



# POLAND

## 2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



3 February 2026

### In support of the Polish Red Cross



16

National Society branches



185

National Society local units



6,173

National Society staff



6,742

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



3,000

Climate and environment



5,000

Disasters and crises



30,000

Health and wellbeing



3,000

Migration and displacement



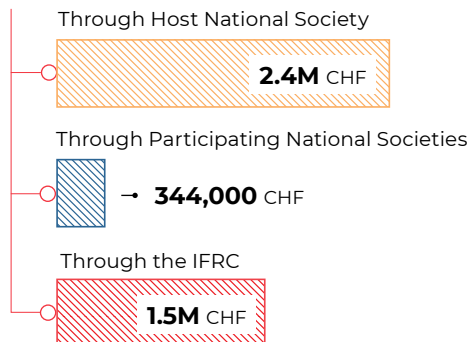
1,000

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 4.2M CHF



2027

Total 5.1M CHF

2028

Total 5.1M CHF

Projected funding requirements

### Participating National Societies

- British Red Cross\*
- Canadian Red Cross\*
- French Red Cross\*
- German Red Cross
- Irish Red Cross\*
- Spanish Red Cross
- The Netherlands Red Cross\*

\*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in 2025.

### IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAPL001

## Hazards



Population Movement



Floods



Harsh Winters



Heat Waves

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Longer term needs

- Climate change adaptation
  - Disaster preparedness
- Health and wellbeing - mental health and psychosocial services
  - Migration
- Integration and inclusion

#### Capacity development

- National Society development

### Key country data links

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Very Low**

Human Development Index rank **35**

World Bank Population figure **36.6M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **13%**



A Polish Red Cross volunteer leading an activity for children. (Photo: Polish Red Cross)

## Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027		2028	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	Host National Society	Host National Society	Host National Society
<b>Longer-term needs</b>						
Climate and environment	350,000	50,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
Disasters & crises	600,000	250,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
Health & wellbeing	1M	120,000	1M	1M	1M	1M
Migration & displacement	300,000	220,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Values, power & inclusion	100,000	300,000	2.8M	2.8M	2.8M	2.8M
<b>Enabling local actors</b>	350,000	590,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.40M</b>	<b>1.5M</b>	<b>5.10M</b>	<b>5.10M</b>	<b>5.10M</b>	<b>5.10M</b>

### Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
German Red Cross	2026				-				-
Spanish Red Cross	2026	344,000	344,000	9,000	259,000				76,000

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Polish Red Cross was established in 1919 and was [admitted](#) to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the same year. As the auxiliary to public authorities in humanitarian matters, the Polish Red Cross engages in a wide array of activities including dissemination of International Humanitarian Law ([IHL](#)), Restoring Family Links ([RFL](#)) and tracing services, voluntary blood donation, social care and assistance to groups in vulnerable situations, health promotion, environmental sustainability, first aid training, education programmes and humanitarian assistance during crises.

The Polish Red Cross operates through a well-established network of 16 regional and 186 local branches nationwide, involving [6,742 volunteers](#). The National Society remains deeply rooted in communities across Poland, consistently upholding its auxiliary role through close collaboration with public authorities and active participation in IFRC regional and global mechanisms.

Known nationally for its extensive volunteer-driven network, the Polish Red Cross operates blood donors' clubs, sisters' clubs, rescue and humanitarian aid groups as well as youth clubs, fostering community engagement and volunteerism. The Polish Red Cross has been vital in addressing migrant and refugee needs, responding to arrivals from Belarus in 2021 and to large-scale displacement from Ukraine, starting in February 2022, to which socio-economic and socio-cultural integration was prioritized.

The National Society consistently responds to natural disasters by deploying humanitarian and rescue groups (recently supporting flood emergency in September 2024), providing

relief and offering mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)). Its formal role in emergency response is reinforced under Poland's [Civil Protection Law](#), which outlines its responsibilities in disaster preparedness and response efforts.

In recent years, the National Society has undertaken major institutional development efforts to strengthen its capacity and sustainability including strategic planning, digital transformation, volunteer and youth engagement, capacity exchange, service expansion, improved governance and accountability and financial sustainability.

In 2025, the Polish Red Cross closed the implementation of the IFRC Ukraine and impacted countries Emergency Appeal ([MGR65002](#)) and transitioned into the unified planning framework, ensuring continuity of support while shifting from emergency response to longer-term, sustainable programming.

In September 2022, the Polish Red Cross adopted its [Strategic Plan 2021–2030](#) (revised in March 2025), built around three strategic goals:

- Crisis readiness by enhancing rapid, large-scale response capabilities
- Health and prevention, through partner mobilization and efficient mechanisms to address health challenges
- Community engagement, bridging social inequalities with a focus on children, the elderly and vulnerable or marginalized groups

In [2024](#), the Polish Red Cross reached 36,000 people through its health services and 15,000 people through its cash transfer programming.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Poland, a Central European country of 38 million people, borders Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Russia's Kaliningrad Oblast and the Baltic Sea. As the largest economy in Central and Eastern Europe and the [sixth most populous](#) European Union (EU) Member State, its geography—dominated by river basins and lowlands—creates exposure to flooding and other climate-related hazards. Poland's location at the EU's eastern

frontier also places it at the centre of regional migration and security dynamics.

Following the 2023 parliamentary elections, a change in government led to improved relations with the EU and the unfreezing of EU funds, directed toward reforms in the rule of law, social programmes, and infrastructure. The presidential elections held in June 2025 brought further political transition. While this represented another democratic milestone, it also introduced new institutional tensions, particularly regarding the pace and direction of ongoing reforms and cooperation between key branches of government. As a result, the authorities continue to navigate reform processes amid

political polarization and ongoing migration and security pressures.

Poland's economy showed resilience in 2024, with GDP growth of around 2.9 per cent driven by strong private consumption and wage increases. Moderate growth is expected to continue in 2025, supported by EU fund inflows and a robust labour market, with unemployment among the lowest in the EU. Inflation remains a challenge, influenced largely by elevated energy and food prices, prompting continued monetary adjustments by the National Bank of Poland. Public expenditure on defense and military modernization has increased significantly in response to regional tensions. The arrival of Ukrainian refugees has had a positive macroeconomic effect, contributing an estimated 2.7 per cent to 2024 GDP, but has also created pressure on housing, labour integration and social services.

