to safer and more dignified living conditions during the emergency phase.

In January 2025, amid increasing humanitarian needs, the Hungarian Red Cross launched the Urgent Unmet Needs Project, targeting 2,000 people through health screenings, food assistance and hygiene kits. A needs assessment conducted in February across branch locations identified significant increases in demand for essential items. Between March and June, 2,100 food parcels and 2,100 hygiene kits were procured for distribution by 12 branches identified through the assessment. In May, suppliers were contracted and items delivered to logistics hubs in Budapest, Hajdúszoboszló, Pécs and Zalaegerszeg.

Distribution activities commenced in June under the oversight of the Migration Department, which also coordinated monitoring, reporting and data protection processes. By the end of October, 1,981 people had been supported with 1,755 food packages and 1,875 hygiene packages. A standardized distribution sheet was developed at headquarters level, enabling the Hungarian Red Cross to pilot unified sex, age and diversity-disaggregated data (SADDD) collection for the first time. Based on county-level reporting, assistance reached 758 male beneficiaries, 1,026 female beneficiaries and 37 people who did not declare their gender, with data collected at household level across all age groups.

Since the onset of the crisis, Hungarian Red Cross staff and volunteers have reported high stress levels, highlighting the need for sustained emotional support, guidance, training and capacity building in MHPSS. As supportive sessions expanded, demand continued to rise, making the integration of additional Caring for Staff and Volunteers (CfSV) activities essential.

Operational challenges included language barriers and varying hygiene practices among displaced populations, which required tailored communication approaches. Additionally, the short-term nature of many shelter arrangements limited the potential for longer-term impact of infrastructure-related WASH improvements

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** provided technical and financial support to the Hungarian Red Cross for implementing health and wellbeing activities under the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency. The IFRC support contributed to the delivery of integrated health services, psychosocial support and basic needs assistance through multi-functional health service points.

The Hungarian Red Cross also benefited from IFRC-supported funding mechanisms and coordination under DG SANTE-funded interventions, which enabled the expansion of psychosocial support services and strengthened national MHPSS capacity.



## Migration and displacement

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

Integration remained a core component of the Hungarian Red Cross response to the needs of people displaced from Ukraine. Through coordinated work with volunteers, partner organizations and local communities, the Hungarian Red Cross implemented a broad range of activities aimed at promoting social inclusion, improving access to essential services and supporting longer-term settlement in Hungary.

During the initial phase of the response, the Hungarian Red Cross addressed urgent humanitarian needs through the provision of shelter, cash assistance, health services and the distribution of essential household items, with support from the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency Appeal. UNHCR support enabled the operation of Hungarian Red Cross shelters through 2022, while government funding under AMIF (MMIA) ensured continuity of services thereafter. As the operational context evolved, the focus gradually shifted from emergency assistance to integration-oriented support, facilitating pathways toward more stable and dignified living arrangements.

In 2024, the Hungarian Red Cross launched the SEM project, a 24-month initiative supporting people in the asylum process, refugees and displaced persons in Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania. In Hungary, the project focused on strengthening access to services and fostering social inclusion through child-friendly spaces, catch-up education programmes, language classes, and monthly social cohesion activities. A Development Centre was established in Zala County, with Tolna, Békés and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg counties joining the initiative in July 2024. Planned activities under the project included workshops to share the Development Centre model and a closing event to consolidate learning and results.

The SEM project, funded by the Swiss Government, marked a transition from an emergency-driven response toward integration-focused programming. Through this initiative, the Hungarian Red Cross enhanced the capacity of local branches to deliver community-based services. Activities such as language lessons, education and child-friendly spaces, social cohesion events and strengthened referral mechanisms contributed to more inclusive and sustainable support for migrants and displaced people.

Between January and October 2025, the Migration Department of the Hungarian Red Cross played an active role in advancing integration efforts and project implementation. Key activities included consultations with branch directors, development of tools for the SEM midline study, coordination with UNHCR and participation in regional workshops and thematic working groups. The department also prepared and submitted reports and concept notes, conducted needs assessments and engaged in strategic planning for future initiatives, including the Integration and Inclusion Programme.

Collaboration with partners such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) further strengthened the capacity of the Hungarian Red Cross to deliver inclusive and responsive programming tailored to the needs of displaced people and migrants.

Challenges included high mobility among migrants and legal uncertainties that continued to complicate long-term planning and consistent access to services. Limited awareness of available integration support, particularly among marginalized groups, required sustained outreach efforts and localized engagement to ensure equitable access.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** provided technical assistance to the Hungarian Red Cross which supported the delivery of shelter, cash assistance, health services and distributions of essential household items to migrants and displaced persons under the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency Appeal.

