

IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS OF SERBIA



National Society
branches

183



National Society
local units

186



National Society
volunteers

14,440



National Society
staff

944

PEOPLE REACHED

Disasters
and crises



30,000

Health and
wellbeing



94,000

Migration and
displacement



5,000

Values, power
and inclusion



150,000

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)



IFRC network			
Country		Funding requirement	817,000
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term	Funding requirement	420,000
		Funding	Not reported
		Expenditure	Not reported
	Emergency Operations	Funding requirement	Not reported
		Funding	Not reported
		Expenditure	338,000
Participating National Societies		Funding requirement	162,000
		Funding	100,000
		Expenditure	27,000
HNS other funding sources		Funding requirement	235,000
		Funding	32,000

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Disasters and crises

Number of people reached with livelihoods support	30,000
Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction	6,000
Number of people provided with conditional cash assistance	1,000
Number of people reached with shelter support	252

Health and wellbeing

Number of people reached with contextually appropriate health services	94,000
Number of people donating blood	72,000
Number of people trained in first aid	34,000

Migration and displacement

Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	5,000
Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing assistance and/or protection to people on the move along migration routes	6

Values, power and inclusion

Number of people reached by the National Society's educational programmes	150,000
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ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination

Number of government-led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	5
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National Society development

Number of staff and volunteers trained on the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	15,000
National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	Yes
There is a National Society Development plan in place	Yes
The National Society has an official branch development framework, model or guidance that defines the expected role and standards of branches	No
National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies	No

Humanitarian diplomacy

National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns	Yes
National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	No

Accountability and agility

National Society has a Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes
National Society has a safe and accessible mechanism (such as the IFRC Integrity Line) in place to report integrity concerns, misconduct and breaches of rules and policies	Yes
National Society is implementing a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy	Yes
National Society has a functioning data management system that informs decision making and supports monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of its actions	Yes
National Society has a Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors	No

IFRC NETWORK BILATERAL-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Austrian Red Cross	27,000						
German Red Cross							
Swiss Red Cross	100,000						
Total	CHF 127,000						

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, Serbia's population in 2052 will be 5,224,762, representing a decrease of about 1.5 million people compared to 2022. This trend, driven by a persistently negative natural increase and net migration, will also lead to a significantly older population. By 2052, the number of people over 65 is expected to be twice that of children under 14. This shift not only highlights the growing proportion of older people but also underscores additional challenges such as potential strains on the healthcare system, pension schemes and the overall workforce.

Since November 2024, Serbia has seen months of anti-government protests following the collapse of a newly renovated train station canopy in Novi Sad, which resulted in 16 fatalities. The incident, attributed to government negligence and corruption, sparked widespread public outrage and initiated a series of anti-corruption demonstrations across the country. At the forefront of what has become one of Europe's largest protest movements are students, who continue to lead calls for accountability and reform.

The World Bank revised Serbia's annual growth forecast downward from 4.2 per cent to 3.5 per cent due to political unrest and mass protests. The country is also grappling with some of the worst air quality in Europe, with more than 18 municipalities surpassing pollution limits. Additionally, poverty continues to be a pressing issue, particularly in rural areas and among people in vulnerable situations.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In the first half of 2026, the Red Cross of Serbia signed an agreement with the European Climate Foundation for the implementation of the 'Support to the Population at Risk of Heat Waves' project. The project aims to improve the preparedness and response of local communities to extreme heat through the identification and support of households that are particularly exposed to the risks of heat waves. The project is being implemented in the five Serbian municipalities through conducting field visits and distributing heat-protection support packages. The project also presented the results of needs assessment to local decision-makers and raise awareness of available local-level measures to improve conditions in vulnerable households.

