



# CROATIA

## 2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



2 February 2026

### In support of the Croatian Red Cross



**132**

National Society branches



**132**

National Society local units



**2,026**

National Society staff



**11,432**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached in 2026



**4,000**

Climate and environment



**20,000**

Disasters and crises



**18,000**

Health and wellbeing



**20,000**

Migration and displacement



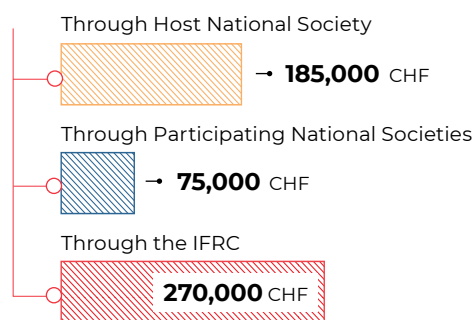
**6,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network Funding Requirements

**2026**

**Total 530,000 CHF**



**2027**

**Total 75,000 CHF**

**2028**

**75,000 CHF**

Projected funding requirements

### Participating National Societies

Swiss Red Cross

### IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:  
**MAAHR002**

## Hazards



Earthquakes



Forest fires



Floods



Water Scarcity



Extreme heat

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### Longer term needs

- Protection, gender and inclusion
  - Disaster preparedness
    - Risk reduction
    - Climate resilience

### Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
  - Digital transformation
- Disaster management capabilities
  - National Society development

## Key country data links

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

**Human Development Index rank** **41**

**World Bank Population figure** **3.9M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **20.3%**



Croatian Red Cross volunteers packing food packets for refugees in transit camps in Croatia. (Photo: Croatian Red Cross)

# Detailed funding requirements

2026

	Host National Society	IFRC
<b>Longer-term needs</b>		
Climate and environment	8,000	200,000
Disasters & crises	67,000	20,000
Health & wellbeing	80,000	20,000
Migration & displacement	20,000	20,000
Values, power & inclusion	10,000	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>270,000</b>

## Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Swiss Red Cross	2026	75,000					75,000		
	2027	75,000					75,000		
	2028	75,000					75,000		

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Croatian Red Cross** is one of the oldest humanitarian organizations in Croatia, with a rich history dating back to its establishment in 1878. The Croatian Red Cross was founded with the aim of providing humanitarian assistance and support to those in need, particularly during times of conflict and disaster. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1993.

The Croatian Red Cross has a long history of responding to crises, from assisting the wounded during World War I to supporting refugees and displaced persons during the Croatian War of Independence in the 1990s.

Today, the Croatian Red Cross operates as an auxiliary to public authorities, working closely with government agencies and partners to deliver emergency relief, healthcare, shelter and food assistance. With its extensive network of strong partnerships, 11,432 volunteers and 2,026 staff across 132

branches and local units, the Croatian Red Cross remains a key humanitarian actor, committed to supporting vulnerable communities and strengthening resilience across Croatia.

Based on its Strategic Plan (2023–2027), which is aligned with the IFRC Strategy 2030, the National Society is focused on:

- Protection of the dignity of the people in vulnerable situations
- Response to climate and demographic changes
- Establishment of a more coherent system and ensuring financial stability

In 2024, the Croatian Red Cross reached more than 600,000 people by long term services and development programmes, and 18,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the branches of the Croatian Red Cross

*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

Croatia is in Southeast Europe along the eastern Adriatic coast, sharing borders with Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro. The country spans approximately 56,594 square kilometers and features diverse geography, including coastal plains, river valleys, rolling hills and the Dinaric Alps. Its coastline stretches over 1,700 kilometers, making tourism a key economic sector.

Croatia has been a member of the European Union (EU) since 2013 and enjoys political stability. The country faces significant demographic challenges, including depopulation and an ageing population. Over the past decade, Croatia has lost nearly 400,000 residents, and projections indicate a further 19 per cent population decline over the next 30 years. By 2050, people aged 65 and above could represent 30 per cent of the population. These trends are driving labour shortages in critical sectors such as tourism, construction, healthcare and information and communication technology (ICT). To address this, Croatia introduced major immigration law reforms in March 2025, extending EU Blue Card validity and simplifying work and residence conditions for foreign workers, while enforcing stricter employer compliance to prevent exploitation.