In addition, the IFRC supported the Hungarian Red Cross by providing contingency funding at critical moments when assisted populations faced exclusion risks, and by supporting transitions from collective accommodation to private and more dignified shelter solutions. The Hungarian Red Cross also partnered with the IFRC in the implementation of the SEM project, contributing to the shift toward integration-focused programming and the strengthening of community-based services for displaced people and migrants in Hungary.

The **Canadian Red Cross** supported the Hungarian Red Cross to deliver inclusive and responsive programming tailored to the needs of displaced people and migrants.



### Progress by the National Society against objectives

Throughout the implementation of the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency Appeal, the Hungarian Red Cross strengthened the protection and inclusion and participation of people in vulnerable situations, with a particular focus on women, children, older people, Roma communities and persons with disabilities.

In 2025, the Hungarian Red Cross made significant progress in mainstreaming Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) principles, safeguarding standards and child-friendly approaches across its humanitarian response. These efforts contributed to broader National Society Development by strengthening institutional systems and operational practices. People in vulnerable situations were reached through integrated services including healthcare, relief assistance, safeguarding actions and child-friendly spaces, with activities tailored to promote inclusion and psychosocial wellbeing.

During the first half of 2025, the Hungarian Red Cross advanced a range of PGI-focused initiatives. These included the development and submission of concept notes, participation in UNHCR service mapping exercises and engagement in working groups and training related to psychological first aid (PFA), disability inclusion and safeguarding operationalization. A Child Protection Policy was drafted and aligned through internal consultations to ensure consistency with national standards. In parallel, the Hungarian Red Cross conducted a PGIE and Safeguarding Self-Assessment, facilitated focus group discussions and prepared for participation in the Family Shelters Conference in Balatonlelle.

Child-friendly spaces continued to operate across several branches, offering daily activities such as drawing, LEGO play and group games. These spaces provided safe environments for children while also enabling parents, particularly mothers, to connect and socialize. In June 2025, a Child-Friendly Development Centre was launched in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, delivering structured developmental activities alongside parental consultations.

In July 2025, the Migration Department launched intensive activities under Protection, Gender, Inclusion and Engagement (PGIE) project. Self-assessment focus group discussions were conducted with branches in Hajdú-Bihar, Győr-Moson-Sopron and Bács-Kiskun counties to assess the status of PGIE integration across the National Society. A similar discussion was held with the Social Department in June following a visit to Balatonlelle. These assessments aimed to inform a broader organizational study on PGIE implementation.

Concurrently, the Migration Department initiated the development of Integrity Line promotional materials to support ethical conduct and accountability, coordinating closely with the Social, Communication and Human Resources departments. Drafting of the Child Protection Policy continued, supported by consultations with social coordinators. Monthly online PGIE working group meetings were established to maintain consistent engagement with branch-level colleagues, and regular virtual donor updates were conducted to support transparency and coordination.

The second pillar of the PGIE project focused on assisting displaced people from Ukraine in vulnerable situations through the procurement of assistive devices. Branches conducted needs assessments and initiated preparations for procurement.

In August 2025, PGIE activities continued to expand through field visits to Hódmezővásárhely, Tatabánya and Tata. Work progressed on drafting a general PGIE Terms of Reference document, and the Child Protection Policy was further refined in preparation for adoption. PGIE presentations were delivered to branch colleagues, and self-assessment focus group discussion tools were finalized and submitted to the Canadian Red Cross Society for consolidation into an organizational study.

The Hungarian Red Cross embedded Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) across the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency Appeal operation. A dedicated Helpdesk served as a central two-way communication channel. By the end of 2024, the Helpdesk had received more than 3,000 feedback entries and continued operating in multiple languages, including Ukrainian, Russian, Hungarian and English. The Helpdesk provided timely information, addressed concerns and supported programme adaptation.

Additional CEA mechanisms included post-distribution monitoring, focus group discussions, social media monitoring and direct engagement at branch level. These mechanisms ensured that people displaced from Ukraine had multiple accessible avenues to share feedback, receive information, and influence programme design and implementation.

Between January and June 2025, the Hungarian Red Cross continued to strengthen its CEA approach, focusing on institutionalization, effective feedback mechanisms and meaningful participation. Key milestones included finalization of the CEA Annual Report in Hungarian and English, consultations with 510 Global on the future of the Digital Engagement Hub and field visits to SEM project branches in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Zala counties to conduct surveys, focus group discussions and key informant interviews. Feedback collected through these activities informed the SEM Midline Study. The Integrity Line was formally implemented as part of the accountability framework.