Disasters and crises

8 During the reporting period, the National Society utilised the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) for a cold wave emergency. The Red Cross of Serbia provided emergency assistance to more than 700 households, including food and hygiene parcels, warm clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, bottled water, candles, primus gas burners and generators. The National Society also responded to floods in Kosovo and Metohija after the overflow of the Ibar River. As for disaster prevention and risk reduction, promotional activities were conducted in local communities focusing on disaster risk reduction (DRR), as well as water and mountain rescue. In June, the National Society organized an expert exchange with the German Red Cross, focusing on sharing knowledge, experience, and best practices in disaster management, emergency assistance, civil protection, and international humanitarian aid.

Health and wellbeing

Within the first half of 2026, voluntary blood donation drives were organized across branches with participation of volunteers resulting in 72,499 blood units collected. Over 18,000 people were trained in first aid through standardized training. Additionally, informal workshops, lectures, and forums were organized and promoted the basic principles and skills of first aid. Activities promoting healthy lifestyles were also promoted through lectures and workshops, focusing on preventing addiction and sexually transmitted infections. The National Society continued work to establish an International Trauma Life Support (ILTS) Centre and obtaining an international ITLS license. This represents an important step towards strengthening the capacity to provide training in pre-hospital care for injured and trauma patients. Additionally, in the process of drafting the new Law on Road Traffic Safety, the National Society submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia.

Migration and displacement

During the first half of 2026, approximately 250 people were recorded in the National Society's reception and asylum centres. As part of the [Global Route Based Migration](#) programme, the Red Cross of Serbia provided [cash assistance](#) for unaccompanied minors in cooperation with the Centre for Accommodation of Unaccompanied Minors. In addition, the National Society provided cash support to victims of human trafficking in cooperation with the relevant institutions responsible for their protection. It also continued the implementation of the Safe and Included project, aimed at strengthening [protection and inclusion](#) and support for refugee and migrant children and youth through social activities and workshops, creating safe spaces where they could develop life skills, interact with peers and strengthen their sense of belonging and inclusion.

Values, power and inclusion

Within the reporting period, 601 informative workshops were conducted by trainers and a network of peer educators. These activities reached primarily children and young people. As the coordinator of the European Red Cross Anti-Trafficking Network (ATN), the Red Cross of Serbia also organized and led the network's annual meeting in Brussels. The National Society also organised a three-day [psychological first aid](#) (PFA) training course for volunteers and employees engaged in disaster preparedness and response programmes. The [SHAPE project 'Strengthening Health, Access, Participation and Social Equality in the Western Balkans'](#), supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, contributed to strengthening cooperation, social inclusion and participation of older people and supported the implementation of Serbia's Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2024–2030.

Enabling local actors

During the reporting period, the programme team development roadmap of the Red Cross of Serbia was developed as one of the key outcomes of the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#) (CBF) support. The assessment provided an important opportunity to critically reflect on the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of its programmes, as well as on the organizational capacities and systems required to deliver them. Staff and volunteers of the Red Cross of Serbia also represented the National Society at more than 16 international events. It also started a new 'Strengthening Humanitarian Diplomacy Capacities and Respect for Principled Humanitarian Action' initiative. The National Society successfully developed and implemented a tailored training package on principled humanitarian action (PHA), [humanitarian diplomacy](#), auxiliary role, emblem protection and operational application of the [fundamental principles](#) for staff, branch management, and volunteers with participation.

Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

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

Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of Serbia signed an agreement with the European Climate Foundation for the implementation of the ‘Support to the Population at Risk of Heat Waves’ project. The project will be implemented from May to September with the goal to improve the preparedness and response of local communities to extreme heat through the identification and support of households that are particularly exposed to the risks of heat waves. Special attention is given to older people living alone, families with children with developmental disabilities, families with small, socially vulnerable children, and households with difficult access to water during the summer months.

