



SLOVAKIA

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



9 February 2026

In support of the Slovak Red Cross



32

National Society branches



738

National Society local units



449

National Society staff



2,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



5,000

Climate and environment



10,000

Disasters and crises



75,000

Health and wellbeing



4,000

Migration and displacement



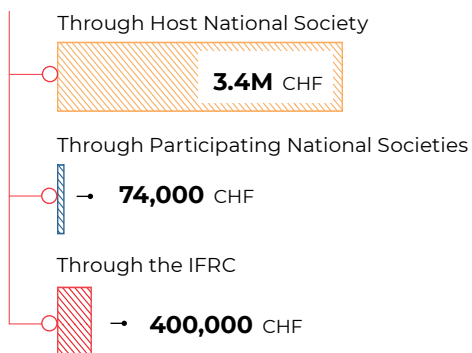
6,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 3.9M CHF



2027

Total 3.4M CHF

2028

Total 3.1M CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

French Red Cross*

Italian Red Cross*

Norwegian 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:

MAASK001

Hazards



Population movement



Forest fires



Floods



Earthquakes



Severe weather



Landslides

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Climate change adaptation
- Early warning and disaster risk reduction
- Mental health and psychosocial support
 - Health awareness raising
- Inclusion of vulnerable groups

Capacity development

- Sustainable resource mobilization and fundraising
 - Partnerships
 - Financial management
 - HR development
 - Digital transformation
- Volunteering management
- CEA and PGI system development
- Integrity Line adaptation
- Policy development
- Communications
- Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

Key country data links

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Very Low**

Human Development Index rank **44**

World Bank Population figure **5.4M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **14%**



The Slovak Red Cross's Psychological Support Community Centre in Košice carried out mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities such as crocheting, art classes, yoga, and gymnastics for older adults. (Photo: IFRC)

Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027		2028	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
Longer-term needs						
Climate and environment	10,000		10,000		10,000	
Disasters & crises	400,000	100,000	400,000	80,000	400,000	80,000
Health & wellbeing	1.7M	200,000	1.3M	150,000	1.2M	120,000
Migration & displacement	730,000	50,000	730,000	30,000	730,000	30,000
Values, power & inclusion	115,000		120,000		110,000	
Enabling local actors	490,000	50,000	495,000	40,000	400,000	40,000
Total	3.4M	400,000	3.1M	300,000	2.9M	270,000

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
Spanish Red Cross	2026	74,000	74,000		74,000				-

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Slovak Red Cross** was established in May 1993, following the dissolution of Czechoslovakia, and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in October of the same year. Recognized by the Slovak government, its legal foundation governs its operations and protects the Red Cross emblem within Slovakia. Headquartered in Bratislava, the Slovak Red Cross operates nationwide through a network of 32 regional branches.

As an auxiliary to public authorities, the Slovak Red Cross operates under the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols, and international treaties. It provides humanitarian assistance in both peacetime and conflict, including civil defense tasks, medical support and tracing services.

The Slovak Red Cross' governance structure includes the assembly, the supreme board and the governing board. The assembly is the supreme governing body convening every four years to set strategic objectives. The supreme board acts as an interim decision-making body between assemblies, meeting twice annually to approve budgets and management reports. The governing board or presidium is an executive body overseeing day-to-day operations, convening quarterly.

The Slovak Red Cross delivers a broad spectrum of humanitarian services, including first aid training, blood donation promotion, healthcare initiatives, providing specialized counselling and services for vulnerable groups, enhancing disaster preparedness and delivering emergency relief, public awareness campaigns on health, safety and disaster risk reduction, mobilizing young people for community-based humanitarian activities and Restoring Family Link (RFL).

Several assessments were carried out in 2025, including the Digital Maturity Assessment. All of these have contributed to the preparation of strategic documents. Building on the outcomes of the original assessments, they provided valuable input for strategic consultations, which then informed the development of the future National Strategy and its Implementation Plan. Thanks to the combination of these assessments and consultations, the work on the strategy is progressing effectively.

Adhering to the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Slovak Red Cross prioritizes disaster risk reduction and response, support for marginalized and vulnerable communities, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and community resilience through education and local initiatives.

The Slovak Red Cross collaborates with government agencies, international organizations and civil society to maximize its humanitarian impact, ensuring its activities align with national and global priorities. Through its robust network and comprehensive humanitarian programming, the Slovak Red Cross remains a key player in addressing the needs of communities across Slovakia.

During 2025, funding for emergency response activities related to the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis concluded in Slovakia. This has led to a planned transition from emergency planning to a longer-term, programmatic approach, aligning with the Federation-wide push for integrated, resilience-building interventions and enhanced local capacities.

In 2023, the Slovak Red Cross reached 280,000 people by its long-term services and development programmes and around 24,000 people by its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map showing the Slovak Red Cross branches

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

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Slovakia, a landlocked Central European country, is strategically situated at the crossroads of Europe, bordered by the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Ukraine and Poland. Covering an area of 49,034 km², its diverse geography includes the Carpathian Mountains in the north, featuring the High Tatras and the fertile Danubian Lowland in the south, which supports agriculture. Rich in natural resources such as iron, copper and forests, Slovakia also benefits from rivers including the Danube for hydropower and transport. With a continental climate, it supports varied ecosystems and agricultural activities.