The Hungarian Red Cross also participated in regional peer learning and inclusion initiatives, including the CEA Community of Practice Peer Learning Session and a Disability Inclusion Consultation. Internal discussions continued regarding the future of the CEA focal point role, alongside preparations for interviews under the Integration and Inclusion – Education Support initiative.

Systemic barriers continued to limit access to services for marginalized groups, particularly Roma communities and people with uncertain legal status. Limited specialized PGI staffing constrained the scale and consistency of tailored protection and inclusion interventions. In-person assistance models, particularly those requiring accompaniment, were time-intensive and placed sustained demands on staff and volunteers. Awareness of the full range of Hungarian Red Cross services remained uneven, especially during the integration phase.

Feedback volumes decreased toward the end of 2024 due to population mobility and the phase-out of certain programmes, such as cash assistance. CEA capacity and practices varied across branches, requiring continued support and harmonization.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The **IFRC** provided technical support to the Hungarian Red Cross to strengthen PGI and safeguarding frameworks, embedding CEA and supporting the localization of PGIE and safeguarding learning materials.

In addition, the Migration Department collaborated with the IFRC to localize PGIE and safeguarding online courses for a Hungarian audience, laying the foundation for a future national learning platform.

The **Canadian Red Cross** and the **Australian Red Cross** provided direct engagement and project based support, particularly under the PGIE initiative, enabling organizational self assessments, branch level engagement and the development of safeguarding and child protection policies. The Netherlands Red Cross 510 team supported the establishment and operation of the Helpdesk and digital feedback systems.

## **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 Hungarian Red Cross closely partners with the IFRC, benefiting from technical support, capacity building and resource mobilization for emergency response and community programmes. It receives support from the **American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross** and **Netherlands Red Cross**.

## Movement coordination

The National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

**The ICRC** supports the Hungarian Red Cross based in disaster management, civilian protection and in promoting the international humanitarian law.

## External coordination

The Hungarian Red Cross works in close coordination with government ministries at national and local levels, including County Defence Committees, County Civil Protection Officers, disaster management authorities and law enforcement agencies. Through these partnerships, the National Society continues to support people affected by the international armed conflict in Ukraine while progressively transitioning from an emergency response toward sustained and longer-term assistance.

At the national level, the Hungarian Red Cross is an active member of the Charity Council, alongside six national organizations, including the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta, Hungarian Baptist Aid, Caritas, the Interchurch Aid and the Reformed Church. The Charity Council serves as a key coordination platform for emergency response activities and provides advisory support to the government during non-emergency periods.

The Hungarian Red Cross also engages in United Nations-led humanitarian coordination mechanisms, including participation in relevant clusters and inter-agency working groups such as the Basic Needs Working Group and the Child Protection Sub-Working Group. These forums support alignment with international humanitarian standards and enhance coordination with humanitarian partners.

In addition, the Hungarian Red Cross maintains close cooperation with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental actors, including national authorities, local municipalities, non-governmental organizations and international organizations operating in Hungary. The National Society is also a member of the National Humanitarian Coordination Committee, which facilitates operational coordination among major charitable organizations in the country.

At the inter-agency level, the Hungarian Red Cross, together with the IFRC, participates in relevant working groups under the Refugee Coordination Forum and broader inter-agency coordination architecture. The National Society also contributed to the multi-sectoral needs assessment conducted by UNHCR and IOM, with preliminary findings shared and validated in collaboration with other humanitarian actors.



## National Society development

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

Under the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency Appeal, the Hungarian Red Cross implemented targeted National Society development actions to strengthen its operational capacity during the emergency response while laying the foundations for longer-term institutional sustainability. These efforts focused on decentralization, volunteer capacity, resource mobilization, preparedness and strategic planning. The Hungarian Red Cross expanded decentralized service delivery by strengthening branch-level engagement, particularly in border regions and urban areas. This approach enabled more timely and flexible assistance to a widely dispersed caseload.

Volunteer mobilization remained a key pillar of National Society strengthening. Structured onboarding and training initiatives supported a sustained increase in volunteer engagement, contributing to more than 35,000 people trained in first aid across Hungary since 2022. These activities reached both displaced people and host communities and integrated Protection, Gender and Inclusion ([PGI](#)) and Community Engagement and Accountability ([CEA](#)) principles, including through outreach activities such as the Balaton Lake summer programme.