The project is being implemented in the five Serbian municipalities of Sombor, Stari grad, Kraljevo, Niš, and Vranje. Its main elements are mapping and assessing the needs of vulnerable households, conducting field visits in cooperation with local institutions, distributing heat-protection support packages, and providing advice to households. Implementing local educational and promotional activities regarding protection during heatwaves. The project also presented the results of needs assessment to local decision-makers and raise awareness of available local-level measures to improve conditions in vulnerable households.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical and financial support to the Red Cross of Serbia.



Disasters and crises

For more information on emergencies, please visit the IFRC Go page [Serbia](#).

Name of Operation	Extreme winter condition and floods
MDR-Code	MDRRS016
Duration	4 months (23 January 2026 to 31 May 2026)
Funding Allocation	CHF 342,374
People Targeted	3,219 people
People Assisted	3,582 people
DREF Operation	DREF Operation
DREF Operation Update	DREF Final Report

The IFRC-DREF allocation of CHF 342,374 in January 2026 supported the Red Cross of Serbia in assisting people address the immediate and short-term humanitarian needs of populations affected by severe winter conditions, prolonged power outages, and localized flooding by providing timely and coordinated assistance that supports basic needs, livelihoods, health, and well-being, while strengthening community resilience and reducing further humanitarian risks.

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Since 4 January, severe winter conditions, including heavy snowfall, strong winds and low temperatures affected several parts of Serbia, causing a major impact on the most vulnerable households and problems in the provision of basic services. The municipalities and cities of Loznica, Valjevo, Osečina, Ivanjica, Vladimirci, Krupanj, Mali Zvornik, Lucani and Majdanpek were among the most affected. Heavy snowfall caused limited access to urban and rural areas, disrupted traffic and widespread power outages due to damage to the power distribution network. Prolonged power outages affected urban, rural and hard-to-reach areas, affecting heating, water supply and access to basic services.

In response to the identified highest priority needs, the Red Cross of Serbia provided emergency assistance to more than 700 households, including food and hygiene parcels, warm clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, bottled water, candles, primus gas burners and generators.

In January, the National Society also responded to floods in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija after the overflow of the Ibar River. The municipalities of Kosovska Mitrovica, Zvečan, Kosovo Polje, and Lipljan were affected by localized flooding of residential areas, agricultural land, and critical infrastructure, which posed a risk to the lives, health and safety of the population. The assistance included cash support for the affected households. The National Society also organized a lesson learned workshop to capture key findings, experiences, and insights from the operation and identify areas for further improvement.

In the reporting period, the Red Cross of Serbia organized and participated in 66 protection and rescue exercises. As for disaster prevention and risk reduction, Red Cross of Serbia conducted promotional activities in local communities focusing on disaster risk reduction (DRR), as well as water and mountain rescue. Close to 10,000 primary and secondary school students participated in school evacuation drills, thereby achieving over three-quarters of the annual plan.

A workshop on the analysis of disaster response and lessons learned from the wildfires in South Serbia, was organized near the town of Niš with the aim of conducting a comprehensive analysis of the disaster response operations carried out, identifying key successes, challenges and limitations in the implementation of activities, as well as documenting lessons learned and recommendations for improving future interventions. The workshop was attended by representatives of different branches who directly participated in the planning, coordination, and implementation of activities during disaster response operations implemented in 2025. During the workshop, various aspects of disaster response were analyzed, including needs assessment, coordination with local and national partners, engagement of human and material resources, logistical support, communication with the vulnerable population, as well as challenges faced by the teams in the field. Special attention was devoted to identifying good practices that can be applied in future operations, especially regarding cash and voucher assistance (CVA).

In June, the National Society organized an expert exchange with the German Red Cross. The exchange focused on sharing knowledge, experience, and best practices in disaster management, emergency assistance, civil protection, and international humanitarian aid.

During the visit, the organizational structure, mission and operational approaches of the German Red Cross were presented, with particular emphasis on preparedness and response to major emergencies. Discussions covered the organization of disaster management services, risk assessment, early warning mechanisms, crisis communication, coordination and the mobilization of human and material resources during emergencies.