The population of Slovakia is approximately 5.5 million, with a gradual ageing trend and a fertility rate of 1.6 children per woman. Life expectancy is 77 years for men and 83 years for women, and 54 per cent of the population resides in urban areas, with Bratislava and Košice as major cities.

The population includes Slovaks (80 per cent), Hungarians (8.5 per cent), Roma (two per cent) and smaller minorities such as Ukrainians and Czechs. While historically a country of emigration, recent geopolitical events, particularly the Ukraine conflict, have increased immigration. Slovakia faces challenges such as ageing demographics, regional economic disparities and the social integration of minorities, particularly the Roma community, which experiences high levels of poverty and unemployment.

Politically, Slovakia is a parliamentary democracy with a president as head of state and a prime minister as head of government. The unicameral National Council has significant legislative powers. Elections in 2023 saw the SMER-SD party form a coalition government amid concerns over its rhetoric and shrinking space for NGOs. Slovakia remains a committed European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member, balancing pro-European policies with periodic political challenges to EU norms. Slovakia boasts a mixed economy, heavily reliant on the automotive and electronics sectors. It has benefited from foreign direct investment, particularly from EU countries such as Germany and Austria, with over 80 per cent of exports destined

for the EU. However, economic disparities are stark, with western regions including Bratislava thriving while eastern regions lag. In 2023, the GDP was approximately EUR 117 billion, with a growth rate of 1.6 per cent and an inflation rate of 10.5 per cent, affecting energy and food prices. Wage growth has been notable, but unemployment remains regionally uneven, with higher rates in less developed areas. The energy crisis and dependence on Russian gas exacerbate economic vulnerabilities.

Gender disparities persist in Slovakia, with challenges such as domestic violence and workplace harassment requiring more attention. The healthcare system, already strained by the COVID-19 pandemic, struggles with a shortage of general practitioners and specialists, particularly in mental health. The ageing population further pressures the social welfare system, while income inequality disproportionately affects single mothers, older people and individuals with disabilities. Slovakia also ranks low in food security among EU nations.

The 2025 World Bank Poverty & Equity Brief indicates that poverty rates remain low, with a Gini coefficient of 21.6, signaling notably low income inequality among OECD countries. However, around 17.6% of citizens are at risk of poverty or social exclusion, highlighting socioeconomic vulnerabilities among older adults, regional peripheries, and single-parent households.

Since 2022, Slovakia has been significantly impacted by the Russia-Ukraine international armed conflict, hosting a large influx of people displaced from Ukraine. The most vulnerable groups include older people, single women with children, unaccompanied minors and individuals with disabilities. As of February 2025, Slovakia had granted temporary protection to almost 136,000 people displaced from Ukraine. Challenges faced by people in this group include shortened shelter support, barriers in accessing housing, employment, healthcare and recognition of education. With the ongoing sharp decline of humanitarian aid, these challenges have been exacerbated, affecting specially groups in vulnerable situations.

Despite these challenges, Slovakia's strategic location, EU membership and rich resources position it as a vital player in Central Europe.



Climate and environment

Climate change has emerged as a pressing concern for Slovakia, with profound implications for its ecosystems, economy and population. Traditionally characterized by a continental climate with four distinct seasons, Slovakia is witnessing a gradual shift to a pattern resembling two dominant seasons. This change, attributed to global warming, has led to a rise in annual mean temperatures, declining snow cover, and altered precipitation patterns. Between 1881 and 2016, Slovakia's average annual temperature increased by nearly two degrees Celsius, a trend expected to continue, with projections indicating a rise of 2.81–3.68 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. The consequences include reduced frost days, warmer winters, and significant changes in energy demand for heating and cooling. Precipitation patterns in Slovakia have become increasingly variable, with marked seasonal and regional disparities.

Projections suggest an up to 30 per cent increase in annual precipitation by 2075 compared to historical levels, particularly during the winter months. However, summer precipitation remains comparatively low, heightening the risk of seasonal droughts. These shifts exacerbate water management challenges, particularly for agriculture and urban planning. While heavy precipitation events increase the risk of localized flooding, prolonged dry spells during the summer strain water resources and agricultural productivity. In September 2024 Central Europe experienced its biggest floods in decades, which may soon become the new normal. Countries in the region including Germany, Hungary and Slovakia were affected the most and on high alert, with Red Cross teams coordinating with local authorities. Vulnerable populations, particularly the elderly, face significant health risks from heatwaves. Additionally, storms and floods disrupt daily life, damage infrastructure and isolate remote communities. While the country is not traditionally associated with high seismic activity, earthquakes are identified as the most significant natural threat, followed by epidemics and droughts.

