



# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

## 2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



20 February 2026

### In support of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina



21

National Society branches



165

National Society local units



341

National Society staff



9,749

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



200

Climate and environment



3,000

Disasters and crises



45,000

Health and wellbeing



5,000

Migration and displacement



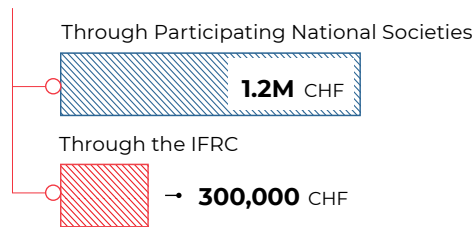
1,000

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 1.5M CHF



2027

Total 1M CHF

2028

820,000 CHF

Projected funding requirements

### Participating National Societies

British Red Cross\*

Italian Red Cross

Liechtenstein Red Cross\*

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Swiss Red Cross

### IFRC Appeal code

Longer-term needs:

MAABA003

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

## Hazards



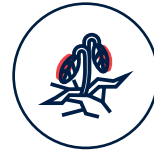
Floods



Extreme heat & cold



Forest fires



Drought



Earthquakes

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Longer term needs

- Early warning and disaster risk reduction
  - Climate change adaptation
    - Health needs
  - Migration-related needs
- Inclusion of vulnerable groups

#### Capacity development

- Sustainable resource mobilization and fundraising
  - Partnerships
  - Financial management
  - Branch development
  - Communications
- Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting

### Key country data links

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **Low**

**Human Development Index rank** **74**

**World Bank Population figure** **3.2M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **17%**



The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina team continuously work in the Temporary Reception Centres of Blažuj and Lipa to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants. (Photo: Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina)

## Detailed funding requirements

2026

IFRC

### Longer-term needs

Climate and environment	30,000
Migration & displacement	200,000

**Enabling local actors** 70,000

Total **300,000**

## 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
Italian Red Cross	2026	70,000				30,000			40,000
Qatar Red Crescent Society	2026					-			
Swiss Red Cross	2026	1.1M	498,000		-	915,000	65,000		125,000
	2027	1M	446,000			812,000	65,000		125,000
	2028	820,000	355,000			630,000	65,000		125,000

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The origins of organized Red Cross activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina date back to 1912, when the 'Bosnia and Herzegovina Society for Assistance and Voluntary Medical Support During War and in Cases of Major Disasters in Peacetime' was established. Its mandate and objectives closely mirrored those of the contemporary Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The long-standing humanitarian role of the organization has since been formally recognized by the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina through the adoption of the Law on the Use and Protection of the Emblem and the Name of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Law on the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

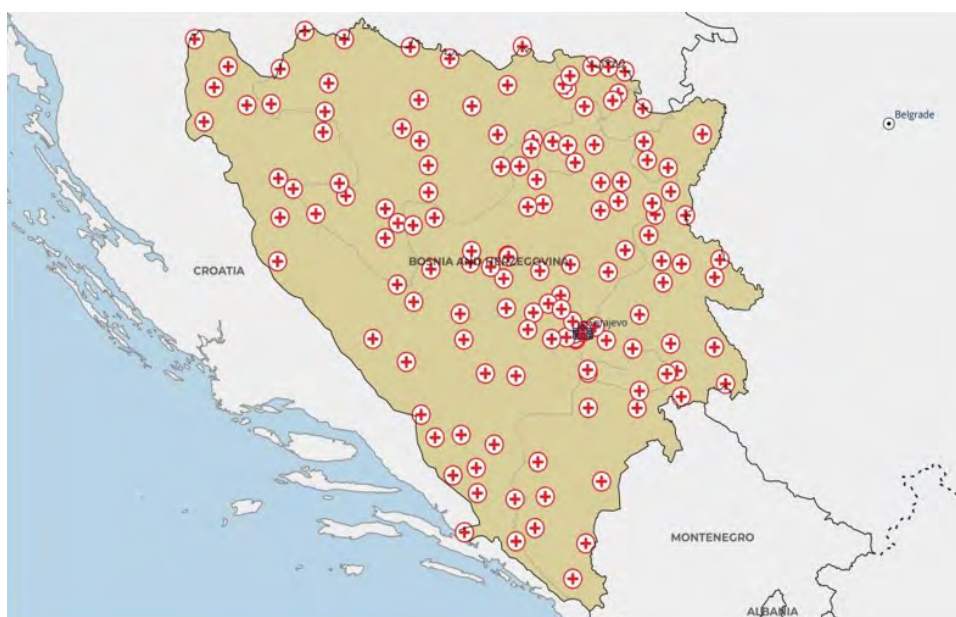
The **Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina** was officially founded on 15 December 2000, recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 8 May 2001, and admitted as a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on 7 November 2001.

