



REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

2025 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 1M**

24 March 2025

In support of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia



33

National Society
branches



33

National Society
local units



216

National Society
staff



4,693

National Society
volunteers

People to be reached



3,000

Ongoing
emergency
operations



10,000

Climate and
environment



15,000

Disasters
and crises



110,000

Health and
wellbeing



25,000

Migration and
displacement



20,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Population movement

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 **83**

World Bank Population figure **1.8M**

World Bank Population below poverty line **21.8%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Central
and South-Eastern Europe, Sarajevo

Funding requirements

2025

Total 1,078,000 CHF



Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*
Austrian Red Cross
Italian Red Cross*
Swiss Red Cross

*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2024

IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

MGR65002 Ukraine and impacted countries crisis

Longer-term needs:

MAAMK003

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Austrian Red Cross	98,000		●	●		●	
Swiss Red Cross				●	●		

Total Funding requirement **CHF 98,000**

Hazards



Population movement



Extreme weather conditions



Fires



Earthquakes



Landslides



Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia actively supports transit camps, assisting with food, water, first aid, hygiene kits, baby supplies, clothing, and tracing services, while preparing heated mobile houses for the approaching winter. (Photo: Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia)

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

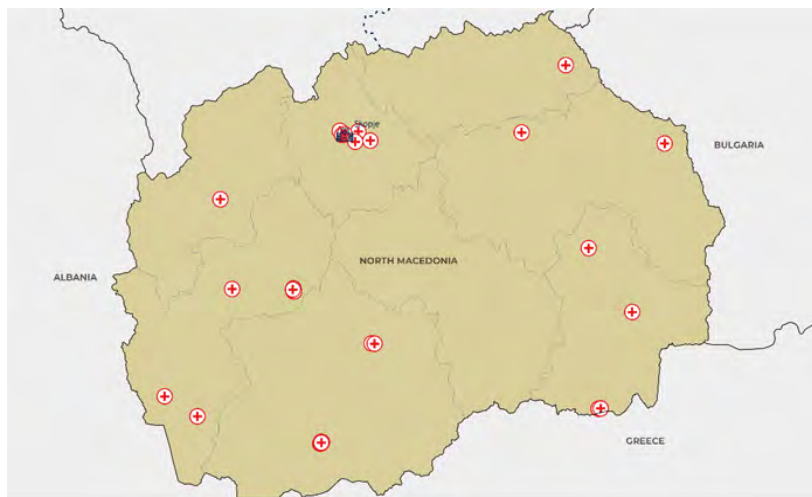
The **Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia** was founded in 1945 within the Democratic Federal Yugoslavia and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1995 in its current form. The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia performs an auxiliary role and supports the state authorities in carrying out various humanitarian tasks, according to the needs of the population.

The work of the National Society is regulated by a special law on the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia. The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia consists of 32 branches and the City Red Cross of Skopje. The role of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia is to nurture the power of humanity, to be where needed and to provide support for the various target groups of the population. In cooperation with institutions and partners, the National Society works on disease prevention, improving health and alleviating human suffering through its own programmes in the field of education, health and social care for the benefit of communities.

In line with its Strategic Plan 2030, the National Society focuses on three goals, which are to:

- Strengthen its ability to reduce risks, take early action and respond to crises by building strong local preparedness and response capacities and quickly recover from crises
- Empower communities to lead safe, healthy, dignified lives and have opportunities to progress by having more choices and control over their lives
- Promote inclusive and humanitarian approach to enable positive transformative actions and build peaceful communities

In 2023, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia reached 100,000 people by its long-term services and development programmes and around 1,000 people by its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the branches of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia

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

The Republic of North Macedonia, located in Southeast Europe, gained independence in 1991 as a successor state to Yugoslavia. A landlocked nation, it shares borders with Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Albania. The country's population stands at approximately [1.84 million](#) (2021 Census), with a population density of 78.7 people per square kilometre. Ethnically, 54.21 per cent identify as Macedonians, 29.52 per cent as Albanians, and smaller percentages as Turks, Roma, Serbs, Bosniaks and Vlachs. North Macedonia operates as a parliamentary republic with a medium-developed industrial base.

North Macedonia's economy, recovering from past shocks, faces moderate growth challenges. GDP growth was expected to stabilize between 2.1 per cent and three per cent in 2024, despite weaker trading partners and tighter financing conditions. Inflation, which peaked at nearly 20 per cent in 2022, declined to 6.6 per cent by [late 2023](#) and is projected to [ease further](#) to 2.3 per cent in 2025 due to central bank interventions. Climate change remains a key economic risk, with potential damages estimated at up to four per cent of GDP by 2050, necessitating significant investment in resilience.