The frequency and severity of natural hazards in Slovakia have intensified due to climate change. Flooding has shifted from large regional events to more localized flash floods, driven by extreme precipitation. Additionally, prolonged summer heatwaves have become more common, straining energy infrastructure and posing health risks.

The socioeconomic implications of climate change in Slovakia extend beyond environmental impacts. Rising temperatures are expected to increase energy demand for cooling, necessitating investments in adaptive energy infrastructure. Climate-induced natural hazards and environmental

degradation also threaten livelihoods, particularly in rural communities reliant on agriculture and forestry. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach, integrating climate adaptation into economic planning, energy policy and community development.

In conclusion, Slovakia's climate and environment are undergoing significant changes, with increasing temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and intensifying natural hazards. These challenges demand immediate attention to mitigate risks, enhance resilience, and adapt to a changing climate. Prioritizing reforestation, sustainable water management, and climate-resilient agricultural practices is essential for safeguarding Slovakia's ecosystems and communities. With coordinated action and international support, Slovakia can navigate the impacts of climate change and ensure a sustainable future.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Slovak Red Cross aims to build climate resilience, reduce its environmental footprint and promote sustainable practices across its operations and within communities. To achieve this, the National Society aims to:

- Invest in climate change adaptation, disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction
- Strengthen the resilience of communities, staff and volunteers to adapt to and respond to climate change and climate-driven natural hazards
- Develop, adopt and implement environmentally sustainable practices across programmes and operations to minimize environmental impact aligned with global and IFRC standards
- Develop climate change strategies, policies and procedures to institutionalize sustainability in operations

Planned activities in 2026

- Continue public awareness campaigns on climate change adaptation, climate change impact, and extreme weather events
- Scale up the dedicated project to educate children on disaster preparedness, incorporating climate change topics

- Continue the transition from paper-based to electronic systems to enhance monitoring, data accuracy, and reduce resource use
- Implement a comprehensive electronic case management system to streamline data collection and reduce paper usage
- Conduct flood preparedness activities for children, teaching them how to stay safe before, during, and after floods
- Prioritize local procurement over international sourcing to lower the carbon footprint of operations and exercise sustainable practices
- Improve response capacity for floods through early warning protocols and enhanced services (evacuation support, food and non-food distribution)
- Organize training sessions for staff, volunteers and communities on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support to the Slovak Red Cross with the implementation of actions under the [Regional Climate Action Roadmap 2025](#). The Climate Action Roadmap is a key tool to frame and guide how the IFRC in Europe aims to collectively scale-up climate action by 2025 and beyond. Jointly created by building on National Societies' experiences, knowledge and initiatives, the Roadmap aligns with the IFRC's global and regional climate as well as environmental commitments including the [Strategy 2030, Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#), Tbilisi Commitments (Regional Conference 2022), [Global Climate Resilience Platform and Programme](#) and contributes towards the [Paris Agreement](#), the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) and [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Providing a space for mutual, peer-to-peer learning and collaboration, the Regional Climate Action Roadmap Community of Practice enables the National Societies in Europe and Central Asia to share best practices and jointly tackle climate change-driven natural hazards. Besides ensuring regional coordination, the key focus of the roadmap is to secure funding opportunities through multi-country climate resilience project proposals.



Disasters and crises

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

Slovakia's risk of humanitarian crises and disasters is classified as 'low' by the [INFORM Country Risk Profile](#), ranking 131th out of 191 countries. This designation reflects a stable risk environment; however, an analysis of Slovakia's risk profile reveals critical areas requiring attention to strengthen resilience and preparedness against potential future crises. While the country enjoys relative stability, emerging climate-related challenges and socio-economic vulnerabilities necessitate proactive measures.

Slovakia's vulnerability to disasters is more socio-economic than environmental. Challenges such as income inequality, regional disparities and the integration of displaced populations contribute to heightened vulnerability. The ongoing international armed conflict in Ukraine has indirectly affected Slovakia, with over 171,084 people seeking refuge in the country as of August 2025. This influx has placed additional strain on Slovakia's healthcare system, particularly in rural areas, which are already underserved. Addressing these socio-economic vulnerabilities requires targeted policies and investments in social services to reduce inequalities and provide support to uprooted populations.

While governance structures are stable, there is a need for enhanced disaster risk reduction policies and strategies. Weak infrastructure, particularly in healthcare, communication systems and physical structures, undermines the country's ability to respond effectively to disasters.