Despite being classified as having very high human development, Poland faces long-term challenges related to demographic decline, healthcare disparities, and regional inequalities. Since 2022, the country has hosted approximately one million people displaced from Ukraine under temporary protection, making it one of the world's largest host countries. While Ukrainian people continue to contribute positively to the economy, public solidarity has declined, and integration challenges persist across employment, education, and housing.

The international armed conflict in Ukraine continues to shape Poland's humanitarian and security context, with its future trajectory remaining uncertain. The conflict's impacts on migration flows, energy security, and economic stability are likely to persist through 2025 and beyond. Simultaneously, Poland remains both a host and transit country for people on the move, requiring sustained attention to humanitarian needs, protection concerns, and social cohesion. The situation at the Polish-Belarusian border remains tense, marked by attempts at irregular crossings, heightened security measures, and ongoing reports of humanitarian concerns, placing additional strain on local communities and requiring close coordination with state authorities.

Poland is also exposed to natural hazards such as floods, storms, and heatwaves, with climate change expected to increase their frequency and severity. While the INFORM Risk Index categorizes Poland as low humanitarian risk, climate-related shocks and socio-economic vulnerabilities continue to affect resilience, particularly in rural and low-income areas.

Overall, Poland enters 2026 with political stability, a resilient economy, and strong integration within the European Union, yet facing persistent humanitarian and social challenges related to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, inflation, demographic shifts, climate risks and structural inequalities.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Between 1951–1960 and 2011–2020, Poland's average temperature rose by over 2°C, well above the global average, and projections indicate continued warming throughout the century. Rising summer heat is expected to increase electricity demand for cooling, while simultaneously lowering the efficiency of thermal power plants and transmission networks, creating risks for energy security during peak demand periods.

National climate adaptation efforts are guided by the 2030 National Environmental Policy and the Strategic Adaptation Plan for Sectors Vulnerable to Climate Change, with an outlook to 2030. While these frameworks propose resilience measures, particularly in the energy sector, the broader energy strategy (outlined in the Energy Policy of Poland until 2040 – EPP2040) places greater emphasis on energy security and diversification of supply than on explicit climate adaptation goals.

EPP2040 envisions a gradual transition away from coal, with zero-emission sources expected to account for half of installed capacity by 2040, supported by major investments in offshore wind and nuclear energy. However, Poland's longstanding reliance on coal and the socio-economic complexities of transition slow progress. Despite updates to its policy frameworks, Poland remains the only EU member state yet to fully commit to climate neutrality by 2050.

The 2024 Storm Boris floods, which devastated infrastructure, homes, and farmland, underscored the urgency of climate adaptation. They exposed weaknesses in preparedness systems and intensified debate on the need for stronger, more inclusive resilience measures. Beyond infrastructure, climate change is also driving humanitarian risks—such as increased health challenges from heatwaves, heightened food and water insecurity linked to droughts, and potential displacement from recurring floods. Going forward, accelerating investment in

adaptive infrastructure, strengthening disaster preparedness, and embedding climate adaptation more firmly into national energy and development policies will be critical to safeguard both communities and livelihoods.

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

As trusted members of the community, the focus of the Polish Red Cross is that its staff and volunteers, including youth, have the knowledge, capacity and resources to mobilize urgent action to address the climate and environmental crises, with community-led solutions at the forefront, and programmatic decisions and adaptations guided by community participation, perceptions and feedback. In the upcoming Disaster Management Strategy to be developed based on the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessment, climate change will be systematically recognized as a driver of disasters and catastrophes, with adaptation measures mainstreamed into risk prevention, preparedness and response. In addition, as its high-level objectives, the National Society aims to:

- Adopt a climate change adaptation framework and policy at headquarters and branch levels to increase climate efficiency and guide the integration of climate considerations across all organizational functions
- Integrate climate change adaptation into disaster risk prevention and management models

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Strengthen coordination with national and local authorities to align with national climate and disaster risk reduction policies, while reinforcing community-based resilience and [climate-smart disaster risk reduction](#) programming
- Develop digital tools to track the carbon footprint of its activities, covering both direct and indirect emissions,

and enable evidence-based decision-making for greater climate efficiency

- Implement an organization-wide [carbon footprint reduction](#) plan, drawing on the Climate Assessment Tool and complementary studies, to progressively lower environmental impact
- Promote volunteer-driven climate action, particularly through youth clubs
- Continue strengthening the Social Youth Instructors (SIM) Mini-Grant Programme 'Together for the Future – Projects Changing the World,' which supports innovative, youth-led climate action
- Foster partnerships with the private sector that are in line with the [European Green Deal](#) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) priorities

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Polish Red Cross in strengthening its climate-related action by enhancing greening efforts and carbon accounting, positioning the wider Federation as a more sustainable and responsible actor contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This support will also include localizing and implementing the Regional Roadmap for Climate Action to deepen engagement, improve coordination and foster cooperation with other members in the region, using the [Climate Charter](#) as a guiding framework to reinforce awareness and strategic focus on climate priorities. In addition, the IFRC will support the Polish Red Cross in promoting and applying Climate Assessment findings to identify opportunities within its mandate for scaling climate-related initiatives, informing future funding prospects and ensuring climate-smart programming across its activities.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will support the National Society in carbon footprint benchmarking and the setting up of monitoring tools provided by Applus+ Certification services.



## Disasters and crises

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

Poland faces potential threats from natural disasters, such as extreme weather events, social and geopolitical tensions. Recent years have seen a sharp rise in extreme rainfall across southern Poland, with climate models projecting continued increases in precipitation intensity nationwide. This trend heightens the risk of more frequent and destructive floods, compounding existing vulnerabilities. Alongside floods, Poland is increasingly exposed to heatwaves, droughts, and water scarcity, with droughts now occurring annually since 2013 and placing severe strain on agriculture and water systems.