According to national law and the Statutes, the National Society is defined as a humanitarian organization of citizens of

Bosnia and Herzegovina, mandated and authorized to pursue humanitarian objectives in areas such as health education, social protection, tracing services and other programme activities during peace, natural disasters and emergency situations. All activities are carried out in line with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

To further strengthen its internal structure, the Assembly of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted revised Statutes in May 2006, introducing the positions of Secretary General, President and two Vice-Presidents. The ongoing statutory revision process aims to clarify member rights and responsibilities, refine governance and management structures, establish clear funding foundations and ensure effective protection and management of assets, thereby reinforcing the overall governance and operational capacity of the National Society.

In 2023, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina reached about 58,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes and almost 28,000 people through its migration programmes and services.



Map of the branches of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

*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

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country in Southeast Europe, located on the Balkan Peninsula. It shares borders with Serbia to the east, Montenegro to the southeast and Croatia to the north and southwest. The country has a complex political structure, comprising two main entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska, along with a self-governing Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a candidate for European Union (EU) membership since 2022, with efforts to align its institutions and policies with EU standards.

The country operates under a complex system established by the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement. The consequential fragmented political environment hampers effective governance and often delays necessary reforms, especially those related to EU accession.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is facing significant demographic, political and economic challenges that are often closely tied to high migration flows out of the country. Bosnia and Herzegovina faces serious challenges related to poverty and an ageing population. A significant portion of the population lives

near or below the poverty line, especially in rural areas, due to high unemployment and limited economic opportunities. At the same time, the country has one of the fastest-ageing populations in Europe, driven by low birth rates and massive emigration of young people seeking better lives abroad. This demographic shift puts pressure on the pension and healthcare systems and threatens long-term economic sustainability.

Corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a serious and widespread issue, affecting nearly all sectors of society. It is one of the main obstacles to the country's democratic development, economic progress and its path toward EU membership.

Inflation remains a key economic challenge for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Rising food and service prices, along with public sector wage increases contribute to inflationary trends. This persistent inflation undermines purchasing power, deepens social inequality and complicates efforts to retain the workforce, especially as many citizens continue to seek better living standards abroad.

Bosnia and Herzegovina faces environmental issues, including inadequate wastewater recycling and air pollution, while 91 municipalities are at significant risk from floods and landslides. The country's response to disasters emphasizes resilience-building at the local level.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Bosnia and Herzegovina faces a range of environmental challenges, from biodiversity conservation and pollution to climate change impacts. The growing frequency of extreme weather events has adverse effects on the health conditions of vulnerable populations, especially older people and chronically ill people. More frequent heavy rainfalls are causing floods and landslides countrywide. Wildfire affects livelihoods of the population every summer. Crop failures cause higher prices and less variety of available agricultural products. Over the past 12 years, six years have been very to extremely dry, affecting water availability, agriculture and overall ecosystem health. However, the country also possesses opportunities for sustainable development, including renewable energy,

improved forest management and enhanced governance. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach, involving government action, civil society engagement and international cooperation to ensure a more sustainable future for the nation.