Slovakia's legal framework for crisis management is robust, with [Act No. 387](#) and [Act No. 42](#) providing clear guidelines for managing civil protection and state responses in crises. These acts define key terms, outline roles and responsibilities and establish measures for mitigating and responding to emergencies.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Slovak Red Cross plays a vital role in disaster response as part of the [National Crisis Management Body](#) and Integrated Rescue System. However, the capacities of regional branches vary widely in terms of resources, technical equipment and trained staff, highlighting the need for equitable investment in regional preparedness. To achieve this, the National Society aims to:

- Strengthen readiness, disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction to empower communities and the National Society to respond effectively to crises

- Establish specific disaster preparedness and emergency response strategies, policies, and procedures
- Strengthen its capacity to influence national disaster preparedness, response policies and [disaster law](#)
- and response through engagement with national and local authorities
- Conduct awareness campaigns for communities and enhance the knowledge and skills needed to anticipate, respond to, and reduce the impacts of socio-economic crises and disasters

Planned activities in 2026

- Enhance [early warning and early action](#) mechanisms, data collection, and information management
- Strengthen emergency preparedness by developing a contingency plan and business continuity plan to ensure operational effectiveness during crises
- Implement a disaster preparedness educational project for children, inspired by Public Awareness and [Public Education for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (PAPE)
- Maintain capacities gained under the Safe Homes Programme to address shelter needs during crises, including migration and displacement scenarios Develop a Disaster Response Management policy to define methodologies, procedures and standard response services
- Establish guidelines for creating Emergency Operation Centres to coordinate response operations and provide strategic support during emergencies
- Advocate for the alignment of national legislation with international standards, including [International Disaster Response Law](#) (IDRL)
- Promote, enhance and clarify the National Society's [auxiliary role](#) in disaster preparedness

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support to the Slovak Red Cross in preparedness activities, including anticipatory action and early warning early action systems. Further, IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** supports the Slovak Red Cross through the 510 Team by providing information management support for Slovak Red Cross' Community Engagement and Accountability ([CEA](#)) and cash and voucher assistance (CVA) mechanisms, focusing on community feedback data analysis and CVA case management.

The Slovak Red Cross is collaborating with the 510 Team to develop a work plan for a comprehensive [digital transformation](#) process. This plan includes establishing a centralized data system integrating planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), CEA and CVA modules via EspoCRM and 121 platforms. The goal is to improve data management, analysis, evidence-based decision-making and accountability. The finalized work plan will outline technical, and funding needs to implement the system and strengthen the National Society's emergency response readiness.



The Slovak Red Cross assisted people displaced from Ukraine through its psychosocial support programmes run by the Slovak Red Cross branch in Košice. (Photo: The Slovak Red Cross)



Slovakia operates a [compulsory social health insurance \(SHI\) system](#), providing near-universal coverage for residents, with the state covering premiums for economically inactive individuals. The system comprises one public and two private insurance companies, which negotiate service contracts with healthcare providers. However, [healthcare spending](#) in Slovakia comes at EUR 2,756 per capita in 2023—less than half the EU average of EUR 4,986. Public funds account for 80 per cent of health yet systemic underinvestment has hindered the effectiveness of public health policies, prevention efforts and overall health system performance. Despite universal coverage, disparities in access to care persist, particularly among low-income groups, due to long waiting times and [limited healthcare capacity](#).

Behavioural risk factors significantly contribute to Slovakia's health challenges. [Nearly half of deaths](#) in 2019 were linked to poor dietary habits, tobacco use, alcohol consumption and longer, hotter summers increase the risk of heat-related illnesses, particularly for older adults, pregnant women and children. Climate-related changes also heighten risks of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, as well as mental health conditions such as eco-anxiety and solastalgia. Dietary risks alone accounted for 26 per cent of deaths, surpassing the EU average, while tobacco and alcohol-related mortality were on par with EU figures. Environmental factors, particularly [air pollution](#), further exacerbate respiratory and circulatory diseases, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations. These risks are often concentrated among those with lower incomes and educational attainment, reflecting socio-economic disparities in health outcomes.

[Mental health disorders](#) are a growing concern in Slovakia, affecting approximately one in seven people. Anxiety, depression and substance-use disorders are the most prevalent. The pandemic and the Ukraine international armed conflict have intensified mental health needs, particularly among displaced populations. Addressing these challenges requires investments in mental health infrastructure, community-based services and workforce development. However, Slovakia faces a shortage of specialized mental health professionals, which hampers efforts to meet rising demands for care.

Workforce shortages, especially among nurses, pose a significant barrier to healthcare access and quality in Slovakia. Declining numbers of nursing graduates, coupled with low professional recognition and unattractive working conditions, have strained the system.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

To promote and contribute to the health and well-being, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) of the Slovak population and displaced people, the Slovak Red Cross prioritizes the following high-level objectives:

- Promote the importance of [first aid](#) through health education targeting the Slovak population
- Institutionalize the [mental health and psychosocial services](#) (MHPSS) in Slovakia
- Promote blood donation to attract and retain donors
- improve promotion of staff and volunteer health and MHPSS services on social media

Planned activities in 2026

- Strengthen capacity to provide transportation, home-based care, hot meal delivery and other social services for vulnerable populations (older adults, disabled individuals and homeless people)
- Maintain and expand [psychological first aid](#) (PFA) provision to displaced people and the Slovak population, focusing on vulnerable groups such as children, youth and the elderly
- Enhance the quality of [first aid](#) education and standardize approaches across branches
- Establish a community of certified first aid instructors by engaging people annually
- Build youth capacity in first aid through initiatives such as the Youth First Aid Project 3P (Projekt Prvej Pomoci – First Aid Project)
- Expand the 'Dorotka and Her Friends' project which engages young volunteers with children in kindergartens to train youth volunteers in providing first aid and humanitarian education to kindergartens every school year
- Address stigmatization related to mental health through awareness campaigns and dialogue with government stakeholders
- Establish the [mental health psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS) units for deployment across Slovakia and promote community-peer support networks
- Increase organisational capacities to improve blood donation awareness campaigns and blood donor awarding

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides technical expertise, funding, and capacity-building support to help the Slovak Red Cross achieve its objectives by implementing and scaling its initiatives effectively. The IFRC assists the National Society in maintaining its accreditation as a provider of basic and advanced training through the [IFRC Global First Aid Centre](#). This includes developing standardized training materials and enhancing online learning opportunities to reach a broader audience.