Economic disparities remain evident, with poverty affecting both urban and rural areas, particularly vulnerable groups, older people living alone and low-income families. Croatia's reliance on food imports contributes to rising costs, impacting food security for vulnerable households. The latest estimates place the poverty rate at around 30 per cent, underscoring the need for targeted social support.

Climate change poses growing risks to Croatia's economy and population. The country is increasingly affected by wildfires, floods, droughts and heatwaves, which disrupt agriculture and tourism. Strengthening resilience and disaster preparedness is critical to mitigate these impacts. Croatia also lies on the Balkan migration route, experiencing transit movements and emigration pressures that further strain its labour force and demographic stability.

The ongoing international armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine has had indirect effects on Croatia, including hosting displaced people. As of late 2024, Croatia had granted Temporary Protection Status to over 29,000 people displaced from Ukraine, providing access to healthcare, education, accommodation and employment opportunities as well as social rights and assistance. While humanitarian needs for these populations persist, Croatia continues to integrate long-term planning to ensure sustainable support.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

Croatia's extensive Adriatic coastline and numerous inhabited islands make it highly vulnerable to rising sea levels and warming temperatures. Coastal regions face increasing risks of flooding and erosion, while inland areas experience more frequent extreme weather events, including wildfires, thunderstorms and flash floods. These hazards threaten agriculture, tourism and infrastructure, with cascading effects on food security and livelihoods.

The country is already witnessing seasonal flooding, prolonged droughts and heatwaves, alongside rising temperatures and shifting precipitation patterns. These trends amplify risks such as water scarcity, crop failure and health impacts, particularly for vulnerable groups such as older people and those with limited economic means. Mountainous regions are prone to landslides and flash floods, adding to the complexity of disaster management.

Air pollution remains a significant public health concern, primarily due to particulate matter from traffic emissions in urban areas. Environmental challenges also include illegal disposal of hazardous waste, which poses risks to ecosystems and human health.

To address climate change, Croatia has committed to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 and phasing out coal by 2033. The National Energy and Climate Plan targets a 36.4 per cent share of renewable energy by 2030, with major investments planned in hydropower, wind, solar and hydrogen energy. Complementary strategies, such as the Environmental Protection Act, Nature Protection Strategy and Waste Management Plan (2023–2028), aim to strengthen environmental governance and sustainability.

Despite these efforts, climate-related hazards continue to pose significant socio-economic and health challenges. Strengthening resilience, improving disaster preparedness and expanding green infrastructure remain critical priorities for Croatia's sustainable future.

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

The Croatian Red Cross signed the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations in October 2021 and aims to implement the goals by adopting documents and practices that will contribute to the mitigation and prevention.

The goals to handle the climate and environmental crises include prevention and adaptation activities of the Croatian Red Cross. These measures aim to:

- Address the climate and environmental crises through both prevention and adaptation activities
- Educate public to raise awareness and equip them with practical knowledge on reducing carbon footprints and contribute to environmental preservation in everyday life
- Empower groups in most vulnerable situations for them to better respond to both foreseeable and unexpected climate-related events
- Develop and enhance volunteering programmes focused on environmental protection and nature conservation
- Create a range of educational and awareness-raising materials as part of the ongoing 'The Green Frame' initiative designed to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and promote the importance of environmental stewardship
- Continue implementing ecological activities in coastal areas to raise awareness on the importance of protecting the Adriatic Sea
- Organize collecting of waste from the seabed and coastal environment
- Include picture books, video games, mobile applications, educational videos and manuals for use in schools and kindergartens
- Launch targeted promotional campaigns and local youth-led volunteer actions focused on ecological initiatives