Air pollution is a pressing concern, especially in urban areas, with industrial emissions and transportation as major contributors. Water resources, including rivers and lakes, are abundant, but pollution from industrial discharge and inadequate wastewater treatment jeopardizes their quality. Bosnia and Herzegovina faces serious land and water pollution due to industrial waste,

mining, poor waste management and outdated infrastructure, threatening both ecosystems and public health.

Climate change impacts, such as temperature shifts, altered precipitation patterns and extreme weather events affect agriculture, water resources and infrastructure. Adaptation measures such as improved flood management and resilient agriculture are crucial.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted several national strategies to address climate change, including a [National Adaptation Plan](#), a [Climate Change and Low Emission Development Strategy \(2020–2030\)](#), and the [Environmental Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2032](#). These plans aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, boost renewable energy use, improve energy efficiency and align with EU climate standards. The country is also developing a National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), and recently secured international support, including a major World Bank loan, to support its transition from coal to renewable energy.

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

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is part of the IFRC's [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

As its high-level objectives, the National Society aims to:

- Proactively prepare to effectively respond to extreme weather conditions, including heatwaves and cold waves

- Prioritize the education of young volunteers and promote peer-to-peer sharing of information on climate and [nature-based solutions](#)
- Strengthen capacities related to environmental protection
- Follow academic research and increase focus on Red Cross-led research addressing climate change

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Strengthen its internal capacities for environmental protection through training and the development of internal policies
- Establish stronger cooperation with UN agencies, donors and climate- and nature-related funding mechanisms and academic institutions to exchange knowledge and monitor research on climate change
- Develop and utilize an e-platform for delivering online education and spreading awareness on climate-related topics
- Actively engage in research projects focused on humanitarian responses to climate change
- Ensure long-term support for initiatives that combine [disaster response](#) with [environmental preservation](#)

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in training and educating volunteers and staff, enhancing community-based activities such as awareness campaigns and tree planting, and developing educational materials. These efforts aim to raise climate awareness and provide guidance on protecting health and property from the impacts of climate change and increasingly severe weather events.



## Disasters and crises

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

The [2024 Country Climate and Development Report](#) highlights that the country is highly vulnerable to floods, wildfires and heat waves, which have major economic and social impacts. In 2014, the [largest flood](#) occurred since the 1960s. Heavy rainfall that year set a record for the last 120 years of measurements. The

floods resulted in the loss of at least 21 lives. The total damage caused by the floods in 2014 in Bosnia and Herzegovina was estimated at 2 billion and 37 million euros, with 70 per cent of the damage affecting the private sector. In May 2023, heavy rainfall and elevated river levels in the Una and Sana basins resulted in widespread flooding across various regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Numerous homes have been inundated in

the Una-Sana Canton, resulting in local officials declaring a state of emergency. The [October 2024 floods](#) in Bosnia and Herzegovina resulted in the tragic loss of 27 lives. The floods, which were the worst since the 2014 floods, severely impacted areas such as Jablanica, Fojnica, Kreševo, Kiseljak and Konjic. The floods overwhelmed local infrastructure and response capacities, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced disaster preparedness and climate adaptation measures.

Bosnia and Herzegovina faces growing environmental risks such as landslides, often caused by deforestation and uncontrolled use of natural resources, which not only threaten infrastructure and communities but can also dislodge landmines left from the war, creating deadly new hazards. Additionally, wildfires are an increasingly serious threat in Bosnia and Herzegovina, driven by rising temperatures, prolonged droughts and poor forest management, often causing damage to ecosystems, property and air quality.

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

The 'Framework Law on the Protection and Rescue of People and Material Goods from Natural or Other Disasters in Bosnia and Herzegovina' has been adopted in the country and requires comprehensive implementation. In carrying out the public responsibilities assigned under this law, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina cooperates with state institutions, relevant organizations and funding partners in the field of protection and rescue, thereby fulfilling its auxiliary role to the public authorities during natural and other disasters. To strengthen coordinated action, the National Society has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Security, ensuring rapid joint efforts in prevention, preparedness and emergency response.

