



POLAND

2024-2025 IFRC network country plan

18 July 2024

Multi - Year Funding Requirement **CHF 14.83M**

In support of the Polish Red Cross



171

National Society branches



5,348

National Society staff



43,246

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



4.4M

Ongoing emergency operations



44,000

Climate and environment



3M

Disasters and crises



1.3M

Health and wellbeing



33,000

Migration and displacement



15,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Population movement crisis

Longer term needs

- Disaster preparedness
- Climate change adaptation

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
- National Society development

Key country data

Population **37.6M**

INFORM Severity rating **Medium**

INFORM Climate Risk Index **Very low**

Human Development Index rank **34**

Population below poverty level **11.8%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Ukraine, Moldova, Poland, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia- Warsaw, Poland

Funding requirements

2024

2025**

Total 14.78M CHF

Total 0.05M CHF

Through the IFRC



Through Participating National Societies

56,000 CHF

**Projected funding requirements

Through Participating National Societies



IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

275,000 CHF
Climate & environment

1.9M CHF
Disasters and crises

1.8M CHF
Health & wellbeing

1.9M CHF
Migration & displacement

1.20M CHF
Values, power & inclusion

1.5M CHF
Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

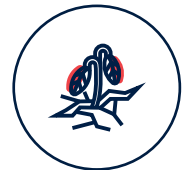
- American Red Cross*
- Australian Red Cross*
- British Red Cross*
- Canadian Red Cross Society*
- Danish Red Cross*
- Finnish Red Cross*
- German Red Cross
- Red Cross of Monaco*
- The Netherlands Red Cross*
- Norwegian Red Cross*
- Spanish Red Cross
- Swedish Red Cross*

*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.

Hazards



Heat waves



Droughts



Floods



Food insecurity



Population movement

IFRC Appeal codes

Ongoing emergency response:

MGR65002

Longer-term needs:

MAAPL001

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Polish Red Cross** was established after regaining independence in 1919 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) also in 1919. and has continuously worked on the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Restoring Family Links (RFL) and tracing services, voluntary blood donation, social care and assistance to vulnerable groups, health, environmental sustainability promotion, first aid training, education programmes, and provision of humanitarian assistance in crises and disasters domestically and abroad. The Polish Red Cross has 16 regional and 171 local branches, and it has been running various programmes, including blood donors' clubs, sisters' clubs, rescue teams and youth clubs, for which it became known countrywide. The Polish Red Cross positioned itself among the leading actors responding to the refugee crisis by providing humanitarian assistance to migrants arriving from Belarus starting in October 2021 and afterwards from Ukraine, beginning in February 2022, the latest following

the resurgence of hostilities between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

By 2022, the National Society reached 177,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes, and 122 people by disaster response and early recovery programmes over time. In September 2022, the National Convention of the Polish Red Cross adopted the National Society's Strategic Development Plan 2021–2030, with the following three strategic goals:

- Readiness to act in times of crises by capacity building of the Polish Red Cross to react quickly and provide help on a large scale
- Undertake health and prevention activities to respond to the health challenges through mobilizing partners and developing new and efficient response mechanisms
- Ensure active participation of communities to bridge social inequalities, especially focusing on children, elderly, and other vulnerable and marginalized groups

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Poland, the largest economy in Central Europe, has demonstrated resilience within the European Union (EU) since joining in 2004. Despite a minor GDP contraction of 2% in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, its diverse economy rebounded robustly. Long-term growth and poverty reduction strategies rely on a solid macroeconomic framework, effective use of EU investment funds, improved access to credit, and integration with European labour markets. Although the pandemic disrupted progress in raising living standards, poverty reduction resumed in 2021, with support programmes mitigating household income and employment impacts. However, self-employed, and lower-wage workers faced challenges.