Similarly, the IFRC aids in creating sustainable revenue streams through first aid education to ensure long-term service viability.

The IFRC also offers guidance on integrating MHPSS into national emergency response frameworks and building community-driven support networks. The IFRC provides

strategic guidance on organizing campaigns and establishing partnerships with corporate entities. By sharing best practices and technical expertise, the IFRC supports Slovak Red Cross' efforts to attract and retain donors, as well as explore opportunities for setting up new blood donation centres.



Migration and displacement

Slovakia, traditionally a culturally homogeneous country, has not been a primary destination for migrants. Historically, it has been a country of origin, with many Slovak citizens emigrating for economic, social or political reasons. Female emigration has consistently outpaced male emigration, with key destination countries including the Czech Republic, Germany, the United Kingdom, Austria and Switzerland. Migrants from Slovakia are predominantly young, educated individuals working in sectors such as construction, healthcare and industry.

Slovakia's accession to the EU and the Schengen Area marked a shift in its migration patterns. Regular migration increased significantly, though the representation of foreign nationals remains low at 5.13 per cent of the population as of 2024. However, the influx of displaced people, particularly from Ukraine due to the ongoing conflict, has led to a notable increase in foreign populations. By December 2022, Slovakia recorded a 66.3 per cent rise in foreign residents compared to 2021, with Ukrainians comprising a significant proportion of asylum applications and granted international protection.

The asylum process in Slovakia has historically been limited, with only 926 individuals granted asylum since 1993. Applications remain stable, with most asylum seekers originating from Ukraine, Türkiye, Morocco, Bangladesh and Russia. Besides people from Ukraine, there are also people with (either subsidiary protection or tolerated stay statuses from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Temporary Protection Status, activated in response to the Ukraine crisis, has provided people displaced access to healthcare, employment and social services.

The conflict in Ukraine has transformed Slovakia into a country of transition and reception. Over 2.2 million border crossings from Ukraine were recorded as of April 2024, with women and children comprising 83 per cent of this population. Many of these displaced individuals moved to major cities, such as Bratislava and Košice. Slovakia's rapid activation of Temporary Protection Status granted displaced individuals access to the labour market and basic services, significantly shaping its migration response.

The needs of displaced people from Ukraine have shifted from immediate relief (food, accommodation) in 2022 to longer-term integration support in 2023. Current priorities include healthcare, employment, and language courses, with gender-specific

differences in needs. This evolution highlights the importance of adapting migration policies and services to address both short- and long-term challenges.

Migration in Slovakia is governed by several legislative instruments, including the residence of foreigners, employment services and asylum.

In June 2025, Slovakia adopted the National Strategy for Management of Asylum and Migration (2025-2030). This strategy builds upon EU legislation and carries on the national policy trajectory outlines in previous documents such as Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic and the Recovery and Resilience Plan. It seeks to strengthen asylum procedures and focuses on integration of migrants. Although Slovakia is a signatory to the United Nations Conventions on Statelessness, its procedures for determining and addressing statelessness are underdeveloped. Statelessness is often treated within broader asylum or residence applications, placing the burden of proof on applicants. This lack of a dedicated determination process highlights a gap in Slovakia's migration system.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Slovak Red Cross is part of the IFRC's Global Route-Based Migration Programme extended until 2030. It aims to improve the safety and dignity of people along dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Annually, the programme aims to support 4.4 million people on the move and in host communities through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

To ensure that people on the move are provided with necessary humanitarian aid, the Slovak Red Cross aims to:

- Maintain the provision of humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move by maintaining and scaling up Offices of First Contact
- Provide humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move by maintaining and scaling up humanitarian

service points (HSPs) and enhancing Restoring Family Links (RFL) capacities

- Promote social inclusion and integration for people on the move
- Strengthen its role of in migration policy advocacy by leveraging its auxiliary role to influence migration policies

- Develop training materials for staff and volunteers to establish humanitarian service points (HSPs) quickly in future crises
- Train staff and volunteers in Restoring Family Links (RFL) services and equip them with technical tools (phones, SIM cards, mobile Wi-Fi, and laptops)