These climate-related hazards interact with broader geopolitical pressures, leaving Poland more vulnerable to both environmental and man-made crises. Natural disasters were the leading cause of [displacement in Europe](#) between 2008 and 2019, and Poland, while relatively resilient, is emerging as both a destination for migrants and a country at risk of displacement from its own climate impacts.

Despite the rising frequency and severity of natural and man-made disasters, public readiness in Poland remains low. A recent survey indicated that nearly two-thirds of Poles do not know what to do in the event of an armed conflict, and [almost 50 per cent are unsure](#) how to respond to natural disasters like flooding. This lack of preparedness highlights the need for [enhanced public education and awareness](#) initiatives.

Poland's crisis management system, which is already under significant stress from past disasters requires strengthening to cope with future challenges.

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

To help address gaps in preparedness for emergencies, the Polish Red Cross contributed to the development of the national [Safety Guide](#) produced by the Ministries of Defense and Interior. The severe floods of 2024, which caused extensive damage to homes, farmland and infrastructure, revealed weaknesses in flood protection, emergency coordination and crisis communication, highlighting the need for stronger preparedness and investment in resilient infrastructure. In this context, the Polish Red Cross is strengthening its role in civil protection by improving coordination, expanding services and increasing the speed and reach of its response. At the same time, shifting regional security dynamics underscore the importance of building long-term institutional capacity to help communities cope with an evolving range of natural and human-made crises.

The high-level objectives of the National Society are to:

- Increase the preparedness and readiness of all branches nationwide to ensure timely and effective disaster response
- Continue to strengthen its role in disaster preparedness and response in line with the Civil Protection Law requirements by being recognized as a civil protection entity in Poland's legislation

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Following the completed Preparedness for Effective Response ([PER](#)) process, prioritize the development and implementation of an action plan and focus on a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Recovery Plan, emergency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), cash readiness, resource mobilization, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting ([PMER](#)), Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) financial systems and policies and staff and volunteer capacity
  - Ensure rescue teams remain well-prepared, trained and equipped in line with international search and rescue ([SAR](#)) standards, enabling rapid support to domestic operations and, when needed, to neighboring countries
  - Expand the operational capacity of Humanitarian Aid Groups, ensuring they remain active in preparedness, response and recovery activities
  - Reinforce its [auxiliary role](#) in national civil protection mechanisms, strengthening integration with governmental rescue services and maintaining operational emergency response units ([ERUs](#))
  - Enhance community-level disaster prevention and preparedness, designing and scaling localized tools and methodologies to build resilience across diverse contexts
  - Strengthen disaster preparedness by becoming a cash-ready organization, establishing SOPs, trained surge teams and digital systems to institutionalize multipurpose Cash and Voucher Assistance ([CVA](#)) as a core response modality, ensuring rapid, flexible and dignified support to diverse crisis-affected populations, enabling quicker recovery, greater resilience and positioning itself as a first responder capable of delivering CVA efficiently and at scale
  - Strengthen logistics and supply chain readiness by increasing medium- and long-term relief stocks, expanding warehousing and operational logistics capacity, preparing for ERP system implementation for integrated financial and supply chain management and developing long-term partnerships to support procurement and sustainable relief operations
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue providing long-term technical support to the Polish Red Cross to strengthen its preparedness for crises and disasters. This includes sustained investment in preparedness initiatives, guidance throughout the [PER](#) process and specialized support for cash readiness to ensure assistance is delivered in line with recognized standards and adapted to local capacities. In addition, the IFRC and the Polish Red Cross are working together on tailored temporary and durable [shelter solutions](#) to address medium- to long-term accommodation needs. Through this support, the National Society has expanded its shelter and integration services, including the implementation of the '[Together to Independence](#)' project in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Administration.

The IFRC is also supporting the Polish Red Cross in strengthening its operational capacities by facilitating access to international standards for SAR and for ERUs. Efforts are underway to enhance the official and legal recognition of the Polish Red Cross' auxiliary role in disaster risk management, alongside continued advocacy for effective, protective and inclusive [disaster-related laws](#), policies and regulations. In parallel, the IFRC is helping to reinforce the National Society's [disaster preparedness](#) through improvements in supply chain management, warehousing and logistics systems.

The **German Red Cross** contributes to the development of the Polish Red Cross' Humanitarian Aid Groups by providing training and equipment and offers further technical assistance to strengthen the National Society's preparedness for Cash and Voucher Assistance ([CVA](#)).



The Polish Red Cross conducting practical field exercises in Hel, Poland in September 2025. (Photo: Polish Red Cross)



## Health and wellbeing

[Life expectancy](#) in Poland reached historic highs in 2025: 75.3 years for men and 82.6 for women yet remains below the EU average of 81.5 years. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed deep structural weaknesses in the health system, including [shortages of specialists](#) and acute workforce gaps, which continue to constrain service capacity.

Poland also faces persistent public health challenges driven by lifestyle risks. Nearly half of all deaths are linked to smoking, alcohol consumption and poor diet. [Adult obesity](#), at 18.5 per cent in 2019, exceeds the EU average and is rising, while [e-cigarette use](#) among young people is growing. Environmental health risks are significant, with air pollution contributing to around 8 per cent of all deaths.

Health financing remains a critical bottleneck. Despite a sharp increase in health spending to CHF 64.18 billion in 2024 (8.1 per cent of GDP, up from [7.1 per cent in 2023](#)), Poland still lags the EU average of [10.9 per cent](#). Out-of-pocket costs remain disproportionately high, pushing many households into poverty despite exemptions for seniors, children, and pregnant women. Pensioners, people with disabilities, and rural communities are especially vulnerable.

Mental health is an emerging priority but remains underfunded and stigmatized. The government's new Mental Health Protection Programme (2023–2030) signals recognition of the challenge, while suicide deaths fell to 4,845 in 2024—a 7.4 per

cent decline from the previous year, with notable reductions among children and adolescents. Still, service gaps persist.

Migration dynamics continue to test the health system. People displaced from Ukraine retained access to healthcare under extended temporary protection until September 2025, yet legal provisions limiting entitlements after absences of more than 30 days risk disrupting continuity of care. This uncertainty, combined with pre-existing trauma, challenges of integration and inclusion, increases stress and vulnerability among refugee populations.