Poland faces EU scrutiny over the rule-of-law issues, resulting in significant fines. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine led to increased inflation and higher prices for essentials, with Poland hosting 1.6 million displaced Ukrainians seeking temporary protection. Out of this number, as of October 2023, 959,875 individuals have registered and obtained active Powszechny Elektroniczny System Ewidencji Ludności (PESEL) numbers, necessary for benefiting from governmental social protection schemes, either already existing or new ones. Despite initial solidarity, support for Ukrainian refugees has waned recently.

Poland operates as a bicameral parliamentary democracy, with recent elections held in October 2023. The government's stance on military aid and domestic assistance remains uncertain.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Emergency Operation	Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis
Appeal number	MGR65002
Duration	until December 2025
People to be assisted	Poland: 22.7 M (total); 1.26 M (in Poland)
Funding requirement	Total: CHF 800 M (IFRC); CHF 2.7 billion (Federation-wide) Poland: CHF 119 M (IFRC); CHF 170 M (Federation-wide)
Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Operational Strategy	Revised Operational Strategy Poland Response Plan
Last operation update	Operation Update No.9

The international armed conflict in Ukraine continues, inflicting a devastating toll on the lives of people. The protracted crisis has resulted in massive civilian casualties, severe harm to critical infrastructure and livelihoods, and widespread displacement from front-line communities, leading to an alarming escalation in humanitarian needs, inside and outside of Ukraine. Millions of people have crossed borders from Ukraine into neighbouring countries and beyond. Most of these individuals have been displaced for nearly two years, and the gaps in meeting their needs are still increasing. Displaced people from Ukraine still require safety, assistance, and critical protection to lead dignified lives and restore their wellbeing and livelihoods.

First launched in February 2022, the IFRC Emergency Appeal was revised in May 2023, in support of the work of 18 National Societies including the Polish Red Cross who are responding to the crisis. The revised Emergency Appeal presents a substantial increase in people targeted, funding requirement and geographical coverage, to support the National Societies in assisting people in Ukraine and other impacted countries affected by the crisis. It also represents a shift in response from an emergency phase to a protracted crisis scenario, while recognizing the need to remain agile and proactive in what continues to be a highly dynamic environment.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

As of October 2023, 1.6 million refugees from Ukraine have registered for temporary protection in Poland, and 958,120 individuals have active registration for temporary protection with a PESEL number. The National Society cooperated with more than 300 corporate partners in 2022 and collected in-kind

donations that were either sent to Ukraine or distributed to Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Through this revised emergency appeal, the Polish Red Cross is providing targeted assistance to about 1.2 million people. Interventions consist of:

Health and care including water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

Training in [first aid](#), [psychological first aid](#), case findings, management, referrals, COVID-19, and other epidemics prevention, Strengthening the capacity of staff and volunteers through training on mental health and psychosocial support services ([MHPSS](#)), provision of menstrual hygiene management awareness sessions while distributing kits and on campaigns.

Shelter, housing, and settlements, multi-purpose cash

Prepositioning and distribution of household items (blankets, and winter items), equipment (sleeping kits and generators), and provision of rental assistance through conditional cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)).

Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), community engagement and accountability (CEA), migration

Develop a PGI strategy based on a PGI assessment, provision of menstrual hygiene management kits and health education sessions for people with special needs and/or facing higher levels of vulnerability (e.g., genetic syndromes, autism spectrum disorders, intellectual disability, ADHD, etc.). Ensure bidirectional communication, collaborative planning in all phases and participatory monitoring and evaluation, and setting up and running of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) in border crossing points and other gathering places for the provision of information and lifesaving services.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Poland's average temperature rose by just over 2°C from 1951-1960 to 2011-2020, significantly outpacing the world average increase over the past two decades. As the country's average temperature is expected to continue rising throughout the century, higher temperatures could considerably boost summer electricity demand while reducing thermal plants' efficiency and transmission lines' efficiency.

For sectors sensitive to the effects of climate change, including the energy sector, Poland's 2030 National Environmental Policy and the [Polish Strategic Adaptation Plan](#) identify concrete actions to improve climate resilience in the energy sector. In addition to launching a national adaptation strategy, Poland has also implemented regional initiatives. While the country's climate policies focus strongly on energy sector adaptation, energy policies such as the [Energy Policy of Poland until 2040](#) prioritize the energy system security and climate change mitigation by diversifying the energy mix and improving operational efficiency in emergencies. Although national energy policies broadly address climate change adaptation, [climate resilience is not directly prioritized](#).