Planned activities in 2026

- Ensure access to safe and accessible spaces for people on the move
- Continue providing essential services such as counselling, mental-health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), medical referrals, legal advice, cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and transportation for people in vulnerable situations
- Continue awareness-raising activities describing inspiring stories of integration of the displaced people from Ukraine
- Engage in advocacy and campaigns with national authorities and international stakeholders to promote meaningful participation of migrants such as the Ministry of Interior and the migration office
- Engage with partners, including authorities and private organizations, to ensure health, education, and labour market participation for migrants
- Educate communities to support the integration of migrants and refugees and facilitate social connections focusing on health and well-being of migrants
- Provide employability support through labour market orientation, individual counseling, language learning, vocational training and translation services
- Educate communities to support the integration of migrants and refugees and facilitate social connections focusing on health and well-being of migrants

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides a wide range of technical support in the development and design of training materials, guidance on the establishment of humanitarian service points (HSPs) as well as sharing best practices ensuring the integration of cross-cutting components, such as CEA, PGI, and safeguarding in migration activities.

The IFRC integration framework provides comprehensive guidance for National Societies in Europe, offering a common approach and language for staff and volunteers engaged in integration and inclusion activities. In addition, it provides a practical tool to support the development, implementation and monitoring of initiatives aimed at supporting migrants in vulnerable situations. To empower the Slovak Red Cross to expand its activities on the social integration and inclusion of people on the move, the IFRC will provide regional training with the integration of sensitization sessions. The IFRC will also facilitate knowledge sharing among National Societies, enhancing the Slovak Red Cross' ability to manage migration-related crises.

Under wider Movement support, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provides support to the Slovak Red Cross in strengthening Restoring Family Links (RFL) services.



Values, power and inclusion

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI), Slovakia's human development is very high, with an increasing trend between 1990–2022. Slovakia's policies and societal frameworks reflect a strong commitment to the principles of equality, dignity, and human rights. Rooted in international treaties and national laws, the country emphasizes access, participation, and safety, showcasing its dedication to inclusive development. The adoption of the Antidiscrimination Act and its wide-ranging prohibitions against discrimination signal the prioritization of universal human rights. Additionally, Slovakia's efforts in advancing gender equality, as seen through improvements in women's representation and labour rights, demonstrate a progressive outlook on equity. The integration of groups in vulnerable situations, such as children and individuals with disabilities, into education and public services further emphasizes the importance placed on collective welfare and inclusivity.

Power dynamics in Slovakia are influenced by both historical and structural factors. Decentralized governance empowers municipalities to involve citizens in decision-making processes, enabling grassroots influence on local matters. Participatory initiatives such as municipal budgeting provide a tangible method for residents to exercise control over resource allocation, fostering transparency and accountability. However, challenges persist due to regional disparities in trust and engagement, rooted in Slovakia's post-communist legacy.

Similarly, systemic inequities in employment and pay between genders reveal underlying power imbalances that remain unresolved. While legislative and institutional measures offer a framework for justice, gaps in their enforcement highlight the need for sustained advocacy and systemic reform.

Slovakia demonstrates ongoing efforts to enhance inclusion across various domains, addressing systemic inequalities that affect marginalized populations. Legal frameworks and national strategies aim to support groups such as the Roma community, displaced persons, and LGBTQI+ people. Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain, particularly in combating entrenched discrimination and social exclusion. Roma individuals often face barriers to education and housing, while LGBTQI+ people experience hate crimes and societal prejudice. In education, increased access to infrastructure for students with disabilities and rising participation rates in pre-primary education signify progress. Yet, disparities in STEM participation and gender representation in specific fields highlight areas for improvement. Additionally, community engagement projects, particularly environmental and youth-driven initiatives, reflect a growing emphasis on collective action and societal integration.

Slovakia embodies a multifaceted approach to values, power and inclusion, balancing progress with persistent challenges. The nation's legal and social frameworks create opportunities

for equitable development, yet deeper cultural and structural changes are necessary to fully realize its inclusive potential.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Slovak Red Cross aims to:

- Promote principles of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) across Slovak communities
- Ensure community involvement in programmatic and operational decision-making
- Support access to education and foster social cohesion among diverse groups
- Develop a safeguarding policy

Planned activities in 2026

- Continue HIV/AIDS awareness efforts and intergenerational programmes, encouraging empathy and combating isolation
- Design and implement Standards of Procedure (SOPs), strategies, and resources to mainstream PGI, safeguarding policy, and CEA principles in all programmes and operations such as integrity line
- Create a specialized team and focal points to facilitate PGI and CEA integration across regions
- Develop and maintain tools for effective data collection and analysis, ensuring meaningful community participation, and evidence-based advocacy
- Train new coordinators annually to lead intergenerational activities and provide guides for effective implementation
- Train all staff and volunteers on safeguarding, child protection and PGI minimum standards in emergencies and CEA approaches
- Leverage international events and initiatives (International Women's Day, "16 Days of Action Against SGBV") to raise awareness on PGI principles
- Develop and distribute copies of promotional materials highlighting PGI and CEA principles