Environmental shocks are also reshaping public health risks. The 2024 floods disrupted health service delivery, contaminated water supplies, and heightened risks of infectious disease, while intensifying psychosocial stress in affected communities. These cascading impacts underscore the urgent need to build a more resilient health system one capable of absorbing climate shocks, addressing chronic health inequalities, and safeguarding both physical and mental wellbeing for all.

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

- Improved health and well-being of communities through increased awareness of health-related topics, collaboration with public and private institutions and activities in schools
- Promote and deliver mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) including community based MHPSS, for the host and displaced population
- Support health authorities by promoting basic skills in providing premedical First Aid, Psychological First Aid (PFA) and other essential communication conditions
- Cooperate with schools and institutions dealing with health prevention educational programmes addressed to students, activate the National Society's youth movement and support displaced people from Ukraine
- Capitalize on its auxiliary role to ensure its position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms
- Strengthen financial sustainability and diversify first aid services, including innovative models that expand its health and welfare offerings
- Build a strong national cadre of first aid instructors and trainers by developing systematic training capacities, modern methodologies and volunteer and staff engagement
- Increase population-wide access to quality first aid and PFA education, supporting national authorities under the Civil Protection and Civil Defense Act and expanding digital learning for wider reach and inclusivity

- Promote health, healthy lifestyles and prevention, including reducing the impact of non-communicable diseases through community-based approaches and awareness initiatives
- Expand essential health and welfare services for people in vulnerable situations, including home visits, food assistance and programmes that encourage voluntary non-remunerated blood donation

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Expand access to quality first aid education by strengthening population-wide training, scaling digital learning platforms, and ensuring inclusive reach to young people, rural communities and individuals with limited access to in-person training
  - Increase voluntary non-remunerated blood donations by mobilizing Honorary Blood Donor Clubs and scaling national campaigns such as 'Young Blood Saves Life' and 'Fiery Rescuer – Hot Blood', in support of Ministry of Health goals
  - Promote healthy lifestyles and prevent non-communicable diseases through community-based health programmes and national awareness initiatives such as the 'Healthy Lifestyle Olympics'
  - Provide essential health and welfare services to people in vulnerable situations, including home visits, outreach support and monthly food parcel distributions
  - Deliver inclusive, community-based mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services for communities, refugees, staff and volunteers, ensuring a layered approach with referral options for individuals requiring specialized care
  - Implement nationwide MHPSS and psychological first aid (PFA) programmes, especially for refugee and migrant populations, by partnering with schools, youth groups and health institutions, and leveraging its experience supporting displaced people from Ukraine
  - Roll out a minimum MHPSS service package for emergencies, training first-line responders (teachers, coaches, community leaders) to deliver timely psychosocial first aid during crises
  - Strengthen staff and volunteer wellbeing systems, including peer-support structures, helpline services and accessible digital MHPSS learning, to ensure responders are protected and supported during emergency operations
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Polish Red Cross in strengthening its auxiliary role by helping to position the National Society within key national public health strategies, advocacy platforms and policy mechanisms. This collaboration aims to protect and improve the health and dignity of communities and people in vulnerable situations by expanding access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate and quality health services.

With IFRC support, the National Society is scaling up and institutionalizing a range of services, including first aid, psychological first aid (PFA), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), community-based mental health and commercial first aid. The IFRC also facilitates technical cooperation between the National Society and the Red Cross Red Crescent Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Hub in Denmark, while strengthening the National Society's capacity to deliver community-based health education that complements public healthcare efforts. In addition, the IFRC works with the National Society to improve access to

affordable, appropriate and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in emergency settings; supports the purchase of medical and first aid equipment for training, workshops (including first aid for dogs), and rescue teams; and facilitates capacity building for first aid instructors. The IFRC further strengthens the National Society's ability to deliver Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) for health needs, enabling flexible and dignified support for crisis-affected people.

The **German Red Cross** provides financial support in the Blood Donation promotion and cash for health initiatives.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supports the strengthening of the Polish Red Cross Youth Movement, implementing developments and procedures to engage and involve the youth in the current activities of the National Society between 2023-2026. The Spanish Red Cross is also strengthening its blood-donor procedures to increase member participation in the activities of the National Society and to expand the number of blood donors in the country during 2025-2026.



## Migration and displacement

The ongoing international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine continues to drive one of the largest displacement crises in Europe since World War II. As of [August 2025](#), more than 15 million crossings into Poland have been recorded since February 2022, with 1.7 million registered as refugees and nearly 953,000 granted protection status. By early 2025, around 998,000 people displaced from Ukraine remained in Poland under the EU Temporary Protection Status, making Poland one of the largest host countries in the EU. According to Eurostat, this equates to 27.2 people per 1,000 inhabitants, among the highest ratios in the EU.

Poland is primarily a country of destination and transit for refugee and migrant people, while also continuing to be a country of origin for Polish nationals moving abroad. The most significant displacement dynamic has been the arrival and protracted stay of people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine, alongside regular inflows of labour migrants from Ukraine, Belarus and increasingly Asia.

In early 2024, more than 1 million foreign nationals were formally employed in Poland, representing 6.5 per cent of the workforce. Labour migrants play a critical role in construction, logistics, services and care sectors, though they often face challenges around safe recruitment, decent work conditions, housing and access to family reunification.

The demographic profile of people displaced from Ukraine remains predominantly women, children and older persons,

with specific vulnerabilities among unaccompanied minors, elderly- only households and persons with disabilities. While large-scale emergency arrivals have declined, the displacement situation has transitioned into a protracted phase, shifting humanitarian needs towards long-term integration and socio-economic stability. Key humanitarian needs and gaps include housing, employment, integration, financial vulnerability, healthcare and mental health and psychosocial support.

While Poland does not face internal displacement linked to conflict, disaster- and climate-related displacement is an emerging risk, underscoring the need to strengthen preparedness for future population movements triggered by natural hazards.