The Hungarian Red Cross also advanced initial steps toward diversifying its resource base. Seed funding and increased programme visibility under the Emergency Appeal supported early efforts in domestic fundraising and strategic communication, marking progress toward reduced reliance on emergency funding streams.

The Hungarian Red Cross also initiated the development of an internal National Society Development Plan (2025–2027). This planning process aligns with IFRC Strategy 2030 and provides a framework for more structured and sustainable institutional growth.

Throughout 2025, the Hungarian Red Cross continued implementing National Society development activities with a strong focus on internal coordination and strategic planning. Priority areas included strengthening fundraising capacity, improving digital fundraising tools, particularly through the National Society website and supporting branch-level development to enhance long-term sustainability and outreach.

To reinforce financial sustainability, the Hungarian Red Cross initiated the implementation of a comprehensive fundraising action plan. While some delays were encountered, steady progress was achieved. The National Society secured CHF 75,000 through a successful Capacity Building Fund application, following multiple review stages. The resulting 16-month project, launched on 1 September 2025, includes the introduction of a professional customer relationship management system and a pilot face-to-face fundraising campaign.

Additional fundraising initiatives included a billboard and social media campaign, the production of printed visibility materials, further website development and the delivery of a fundraising workshop in autumn 2025.

In April 2025, the IFRC Regional Office for Europe approved a revised project proposal submitted by the Hungarian Red Cross to strengthen preparedness capacities. The proposal was updated with input from the IFRC country office and aligned with IFRC standards. Procurement planning was subsequently launched, with the Hungarian Red Cross ensuring compliance with IFRC observer status requirements and procurement policies. These efforts represented an important step toward enhancing operational readiness and organizational resilience.

The Hungarian Red Cross further implemented a preparedness strengthening project focused on upgrading disaster response capacity through updated standard operating procedures, the development of a mobile Emergency Operations Centre and targeted training. Since 2020, five regional emergency units have been established, each coordinated by a disaster management lead.

During the initial phase, outdated flood-focused procedures were revised to reflect emerging risks, including pandemics and conflict-related crises. Headquarters staff skills were strengthened with IFRC support, and a mobile Emergency Operations Centre was equipped for flexible deployment. Between January and June 2025, six training sessions were delivered to regional and headquarters National Disaster Response Team members, covering emergency needs assessment, information management and logistics, complemented by simulation exercises. The final phase included a lessons-learned workshop to evaluate outcomes and refine updated strategies based on feedback.

Limited pre-crisis experience in cash and integration programming required rapid adaptation and accelerated learning in areas such as targeting, post-distribution monitoring and cross-sector coordination. Increased operational demands placed sustained pressure on staff capacity, particularly within finance, logistics, and information management functions, despite strong volunteer engagement. Some capacity gains remain closely linked to emergency or project-based funding and may face sustainability challenges without continued investment or integration into core organizational systems.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the National Society with technical assistance for decentralized service delivery, strategic planning, preparedness strengthening and fundraising capacity development.

The IFRC Country Team and Regional Office for Europe provided guidance on proposal development, alignment with IFRC standards, procurement planning and training delivery. IFRC support also enabled the initiation of the internal National Society Development Plan and facilitated access to the [IFRC Capacity Building Fund \(CBF\)](#).



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Hungarian Red Cross engaged actively with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, including national authorities, local municipalities, non-governmental organizations and international organizations operating in Hungary. As a member of the National Humanitarian Coordination Committee, the Hungarian Red Cross contributed to the coordination of operational efforts among major humanitarian actors, facilitating joint planning, information sharing and harmonized response approaches, particularly during periods of increased humanitarian needs.

Within the refugee response, the Hungarian Red Cross participated in key coordination structures, including the Refugee Coordination Forum and relevant Inter-Agency Coordination Working Groups. The National Society contributed to a multi-sectoral needs assessment led by UNHCR and IOM, with preliminary findings validated through consultations involving multiple non-governmental organizations. Through these engagements, the Hungarian Red Cross supported evidence-based programming, strengthened partnerships and reinforced transparent communication with humanitarian actors and affected communities.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** supported the humanitarian diplomacy efforts of the Hungarian Red Cross. IFRC engagement facilitated coordination within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and supported the Hungarian Red Cross' participation in inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including the Refugee Coordination Forum and Inter-Agency Coordination Working Groups. This cooperation strengthened alignment, information sharing and collective advocacy within the broader humanitarian response.

Movement coordination between the Hungarian Red Cross, the IFRC and **the ICRC** was ensured through regular communication and ad-hoc meetings, supporting alignment of priorities and collective decision-making.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Hungarian Red Cross strengthened internal governance, accountability mechanisms and operational agility to enable more responsive and principled humanitarian action. Priority was placed on adapting organizational systems to evolving operational demands while safeguarding transparency, integrity and compliance with humanitarian standards.