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will continue to provide technical support to the Slovak Red Cross to help with its programmatic and operational goals. Further mapping of funding opportunities will be undertaken.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** finances the Digital Engagement Hub Project to enhance feedback analysis, evidence-based programming and accountability to communities.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Slovak 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 2024. 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.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Engage with public authorities to strengthen its auxiliary role and positioning in policy and law-making different thematic areas, including disaster preparedness and response, anticipatory action and climate change and migration policies
- Strengthen strategic partnerships with national, regional global stakeholders
- Continue to conduct online campaigns and share newsletters via mailing lists to strengthen its visibility to attract partners to support programs and operations
- Continue strengthening resource mobilization through increasing capacity for domestic fundraising and strengthened digital tools

The Slovak Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the work plan phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure, and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

- Continue to strengthen branches local-level relations with national authorities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Slovak Red Cross in mapping out and engaging in dialogue with potential national and international partners. The IFRC will also monitor calls for proposals for funding opportunities, for instance, by participating in National Societies, EU, governments, private institutions and the academia. Further technical support will be provided in developing standardized resource mobilization, fundraising strategy and proposal writing.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue the transformation of the Slovak Red Cross into a modern, resilient organization capable of effectively addressing humanitarian challenges
- Remain a trusted and visible leader in the humanitarian sector, known for alleviating the suffering of people in vulnerable situations
- Continue to adopt the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) tool for strengthening its local branches

- Renovate the Mlynceky Centre into a multi-purpose facility to implement income-generating activities, as well as support training and internal strategic initiatives
- Revise its statutes and after approval draft a policy and procedures guiding its implementation within the National Society at all levels
- Strengthen volunteer engagement and institutional capacity to ensure the National Society's ability to fulfil its mission and sustain its impact
- Invest in youth programmes and youth engagement strategy to ensure a resilient and proactive network of volunteers who are well-equipped to respond to current and future challenges, fostering a culture of preparedness and compassion across Slovakia

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical support to the Slovak Red Cross over the next three years to achieve its high-level objectives under National Society development, which will be in line with the one National Society development plan of the National Society, which is guided by the [NSD Compact](#).

The **Spanish Red Cross** continues to actively support the Slovak Red Cross in the development of a comprehensive volunteer management system, initiated in April 2022. This collaboration

aims to ensure the system is fully aligned with the National Society's strategic priorities and volunteer development objectives. Implementation is planned to begin by the end of 2025, with continued support throughout 2026 to accompany its rollout across branches and strengthen volunteer engagement and institutional practices.

By ensuring consistency and coherence, the IFRC will help the National Society to share lessons learned, peer to peer support, avoid duplication, and continuously improve by refining systems and processes.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Advocate for revisions in national legal frameworks and policies to ensure that these are aligned with international standards, evolving trends and challenges in the humanitarian ecosystem, and realities on the ground
- Enhance internal and external communication systems to improve dialogue between headquarters, branches, government entities and other stakeholders
- Continue the development of crisis communication strategies to address emergency situations, focusing on physical and mental health, and improving stakeholder relationships
- Launch comprehensive awareness-raising campaigns and educational initiatives to promote the [Fundamental Principles](#) of the Red Cross, [disaster law](#), and [humanitarian law](#) among communities and staff
- Conduct social media campaigns and commemorate [World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day](#) nationwide
- Organize education sessions for children and youth in schools, focusing on disaster law and international humanitarian law ([IHL](#)) through interactive activities

- Encourage youth to lead the "Hour about the Red Cross (Hodina o Červenom kríži)" campaign, aiming to reach students annually with workshops delivered by trained volunteers in primary, secondary, and high schools
- Continue providing comprehensive communication training to staff and volunteers to ensure effective messaging across
- Establish collaboration via an initiative from Ministry of Foreign Affairs to further knowledge in advocacy and engagement in critical areas including humanitarian diplomacy and emblem protection

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical support to strengthen the Slovak Red Cross's positioning and visibility. This support will include aligning the National Society's efforts with the [IFRC Humanitarian Diplomacy](#) policy including enhancing the National Society's capacities of data-driven and evidence-based influencing to inform both programmatic and political preparedness. Further support will be provided by the IFRC to connect the Slovak Red Cross with peers and partners, as well as **the ICRC** to contribute to the development of learning materials on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as well as the IHL.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop and implement the strategic plan for 2027-2030 in order to align strategic, programmatic and operational directions across all of its branches
- Enhance Human Resources capacity by focusing on the recruitment, development and retention of staff, volunteers and youth
- Invest in robust and modernized IT infrastructure, including state-of-the-art hardware and software systems, standardized cybersecurity measures and data.
- Standardize logistics and procurement processing line with IFRC standards to improve storage and prepositioning of supplies and strengthen security management systems
- Adopt integrity frameworks and reinforce planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) practices to ensure transparency and effectiveness of operations
- Establish and regularly update an institutional risk register to identify and mitigate potential risks
- Implement and reinforce clear, accessible and confidential safeguarding protocols across its headquarters and branches to ensure that staff and volunteers are fully equipped to recognize and respond to protection concerns, including gender-based violence, child protection and human trafficking

- Lead a comprehensive digital transformation to enhance operational efficiency, data collection and data management and service delivery
- Upgrade digital systems, introduce intuitive data platforms and provide accessible online training for staff and volunteers

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Slovak Red Cross in fostering strategic thinking and strategic planning. This includes facilitating planning sessions and lessons-learned workshops, enhancing capacities in monitoring and reporting and promoting a culture of learning to adjust plans, projects, programmes and operations based on lessons learned, challenges and best practices.