The legal and policy framework is anchored in the Special Act on Assistance to Ukrainian Citizens and the [EU Temporary Protection Status](#) (extended until March 2027). However, as of September 2025, Poland is in a legal limbo: the presidential veto on the proposed extension of the Special Act has created uncertainty for foreigners residing in Poland. This situation risks undermining stability for displaced people, who depend on the Act for access to services, legal stay and labour market participation. The interplay between the EU Status and national legislation will be decisive for the security, labour market as well as integration in the coming years.

In addition to migration from Ukraine, Poland is confronted with migration challenges from neighbouring Belarus:

Poland has been facing an influx of undocumented migrants originating from third countries from Belarus since 2021. The migrant influx is forecasted to be actual this winter, highlighting challenging circumstances which migrants in the neutral territory between Belarus and Poland might face. Actions of both Polish and Belarusian authorities and border guards have raised concerns among human rights activists. The new Polish government elected in late 2023 has continued the policy of its predecessor regarding the [Polish Belarusian border](#), investing an additional CHF 2.23 billion to further fortify the border with physical infrastructure, detection and deterrence systems.

People from Belarus in Poland constitute the second biggest migrant community after Ukrainian citizens. Last year alone, 60,000 Belarusians have moved to Poland – the main reasons provided for migrating were financial instability, insecurity and political context in Belarus, as well as the fear of possible military mobilization in Belarus. Since 2019, the number of Belarusians in Poland has multiplied by 6.5 times. Thus, the total number of Belarusians living in Poland is [estimated at](#) more than 300,000 people.

Asylum claims to the Office for Foreigners (UdSC) rose by 79 per cent in first half of 2024, with a prognosis to grow further (in June 2024 alone, 1,766 foreigners applied for asylum, the highest monthly total in at least seven years). [Most applications](#) came from citizens of Ukraine (35 per cent) and Belarus (25 per cent) followed by Russia (7 per cent), Somalia (5 per cent) and Syria (4 per cent).

With refugees crossing borders from both Ukraine and Belarus, a negative trend of ‘refugee fatigue’ and xenophobia can be observed setting in Poland. Host communities have shown high acceptance towards Ukrainian refugees in 2022-2023, however, with notable price increases for rent and food, many see long-term challenges linked to accommodating Ukrainians, Belarusians and third-country migrants. This creates additional challenges for integration and economic security for [migrants in Poland](#).

Looking ahead, humanitarian priorities in Poland will focus less on emergency reception and more on durable solutions and inclusion. Groups with the highest vulnerabilities (e.g. older people, people with disabilities, single-parent households and those with low language proficiency or precarious housing) require targeted support. Priority areas include sustainable livelihoods, affordable and stable housing, access to healthcare and mental health and psychosocial support, legal security as well as integration and inclusion policies.

The international armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine has resulted in civilian casualties and extensive damage to homes, public buildings and critical infrastructure, prompting millions to seek refuge in neighbouring countries such as Poland. As of August 2024, over 6 million people are estimated to be displaced within Ukraine. The number of displaced

people from Ukraine in neighbouring countries, particularly Poland remains significant.

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

Although arrivals slowed in 2025, ongoing instability in Ukraine has continued to drive displacement and sustained humanitarian needs. The Polish Red Cross significantly expanded its operations in response. Under the [IFRC's regional Emergency Appeal for Ukraine and impacted countries](#), the Polish Red Cross delivered assistance focused initially on cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)), essential household items and Restoring Family Links ([RFL](#)) and protection services. Over time, activities shifted toward social and economic inclusion, including livelihood-oriented and socio-cultural integration support. The Polish Red Cross also strengthened safe-space services in coordination with national partners.

Across two years of response, the National Society assisted an estimated 1.2 million people with humanitarian aid—including food, water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) and essential household items—alongside [first aid](#), mental health and psychological support ([MHPSS](#)) and financial assistance. More than 8,200 staff and volunteers, including over 500 from Ukraine, [contributed to the operation](#).

By the end of 2025, the Emergency Appeal concluded in Poland, with efforts transitioning into the Unified Plan to support longer-term, holistic programming. In line with this, the high-level objectives of the National Society are to:

- Deliver inclusive assistance for both displaced people and host communities to meet priority needs, reduce social tensions and strengthen social cohesion during response and recovery
- Promote long-term socio-cultural and socio-economic integration through personalized services (legal counselling, MHPSS, translation and accreditation) that enable dignified, independent lives in Poland
- Expand livelihoods and employability pathways by offering job counselling, skills development, entrepreneurship support, and targeted CVA that facilitate labour market access and self-reliance
- Strengthen protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) outcomes by addressing risks of violence—including gender-based violence—through community engagement, safe spaces, awareness initiatives and family-centred activities
- Scale and professionalize integration services via integration centres, coordinated social support and partnerships that connect displaced people and host communities to public services and local opportunities
- Institutionalize CVA for integration and basic needs, including cash for rent where appropriate, to ensure flexible, dignified and timely support

- Deepen community engagement and accountability (CEA) through regular context reviews, focus group discussions with displaced people and host communities, site visits to collective centres and accessible two-way feedback channels (including the National Society's information line)

assistance into predictable, principled and responsive services

- Increase awareness of available services, including RFL, by systematically sharing information with communities and stakeholders to ensure people know how and where to seek support

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## Planned activities in 2026

- Engage migrants, displaced people and host communities to assess and understand their priority needs, ensuring that programmes are shaped by community feedback and address assistance, protection and integration needs
- Provide socio-cultural and socio-economic integration support for displaced people and vulnerable families, including livelihoods assistance, job-market integration activities, language classes, vocational education and initiatives that reduce social and economic barriers
- Deliver inclusive services and protection support, including Restoring Family Links (RFL), case management, tracing and family reunification to uphold dignity and strengthen protection for people on the move
- Strengthen staff and volunteer capacity by providing appropriate training, tools and guidance to ensure quality engagement in migration and displacement activities
- Expand partnerships and coordination with local organizations, governmental agencies, border authorities and relevant institutions to implement joint activities, establish referral mechanisms and improve service access for migrants and displaced people
- Undertake advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy and participation in national coordination platforms to promote the rights, wellbeing and inclusion of migrants and displaced people
- Ensure flexible, needs-based support for migrants and refugees in vulnerable situations, transitioning ad hoc

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Polish Red Cross in enhancing its migration and displacement programming and capacity to ensure that migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at critical points along migratory routes and access to durable solutions when appropriate under its [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#). The IFRC will also work together with the National Society to ensure it engages with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to assess, understand and respond to their priorities more effectively. This includes mainstreaming [protection, gender, and inclusion \(PGI\)](#) and [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) minimum standards in its migration and displacement programming. The IFRC will also support the Polish Red Cross with the implementation of the [IFRC Integration and Inclusion framework](#) built on the principles of humanitarian and route-based approach and diversity, linking assistance and humanitarian diplomacy at national and local levels. The IFRC will ensure safeguarding principles are understood and accepted at all levels.