The exchange also addressed civil protection and the role of humanitarian organizations within national protection and rescue systems. The German Red Cross's participation was presented, together with its experience in receiving and providing international assistance and in regional and cross-border cooperation. Representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and the Lower Saxony Disaster Management Service presented the German civil protection system and approaches to coordination with relevant stakeholders during disaster response.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society through its DREF mechanism which supported the cold wave emergency. It enabled the National Society to utilize an immediate allocation of 342,374 CHF to assist 3,582 people. In addition, due to the scale of the operation, the IFRC supported the Red Cross of Serbia in assisting vulnerable households during the recovery phase, replenish essential equipment and relief items, and cover operational costs incurred by branches.

The **German Red Cross** worked to support the Red Cross of Serbia through an expert exchange where the two National Societies exchanged best practices in disaster management, emergency assistance, civil protection, and international humanitarian aid.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In the first half of the year, voluntary blood donation drives were organized across branches with participation of volunteers resulting in 72,499 blood units collected. Volunteers were trained in the field of voluntary blood donation through training sessions in local branches. Through interactive lectures, workshops and work in small groups, the participants acquired new knowledge and skills necessary for the promotion of voluntary blood donation in their communities, as well as for encouraging their peers to show humanity and solidarity.

The Red Cross of Serbia also organized the 'Blood Means Life' art competition in March for children and students to promote voluntary blood donation and educate young people about the importance of donating blood. The National Society further strengthened the promotion of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation through a combination of high-level advocacy, strategic partnerships, public communication and youth engagement.

On 11 May, the National Society marked the National Voluntary Blood Donor Day. The event brought together representatives of partner organisations, the diplomatic corps, UN agencies, public institutions and donor companies, who participated in the blood donation drive and recorded promotional messages highlighting the importance of voluntary blood donation. The event was also used to launch and promote a new blood donation campaign video featuring well-known public figures, providing additional visibility to the campaign and encouraging citizens to become regular blood donors. A total of 47 units of blood were collected during the event.

The World Blood Donor Day was marked on 12 June through a national recognition event celebrating the most successful local communities, student initiatives, and youth volunteer projects. The event included the presentation of awards for the 'Blood Means Life' competition and the selection of the best projects developed by Club 25 youth volunteer groups under the 'Humanity in Action' initiative.

Over 18,000 people were trained in first aid through standardized training. Additionally, informal workshops, lectures, and forums were organized and promoted the basic principles and skills of first aid.

The National Society produced a publication titled 'A Small Handbook for Great Deeds' which will assist the youngest-age teams of the Red Cross during training sessions and workshops with primary school children. First aid competitions were also carried out in April, with realistic portrayal of injuries, conditions and illnesses began. Activities promoting healthy lifestyles were also promoted through lectures and workshops, focusing on preventing addiction and sexually transmitted infections.

In April, the National Society, in cooperation with universities and private companies, organized two panel discussions in Belgrade and Niš on 'Precision Public Health and Innovative Approaches to the Prevention and Early Detection of Oncological Diseases – Significance for Public Health Policy'. The events brought together representatives of the academic community, health institutions, scientific research institutions and experts in the field of public health, with the aim of exchanging knowledge and experiences on modern approaches in the prevention and early detection of oncological diseases, as well as their application in the creation of public health policies.

During the first half of 2026, the Red Cross of Serbia continued work to establish an International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) Centre within the National Society and obtaining an international ITLS license. This represents an important step towards strengthening the capacity to provide training in pre-hospital care for injured and trauma patients.

As part of these efforts, an expert paper on 'ITLS – Global Standard Connecting All Emergency Services' was presented at the 21st International Conference Road Safety in Local Communities, in Vrnjačka Banja. As an organization with extensive experience in first aid training, the National Society highlighted the importance of standardizing procedures among emergency services, which can contribute to faster and more effective care for injured people and improve the overall quality of assistance provided in complex emergency situations.