In accordance with its operating principles, the National Society aims to help vulnerable people in preparation and response to natural and other disasters as one of its primary activities. To achieve this, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina plans to:

- Develop [community-based disaster risk reduction](#) and response plans
- Facilitate stronger coordination among humanitarian actors by identifying synergies and establishing connections between its structures and relevant stakeholders, including civil protection, local authorities and other humanitarian organizations
- Scale up the use of the X-STOCK platform across countries in the Central and South-Eastern Europe (CSEE) and '[Neighbours Help First Network](#)' and increase the use of online platforms for disaster preparedness, such as tabletop exercises (TTXs) and youth-focused online training

- Enhance the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to improve donor relations and address cross-cutting issues effectively
- Coordinate cluster-based training, promote cross-border cooperation and engage in joint proposal development and contingency planning with Movement partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Map newly emerging climate-induced risks at the community level to enable [Early Warning Early Action](#) (EWEA)
- Improve [preparedness](#), disaster risk reduction and emergency response plans and assess current humanitarian capacities and needs in the country
- Expand the use of the X-STOCK platform for resource tracking and emergency logistics
- Implement localized community interventions under the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([DREF](#)) mechanism based on identified needs
- Strengthen the functionality and capacity of the CRM system to improve management of donors, partners, beneficiary and need-related information
- Increase investment in digital tools and developed platforms and appoint a dedicated person with a permanent position for Information Management
- Implement awareness-raising activities and campaigns about the importance of locally led crisis response
- Organize training and simulation exercises to strengthen preparedness and operational capacity

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to collaborate closely with the National Society to enhance its disaster response infrastructure, training programmes and coordination mechanisms, ensuring a more effective and efficient response to emergencies. The IFRC has supported the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina's emergency response to severe floods over the years through [DREF allocations](#), including the most recent support provided in October 2024 in response to devastating floods that resulted in 27 confirmed fatalities. Overall, the IFRC's collaboration with the National Society encompasses capacity-building, disaster preparedness and post-disaster recovery aimed at strengthening the National Society's ability to effectively address and mitigate the impacts of disasters and crises.



The health sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina faces numerous challenges due to its complex administrative structure and persistent resource constraints. The healthcare system is highly decentralized and fragmented, which complicates unified planning and the implementation of national health policies. Preventive care is underdeveloped, with limited health promotion programmes, insufficient immunization coverage and inadequate early disease detection. Additionally, demographic changes, including population ageing and the effects of migration, are increasing pressure on the health system and highlight the urgent need for adapted and inclusive healthcare services. This is particularly evident in the growing shortage of healthcare workers, which further strains service delivery and limits access to quality care, especially in remote areas and smaller cities. Bosnia and Herzegovina is facing increasing pressure to provide adequate care for its growing older population, but limited resources, understaffed healthcare facilities and a lack of organized eldercare services make it difficult to meet their needs, especially in rural areas.

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

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina aims as its high-level objectives to:

- Promote first aid as one of its core activities, recognizing its essential role in saving lives and building community resilience
- Strengthen financial sustainability through income generation from services such as first aid and caregiver training
- Standardize first aid education to ensure consistent quality and accessibility across all regions
- Expand sustainable home-based care services to support older people and persons with disabilities
- Develop robust and sustainable mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services and enhance capacity in emergency health, particularly in response to climate change- related risks

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Promote first aid as a core activity by conducting 24 public workshops (bi-monthly) in schools, companies and communities and launch the online campaign, First Aid for Everyone
- Complete and distribute a standardized curriculum and manual for three levels (basic, advanced and instructor) and certify at least 20 new first aid instructors through a three-day training programme
- Expand sustainable home care services by forming seven new 'Ageing and Health' teams, procuring four vehicles, equipping local branches with material and technical resources, enhancing its operational capacities, organizing numerous training sessions and implementing digital monitoring with weekly reports and alert systems
- Develop MHPSS services by hiring two full-time psychologists, engaging 10 volunteers, launching group and individual support programmes, partnering with local health institutions and promoting mental health through educational content online
- Enhance emergency health response capacity by conducting two large-scale simulation exercises focused on climate-related scenarios such as floods, heatwaves and wildfires
- Ensure sustainable financing by increasing revenue from first aid and home care services, while achieving measurable improvements in mental health and psychosocial well-being of users, staff and volunteers