North Macedonia is highly susceptible to climate change and natural hazards, including floods, droughts, earthquakes,

extreme temperatures, and forest fires. Flooding has been the most frequent and damaging hazard between [1990 and 2023](#), causing substantial impacts on public infrastructure and safety. These risks underline the need for enhanced climate adaptation and disaster management strategies.

The country continues to grapple with [gender disparities](#). Women face limited access to assets, markets and decision-making processes, with persistent gaps in wages and workforce participation. They are disproportionately affected by violence, abuse and exploitation, reflecting entrenched structural inequalities.

North Macedonia remains a key transit point on the [Balkan Route](#), used by migrants traveling to Western Europe. This has posed logistical and humanitarian challenges, necessitating effective coordination of resources and policies to address migration flows and their impacts on local communities.

North Macedonia's external position improved in 2023 due to reduced energy costs, and significant infrastructure projects aim to stimulate long-term growth. However, challenges remain in achieving fiscal stability, addressing climate vulnerabilities and fostering inclusive social and economic development. The focus on renewable energy, road development and economic diversification offers a pathway to resilience and sustainable growth.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information, see IFRC GO page [Ukraine and impacted countries crisis](#)

Emergency Operation	Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis
Appeal number	MGR65002
People affected	3000
Duration	February 2022 – December 2025
Funding requirement	CHF 70,000 (IFRC) for 2025
Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Link to Operational Strategy	Revised Operational Strategy North Macedonia Response Plan
Link to Operational Update	Operational Update No. 11

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has caused immense civilian suffering, extensive damage to infrastructure and mass displacement, creating escalating humanitarian needs both within Ukraine and in neighboring countries. Millions of displaced individuals, many uprooted for nearly two years, require safety, support and protection to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

The IFRC Emergency Appeal, initially launched in February 2022 and revised in May 2023, encompasses 18 National Societies, including the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia, expanding its scope, funding and geographic reach. The appeal addresses the transition from emergency response to managing a protracted crisis, while maintaining flexibility to adapt to the evolving situation.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia plays a critical role in the IFRC Emergency Appeal for the Ukraine Crisis, addressing the needs of [19,305 Ukrainian refugees](#) and aims to provide targeted assistance to 3,000 people in the country. The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia provides health services, mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)), and distributes hygiene and clothing vouchers, prioritizing vulnerable groups such as women with children, pregnant women, single parents, older people and those with health conditions. [Protection activities](#), including humanitarian

service points ([HSP](#)), child-friendly spaces and a new Gaming Hub for integration and creativity, will continue through 2025.

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia facilitates social integration through referrals to essential services, especially as most Ukrainian refugees lack free access to state-provided healthcare and MHPSS. The National Society also distributes basic relief items, financial aid and offers activities promoting social inclusion, such as extracurricular programmes and summer camps for children. Vulnerable groups identified for support include those facing financial constraints, health challenges, or caregiving responsibilities.

As part of its response, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia has enhanced its capacity for needs assessment, employing tools such as KoBo for data collection and registration. It has also developed expertise in cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)) and remains the sole provider of structured MHPSS and child-friendly spaces in North Macedonia. The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia has strengthened coordination with government institutions, including participating in meetings led by the Ministry of Interior to support Ukrainian refugees.

The **Swiss Red Cross** is supporting the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia in responding to the Ukraine crisis by assisting refugees, migrants, and individuals on the move, promoting local integration for those under international protection, and advancing the [Healthy Ageing Project](#).

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Central and south-eastern countries in Europe are severely affected by climate change, which is creating critical situations requiring humanitarian action. The region is prone to various natural hazards, exacerbated by climate change, such as floods, droughts, landslides and extreme weather conditions throughout the year.

A total of 50 per cent of the country's land is used for agriculture while forests cover 33 per cent. By 2023, Macedonia lost 48.0 kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 6.1 per cent decrease in tree cover since 2000. As extreme weather events including heat waves and decrease in precipitations occurs, the country's agricultural sector will be further negatively impacted which may in turn impact the overall economy.