The **German Red Cross** will support the Polish Red Cross with the integration activities for displaced people.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will support the National Society in employment activation centres in three locations throughout 2022-2026. Through the activities in the activation centres people receive wide range of support, such as vocational training, reskilling and upskilling, Polish and English language classes, support with translation of documents and CV writing/translation.



## Values, power and inclusion

Women's rights, gender equality and broader inclusion issues in Poland remain complex and require an intersectional approach. While progress has been made in some areas, persistent structural barriers and socio-political tensions continue to undermine full equality and protection for all. Poland has seen gradual [improvements in women's representation](#) and public support for gender equality. As of 2021, 83 per cent of Poles supported legal frameworks promoting gender equality, and adolescent birth rates were on a declining trend. Political participation has increased, with women now making up nearly 30 per cent of members of the Sejm (compared to 20 per cent two decades ago). However, women's representation in the Senate declined from 24 per cent to 17 per cent following the 2023 elections, reflecting uneven progress. The labour market remains highly gender-segmented, with women facing barriers to equal pay, leadership roles and work-life balance. Restrictions on reproductive rights compound these challenges: abortion remains effectively banned and comprehensive reproductive healthcare is limited. Although the current government has pledged reforms, restrictive policies continue to curtail women's autonomy and exacerbate exclusion.

Domestic violence remains a major concern. According to the [latest data](#), women represent most domestic violence victims in Poland (73 per cent). In 2022, 51,935 women victims of domestic violence were recorded by police. Alarming, 10 per cent of men did not recognize marital rape as a crime, indicating entrenched cultural and legal gaps. On a positive note, violence against children has declined, with police data showing a decrease in child victims from 20 per cent in 2014 to 14 per cent in 2017. This trend has continued, with [reports indicating](#) a three per cent decline in the rate of all child abuse from 2022 to 2023. Attitudes are also shifting, with support for corporal punishment among adults dropping from 78 per cent in 2008 to 61 per cent in 2024.

Civil rights for LGBTIQ+ people remain restricted. There is no legal recognition of same-sex partnerships and the LGBTIQ+ community face widespread discrimination in access to services and public life. This reinforces social exclusion and limits their ability to exercise fundamental rights.

Poland faces a steep demographic decline driven by a falling fertility rate (1.1 children per woman in 2024, among the lowest in the EU) and a rapidly ageing population. Contributing factors include restrictive reproductive rights, limited childcare provision, housing costs and persistent gender inequalities. These dynamics exacerbate pressures on the labour market and social protection systems while raising the urgency for inclusive family and social policies.

The ageing population poses social and humanitarian challenges. By 2050, nearly 30 per cent of the population will

be aged 65+ (up from 17.6 per cent in 2019). Rising numbers of single-person elderly households, combined with a widening digital divide, risk further exclusion and difficulties accessing essential services. Long-term care and health systems face growing strain, especially for older people without family support.

Poland has witnessed a worrying increase in extremist rhetoric and hate-driven incidents in recent years, in line with broader European trends. Civil society reports highlight the mainstreaming of xenophobic, homophobic and anti-migrant narratives in political discourse and online spaces.

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

The multi-year objectives of the National Society include:

- Contribute to a positive change in communities through broader understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of fundamental principles and humanitarian values, focusing primarily on young people's knowledge, skills and behaviour
- Promote and support safe, equitable and continuous access to quality [education](#) for all, especially children affected by disaster, crisis, or displacement
- Be safe and inclusive, ensuring dignity, access, participation, and safety for people of all identities

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Support and strengthen its [Youth Movement](#)
- Establish strategic partnerships and innovative mechanisms for collaboration on humanitarian education with key actors (including education authorities)
- Adopt policies based on a comprehensive Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) approach across all operations, programmes, and services
- Ensure that all necessary institutional capacities, composition, and commitments are in place to address violence, discrimination and exclusion among adults and children, both in host and displaced communities
- Promote social inclusion and child protection by raising awareness on equity and non-discrimination, creating safe spaces for children and young people and integrating child protection considerations into all relevant services
- Ensure PGI and community engagement and accountability (CEA) standards are implemented across all programmes and operations, ensuring participation, accountability and dignity in service delivery

- Strengthen institutional capacity on PGI by training staff and volunteers through a trainer of trainers (ToT) approach, ensuring knowledge is cascaded to branches, local authorities and community actors

Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society in adopting a comprehensive [PGI](#) and [CEA](#) approach across operations and programmes, as well as in policy making, including for [safeguarding](#) and [child safeguarding](#).

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Polish Red Cross in contributing to a positive change in communities through a broader understanding, ownership and concrete application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles, focusing primarily on [young people's knowledge, skills and behaviour](#). The IFRC guides the National Society in promoting and supporting equitable access to quality education for all children affected by disaster, crisis, or displacement, and developing the Youth Movement and youth activities in cooperation with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners.

The IFRC also supports the Polish Red Cross with integrating contact centre into the National Society's domestic initiatives, ensuring wider community reach.

The **Spanish Red Cross** ensures and works to develop a net of volunteers screened and trained according to the code of conduct and standards for dealing with people in extreme vulnerability.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Polish Red Cross is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process in 2012. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Polish Red Cross is also committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) process and is at the workplan phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it. The Polish Red Cross completed the PER process in 2025.



### Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Health, accident and death compensation for volunteers
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy



## Strategic and operational coordination

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

The Polish Red Cross aims to strengthen its strategic positioning and operational coordination in response to the evolving crisis landscape. Building on improved relations with public authorities and recognizing the need for greater visibility and impact, the National Society will focus on deepening partnerships with governmental, corporate and local actors. Key multi-year objectives of the National Society are to:

- Enhance national and branch-level coordination through regular Branch Forums that facilitate collective dialogue, learning and shared decision-making
- Strengthen financial sustainability by implementing recommendations from the completed market study, advancing resource-mobilization investment plans and following a strategic workplan for diversified and resilient income generation

- Expand strategic partnerships, particularly with the corporate sector and public authorities, to reinforce the National Society's role in national preparedness, response and community support

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in strengthening partnerships with government, UN agencies and other partners. Additionally, a resource mobilization strategy has been developed, and supported by the IFRC. To ensure complementarity, there are regular technical meetings within the Movement and coordination meetings with the Polish Red Cross, IFRC, ICRC and participating National Societies. External coordination is fostered through participation in relevant forums and meetings while highlighting activities through social networks, media and the Polish Red Cross and IFRC webpages.



## National Society development

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

Over the coming years, the Polish Red Cross aims to strengthen its organizational capacities and modernize its systems to ensure more effective, accountable and sustainable humanitarian action. The National Society will focus on transforming key areas of performance, including finance development, legal and policy frameworks and branch and volunteer development.

To guide this transformation, the Polish Red Cross will build on its 2025 Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessment, which identified priorities such as strengthening its disaster risk management strategy, response and recovery planning, emergency SOPs, cash-based interventions, volunteer and staff management and finance and administrative procedures in emergencies. The high-level objectives of the National Society are to:

- Build stronger branch and volunteer systems, including the expansion of Humanitarian Aid Groups, enhancement of rescue group capacity and the establishment of a digital volunteer management platform covering volunteers, members and blood donors

- Improve branch performance, supported by the roll-out of the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) process in at least four branches during 2026–2027 to identify strengths, gaps and development priorities
- Establish greater financial sustainability, achieved through diversified income streams, strengthened donor engagement and expanded fundraising initiatives such as door-to-door campaigns to build a stable base of regular supporters
- Strengthen internal cohesion and communication, ensuring staff and volunteers operate as one team through improved digital channels, including the e-PCK intranet, newsletters and social media
- Strengthen risk management and internal control systems, ensuring it has the policies, procedures and staffing needed to meet growing operational and compliance demands
- Update legal and policy frameworks, with a renewed Statute and approved policies and procedures that strengthen institutional governance and accountability
- Develop branches and volunteering structures continuously, ensuring community-based services

remain relevant and delivered by well-trained, competent and properly supported volunteers and youth units

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Polish Red Cross in strengthening its organizational capacities by implementing the 2023 resource-mobilization and communication workplan and conducting additional market studies for commercial first aid and Psychological First Aid (PFA). The IFRC will support setting up and developing the Polish Red Cross Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, e-learning platform solution and face-to-face fundraising campaign. Support will include improving internal communication and branch forums, reviewing business processes and financial systems to reinforce internal control and audit and enhancing branch development and volunteer management. The IFRC will also provide technical

input for policy development, conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation and contribute to overall National Society strengthening, service scale-up and the adoption of new tools and modalities.

Together with **the ICRC**, the IFRC provides technical support along the process of revision of the National Society statute and in developing new policies and procedures.

The **German Red Cross** will ensure the sustainability of branch-based activities, including staffing, tools and technical support for the ERP system.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will assist in developing a volunteer management system and establishing policies and procedures in volunteer management and volunteer development.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Strengthen education on humanitarian values and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) through interactive training, updated educational materials and enhanced teacher expertise
- Promote the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross to build solidarity, respect and increased volunteer engagement that contributes to reducing vulnerability
- Engage proactively with public authorities, especially in the context of government changes to raise awareness of its humanitarian mandate and the importance of IHL
- Continue serving as a leading national actor in IHL dissemination by supporting practitioners with training, courses and knowledge-sharing
- Increase civil society awareness of the protective role and proper use of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem through public information campaigns
- Strengthen organizational capabilities, expand volunteer mobilization and implement a youth policy that fosters active participation in humanitarian values

- Increase visibility and promote Red Cross values across society
- Enhance external communication, reinforcing public trust and relevance through clear messaging on humanitarian priorities, educational 'do no harm' campaigns and awareness-raising on responsible and sustainable donation practices

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC network will support the Polish Red Cross to further develop and localize humanitarian diplomacy and communications resources/toolkits for leadership and staff during and after emergencies. Additionally, it will also assist with the development of a culture of forecasting and preparedness to ensure the IFRC network remains positioned as a credible first responder in humanitarian crises. The IFRC will support cross-sectoral humanitarian diplomacy of the National Society through its Migration, Operations and PGI teams. The teams will work to identify humanitarian diplomacy actions in the different pillars of work to enhance the National Society's impact in assisting and protecting migrants, identifying processes and forums for engaging various pillars of work, undertaking capacity strengthening and supporting evidence-based humanitarian diplomacy.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

Over the next three years, the National Society will continue its institutional strengthening and modernization to ensure it can deliver timely, transparent and accountable services to communities in need. To ensure transparency and accountability, the National Society has also put in place the Anti-Corruption Policy, Child Protection Policy and the Code of Ethical Conduct.