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society by strengthening its capacity in healthcare provision in disaster response, with a focus on integrating MHPSS across all programmes. It will provide technical assistance, facilitate training and resource allocation and promote collaboration with other Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. These efforts will aim to enhance health and wellbeing services and improve response capabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The Western Balkan Route remains a key migratory pathway into Europe. Since 2018, transit corridors through Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina have been heavily traveled. In January-February 2024, [Frontex reported](#) 3,050 irregular border crossings on this route, a 65 per cent decrease from 2023. Most migrants are from Syria, Afghanistan and Türkiye. European Union (EU) border crossings totaled 31,200 in the same period, same as 2023. Despite the decline in numbers along the route, humanitarian workers report more attempts to cross the Drina River between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The number of irregular migrants entering through the region is increasing every year. These migration flows have been further affected by the Ukraine and Afghanistan crises, increasing overall volumes of migration and complexity of the policies related to migrant streams. Strict border controls between Croatia and neighbouring countries further worsened conditions of migrants during winter periods.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's migration situation is complex, influenced by reduced donor support, ongoing reliance on international aid, increasing demands from local communities and migrants and regional instabilities. The country faces challenges in managing [migration flows](#) and providing essential services due to limited institutional capacity.

In 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced a [decrease](#) of approximately 10,000 individuals on the move compared to 2023. This reduction is attributed to a combination of factors, including enhanced border controls, regional cooperation and internal measures aimed at managing migration flows. Despite the overall decline, Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to serve as a key transit country along the Western Balkan migration route, with migrant and refugee people primarily entering from Serbia and Montenegro, aiming to reach the EU. The Una-Sana Canton, particularly areas such as Bihać and Velika Kladuša, continues to be a focal point due to its proximity to the Croatian border.

Despite steady [migrant arrivals](#) since 2018, there has been a decrease in numbers in recent years. Temporary Reception Centres were established to accommodate migrants, but many still reside outside formal facilities, posing challenges in tracking and providing services to them. During their journey, people on the move are at continued risk of human rights violation, violence, stigma, xenophobia and marginalization. In early September 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina began transitioning the management of the Lipa and Blažuj reception centres from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to national institutions.

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

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is part of the IFRC three-year [Global Route Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually 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.

In early September 2024, as Bosnia and Herzegovina initiated the transition of management of the Lipa and Blažuj reception centres from IOM to national authorities, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina assumed an expanded humanitarian role. Working in coordination with the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, the National Society began delivering essential services to migrants and asylum seekers.

At the Temporary Reception Centre in Blažuj, 25 staff of the National Society now provide critical support, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, as well as food and essential household items. Beyond the centre, a mobile Red Cross team operates throughout Sarajevo, offering information and humanitarian assistance to migrants in key urban locations, such as the main bus station, thereby extending the National Society's outreach and support to people on the move.

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

- Expand activities beyond responding to irregular migration to support refugees and displaced persons, as well as act in the areas of integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees
- Through a programmatic approach, establish and strengthen bilateral cooperation with participating National Societies in migration response, forming a unified and long-term strategy while reducing the financial burden on individual donors
- Enhance coordination with authorities and humanitarian actors to ensure a comprehensive and effective response
- Continue holding bilateral and multilateral coordination meetings with government actors and develop strategic and operational documents to further position itself as a relevant partner for strategic collaboration

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## Planned activities in 2026