The Hungarian Red Cross supported its Ethics Committee and Supervisory Board in adjusting to changing equal opportunity requirements, ensuring that governance structures remained responsive to organizational needs. At the same time, the Integrity Line was further reinforced as a flexible and accessible mechanism for reporting concerns. Emphasis was placed on transparency, confidentiality and the timely handling of cases, contributing to strengthened internal accountability.

Efforts were also made to simplify volunteer engagement processes by reducing administrative burdens, streamlining procedures and minimizing paperwork, while maintaining essential safeguards related to safety, compliance and duty of care. These adjustments enhanced organizational agility and enabled volunteers and staff to focus more effectively on programme delivery.

To support evidence-based decision-making and operational efficiency, the Hungarian Red Cross advanced its digital transformation agenda. Agile Customer Relationship Management (CRM) systems were introduced to standardize data collection, improve information flow and support real-time decision-making across operations. In parallel, regular reviews of internal rules and procedures were conducted to ensure ongoing regulatory alignment, relevance and enforceability, while enabling adaptive monitoring and compliance mechanisms.

The Hungarian Red Cross continued investing in improved data collection and information management systems aligned with Federation-wide tools. These enhancements strengthened case management, reporting and monitoring, particularly within Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), assistive device provision and SEM project activities.

Until the end of 2024, the Netherlands Red Cross 510 Initiative supported the Hungarian Red Cross by providing and maintaining key digital tools and systems, including Twilio for SMS communication, EspoCRM for contact and case management and the HelpDesk platform for beneficiary requests and internal support. This technical infrastructure strengthened outreach, improved data management and enabled more timely and coordinated responses across programmes.

Since February 2024, the Hungarian Red Cross operations team has engaged in technical discussions to develop a scalable and user-friendly CRM system tailored to fundraising needs. The National Society opted to initiate a fundraising-specific CRM with the potential for future scalability and interoperability.

As part of this digitalization effort, the online donation landing page was redesigned to facilitate easier and more accessible contributions. The Hungarian Red Cross also upgraded its internal file handling system, which was introduced to department heads and potential users. In addition, development began on a new membership registration system to support organizational elections scheduled for 2025.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC supported the accountability, agility and digitalization efforts of the Hungarian Red Cross which contributed to the advancement of digital tools, the strengthening of internal systems and the development of CRM solutions to improve data management, fundraising capacity and operational decision-making. In addition, IFRC engagement supported institutional strengthening processes related to governance, digital transformation and regulatory alignment.

## **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

- A significant share of displaced people from Ukraine residing in Hungary and in Hungarian Red Cross long-term shelters belongs to the Transcarpathian Roma minority, with distinct needs, vulnerabilities and communication preferences
- Recruiting health professionals with specific cultural knowledge of Roma communities proves essential to ensuring effective cross-cultural communication and meaningful engagement
- Continuous consultation with affected communities and input from local staff, in line with Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) principles, enabled context-appropriate programme adaptations
- Prioritizing community-led approaches ensures that the perspectives, preferences and concerns of Roma groups are reflected in the design and delivery of MHPSS activities, strengthening trust and overall impact
- Integrating WASH components into shelter and health interventions enhances efficiency and improved overall programme outcomes
- Early distribution of hygiene items combined with targeted hygiene promotion contributes to disease prevention and increased community awareness
- Cross-cutting integration of Protection, Gender and Inclusion across sectors enhanced the relevance, reach and effectiveness of assistance
- Participatory assessments and sustained community engagement were critical for identifying hidden and emerging vulnerabilities
- Centralizing CEA through an institutionalized Helpdesk improves accessibility, responsiveness and accountability
- Community feedback directly informed operational adjustments, including improvements to digital platforms such as AccessRC
- Regular training of staff and volunteers on CEA, PGI and safeguarding strengthened internal collaboration and community trust
- Transitioning from centralized emergency relief toward decentralized, community-based integration support increased sustainability and long-term impact
- Strong cross-sectoral coordination—linking migration, PGI, health and CEA is essential for addressing diverse and complex migrant needs
- Investing in local branch capacity and partnerships strengthened the Hungarian Red Cross' ability to support migrants throughout their displacement and integration journey

# 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)
<b>Core Questions</b>	
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
<b>Additional Questions</b>	
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

- Note: The financial report link will be fed when the report is available. For emergency operations, see [MGR65002](#)
- [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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