In the process of drafting the new Law on Road Traffic Safety, the National Society submitted to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia a proposal for legal solutions related to the first aid training of candidates for drivers.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of education, but also on the standardization of the curriculum and training methodology, as well as the establishment of a control system for the implementation of training and examination of driver candidates.

Cooperation with the Agency for Traffic Safety in the field of improving traffic safety through the education of population, particularly the sensitive categories and developing the awareness of all traffic participants on safe participation in traffic continued in the first half of 2026 through the participation in Safety Caravan in several municipalities.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society with technical and financial assistance.



The National Society responded to severe winter weather and flooding through emergency relief, WASH, and food assistance for over 600 affected households. (Photo: The Red Cross of Serbia)



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2026, the number of migrants reducing in the reception centres continued. Approximately 250 people were recorded in the reception and asylum centres. The migrant population continued to be predominantly composed of single adult men aged 20–30, who represented the largest group among people on the move. Women, children, and families accounted for a smaller proportion of the overall population but required particular attention due to their increased vulnerability and specific protection needs.

According to the available profiles of migrants, the most common countries of origin of people on the move in Serbia were Afghanistan, Syria, Morocco, Turkey, and Egypt. Migration flows remained dynamic, with frequent route changes, short stays on the territory of Serbia and the continued use of irregular movement channels, which requires a flexible and coordinated humanitarian response aimed at protecting, informing, and providing basic support to the most vulnerable groups.

The National Society also continued to implement activities using funds for emergency humanitarian aid, protection, and empowerment of migrants, in accordance with its mandate and the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Activities were realized in cooperation with Red Cross branches, state institutions, international organizations and partners from the civil sector.

As part of the Global Route Based Migration programme, the Red Cross of Serbia provided cash assistance for unaccompanied minors in cooperation with the Centre for Accommodation of Unaccompanied Minors. In addition, the National Society provided cash support to victims of human trafficking in cooperation with the relevant institutions responsible for their protection. Additionally, Red Cross branches delivered first aid training in selected migrant accommodation centres, with trained volunteers providing practical demonstrations of basic first aid techniques, including appropriate care for wounds and minor injuries. The activities aimed to prevent the deterioration of health and complications resulting from injuries, particularly considering that people on the move often travelled long distances through difficult terrain and faced conditions in which even minor injuries could pose a serious health risk.

The Red Cross of Serbia also trained staff and volunteers involved in financial assistance and mechanisms for providing support to beneficiaries, prevention of and combating human trafficking and basic knowledge about migration and the specifics of working with people on the move. The training sessions were implemented with the support and cooperation of relevant partners, including the Centre for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking, as well as other organizations and institutions with experience in the field of migration and protection of vulnerable groups.

The Red Cross of Serbia also participated in an IFRC-organized training on risk analysis and the development of migration preparedness plans. The training was held in Sarajevo in June with the aim of strengthening preparedness and response capacities in the field of migration.

With the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the National Society continued the implementation of the Safe and Included project, aimed at strengthening protection, prevention, inclusion and support for refugee and migrant children and youth. The project provided children and young people in reception centres with structured educational, recreational and social activities and workshops, creating safe spaces where they could develop life skills, build confidence, interact with peers and strengthen their sense of belonging and inclusion. Activities also addressed key protection risks faced by children on the move, particularly trafficking, exploitation and other safeguarding concerns.

The project also contributed to strengthening the capacities of staff and volunteers working with refugee and migrant children and youth. Through targeted training and the exchange of experiences, staff and volunteers enhanced their knowledge and practical skills in identifying protection and safeguarding risks and providing child-centred, protection-sensitive support.

Overall, the project supported a more integrated and child-centred approach to migration response, combining direct support and meaningful activities for children with strengthened protection mechanisms and improved capacities within the RCS network.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society through the IFRC Global Route Based Migration programme. It also organized training on risk analysis, and the development of migration preparedness plans to better assist the Red Cross of Serbia in its efforts.