However, as the country grapples with meeting the basic needs of the population, climate change mitigation is slow to take foremost priority. Yet, the majority of the country's citizens agree that climate change has a negative impact on the quality of life of children. Young people are more aware of the challenges and risks from the climate crisis and the possibility of achieving sustainable development.

North Macedonia has enhanced its climate goals in the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), aiming for an 82 per cent reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, relative to 1990 levels. The NDC includes comprehensive targets across the entire economy, with 63 policies and measures addressing emissions from all greenhouse gases in every sector.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia actively contributes to the National Committee for Climate Change and the Commission for Climate Change and Health, under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of North Macedonia. It engages in collaborative intersectoral efforts to safeguard the population during extreme temperature conditions and participates in initiatives focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation. In its pursuit to better address new and emerging risks and prevent them from occurring, the National Society aims to:

- Enhance local response and preparedness capacities alongside complementary international support mechanisms to be able to respond effectively to any emergency

- Reduce current and future impacts and consequences of climate and environmental crises
- Support people to adapt and cope with climate change, emphasizing its impact on health
- Strengthen its capacities for dealing with risks and consequences of climate change

Planned activities in 2025

- Raise awareness among young people about the impact of climate change and encourage positive practices and habits among the young population to overcome these challenges
- Establish an Expert Centre for Climate Change to detect and adapt to climate-related risks, emphasizing health consequences and natural hazard prevention through collaboration with domestic and international institutions
- Encourage environmental activities such as recycling, afforestation, rationalization of energy use and guerrilla actions for young people
- Engage in joint research activities with stakeholders to develop practical measures for responding to climate change effectively
- Deploy mobile teams across 32 branches to provide first aid and measure blood pressure at frequently visited locations during heat waves
- Distribute 3,500 bottles of water and 2,000 educational flyers on heat wave prevention
- Organize three first aid training on extreme temperatures for border police members
- Conduct 30 informational workshops for about 350 vulnerable individuals on preventing heat wave-related health risks
- Train 90 volunteers on climate change adaptation to enhance community preparedness and emergency response capabilities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia by facilitating the exchange of resources, tools and methodologies to strengthen its initiatives concerning climate and environment. The list of efforts include raising public awareness on climate change adaptation and early warning systems, establishing a climate change centre, organizing

workshops and activities on recycling, afforestation and energy conservation for youth, and conducting workshops on preventative measures.

The National Society will also receive support through collaborative efforts with its Federation partners, which include the IFRC Secretariat, participating National Societies, [IFRC Reference Centres](#), Hubs and Labs.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page [North Macedonia](#)

North Macedonia is prone to numerous natural hazards, including hydrometeorological hazards (floods, droughts, forest fires and landslides) geophysical disasters (earthquakes), biological hazards, ecological hazards and food insecurity. Priorities of the region include improving community resilience, sustainable development, early warning and preparedness and post-disaster coordination.

As the [heat risk](#) in the country is set to increase with time, the country will face heightened risk of heat waves and wildfires. Since July 2021, the Republic of North Macedonia experienced a heat wave that triggered severe fires across multiple regions. The fires persisted until around August, despite extensive efforts by state institutions and local communities to contain them. The wildfires caused extensive damage to forests, agricultural land, crops and property, resulting in casualties, injuries from smoke inhalation and significant destruction of homes and infrastructure in numerous villages. In response, the Government declared a state of crisis for the entire country in August 2021, which lasted for 30 days until early September.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia aims to strengthen its capacities for disaster preparedness and response as part of its long-term objective. It strives to position itself strategically and invest resources focused on reducing disaster risks. The main goals of the National Society are to:

- Alleviate the vulnerabilities and challenges arising from all kinds of crises and disasters that impact the life of the people, especially the most vulnerable
- Respond to the essential needs of the disaster-affected population by providing dedicated support in human resources, food, water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) products, [shelter](#) and cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)) support
- Effectively use technology and innovation to anticipate risks and disasters and provide proactive, early action and predictable funding

- Contribute to capacity building for preparedness, effective response, and recovery from disasters with the primary aim of supporting the most vulnerable population