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Raise awareness and build resilience across all age groups regarding climate and environmental crises
- Integrate climate and environmental education into both formal and informal settings, including schools, youth clubs and volunteer training
- Organize volunteer actions through educational systems and local branches to support environmental initiatives
- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders at local and national levels to promote ecological actions and influence policy development
- Continuously equip branches with resources and tools adapted to address climate risks effectively and expand programme activities of 'The Green Frame' initiative
- Develop and distribute informative educational materials, both online and in print, to raise awareness among

citizens about preventing the health impacts of extreme temperatures

- Integrate [eco-friendly practices](#) and climate resilience into all ongoing and future programmes to advance the greening of the National Society
- Continue the implementation of 'Red Cross in the Blue Framework' that includes physical clean-up activities of the environment, the seabed and coastal areas and 'Marine Environment Protection' workshops
- Continue the implementation of 'Diving for a Clean Adriatic' - collecting waste from the seabed in cooperation with the public institutions managing the national parks of Brijuni, Kornati and Mljet islands, and the nature parks of Telascica, Lastovo and the Elafiti Islands

- Develop contingency planning to ensure the preparedness to respond effectively and promptly in the event of an emergency

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue providing strategic support, technical expertise and support in resource mobilization and capacity building support for climate resilience and preparedness. The IFRC will support the Croatian Red Cross through access to [IFRC Reference Centres](#), as well as IFRC Hubs and Labs, fostering innovation, experimentation, learning, knowledge sharing and providing valuable networking opportunities.



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## Disasters and crises

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

Croatia, located in Southeast Europe along the Adriatic Sea, is [highly exposed](#) to natural hazards due to its diverse geography and changing climate. Earthquakes remain a significant risk, as seen in the 2020 Petrinja earthquake, which caused extensive damage and displacement. Seasonal flooding continues to affect areas along major rivers such as the Sava and Drava, although early warning systems and mitigation measures help reduce impacts.

Wildfires are increasingly common during hot, dry summers, particularly in coastal and forested regions. By mid-2025, Croatia faced a surge in wildfires across Dalmatia, burning approximately [300 hectares](#) of pine forest, shrubland and low vegetation. In addition, strong storms and other extreme weather events—often linked to climate change—are occurring with greater frequency and intensity, posing growing challenges for communities and critical sectors.

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

- Strengthen its preparedness and response capacities for potential crisis situations by implementing educational programmes for citizens, public institutions and private companies to improve their readiness for emergencies
- Strengthen crisis management teams within branches through ongoing training and enhance the readiness and capacities of operational forces by participating in exercises at county, national and international levels, both within the National Society and in collaboration with other emergency response services

- Improve mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) programmes in response to crisis events
- Strengthen horizontal integration with other National Societies, particularly through the '[Neighbours Help First](#)' Network

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Raise awareness and build resilience among all age groups regarding disaster and crisis events through education programmes in schools, youth clubs and volunteer training
- Collaborate with all relevant stakeholders at local and national levels, including civil protection systems and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and strengthen influence on decision-makers to develop effective policies for [crisis preparedness](#) and response
- Conduct specialized training for water search and rescue teams, [first aid](#), MHPSS, food preparation and distribution, youth field units in crisis and related areas such as Restoring Family Links ([RFL](#)) and protection
- Implement activities outlined in the Preparedness for Effective Response ([PER](#)) plan to build a more resilient and adaptive system capable of addressing the increasing risks posed by the climate crisis and complex challenges
- Establish risk assessment and management processes, including further development of already existing crisis funds and a recovery crisis fund
- Develop the logistics capacity of smaller local branches tailored to their specific needs (e.g., smaller warehouses or distribution points)

- Expand the training ground or exercise area for operational forces equipped with technical equipment used in crisis situations
- Continue equipping operational forces with the necessary technical tools, personal equipment, clothes and resources for effective crisis response
- Develop the information management (IT) system and establish the emergency centre to strengthen its capacity to respond effectively to emergencies

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Croatian Red Cross by enhancing local capacities through volunteer training and the promotion of community-based initiatives aimed at increasing resilience and preparedness for future disasters. In partnership with the National Society, the IFRC will work to strengthen local institutions, promote disaster risk reduction measures and advocate for policies that prioritize preparedness and mitigation, thereby contributing to long-term sustainable development.



## Health and wellbeing

Croatia's health system has broadly adequate resources, but accessibility is hindered by geographical challenges and long waiting times. Chronic non-communicable diseases remain the leading health burden, accounting for 93 per cent of all deaths. Cardiovascular diseases, cancers, injuries and mental health disorders represent the highest incidence rates, highlighting persistent gaps in healthcare delivery.