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Define and adopt a climate change adaptation framework and policy for the Polish Red Cross' headquarters and branches to increase climate efficiency across the organization
- Integrate climate change adaptation into disaster risk prevention and management models



Disasters and crises

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

Natural hazards pose a significant threat to Poland, stemming from extreme weather events and social factors. From 2008 to 2019, they became the leading cause of population displacement, reflecting a global trend. [Europe](#), perceived as safer, is increasingly a migration destination. Meanwhile,

Planned activities in 2024

- Create digital tools to enable tracking of the carbon footprint of Polish Red Cross activities to sustain higher climate efficiency across the organization, both direct and indirect
- Implement an organization-wide [carbon footprint reduction plan](#), as per the study conducted using climate assessment and other tools
- Promote volunteer activities including youth clubs, aligned with the [European Green Deal](#)
- Promote private sector Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) priorities and enhance partnerships

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Polish Red Cross in enhancing green initiatives and carbon tracking efforts, positioning the broader Federation as an eco-conscious entity, helping in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Leveraging their community trust, the IFRC and the Polish Red Cross staff and volunteers, including youth, possess the expertise and resources to drive urgent action on climate and environmental challenges, prioritizing community-driven solutions and incorporating community input into programme decisions.

Additionally, the IFRC assists the Polish Red Cross in adopting and executing the regional roadmap for climate action, fostering collaboration with regional partners to raise awareness and focus on climate issues, utilizing the [Climate Charter](#) as a guiding framework. Moreover, the IFRC supports the Polish Red Cross in utilizing climate assessment outcomes to assess opportunities for expansion and future funding, while the **Spanish Red Cross** aids in carbon footprint assessment and tool implementation for the National Society.

Poland faces climate change-related risks like heat waves, droughts, and floods. Droughts, once rare, have become yearly events since 2013.

Despite these risks, Polish readiness for crises, including armed conflict and natural disasters, is low, with a third unsure about conflict response and nearly half uncertain about handling disasters like floods. The Polish crisis management

system, organized across five levels, has faced strain after major floods in 1997, 2001, and 2010.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Polish Red Cross aims to enhance its role in civil protection by better coordinating with existing stakeholders, expanding services, and adopting protracted crisis management models. This evolution is crucial given the changing crisis landscape and geopolitical tensions in neighboring regions. To achieve this, the National Society aims to:

- Increase the preparedness and readiness of all branches across the country
- Increase the prevention and preparedness of communities nationwide, designing localized tools and methodologies

Planned activities in 2024

- Operationalize and actively implement activities through Humanitarian Aid Groups
- Strengthen its auxiliary role in civil protection mechanisms and integration with rescue services
- Train, prepare, and equip rescue teams according to international search and rescue (SAR) standards to

provide immediate support to response operations in Poland and support to neighboring countries

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** and Polish Red Cross collaboratively enhance environmental management and climate change mitigation by integrating climate elements into community-based disaster risk management and response, utilizing assessments like the preparedness for emergency response (PER). They focus on cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to align assistance with standards and local capacities. Additionally, they develop tailored shelter solutions for medium-to-long-term housing needs and assist the National Society in meeting international SAR standards. The IFRC also supports the Polish Red Cross in gaining official recognition for their auxiliary role in disaster risk management and advocates for effective disaster-related laws and policies.

The **German Red Cross** supports the realization of training and equipment for the National Society's humanitarian aid groups in 11 targeted regions as well as in cash preparedness.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supports developing the rescue team sector as a first responder in case of emergencies in any part of the country. It also supports the Polish Red Cross in implementing a volunteer management system to be adapted to the humanitarian aid groups and rescue teams.