Planned activities in 2025

- Establish a Disaster Preparedness and Response Centre and restructure and improve the operational and logistical capacities for disaster preparedness and response
- Form a National Disaster Response Team composed of trained employees and experienced volunteers for rapid and efficient response
- Conduct disaster education in 10 schools for students
- Build capacities for risk reduction, [early warning](#) and crisis response through established strong local structures and capacities for disaster preparedness and response
- Ensure the National Society maintains the capacity to provide humanitarian aid to 1000 families during disaster situations
- Reorganize disaster management systems aligned with the 2023-2027 Strategy and Transformation 28 to provide comprehensive services for preparedness and response
- Promote local collaboration with institutions for disaster management, including joint development of risk databases and protection plans for educational institutions
- Conduct monthly meetings with municipal Red Cross branches and the Crisis Management Centre Protection and Rescue Directorate (CMC PRD)
- Enhance communication and coordination with governmental and non-governmental organizations
- Train 150 people for disaster response teams, 100 volunteers in protection and self-protection against disasters and 100 individuals in hygiene promotion
- Train 20 water safety instructors and form a working group to develop regulations and concepts for water safety
- Conduct 10 annual simulation exercises with 100 participants, involving branches and City Red Cross of Skopje

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia with technical expertise, guidance and resources to enhance the National Society's capacity and improve its

preparedness for emergency response (PER) and recovery efforts. It will further assist with resource mobilization, enabling the National Society to access financial and material support for disaster-related initiatives, and needs assessments.



Health and wellbeing

Health and wellbeing in North Macedonia face multifaceted challenges shaped by demographic, environmental and systemic factors. The country is witnessing a demographic shift marked by an ageing population and an increasing need for healthcare and social support. According to [Eurostat](#), the proportion of elderly individuals is projected to rise significantly by 2050, creating a demand for enhanced home care services. Traditionally, families, especially women, provided care for the elderly, but emigration and declining fertility rates are straining this informal system, necessitating institutional support.

Climate-related risks, including extreme weather events and poor air quality, exacerbate health vulnerabilities, particularly among the elderly. The country's commitment to addressing water, sanitation and hygiene challenges is evident in its recent ratification of the UNECE-WHO/Europe [Protocol on Water and Health](#) in October 2023. This initiative aims to safeguard natural resources and promote environmental health, complemented by legislative measures such as reducing VAT on menstrual hygiene products.

Chronic diseases such as cardiovascular conditions (58.4 per cent of deaths) and cancer (17.5 per cent) dominate health concerns. Risk factors such as high blood pressure, obesity, alcohol consumption, poor diet and environmental pollution underline the need for preventive measures. Despite the prevalence of acute and chronic diseases, public awareness of prevention and early diagnosis remains low, highlighting gaps in health education and outreach.

The integration of first aid into the healthcare system is vital for coordinated emergency responses. However, North Macedonia faces significant gaps in emergency medical services. A December 2023 survey revealed a shortfall of 52 emergency teams, with team numbers declining by 22 over the last eight years. Currently, the state operates 258 teams, far below the required levels, underscoring the need for systemic reforms to ensure adequate coverage.

Educational campaigns, community engagement and digital platforms have been pivotal in enhancing awareness and donor retention in efforts to strengthen blood donation systems. Ensuring the safety, quality and equitable distribution of blood during emergencies requires collaboration among healthcare providers and organizations such as the WHO.

Mental health is increasingly recognized as integral to overall wellbeing. However, stigma and cultural barriers hinder access to mental health services. The COVID-19 pandemic and other crises have highlighted the need for robust psychosocial support systems to address acute stress and long-term trauma. Vulnerable populations, including the elderly and economically disadvantaged, require targeted interventions. Public education campaigns aimed at reducing stigma and fostering open dialogue are essential for improving mental health outcomes and encouraging individuals to seek support.

Disasters and emergencies, whether natural or man-made, significantly impact physical and mental health. Acute stress, trauma and long-term psychosocial challenges emphasize the need for preparedness and recovery strategies. North Macedonia's health and wellbeing landscape demands urgent attention to systemic gaps in healthcare, emergency services and mental health support.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia aims to provide sustainable health services to protect the health of marginalized groups, especially people suffering from AIDS. To achieve these goals, the National society will:

- Ensure preventive health care by digitalization of traditional health preventive activities and first aid courses
- Reduce infectious diseases by conducting health promotion and preventive health education sessions
- Raise the level of knowledge and skills of different target groups to ensure correct provision of first aid by implementing new education programmes through an expert first aid centre
- Encourage voluntary blood donation and mobilize more blood donors from low-risk target groups through partnerships with youth, school clubs and other associations
- Establish strategic first aid related partnerships with key organizations and institutions
- Increase the capacity of National Society and the general population for coping with crisis by incorporating mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in crisis response