Mental health concerns are growing, particularly among young people. A 2024 study revealed that 41.4 per cent of health sciences students exhibited at least mild depressive symptoms, with higher rates among women, early-year students and those with lower financial security. This is compounded by a shortage of health and mental health professionals, driven by significant migration of healthcare workers abroad.

An ageing population adds further strain, with limited access to palliative care and insufficient specialized institutions. Home-based care services, such as those under the 'Zaželi' programme, face long waiting lists. Air pollution remains a major public health issue, contributing to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, including asthma and heart conditions.

The government prioritizes preventive health measures, notably through the Three-Year Mandatory Vaccination Programme (2025–2027), which covers diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, tuberculosis, hepatitis B and pneumococcal infections. The National Health Development Plan (2021–2027), aligned with Croatia's National Development Strategy 2030, focuses on improving healthcare outcomes under the strategic goal of 'Healthy, Active and Quality Life'.

Croatia's mass immunization programme has successfully suppressed most vaccine-preventable diseases, with minimal reported cases in recent years.

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

The Croatian Red Cross contributes to healthcare resilience with participating in collecting blood units from the blood donors. 163,177 blood units were collected by the National

Society in 2025 which is 103 per cent of the plan. In line with this, the objectives of the Croatian Red Cross are to:

- Support initiatives aimed at promoting both physical and mental health at the individual and community levels, with the goal of increasing the number of citizens participating in prevention and health promotion activities
- Implement and expand educational and preventive programmes, with a special emphasis on strengthening the capacities of children and youth
- Promote voluntary blood donation among population especially focusing on women and youth
- Mainstream mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) across all programmes, aiming to de-stigmatize mental health and provide comprehensive support to the people in most vulnerable situations in the community during both emergencies and periods of peace
- Develop and implement programmes focused on building psychological resilience, resulting in improved mental health services and community resilience initiatives
- Provide psychoeducation through informational leaflets, online resources and other media platforms
- Continue conducting programmes aimed at different vulnerable groups with a special focus on preventing the institutionalization through providing services to older people living in their homes
- Continue promoting development and strengthening of the capacities of local branches for the implementation of social programmes and the provision of non-institutional forms of care for older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups with the aim to further improve the accessibility, quality and sustainability of community-based social services and to ensure support for individuals at risk of social exclusion
- Implement first aid education in all educational institutions and organize first aid training for drivers and workplace first aid training

- Conduct training sessions for staff and volunteers to equip them with the skills needed to carry out these programmes effectively

MHPSS preparedness through information, education and communication (IEC) materials and targeted training

- Support local branches in developing social services, including programmes for active and healthy ageing, supported and organized housing for older persons and persons with disabilities, as well as support programmes for informal caregivers
- Advance and strengthen the staff and volunteer care programme through policy development, comprehensive training and effective implementation and monitoring

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Provide free first aid training for all citizen groups and disseminate new educational materials tailored to 12 different categories, including drivers, sports clubs, members of civil protection and army, hunters, parents and teachers
- Implement the digitalization of the blood donation process, including the analysis of statistical data and management of the blood donor database
- Implement stroke prevention initiatives for women through 'Red Dress Day' and conduct awareness-raising activities for men focusing on cancer and mental health issues
- Provide medical equipment for palliative care as well as for all other persons in need of medical and orthopaedic equipment on a loan basis to ensure timely and adequate support for patients
- Develop a network of regional MHPSS focal points within Croatia
- Develop and implement psychological crisis interventions for operational forces and other people at risk by establishing frameworks, conducting training and creating Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) and enhancing

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Croatian Red Cross in advancing community health programmes and promoting health education. This support will include training volunteers and implementing outreach initiatives to address specific community health needs.

Furthermore, the IFRC will support the National Society in strengthening health emergency preparedness and response. It will work on enhancing the capacity of local health teams, promoting early warning systems for disease outbreaks ensuring an effective and timely response during health crises. The IFRC will also focus on promoting disease prevention and control by supporting vaccination campaigns, encouraging hygiene practices and strengthening disease surveillance systems to safeguard public health. All these activities aim to enhance the population's health literacy.