- Provide humanitarian support in Temporary Reception Centres of Blažuj and Lipa, with continued delivery of essential aid including food, hygiene kits, [first aid](#) and mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#))
- Support the migration response, focusing on assistance, protection, integration, inclusion and National Society development
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures for mobile teams and Humanitarian Service Points ([HSP](#)) clearly outlining the knowledge, skills and competencies required for volunteers working in migration, along with the types of training and peer-to-peer support facilitated through regional cooperation
- Provide technical expertise in protection and assistance along migratory routes, support cross-border response planning and promote integration and inclusion
- Enhance data driven decision-making, facilitate the development of multi-sectoral contingency plans and strengthen the capacity of field actors through harmonized technical standards and integrated monitoring mechanisms
- Strengthen route-based capacities through information sharing, peer exchange and focused approaches such as community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) and protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#))

- Facilitate coordination, collaboration and partnerships across all levels to enable joint approaches and evidence-based programming

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its migration-related work through strengthened advocacy and capacity building, ensuring sustained and comprehensive assistance to migrants and refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The IFRC will facilitate coordination and collaboration among National Societies involved in migration activities, creating opportunities to share information, resources and best practices across borders.

This cooperation will enable the National Society to deepen its understanding of migration dynamics and deliver more effective, responsive programmes and services. In alignment with the Integration and Inclusion Framework Plans developed by the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the IFRC will also provide technical guidance, expertise and resources to support the implementation of inclusive programmes that advance protection, gender equality and the well-being of people on the move.

The **Italian Red Cross** will support the Balkan Route – Assistenza in Transito (BRAT) project, while the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation provides funding support to the National Society for the Global Route-Based Migration Programme.



The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina team continuously work in the Temporary Reception Centres of Blažuj and Lipa to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants. (Photo: Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina)



## Values, power and inclusion

Bosnia and Herzegovina is facing significant demographic challenges, characterized by a declining population, low fertility rates, high emigration and an ageing population. Bosnia and Herzegovina is experiencing a negative natural population growth. In 2024, the country recorded 24,938 births compared to 34,434 deaths, resulting in a natural decrease of 9,496 people. This trend is consistent across various regions, with the number of deaths consistently surpassing the number of births. The situation is further exacerbated by high emigration rates, particularly among the working-age population, leading to a rapid population decline. Projections indicate that the country's population could decrease to approximately 2.7 million by 2050, a substantial drop from [current figures](#).

The Roma population in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains one of the most marginalized and excluded groups, facing limited access to education, healthcare, employment and adequate housing. Despite various initiatives, systemic discrimination and social exclusion continue to hinder their full participation in society.

A large portion of the population in Bosnia and Herzegovina is considered socially vulnerable due to ongoing economic challenges, including high unemployment, low wages and limited access to social services. Widespread poverty, regional disparities and a weak social protection system further increase the risk of social exclusion, making many families and individual people, especially the elderly, unemployed and rural residents, highly dependent on humanitarian and state assistance to meet basic needs.

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

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina aims to raise awareness and knowledge of specific target groups such as volunteers, especially the youth, as well as the public about humanitarian challenges and strengthen their sense of humanitarian values and interpersonal skills through [educational](#) and community dialogue programmes.

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

- Develop safeguarding and child protection policies with action plans
- Establish tools such as integrity hotlines and feedback and complaint mechanisms to ensure continuous 24/7 accessibility, beyond specific project timelines
- Develop structured dissemination programmes for volunteers, staff and management to complement existing educational programmes targeting various

groups such as first aid instructors, caregivers, drivers and mine awareness participants

- Promote meaningful Community Engagement and Accountability ([CEA](#)) to ensure active participation and responsiveness in all initiatives
- Strengthen Protection, Gender and Inclusion ([PGI](#)), mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) and Restoring Family Links ([RFL](#)) to enhance social cohesion, resilience and support for vulnerable populations

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Support for information dissemination, youth programmes, tracing services, RFL and mine risk awareness activities
- Provide winter assistance and [cash support](#) to the most vulnerable groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Develop [policies on PGI](#), feedback mechanisms, complaints and [integrity](#)
- Standardize reporting and systematize humanitarian education programmes by mapping all training sessions and courses conducted within its structure, using established methodologies

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue supporting a range of educational programmes implemented by the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This includes training and workshops on Protection, Gender and Inclusion ([PGI](#)), as well as initiatives promoting the dissemination of humanitarian values among volunteers of the National Society and the wider community.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will provide winter assistance for the 2025–2026 season, offering [cash-based support](#) to the most vulnerable groups through the National Society. This support aims to help families meet essential winter needs and strengthen community resilience.