Health and wellbeing

In 2020, Poland's life expectancy stood at 76.6 years, four years below the EU average. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted life expectancy, causing a 1.4-year reduction between 2019 and 2020, one of the largest declines in the EU. Before the pandemic, leading causes of death included ischemic heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer, but COVID-19 became a major contributor to mortality in 2020. During the pandemic, workforce shortages emerged as a critical limitation in expanding healthcare capacity. Nearly half of all deaths in Poland result from behavioural factors like smoking, alcoholism, and physical inactivity. Obesity rates have been rising, with almost one-fifth of adults classified as obese, surpassing EU levels. While adult alcohol consumption has increased, smoking rates have declined among both adults and adolescents. However, the rise in youth e-cigarette use is a growing concern.

In the last decade, Poland's health spending has consistently remained below the EU average, with additional funding injected during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Public sources contribute approximately 72% to health spending, but high out-of-pocket expenses, mainly for outpatient medicines, constitute just over 20% of current health expenditure. Access

to mental health services faces challenges, with long waiting times and only 9 psychiatrists per 100,000 population. Mental health spending is limited to 3.7% of the national health budget. The government increased spending on child and adolescent mental health since 2018 to address the need, aligning with WHO's Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030. Ukrainians in Poland under temporary protection have access to state support, including health services, until March 2024. However, mental health barriers persist for Ukrainian refugees, with 1 in 10 reporting significant mental health issues. Discussions on the extension of temporary protection are ongoing, with uncertainty regarding future services and support.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Improved health and well-being of communities through increased awareness on health-related topics, collaboration with public and private institutions and activities in schools
- Promote and deliver mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for the Polish population and refugees

- Cooperate with schools and institutions dealing with health prevention educational programmes addressed to students, activate the National Society's youth movement, and support refugees from Ukraine under the [EU4 Health programme](#)
- Provide welfare services, including distribution of food parcels monthly for vulnerable categories identified by the Polish government based on their income to reach approximately 130,000 people per year
- Support vulnerable populations with home visits providing essential health services

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Polish Red Cross to capitalize on its auxiliary role to ensure its position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms. The IFRC works with the National Society to ensure that the health and dignity of communities and vulnerable people are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across their life course. This includes scaling up and institutionalizing community based and commercial first aid, and health and welfare models. It also includes strengthening the capacity of the Polish Red Cross to deliver community-based health education that complements the efforts of the public healthcare system.

The IFRC works with the Polish Red Cross to ensure communities at risk from [pandemics and epidemics](#) have increased access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable [water, sanitation, and hygiene \(WASH\)](#) services in emergency settings.

The **German Red Cross** provides financial support in the Blood Donation promotion by conducting nation-wide competition for women.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supports strengthening of the Polish Red Cross Youth Movement, implementing developments and procedures to engage and involve the youth in the current activities of the National Society between 2023-2025. The Spanish Red Cross is also working on the increase in number and involvement of blood donors in the country between 2024-2025.

Planned activities in 2024

- Capitalize on its auxiliary role to ensure its position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms
- Develop commercial health and welfare as well as [first aid](#) models to promote financial sustainability and accelerate their ability to sustain services
- Contribute to increased numbers of blood donors and fulfil the Ministry of Health (MoH) goal to reactivate the "Young Blood Saves Life" tournament and the "Fiery Rescuer-Hot Blood" Programme by organizing more blood donation campaigns
- Increase the number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donations
- Reduce the prevalence and impacts of non-communicable diseases through community-based approaches
- Support health authorities by promoting basic skills in providing premedical first aid
- Meet the MHPSS needs of communities, volunteers, and staff
- Promote healthy lifestyle by organizing the Healthy Lifestyle Olympics, covering wide and varied topics



Migration and displacement

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has resulted in civilian casualties and extensive damage to homes, public buildings, and critical infrastructure, prompting millions to seek refuge in neighbouring countries like Poland. As of October 10, 2023, over 15 million people have crossed into Poland, with more than 1.7 million registered as refugees. Humanitarian organizations and the government offer [various forms of aid](#), including protection, livelihood support, and cash assistance. Concerns have been raised about the [return of Ukrainian children](#) from foster care institutions, with some being sent back despite ongoing shelling in certain regions. NGOs advocate for family-based care for these children, but