Croatian Red Cross teams providing assistance during winter period in remote areas. (Photo: Croatian Red Cross)



According to Ministry of the Interior figures for 2025, a total of 9,425 people expressed the intention to apply for international protection in Croatia from 1 January to 20 September 2025. That is 51.26 per cent fewer than in the same period last year, when 19,337 persons were recorded. A decline was also recorded in the number of illegal border crossings.

The implementation of the [EU Pact on Migration and Asylum](#) is scheduled to begin in mid-2026 after a two-year transition period following its adoption in June 2024. This will require Croatia to expand reception capacity, update national procedures, strengthen cooperation with EU partners and address increased pressure on resources and legal frameworks.

Historically a country of emigration, Croatia is gradually becoming a destination for migrants. In 2022, Croatia recorded a positive migration rate for the first time since 2008, largely due to labour market liberalization and simplified work permit processes for third-country nationals.

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

The Croatian Red Cross 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.

The Croatian Red Cross supports work of two reception centres in Croatia with initial needs assessment and accommodation, identification of groups in vulnerable situations and providing mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)), social activities, distribution of humanitarian aid and restoring family links ([RFL](#)).

As its high-level objectives, the National Society aims to respond effectively to a diverse range of evolving crises through its aim to:

- Continue fulfilling its mandate in accordance with the [Fundamental Principles](#) of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its relevant strategies and policies, with a strong focus on reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience among migrant populations
- Provide humanitarian assistance and services, including [MHPSS](#) and [RFL](#) services in government run reception and detention centres to all categories of migrants in Croatia

- Provide [shelter](#) and [PSS](#) to migrants identified as victims of human trafficking and enable them to access legal, medical, education, labour and social services
- Implement activities aimed at protecting and assisting migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, while raising awareness in local communities and facilitating contact and support to aid the integration process
- Continue to organize workshops and social activities in reception centres to foster inclusion and community engagement

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Finalize the Asylum and Migration Fund (AMIF) funded project 'Social Services and Psychosocial Support for Asylum Seekers' (since 2017, third AMIF project ongoing), and apply for a new three-year project
- Further strengthen National Society capacity in migration response, RFL and MHPSS ensuring readiness and impactful engagement
- Continue [RFL](#) and [MHPSS](#) project for detained migrants, reinforcing psychosocial interventions and family tracing services in detention settings
- Build the capacities of staff designated for the new reception centre through targeted training on RFL, working with groups in vulnerable situations, such as migrant people, identification of human trafficking and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV)

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue providing technical expertise, resource mobilization and capacity building, enabling the Croatian Red Cross to provide essential services such as emergency relief, access to healthcare, psychosocial support, and assistance with integration and social inclusion. The IFRC will also support the National Society in promoting awareness, fostering community engagement, and advancing advocacy efforts to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced populations. In line with the Integration and Inclusion Framework plans developed by the Croatian Red Cross, the IFRC will provide guidance, technical expertise and resources to support the implementation of inclusive programmes that promote protection and gender equality.

The **Swiss Red Cross** provides funds (2025–2026) to the National Society to build its capacity in migration response, RFL and MHPSS and to implement these programmes.



## Values, power and inclusion

Croatia faces several challenges related to protection, gender equality, inclusion, education, youth and community engagement. The government has introduced key strategies to promote equality and social inclusion, including the [National Plan for Gender Equality \(until 2027\)](#), which prioritizes preventing violence against women and improving women's participation in the labour market. Similarly, the [National Plan for Roma Inclusion \(2021–2027\)](#) seeks to enhance the position of Roma population. Despite anti-discrimination laws and action plans, issues such as exploitation of migrant workers and gaps in social benefits remain pressing concerns. In late 2024, [demographic revitalization measures](#) were announced to create a supportive environment for families and youth and encourage balanced population mobility.

Croatia is classified as a Tier 2 country for [human trafficking](#), serving as a source, transit and destination for victims of forced labour and sexual exploitation.