The **Swiss Red Cross** provided technical and financial assistance to the National Society through the Global Route Based Migration programme.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

With the support of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, the Red Cross of Serbia implemented a programme providing support to vulnerable groups, including the provision of Soup Kitchen services to people in 77 communities across Serbia and the distribution of newborn baby packages to infants born during Red Cross Week.

In the reporting period, 601 informative workshops were conducted by trainers and a network of peer educators. These activities reached primarily children and young people, as well as members of vulnerable/marginalized groups and groups at risk among the general population and migrants.

Trainings for new peer educators were held in Loznica and Subotica, where volunteers were trained in acquiring knowledge about human trafficking, prevention, early recognition of risks and protection of potential victims, with the application of the programme's unique methodology and strengthening the capacity of volunteers to work with vulnerable groups.

As the coordinator of the European Red Cross Anti-Trafficking Network (ATN), the Red Cross of Serbia, in cooperation with the Red Cross Office of the EU, organized and led the network's annual meeting in Brussels. The meeting was dedicated to harmonizing the common positions of national societies, exchanging experiences and strengthening cooperation in the field of human trafficking prevention, with special emphasis on the victim-oriented approach, prevention and new forms of exploitation.

Representatives of the National Society participated in the final national conference, 'Recognition of Cases of Human Trafficking and Support for Victims', marking the completion of 25 professional trainings held across Serbia. Red Cross representatives took part in the training process, strengthening their skills to recognize risks, identify potential victims at an early stage and cooperate with relevant institutions.

The National Society also organised a three-day psychological first aid (PFA) training course for volunteers and employees engaged in disaster preparedness and response programmes. The training aimed to strengthen participants' capacity to provide appropriate psychological and emotional support to people affected by crises and emergencies and to integrate PFA into disaster response activities.

Participants were introduced to the basic principles of PFA, recognising psychological reactions to crisis events, active listening, needs assessment and providing appropriate support to people of different ages. Particular attention was given to communication with older people, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. The training combined theoretical sessions, interactive workshops, simulations and case studies, with emphasis on preserving dignity, strengthening resilience and promoting the well-being of both affected people and responders.

The SHAPE project 'Strengthening Health, Access, Participation and Social Equality in the Western Balkans', supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, contributed to strengthening cooperation, social inclusion and participation of older people and supported the implementation of Serbia's Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2024–2030.

During the reporting period, the National Society continued implementing activities under the SHAPE project, focusing on improving the well-being, protection, and social inclusion of older people, as well as strengthening support services and capacities within the Red Cross network.

The National Society also organised a media conference to present the findings of the research 'Costs of Long-Term Care and the Risk of Poverty of Older People in Serbia'. The event brought together representatives of relevant ministries, social protection, and health institutions, academia, civil society and international organisations. The research highlighted the significant financial burden that long-term care places on older people and their families, particularly in the context of rising living costs and limited incomes.

On the same day, the National Society organised a conference entitled 'Supporting the Provision of Affordable and High-Quality Professional Home Care in Older Age'. The event explored opportunities to further develop professional home care as an important form of support for older people requiring assistance in daily activities. Participants discussed examples of good practice from Serbia and the region, integrated health and social care models, service quality standards, continuous training of professional caregivers, multidisciplinary approaches and sustainable financing mechanisms.

A regional training on 'Prevention of Violence against Older Women' was also organised, bringing together the National Society, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia, the Albanian Red Cross and the Austrian Red Cross. The training strengthened participants' knowledge and skills to recognise, prevent, and respond appropriately to different forms of violence against older women, while also promoting regional cooperation and the protection of the rights of older people.

At community level, the SHAPE project continued supporting three Red Cross branches operating clubs for older people, two branches managing day centres and two branches facilitating self-help groups. Through these combined forms of support, more than 500 older people were continuously reached, providing opportunities for social connection, participation, mutual support and empowerment.