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The **ICRC** will support the National Society to continue implementing activities related to information dissemination, [youth engagement](#), tracing services, Restoring Family Links ([RFL](#)) and mine-risk awareness. These efforts contribute to strengthening protection services and ensuring that affected communities have access to critical safety information.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and

is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



### Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Ensure representation in different Movement forums and maintain Movement coordination mechanisms at the country level
- Maintain structures that build on past achievements for future progress and ensure that the National Society is empowered to reach its humanitarian goals
- Establish and maintain effective cooperation and coordination mechanisms with Movement partners in line with Movement Coordination Agreement (2022) and/or other partners supporting the National Society

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in developing strategic plans and strengthening programme management to enhance overall effectiveness. It will also foster partnerships between the National Society and external stakeholders, reinforcing coordination mechanisms and processes. Additionally, the IFRC will promote peer-to-peer learning opportunities, encouraging knowledge exchange and collaboration across the network to build stronger operational capacity.



### National Society development

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

- Revise its Statutes using an inclusive and participatory approach and align internal regulatory frameworks to ensure clear governance/management distinction and enhanced accountability
- Undertake strategic planning to set the strategic direction for the next five years
- Enhance good governance and strengthen accountability through specific dissemination sessions for governance and leadership across branches
- Enhance volunteer management system by developing a volunteering policy and creation of a Standard Operating

Procedure for volunteer management, based on comprehensive assessment of volunteer capacities

- Roll out the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) through tailored training of the BOCA facilitators and assessments for several selected branches in both entities and Brčko District

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support to strengthen the overall capacity and sustainability of the National Society. This support will focus on improving governance organizational systems through statutory revision process and strategic planning cycle.



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

- Advocate for policy changes to its position as the leading local humanitarian actor through humanitarian diplomacy with national authorities, UN agencies and international organizations
- Continue to strengthen new and existing partnerships, promote collaboration with national and international stakeholders, improve access to vulnerable populations and advocate for the safety and well-being of humanitarian workers
- Increase awareness of its work and mandate by emphasizing its auxiliary role and effectively communicating important messages to decision-makers at a local, national and international level
- Engage in diplomatic efforts to ensure respect for humanitarian principles, access to those in need and the protection of humanitarian actors
- Strengthen the advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy capacities of staff through targeted training and peer exchange opportunities with more experienced National Societies

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in building its capacities, providing guidance and resources to strengthen the National Society's diplomatic efforts. It will assist in establishing vital partnerships with government bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donors to strengthen advocacy for humanitarian principles, ensure access to vulnerable communities and safeguard humanitarian personnel. The IFRC will continue supporting the National Society to actively participate in various humanitarian diplomacy exchanges, including sharing of best practices, joint initiatives and information exchange. This ongoing support will contribute to strengthening coordination, fostering cooperation, enhance internal capacities and mainstreaming humanitarian diplomacy across the National Society's operations and the wider cluster.



Volunteers from a Red Cross mobile team assisting a migrant living outside Temporary Reception Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Photo: Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina)



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Ensure the quality and effectiveness of programmes by improving financial management, reporting and control systems
- Follow harmonized planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting ([PMER](#)) standards and guidelines in its work
- Standardize frameworks and guidelines on PMER across all levels of the National Society
- Implement [digitalization](#) initiatives with a focus on establishing a unified reporting system

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in promoting accountability at all levels of the National Society, ensuring adherence to ethical standards and enhancing financial and administrative systems. The IFRC also supports the National Society in implementing monitoring and evaluation processes to assess the impact and effectiveness of its programmes. The IFRC will continue providing support in creating and/or updating clear, fair and up-to-date HR policies, procedures and manuals. The IFRC has been supporting the National Society in establishing measures and developing indicators regarding [safeguarding](#), supporting this crucial process.