Polish law prevents refugee children from being placed in such arrangements. Additionally, changes in refugee support schemes have led to some refugees leaving collective centers due to increased financial responsibilities. Despite reduced displacement, many individuals still cannot return to Ukraine, and local labour markets struggle to absorb them. Efforts are needed to address both immediate and long-term needs, focusing on socio-cultural integration and socio-economic support programmes in Poland to facilitate the well-being and integration of displaced individuals and vulnerable families. The government and humanitarian stakeholders are transitioning towards a two-fold approach, emphasizing

preparedness for new influxes, and promoting integration between displaced people and the host community.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Polish Red Cross implements a comprehensive strategy for support, tailored to the needs of displaced individuals and vulnerable families. This strategy, rooted in human rights principles, provides personalized services such as legal counseling, psychosocial support, and document translation to facilitate dignified lives in Poland. The Polish Red Cross promotes livelihood and employability initiatives to foster sustainability and strengthen community participation, aligning with the “Together We Can Do More” programme initiated by the Polish government. This programme focuses on professional activation and integration, reducing various barriers for displaced individuals and host communities. By adhering to the Red Cross Red Crescent integration framework and the triple nexus approach, the project aims to enhance well-being, protection, and peace through a holistic approach. To achieve its migration and displacement related goals, the National Society aims to:

- Engage with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to assess, understand, and respond to their priority needs more effectively
- Address the medium to long-term assistance and protection needs of migrants and displaced people through integration and social inclusion activities, and with consideration for host communities
- Provide socio-cultural integration and socio-economic support to displaced people and vulnerable families in Poland, fostering resilience and tending to the existing inequalities

Planned activities in 2024

- Implement integration programmes for the refugee population to facilitate their access to the job market
- Provide appropriate training, tools, and guidance to guide its staff and volunteers’ engagement in migration and displacement

- Undertake effective advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy, and partnership-building to support migrants and displaced people
- Support improving the personal well-being of displaced people and vulnerable categories within the host community by reducing social and economic barriers
- Establish partnerships and strengthen collaboration and synergy between different actors, allowing for a more effective and comprehensive intervention to benefit displaced persons
- Provide [restoring family link](#) services to displaced persons and refugees

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Polish Red Cross in enhancing its migration and displacement programming and capacity to ensure that migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at critical points along migratory routes and access to durable solutions when appropriate under its [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#). The IFRC works together with the National Society to ensure it engages with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to assess, understand and respond to their priorities more effectively. This includes mainstreaming [protection, gender, and inclusion \(PGI\)](#) and [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) minimum standards in its migration and displacement programming.

The **German Red Cross** supports Polish Red Cross in integration activities for Ukrainian refugees.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supports the National Society in employment activation centres in 6 locations. The project started in May 2022, and will be implemented and supported by the Spanish Red Cross until 31 October 2024. More than 5,000 people may participate in vocational training, essential and technical skills, Polish lessons, and support with translation of documents and CV writing/translation.

The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** supports Polish Red Cross with tracing services, mainly targeting the restoring family link services to migrants, including refugees.



In response to the escalation of armed conflict in Ukraine, the Humanitarian Aid Centre of the Polish Red Cross in Lublin became the main logistic hub to deliver humanitarian aid. (Photo: Polish Red Cross)



Values, power and inclusion

The status of women's rights and gender equality in Poland presents a complex picture, with lingering disparities despite some progress. While certain statistics appear promising, such as high endorsement of legal frameworks for gender equality and increased representation of women in parliament, deeper examination reveals persistent challenges. Domestic violence remains a critical issue, with alarming rates reported, and misconceptions about rape within marriage persist. Additionally, children and teenagers in Poland face various forms of violence and bullying, with limited access to mental health services exacerbating the situation.