The IFRC will support the development of a PMER system aimed at enhancing the capacity for strategic PMER. Special attention will be given to defining indicators and developing methodologies for data collection. The PMER system will also integrate PGI considerations and CEA minimum actions to ensure that activities carried out across the National Society's branches are inclusive, participatory and accountable.

The IFRC and the 510 team from the **Netherlands Red Cross** will support the National Society to undergo a comprehensive digital transformation.



The Slovak Red Cross teams in Dunajská Streda collected, sorted, and delivered basic aid items to people displaced from Ukraine. (Photo: The IFRC)

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The **IFRC**, through its operational office located in Bratislava, Slovakia and its Regional Office for Europe based in Budapest, Hungary, provides support to the Slovak Red Cross in both financial and technical aspects, as well as resources for disaster response, health initiatives and National Society development. The IFRC also supported the National Society in implementing the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency Appeal since March 2022, with more than 50 surge delegates deployed to support the emergency response.

Before the international armed conflict, there was no IFRC presence in Slovakia. Since 2022, the IFRC has been mobilizing technical support and funding resources to enable the Slovak Red Cross to address challenges. From 2022 onwards, the transition towards a longer-term development approach in Slovakia was initiated, mobilizing staff to secure support beyond the immediate response to the needs of displaced people from Ukraine and host communities.

IFRC membership coordination

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

Other key partnerships and support from the participating National Societies include:

The **American Red Cross** provides regional CVA expertise, financial aid, prepositioned essential household items and capacity-building in fundraising and communications.

The **British Red Cross**, **Swedish Red Cross**, and the **Netherlands Red Cross** collaborate on CEA and digital

transformation, including the CEA Ambassador Programme and centralized data management systems.

The **Spanish Red Cross** initiated a bilateral partnership with the Slovak Red Cross for the implementation of the Spanish Employability Model, starting in March 2024 and continuing through 2025, not only financial resources but also technical expertise and capacity strengthening, with the additional technical support of the [IFRC Livelihoods Resource Centre](#). Through three local branches, the Slovak Red Cross is being equipped to deliver individual career planning, skills development workshops, and vocational training for displaced persons. In 2026, support will continue with one branch to consolidate the model and ensure sustainability.

Additionally, the Slovak Red Cross is actively engaged in a consortium led by the **Spanish Red Cross** to develop an AMIF project proposal, which aligns with the Spanish Red Cross's strategic commitment to supporting the long-term sustainability of participating National Societies.

Movement coordination

The Slovak 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. The Slovak Red Cross is also a member of the Red Cross EU Office, which supports the Slovak Red Cross by coordinating with EU stakeholders, providing technical assistance and mobilizing EU resources. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The **ICRC** regularly conducted field visits in Slovakia until the end of 2023 focusing on protection issues. The Slovak Red Cross was provided with dedicated support for [restoring family links](#) (RFL), with one confirmed Slovak Red Cross staff position. A protection of family links (PFL) delegate was based in the Slovak Red Cross headquarters to provide technical support. From 2024, the ICRC has been supporting the Slovak Red Cross remotely.

Coordination with other actors

The Slovak Red Cross is a member of the National Steering Committee, chaired by the Ministry of Interior (migration office). The committee used to meet bi-weekly to discuss issues pertinent to displaced people from Ukraine until the end of 2023. Other members are UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and WHO.

The Slovak Red Cross is also a member of the Slovakia Cash Working Group, which includes the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF. Meetings are regularly held to coordinate cash-based response efforts among these agencies.

The Slovak Red Cross is part of the Inclusion Working Group, which focuses on different topics, such as housing, health and education, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. In

bi-weekly meetings, information is shared among the agencies and participating organizations, and future interventions are planned. A considerable focus is dedicated to humanitarian diplomacy on behalf of vulnerable displaced populations.

The Slovak Red Cross also participates in all other Inter-Agency coordination mechanisms in response to the ongoing international armed conflict in Ukraine, including the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF), organized monthly by the UNHCR in person and online, which is a useful forum to get general updates on the situation and the response. The Slovak Red Cross also attends other sub-working groups based on technical focus including a Health Working Group, a Protection Working Group and an Information Management Working Group.



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](#)

Contact information

Slovak Red Cross
[slovak-red-cross](#)

Andrej Naricyn

Head of Strategic Partnerships
& Resource Mobilization
IFRC Regional Office for Europe,
Budapest
T +367 04306528
andrej.naricyn@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

Lead
IFRC Global Strategic Planning
& Reporting Centre
New Delhi
sumitha.martin@ifrc.org