The National Society is implementing the project 'Age Against the Machine' with the support of the European Union through the CERV – Town Twinning programme, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia, and the City of Novi Sad, aiming to promote intergenerational solidarity, combat ageism and increase the visibility of older people in the cultural and public life of the community. As part of the project, on 5 February, the representatives of the National Society and the 'Novi Sad - European Capital of Culture' Foundation held a meeting with the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality. During the meeting, the recommendations developed within the project were presented, which relate to reducing ageism and discrimination based on age, improving the position of older people and strengthening their access to health, social and other support services.

As part of the same project, on 15 June, on the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, a conference was held at the European House in Belgrade organized by the National Society, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Serbia. The event brought together representatives of state institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations, the academic community and experts from Serbia and abroad, with the aim of highlighting violence against older people as a serious social, public health and human rights violation problem.

The central part of the programme was the panel discussion 'Towards the first United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older People – Dignity, Equality and Human Rights at Every Age', during which the importance of adopting an internationally legally binding instrument that would ensure better protection of the rights of the older people around the world was pointed out.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** supported the National Society through technical and financial support.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** supported the Red Cross of Serbia in coordinating the European Red Cross Anti-Trafficking Network (ATN) annual meeting in Brussels.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

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.

The cooperation with the IFRC reference centre for psychosocial support is based on the sharing of knowledge and expertise. The centre provides inputs for training and other interventions by the Red Cross of Serbia in the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) area, including support for training events, while the activities of the Red Cross of Serbia in this area are fed back to the centre to serve as experience sharing and case studies.

The Austrian Red Cross has a longstanding collaboration with the Red Cross of Serbia and this has been pivotal in advancing disaster preparedness and enhancing care for older people and people with disabilities. This partnership underscores a commitment to bolstering resilience and providing crucial support to people in vulnerable situations in times of need, with focus on supporting older people at local level in the coming years.

The Swiss Red Cross collaborates with the Red Cross of Serbia especially in the extended migration crisis in Europe. The crucial support provided by the Swiss Red Cross has led to direct assistance to people on the move and the RFL programme has ensured the sustainability of the Red Cross of Serbia's activities.

Movement coordination

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

The ICRC provides ongoing support in addressing the [restoring family links](#) (RFL) needs of migrants, the [Safer Access framework](#), IHL promotion and implementation and the MHPSS project. The ICRC and the Red Cross of Serbia collaborate through SMCC mechanisms.

External coordination

The Red Cross of Serbia is part of coordination networks with UN agencies, specifically the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as well as the European Commission, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, HelpAge International, AGE Platform Europe, the European Disability Forum, the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People and the embassies of several countries.

At the national level, Red Cross of Serbia cooperates with government institutions and line ministries and maintains thematic-based cooperation with NGOs and the private sector. It also collaborates with academic institutions, including the Universities of Belgrade, Niš, Kragujevac and Novi Sad, particularly the Faculty of Security Studies (University of Belgrade), the Medical Faculty (University of Belgrade), the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Military Academy and the Police Academy.

Local Red Cross of Serbia branches have established cooperation with civil society organisations and local institutions, such as Centres for Social Welfare, health institutions, schools and preschools, as well as local associations supporting children and people with disabilities, Roma population and other charitable and humanitarian organisations operating at the community level.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The programme team development roadmap of the Red Cross of Serbia was developed as one of the key outcomes of the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#) (CBF) support and the Programme Review/Assessment undertaken in 2024–2025. The assessment provided an important opportunity to critically reflect on the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of its programmes, as well as on the organizational capacities and systems required to deliver them. Building on the findings and recommendations of the assessment, the roadmap was developed as a practical framework for translating these recommendations into concrete organizational and programme development actions.