In line with this, the Polish Red Cross aims to:

- Standardize and strengthen data systems through a unified data-collection process and the adoption of Information Management (IM) tools to improve analysis, reporting and evidence-based decision-making
  - Advance digital transformation by developing and implementing an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to enhance internal accountability, risk and financial management and compliance with national financial requirements
  - Expand its e-learning platform and institutionalize the e-PCK intranet across the branches
  - Ensure agile and needs-driven response through improved systems, trained personnel and digital tools enabling rapid and adaptable service delivery
  - Strengthen human resources systems by rolling out a comprehensive HR policy that supports recruitment, retention, learning, safeguarding and volunteer management
  - Reinforce financial transparency and control through continued improvements to audit processes, financial reporting and donor accountability mechanisms
- Enhance digital connectivity and information and communication technology (ICT) capacity across headquarters and branches to enable effective data management, communication and operational agility
  - Improve internal and external information flows by strengthening data-collection mechanisms, quality reporting and internal communication channels to support timely, informed leadership decisions
  - Roll out a new ERP platform to streamline and harmonize core functions in one integrated system, improving efficiency, transparency and real-time information sharing
  - Institutionalize cash and voucher assistance (CVA) systems to become a cash-ready organization with SOPs, trained surge teams and digital tools enabling rapid, flexible and dignified CVA at scale
  - Strengthen logistics and procurement capacity through targeted training and the institutionalization of IFRC procurement standards

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the Polish Red Cross in strengthening its human resources systems and policies, enhancing staff and volunteer training and improving overall HR development. This support will also focus on reinforcing the National Society's financial management and audit procedures to ensure stronger transparency and accountability. In addition, the IFRC will accompany the National Society's digital transformation by providing tools and guidance for improved data collection, information management and digital system development. The IFRC will further assist the Polish Red Cross in strengthening its data-collection and reporting processes, enabling more reliable, timely and evidence-based decision-making across the National Society.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC has been present in Poland to support the Polish Red Cross since 2022. Since January 2026, the IFRC continues supporting the Polish Red Cross through the Country Office based in Bucharest, that covers Romania, Poland and Moldova. The IFRC provides technical support directly to the Polish Red Cross in relevant services such as programmes and operations, National Society development, Livelihoods, volunteer management, community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)), protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)), planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting ([PMER](#)), cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)) and other support services functions.

Its main objectives adapted to the context are to: (1) optimize the IFRC support to National Societies responding to the Ukraine crisis; and (2) ensure National Societies within the Cluster are better prepared to anticipate and respond to future disasters, which implies an increase in capacity and sustainability of National Societies.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Polish Red Cross through numerous Emergency Appeals ([Ukraine and Impacted Countries](#)), the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([DREF](#)) in relation to floods and population movement, as well as via IFRC Capacity Building Fund ([CBF](#)).



A Polish Red Cross volunteer delivering a training session. (Photo: Polish Red Cross)

## IFRC membership coordination

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

The Polish Red Cross actively participates in regional and sub-regional IFRC networks, benefiting from peer learning opportunities and thematic hubs. It also engages in multi-country grants and global IFRC initiatives when relevant, particularly in areas such as livelihoods, mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) and disaster preparedness.

Since February 2022, several participating National Societies have worked closely with the Polish Red Cross—both in-country and remotely—providing support in emergency response, resilience programming and institutional strengthening. For the coming year, both the **Spanish Red Cross** and the **German Red Cross** will maintain a presence in Poland, offering expertise in emergency preparedness, livelihoods, volunteer management and National Society development.

The IFRC in Poland continues to play a convening and coordinating role by aligning support with unified planning processes and enabling joint resource mobilization. It has contributed directly to the National Society's work in [CVA](#) scale-up and preparedness, [shelter](#), MHPSS, integrated programming, PGI, CEA and institutional strengthening. The duty station will close in 2026 as part of a broader regional reorganization aimed at ensuring the IFRC's presence in Europe remains aligned with available resources, programmatic priorities and long-term sustainability.

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## Movement coordination

The Polish Red Cross 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](#).

In March 2022, **the ICRC** stepped up its activities in Poland and established an office to help respond to the humanitarian and protection needs triggered by the international armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The ICRC's support to the Polish Red Cross focuses on Restoring Family Links ([RFL](#)) and National Society development by integrating the [Safer Access Framework](#) into existing structures and ongoing activities.

## Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role to public authorities, the Polish Red Cross is fully integrated into national and sub-national coordination systems for disaster management and social protection. Under the Civil Protection Law, it works closely with the Government Centre for Security (RCB), the Ministry of Interior and Administration and the Fire Service Department, which leads national civil protection coordination. As a full member of the national crisis management mechanism, the National Society helps ensure that the needs and perspectives of communities and vulnerable groups are reflected in preparedness, response and recovery planning.

Since 2025, the Polish Red Cross has been formally included in the Population Protection and Civil Defense system under the new Act on Population Protection, reinforcing its statutory role in public education, volunteer training, humanitarian assistance and crisis response. The Act recognizes the added value of the Polish Red Cross contributes through specialized expertise and extensive volunteer engagement in building national resilience.

Cooperation with authorities is demonstrated in initiatives such as the inter-ministerial 'Safety Guide' for citizens, issued by the Ministry of Interior and Administration and the Ministry of National Defense. Drawing on its experience in first aid, rescue operations and civilian support, the National Society contributed to consultations that helped shape practical, accessible guidance for the public on how to respond during emergencies.

At regional and municipal levels, the Polish Red Cross branches work closely with local authorities to tailor services to community needs. This approach was evident during the September 2024 floods, when branches supported

assessments, relief distribution and community outreach alongside municipal crisis response teams.

Beyond emergency operations, the Polish Red Cross maintains structured cooperation with key ministries including:

- **Ministry of Health:** blood donation, epidemic preparedness, vaccination campaigns and health promotion
- **Ministry of Family and Social Policy:** social assistance, refugee support and inclusion of vulnerable groups
- **Ministry of Education and Science:** school-based health and safety education including psychosocial support
- **Ministry of Interior and Administration:** shelter, integration and inclusion

The Polish Red Cross also collaborates with UN agencies and NGOs in the refugee response and participates actively in sectoral and technical coordination groups, advocating for the needs of local communities and vulnerable populations. Its partnerships extend beyond the humanitarian sector to include private-sector actors (for logistics, cash and in-kind contributions and corporate volunteering), academic institutions (for research and training) and civil society organizations (for social inclusion and climate resilience initiatives).

Through these diverse partnerships, the Polish Red Cross promotes complementarity, strengthens humanitarian diplomacy and enhances collective impact—reflecting the IFRC Way of Working and reinforcing its role as a trusted partner within the IFRC network in Poland.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

### Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **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

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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