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) highlighted several groups facing significant protection and socio-economic risks in Poland, including unaccompanied children, older persons, individuals with severe medical conditions, persons with disabilities, third-country nationals, and minority communities. According to statistics from the International Labour Organization (ILO), Poland has the highest disability rate among EU countries. Disabled individuals experience high poverty rates and educational disparities. Efforts to withdraw from conventions combating violence against women and domestic violence should be halted, and inclusive support services must be prioritized.

Despite economic growth, Poland grapples with rising extreme poverty, exacerbated by an aging population and digital exclusion among seniors. Human trafficking poses a significant concern, especially for single mothers and separated children, with poverty and family separation increasing vulnerability. However, accurate data on trafficking victims among Ukrainian refugees is lacking.

Comprehensive interventions are essential to address these challenges, including improving access to education, healthcare, legal support, anti-discrimination measures, social inclusion efforts, and economic opportunities for vulnerable groups.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Contribute to a positive change in communities through broader understanding, ownership, dissemination and application of fundamental principles and humanitarian

values, focusing primarily on young people's knowledge, skills, and behaviour

- Promote and support safe, equitable and continuous access to quality education for all, especially children affected by disaster, crisis, or displacement
- Be safe and inclusive, ensuring dignity, access, participation, and safety for people of all identities

Planned activities in 2024

- Support and strengthen its Youth Movement
- Establish strategic partnerships and innovative mechanisms for collaboration on humanitarian education with key actors (including education authorities)
- Adopt policies based on a comprehensive protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) approach across all operations, programmes, and services
- Ensure that all necessary institutional capacities, composition, and commitments are in place to address violence, discrimination, and exclusion

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Polish Red Cross to contribute to a positive change in communities by supporting all its activities, focusing primarily on young people's knowledge, skills, and behaviour. IFRC guides the National Society in developing the Youth Movement and youth activities in cooperation with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners.

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

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Polish Red Cross is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2018. The self-assessment is intended to capture

the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

The IFRC network is committed to support the National Society in its development, according to its priorities.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Due to the various crises over the last few years, the Polish Red Cross has realized the need to adapt and change its priorities of work and strategy, and the importance of increasing its visibility and reach. As such, it will play a more significant role in supporting the government and local organizations
- Establish diversified sources of income

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC is supporting the Polish Red Cross in its strategic direction and governance, and strengthening its partnerships with government, UN agencies, and other partners. Additionally, a resource mobilization strategy has been developed with IFRC support which will continue in reference to its implementation. The IFRC will also assist and accompany the Polish Red Cross in implementing a communication workplan based on the market study completed in 2023.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Update the existing legal base and statutes, and ensure they are approved by the governing board
- Build branch and volunteering capacity to continue delivering relevant community-based services by mobilizing well trained, competent, and skilled volunteers
- Roll out a branch organizational capacity assessment (BOCA) process in at least four branches
- Design and conduct branch fora where all district branches and headquarters convene on issues of shared importance
- Develop a culture of preparedness to enhance its position as a credible first responder in humanitarian crises

- Implement a youth policy that promotes the understanding of humanitarian values and norms

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Together with the ICRC, the IFRC provides technical support in the revision of the National Society's [statutes](#). The IFRC also supports the Polish Red Cross in adjusting existing volunteering management/development systems based on new programme needs. The IFRC supports the National Society in developing timely and appropriate support and advice in developing its branches.

The **Spanish Red Cross** assists in developing a volunteer management system and in establishing policies and procedures. The **German Red Cross** ensures sustainability of branch-based activities, including staffing and tools.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Undertake evidence-based humanitarian diplomacy, focusing on its work in migration, disaster response, and protection
- Strengthen its role in education on humanitarian values and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) through interactive training methods, developing educational materials and providing teaching expertise
- Clearly communicate priority needs of vulnerable population aiming to position the organization as relevant and respected.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the National Society in strengthening its capacity in humanitarian diplomacy. This will include undertaking evidence-based humanitarian diplomacy. The IFRC will support the Polish Red Cross in further developing and localizing humanitarian diplomacy and communications resources/toolkits for leadership and staff in and out of emergencies.