The roadmap provides a basis for strengthening programme coherence, prioritization and quality, while clarifying the role of the Programme Department in supporting branches and ensuring stronger links between programme planning, implementation, monitoring, learning and organizational decision-making. The roadmap has been progressively aligned with the Strategic Orientations for 2026–2030 and emerging organizational priorities. Key areas of focus include reducing fragmentation across programme areas, strengthening results-based planning and monitoring, improving data and knowledge management, supporting innovation and digitalization, strengthening volunteer engagement, and improving the capacity of branches to deliver relevant and sustainable services. The roadmap is considered a living framework, with activities and priorities being further refined based on organizational capacities, available resources and evolving humanitarian needs.

The 'Youth Leadership Skills' Training of Trainers and intergenerational dialogue for youth representatives and leaders of National Societies from the Mediterranean were held in Italy from 22 to 25 March. The participants gained practical knowledge of the training methodology and facilitation skills. The event also included an intergenerational dialogue with the Secretaries of Mediterranean National Societies, focusing on strengthening the role of young people in decision-making processes.

As part of the IFRC youth policy global review process, volunteers actively participated in filling out a dedicated questionnaire (IFRC Youth Policy Review Survey) with the aim of providing suggestions for improving youth participation. Additionally, at the first Regional online consultation held on 17 May via the Microsoft Teams platform, 10 volunteers participated and contributed to the definition of regional priorities.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society through IFRC mechanisms such as the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#) (CBF) which provided financial assistance.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society closely monitored developments in the country and adapted its activities to the evolving social context to ensure full implementation of its mandate, mission, and principles at all levels of organization, with particular emphasis on maintaining neutrality and impartiality. Significant attention was devoted to safeguarding integrity. In light of changes within state structures, the National Society also prioritized effective representation of its programmes and beneficiaries to ensure the continuation of established cooperation mechanisms.

In the first half of the year, staff and volunteers of the Red Cross of Serbia have represented at more than 16 international events. This includes participation in regional meetings of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and in meetings and workshops on specific thematic areas; regular annual meetings of working groups and networks of which the National Society is a member and as well as training sessions for staff and volunteers.

In February 2026, the Red Cross of Serbia started a new initiative 'Strengthening Humanitarian Diplomacy Capacities and Respect for Principled Humanitarian Action' with the support of the IFRC. During the reporting period, the National Society successfully developed and implemented a tailored training package on principled humanitarian action (PHA), [humanitarian diplomacy](#), auxiliary role, emblem protection and operational application of the [fundamental principles](#) for staff, branch management, and volunteers with participation. Educational materials were also produced and designed in accordance with planned training on PHA and humanitarian diplomacy for staff and volunteers from local branches.

The workshop on 'PHA and Humanitarian Diplomacy' was successfully held in Srebrno jezero from 22 to 24 April 2026, bringing together representatives. The workshop was designed to strengthen the capacities of local branches through a combination of expert lectures, interactive workshops and peer-to-peer exchange of experiences. Participants had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and practical understanding in the following areas: application of the fundamental principles of the red cross, humanitarian diplomacy, cooperation with local communities, collaboration with donors and partners and gain insight into internal strategies, policies and regulations.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society with technical and financial support.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society met its reporting obligations to the government, submitting both narrative and financial reports in accordance with the agreed timeline. Additionally, the Red Cross of Serbia's financial statements for 2025 were audited and received a positive evaluation.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical assistance to the National Society.

Q4. AFFECTED PERSONS (PEOPLE REACHED)

See cover pages

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

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

Q6. RISK MANAGEMENT

This information is not available in Mid-year Reports

Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

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

Q8. LESSONS LEARNED

Nothing to report

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

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

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

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

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



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2026. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods and may be incomplete. 'Not reported' could sometimes mean 'not applicable'. Also note that funding requirements are already reflected in the published 2026 IFRC network country plan. The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network has sought to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities.
 - » Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System
 - » Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
 - » IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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