Government strategies aim to strengthen education, youth participation and community engagement. The National Strategy for Education, Science and Technology, promotes lifelong learning, while the National Youth Strategy focuses on empowerment and well-being. Protection efforts include the National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, alongside initiatives to promote gender equality and Roma inclusion. Additional frameworks, such as the [Law on Associations](#) and local democracy strategies, support civil society engagement and accountability, contributing to a more inclusive and participatory environment.

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

The Croatian Red Cross aims to create an inclusive society that upholds human rights, promotes gender equality and embraces diversity through advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity-building and collaboration with public authorities and non-governmental partners while actively engaging in community-based initiatives to address the root causes of exclusion and promote social cohesion. The National Society will achieve this through its objectives to:

- Ensure the protection, empowerment and full inclusion of people in vulnerable situations by addressing issues of

violence, discrimination and exclusion across dimensions such as gender, ethnicity, disability and age

- Promote an inclusive society that upholds human rights, advances gender equality and embraces diversity through advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity-building and collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners, while actively engaging in community-based initiatives to address the root causes of exclusion and strengthen social cohesion

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### Planned activities in 2026

- Strengthen the capacity of staff and volunteers on [child protection](#) and protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment ([PSEAH](#)) and [safeguarding](#) for staff, volunteers and beneficiaries
- Continue implementing the protection and assistance programme for adult victims of trafficking in human beings
- Deliver human values education in both formal education systems and informal settings such as youth clubs
- Provide financial support to teachers delivering human values education within the formal education

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide technical expertise, guidance and resources to support the Croatian Red Cross in implementing programmes and initiatives that promote inclusivity, respect for diversity and the empowerment of groups in vulnerable situations. This will include assistance in developing and applying [policies and practices](#) that uphold human rights, gender equality and social inclusion. The IFRC will also facilitate knowledge exchange and learning platforms, enabling the National Society to benefit from best practices and experiences of other National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. By promoting [inclusion](#), challenging power dynamics and advocating for the rights of marginalized groups, the Croatian Red Cross, with the ongoing support of the IFRC, will contribute to building a more equitable and inclusive society in Croatia.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Croatian Red Cross is committed to the [Preparedness for Effective Response \(PER\)](#) process and is at the work-plan phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that

enables National Societies to assess, measure and 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

- Strengthen strategic partnerships and ensure active representation in global and regional groups and networks, particularly the 'Neighbours Help First' network
- Develop bilateral and multilateral relationships and enhance collaboration with national and local organizations, including public authorities, civil society and particularly the private sector
- Increase visits to and from other National Societies and organizations for exchanging good practices and knowhow at different levels, as well as to initiate joint activities and projects

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

The IFRC will provide technical expertise, guidance and resources to assist the Croatian Red Cross in developing and

implementing strategic plans and operational frameworks. This will include support in identifying priority areas, setting strategic objectives and designing programmes that align with the National Society's mandate and the needs of the communities it serves.

The support provided by the IFRC will help the Croatian Red Cross enhance its ability to mobilize resources, manage volunteers, coordinate with relevant actors and effectively respond to emergencies and crises. The IFRC will also support capacity-building initiatives to strengthen the National Society's [coordination mechanisms](#). This may involve training programmes, workshops and knowledge-sharing platforms focused on enhancing the skills and competencies of staff and volunteers in strategic and operational coordination.

Furthermore, the IFRC will facilitate collaboration and partnerships among different stakeholders, including government entities, local organizations and other National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



### National Society development

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

- Establish a more coherent system throughout its organizational structure and ensure financial stability
- Enhance compliance of both internal and external processes within the National Society, strengthening horizontal and vertical coordination across all levels and diversifying financial resources to ensure long-term financial stability
- Create a structured pathway to retain young volunteers by providing standardized training programmes and building sustainable training infrastructure, equipping them for effective crisis response

- Empower the next generation of crisis responders by establishing Youth Response Units and sharing this model with the Neighbours Help First Network, equipping young people with essential skills for effective emergency response
- Develop a comprehensive digital architecture and deliver the first functional module covering membership, employees and loyalty programme, followed by the rollout of the volunteer's module

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

The IFRC will continue supporting the Croatian Red Cross in advancing its National Society development, including strategic planning, capacity building and programme implementation.