The work of the Polish Red Cross will be highlighted through traditional and social media, as well as the websites of the National Society and IFRC.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Implement a comprehensive human resources policy for employees and volunteers in the next three years
- Undertake transparent management of financial resources through financial reporting and audits
- Update the information and communications technology channels between headquarters and branches through better access to infrastructure and digital services, and train staff in handling data
- Improve data collection, reporting and internal communication, thereby allowing the leadership to make informed decisions

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** supports the Polish Red Cross in conducting monitoring and evaluation to ensure the quality of the organization's activities by enhancing its systems, processes, policies and training. The IFRC supports the National Society in analysing existing business practices, administration and finance procedures, the efficiency of existing financial management systems and establishing internal control and audit functions that will enable the management to access data and information needed to assess the risks on time.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supports digital transformation of the National Society through training of staff in data and digital systems, and training-of-trainers to implement digitalization in branches.



Specially trained Ukrainian refugees work in a call centre in Warsaw, Poland, run by the Polish Red Cross and the IFRC answering calls from other refugees and supporting them with information. (Photo: Polish Red Cross)

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has been present in Poland to support the Polish Red Cross through its Country Cluster Delegation since April 2022. Based in Warsaw, Poland, the delegation covers six countries comprising Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. The IFRC provides technical support in programming, community engagement and accountability (CEA); and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), as well as planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), information

management, human resources and other support service functions.

Its main objectives adapted to the context are to: (1) optimize support to National Societies responding to the Ukraine crisis; and (2) ensure National Societies within the cluster are better prepared to anticipate and respond to future disasters, thus requiring increased capacity and sustainability.

IFRC membership coordination

The 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.

Since February 2022, several participating National Societies have been supporting the Polish Red Cross. These include:

The **Spanish Red Cross** and the **German Red Cross** through their presence in country, support the National Society in cash and voucher assistance (CVA), emergency preparedness, volunteer management, management of members and blood donors, livelihood and employment projects, and National Society development.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
German Red Cross	4.6M		●	●	●		●
Spanish Red Cross	1.6M	●	●		●	●	●

Total Funding requirement

6.3M

Movement coordination

The Polish 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](#).

As of 2024, eight countries neighbouring Ukraine are covered by the ICRC's regional delegation based in Warsaw. The eight include Poland where the ICRC responds to the humanitarian needs triggered by the international armed conflict between

Russia and Ukraine. It does so by supporting the Polish Red Cross which helps families clarify the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones, and by supporting the work of ICRC teams in Ukraine and Russia. The ICRC also supports the Polish Red Cross in the dissemination of humanitarian principles and in strengthening its emergency preparedness and communications.

The ICRC's support to the Polish Red Cross focuses on [restoring family links](#) and National Society development by integrating the [Safer Access Framework](#) in existing structures and ongoing activities.

Coordination with other actors

The Polish Red Cross, through its network of branches, will collaborate closely with regional authorities to meet the expectations of local communities based on identified priorities and needs.

At the heart of civil protection mechanisms are relationships which the Polish Red Cross seeks to deepen its relationship with the Fire Service Department and relevant ministries, to

enhance coordination and response to emergencies and other events which affect the country.

The Polish Red Cross will maintain a high level of coordination with UN agencies and NGOs in the country for the specific purpose of responding to the refugee crisis. The National Society is committed to actively participating in sectoral and technical coordination groups to advocate for local communities and vulnerable populations.



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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
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This plan reflects the priorities of the Polish Red cross, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with [IFRC Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of 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.

Contact information

Polish Red Cross

<https://pck.pl/>

Stephane Michaud

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for
Ukraine, Moldova, Poland, Lithuania,
Estonia and Latvia
stephane.michaud@ifrc.org

Andrej Naricyn

Head of Strategic Partnerships
& Resource Mobilization
IFRC Regional Office for Europe,
Budapest
T +367 0430 6528
andrej.naricyn@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

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