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## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation to Central and South-Eastern Europe (CCD CSEE) in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Regional Office for Europe (ROE) and Central Asia, based in Budapest, Hungary, maintains close collaboration with the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, providing ongoing support to enhance its operational capacity, improving preparedness and response systems and promoting the implementation of humanitarian programmes in line with international standards.

The IFRC provides various types of support to the National Society, including technical assistance, capacity building and Capacity Building Funds ([CBE](#)) for innovation and [digitalization](#). The IFRC also provides technical support such as guidance on disaster risk reduction, health programming, mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)), volunteer management and community resilience. In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Society's operations through the [Global Route Based Migration Programme](#) and [Disaster Relief Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#).

### 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.

Several sister National Societies provide long-term support to the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, remotely or with presence in-country:

The **Emirates Red Crescent** office is in Sarajevo. Its primary contribution is in social projects such as support to orphans and people in rural areas, and infrastructural projects. Currently, the Emirates Red Crescent implements projects directly on its own with limited and ad-hoc cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina Headquarters and Movement partners. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Emirates Red Crescent and the National Society is planned for 2026.

The **Italian Red Cross** office is based in Podgorica, Montenegro, with a regional focus, having supported the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina for many years. Its primary contributions have been in areas such as migration response, social services, health and care projects, disaster response and National Society development. The three-and-a-half-year 'Balkan Route - Assistenza in Transito' (BRAT) project, funded by the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development, concluded at the end of 2025. Looking ahead to 2026, there will be new opportunities to re-engage with the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina to explore further joint cooperation, either in migration or other priority areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as National Society development, health and disaster management.

The **Qatar Red Crescent** has been a key partner in supporting the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the implementation of social projects. In 2026, this collaboration will continue with support for health-related initiatives.

The **Swiss Red Cross** Delegation based in Sarajevo, has been supporting the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1995, working through its established structure in areas such as health and care services, social services, disaster response, migration and National Society development. The

Swiss Red Cross also maintains a regional focus in the areas such as migration and displacement, as well as health and wellbeing. In 2026, the Swiss Red Cross will support the National Society in implementing a four-year programme 'Ageing and Health'. In collaboration with the IFRC, the Swiss Red Cross will continue to contribute to migration response efforts and the development of the National Society. Additionally, in the upcoming period, there will be new opportunities to extend support for strengthening institutional preparedness and enhancing operational capacities in disaster management, as well as preparedness in cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)).

The **Turkish Red Crescent** office in Sarajevo primarily contributes to social projects such as the Qurbani project, disaster response and National Society development. An action plan for joint activities has been agreed upon, with a particular focus on the Ageing and Health Programme, as well as cooperation between the branches of the two sister National Societies at the local level. This collaboration will strengthen the overall capacity of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina structure and includes support from the Turkish Red Crescent for the renovation of the National Society building.

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## Movement coordination

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. A Movement Coordination Agreement was signed on 7 December 2022 between the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the ICRC and the IFRC regarding Movement activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Swiss Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross joined by signing the declaration as

participating National Societies. 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** Delegation in Sarajevo primarily supports the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in tracing services, Restoring Family Links ([RFL](#)), mine risk education, [first aid](#), mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)), dissemination of Red Cross values and National Society development.

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## Coordination with other actors

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina plays a vital role within the country's emergency management system, fulfilling its [auxiliary role](#) to the public authorities. The National Society closely coordinates with a range of partners, including local and cantonal authorities, the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO) and other UN agencies, as well as national and international NGOs. This coordination ensures a comprehensive and effective humanitarian response across sectors.



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

### About the plan

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

### Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

### Additional information

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

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