The IFRC will contribute to the work of local branches and ensure representation of at least two Croatian Red Cross representatives in youth and volunteer networks to effectively address current challenges and remain aligned with evolving trends.

The IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF) supports initiatives to empower young crisis responders by creating Youth Response Units and addressing declining youth volunteer engagement by establishing retention pathways, including standardized training and sustainable infrastructure to equip volunteers for effective emergency responses.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Advocate and engage in humanitarian diplomacy to clarify its auxiliary role through systematic and proactive consultation and collaboration with government institutions, international and non-governmental organizations, the corporate sector, diplomatic services and key partners to influence policies
- Enhance visibility and recognition as a valued and sought-after international partner and effectively communicate important messages to the public and decision-makers
- Participate in decision-making processes on local, national and international levels and leverage resources to support the communities and assist other National Societies
- Develop a comprehensive social media strategy to effectively communicate key messages, create visual content, design specialized campaigns for various stakeholders (including local and national authorities and

partner organizations) and establish protocols for digital distribution, secure storage and archiving of content on a shared cloud platform

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will give access to guidance, training and resources to build the capacity of in humanitarian diplomacy, including effective communication, negotiation and coordination with relevant stakeholders. Through ongoing collaboration, Movement partners help the Croatian Red Cross to effectively represent the needs and concerns of vulnerable populations, foster partnerships with government entities and international organizations, and contribute to shaping humanitarian policies and practices at the national and international levels.



Croatian Red Cross volunteers preparing to support displaced persons from Ukraine in a reception centre. (Photo: Croatian Red Cross)



## 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
- Implement the Strategy for Human Resources Management 2025-2030 and intensify the activities focused on attracting, developing and retaining skilled personnel, enhancing workforce capacity and ensuring management of human resources to support its goals and mission

- Develop and establish a systematic risk management tool to support ongoing risk monitoring and mitigation

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the efforts of the Croatian Red Cross to enhance transparency, [integrity](#) and responsible governance within the organization. This includes guidance, training and resources to strengthen the capacity of the Croatian Red Cross in financial management as well as PMER. Additionally, the IFRC will assist in building the National Society's adaptive capacity, enabling it to respond effectively to evolving humanitarian challenges.

Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society in strengthening its risk management approach and further developing a systematic risk management tool.

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## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

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

The IFRC provides various types of support to the Croatian Red Cross, 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 Croatian Red Cross operations through emergency appeals and the [Disaster Relief Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#), including [earthquake operations](#) and assistance to people affected by the [international armed conflict](#) between Russia and Ukraine.

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### IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity

of humanitarian action, links with development assistance and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Croatian Red Cross will complete the implementation of the **Swiss Red Cross**-funded project (2025–2026) to build National Society capacity in migration response, Restoring Family Links ([RFL](#)) and MHPSS ensuring readiness and impactful engagement.

## Movement coordination

The Croatian Red Cross 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. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

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The ICRC supports the Croatian Red Cross in advocating for international humanitarian law (IHL) and the National Society's RFL services. The Croatian Red Cross maintains regular communication and coordination with the ICRC through the ICRC office in Belgrade.

## Coordination with other actors

The Croatian Red Cross collaborates with public authorities at national and sub-national levels through coordination mechanisms led by relevant ministries and agencies. As one of the operational forces within the Civil Protection system of the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian Red Cross actively participates in assessments, first response activities and registration processes during disasters, showcasing its [auxiliary role](#). The National Society also forms partnerships with ministries and departments for longer-term work, addressing areas such as health, social welfare, education and civil protection.

The Croatian Red Cross, along with the IFRC and other network partners, engages in inter-agency coordination mechanisms,

sectoral clusters and working groups whenever such setups are established. In cases relevant to [shelter assistance](#), it may contribute to [Shelter Cluster](#) coordination.

The National Society builds partnerships with international actors including United Nations (UN) agencies, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and embassies, facilitating knowledge exchange and resource mobilization. Additionally, it collaborates with national and local actors including the private sector, academic institutions and NGOs, leveraging diverse expertise and resources for resilience-building and community development.



**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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