Planned activities in 2025

- Offer free counselling sessions for volunteers, employees, and vulnerable individuals and provide psychological first aid and MHPSS to displaced populations and at-risk groups
- Educate 4,200 youth annually on substance abuse prevention and distribute IEC materials to 1,000 people who inject drugs in select cities
- Raise awareness of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis while targeting 3,500 young people annually with HIV/AIDS prevention activities
- Conduct 350 educational workshops for 4,500 participants on recognizing and preventing chronic diseases
- Screen for dementia in home help services to ensure early detection and intervention
- Support vulnerable women with access to free gynaecological examinations
- Organize 800 blood drives annually to collect 55,000 units of blood and raise awareness using mobile apps, forums and peer educator activities in 25 youth clubs by conducting campaigns targeting 5,000 young people during low-blood reserve periods
- Strengthen first aid services through an expert centre, adopting new policies and training programmes

- Promote first aid integration into schools and organize competitions for young people and develop a training programme for paramedics and licensed first aid educators
- Train 26,000 motor vehicle driver candidates in first aid
- Train 300 motivators through 10 workshops to promote voluntary blood donation
- Train institutional employees on stress management and MHPSS and ensure sustainability of the MHPSS Centre through training programmes

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide the National Society technical expertise, guidance and resources related to health and psychosocial wellbeing. This support will aim to enable the National Society to develop and implement sustainable health programmes, strengthen community healthcare systems and promote overall wellbeing.

Collaboration and knowledge sharing with other National Societies and the IFRC will further allow the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia to advance continuous improvement and innovation in its health-related initiatives over time. Resource mobilization efforts by the IFRC will assist the National Society in accessing financial and material support for its health programmes.



Migration and displacement

Migration and displacement in North Macedonia reflect a complex interplay of global conflicts, economic challenges and environmental factors. Positioned as a key transit hub in the Balkans, the country faces significant pressures from both increased migration flows and its own high rates of emigration. These dynamics reveal interconnected themes of vulnerability, integration challenges and the impact of external crises.

The number of migrants passing through North Macedonia has grown significantly since 2000, driven by conflicts, poverty and unemployment in source countries. Environmental factors, such as the climate crisis and pollution, further exacerbate migration pressures, compelling people to seek better living conditions. Migrants traveling through the Balkans face heightened risks, including exploitation and abuse by traffickers, as well as limited access to basic services and healthcare. Stateless persons and those lacking official identification are particularly vulnerable, facing systemic

barriers to safety and resources. Crises in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Palestine continue to influence migration routes, with North Macedonia expected to experience ongoing transit flows as regional conflicts persist.

The country's legal framework for managing migration remains underdeveloped, particularly regarding the integration of individuals with international protection status. Existing regulations lack detailed guidelines on the rights and restrictions of migrants during the integration process. This gap hinders displaced individuals' access to essential services, education and employment opportunities, impeding their ability to integrate into society effectively. Addressing these systemic issues is essential for advancing a more inclusive and supportive environment for migrants and refugees.

North Macedonia also faces significant challenges due to emigration. In 2019, approximately 31 per cent of the population, or 658,264 people, were emigrants, according to

UN data. Most emigrants, primarily men, left the country in search of better economic opportunities in Türkiye, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Australia. These high rates of emigration strain the country's demographic stability and economic development, reducing the available workforce and leaving gaps in critical sectors.

Humanitarian and political challenges further complicate migration and displacement issues. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified vulnerabilities among migrants and local populations, particularly by limiting access to health services and disrupting humanitarian operations. Political tensions have also politicized aid for migrants, making funding and support more challenging. As Europe implements stricter migration controls, central and southeastern European (CSEE) nations, including North Macedonia, experience added pressure to manage increasing migration flows and provide adequate support.

North Macedonia's role as a transit country is further emphasized by displacement patterns from Ukraine and Kosovo, reflecting broader regional instabilities. The strategic location of the Balkans ensures that North Macedonia remains a critical transit point for migrants moving toward Western Europe. However, the country's capacity to address these challenges requires enhanced regional collaboration and comprehensive policy development to protect vulnerable populations and manage migration flows effectively.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia aims to provide humanitarian protection and support to persons in the border regions with special emphasis on persons with deteriorating health through access to medical facilities. The objectives under this are to:

- Ensure that all people who migrate are safe and treated humanely and with dignity
- Enable all people to receive the support they need to thrive in an inclusive society
- Promote the protection of vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with special needs and asylum seekers
- Provide humanitarian assistance and protection to migrants and host communities at key locations along migration routes
- Strengthen its capacity to analyze and address the needs of migrants and influence policy change through humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy

Planned activities in 2025

- Assist migrants in transit centers and along the Balkan Route near the southern and northern borders of North

Macedonia by providing first aid, MHPSS, food, hygiene kits, water and medical supplies

- Provide restoring family links (RFL) services, humanitarian assistance and access to health care services to migrants and asylum seekers
- Reach 10,500 migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the country (70 per cent) with its protective services (RFL, MHPSS, support to sexual and gender-based violence victims) and 7,000 people with first aid or health services
- Assist in integration of migrants in employment, education and inclusion in host communities, and advocate for improved integration and overcoming policy gaps
- Provide humanitarian assistance or benefits from protection activities to 25,000 migrants and 2,500 people sheltered in transit centers
- Build skills of asylum seekers for their access to labour market in North Macedonia with direct support for social inclusion and integration
- Organize peer education to raise awareness of over 2000 young people in combatting human trafficking

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia 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 IFRC will support the National Society through participating National Societies, IFRC Reference Centres, Hubs and Labs. It will also assist the National Society in responding to migration issues with a collaborative approach as National Societies of the CSEE cluster have a strong need for jointly prioritizing coordination.

Through collaboration and knowledge sharing, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia can learn from the experiences and best practices of other National Societies. This enables the National Society to enhance its response strategies, advocacy efforts and capacity to meet the diverse needs of migrants and displaced persons. The IFRC's resource mobilization efforts also facilitates access to financial and material support for the National Society's programmes and initiatives.

The ICRC provides support to the National Society in activities for RFL services and establishing family ties.



Values, power and inclusion

North Macedonia grapples with deeply rooted societal and structural challenges. These challenges manifest through divisions along ethnic, social and economic lines, compounded by the historical complexities of the region. The violation of basic humanitarian values in North Macedonia has contributed to tensions within communities. These issues are exacerbated by global changes that have fostered exclusion, diminished empathy and a lack of unity.

Marginalized groups such as the Roma and Egyptian communities face systemic barriers, including poverty, limited access to housing, education, healthcare and exclusion from public life. Rural-urban divides further deepen these inequalities, with rural populations, particularly the elderly and those with chronic illnesses, facing limited access to infrastructure, mobility and support services. Addressing these gaps requires targeted interventions that prioritize social inclusion and equitable access to resources.

Power dynamics in North Macedonia are shaped by the interplay of ethnic relations, socioeconomic disparities and political tensions. Ethnic Macedonian Albanian relations dominate the political landscape, leaving little room for effective representation of other marginalized groups such as the Roma. These dynamics perpetuate inequality and hinder efforts to create a cohesive, inclusive society.

Efforts to strengthen humanitarian education and enhance community involvement have the potential to mitigate these power imbalances. By promoting a culture of empathy and cooperation, North Macedonia can build a society where all individuals, regardless of ethnicity or socioeconomic background, have an opportunity to thrive.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia is committed to promoting International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by organizing activities targeting various groups including students, army personnel and government institutions. The National Society aims to instill positive values in youth and address social issues through the Red Cross in Action – Promotion of Humane Values (RCA-PHV) programme. Its goal is to carry out about 100 projects annually to support community well-being and reach 2,500 people. Strategic communication will highlight the Red Cross's historical importance and its seven fundamental principles, encouraging inclusive and compassionate humanitarian efforts.

By addressing tensions through enhanced communication, education and community involvement, the National Society aims to work toward mitigating divisions, encouraging inclusion and fostering empathetic communities, aligning with the Red Cross Movement's dedication to nurturing humanitarian values and contribute to the creation of a more harmonious society.

Planned activities in 2025

- Organize a national IHL moot court and establish a legal clinic for IHL education
- Disseminate IHL knowledge to 10,000 individuals through workshops, sessions and educational modules
- Conduct a campaign to protect the Red Cross emblem, targeting 1,500 people annually
- Conduct workshops for informal caregivers, reaching 300 family members
- Support 170 homeless individuals and provide home renovations for 10 families at social risk
- Implement 100 community projects annually under the RCA-PHV programme, reaching 2,500 beneficiaries
- Conduct preventive workshops for youth on issues such as human trafficking and antisocial influences
- Expand innovative services such as medical transport and the Emergency Button, benefiting over 1,000 individuals
- Operate daily centres for active ageing, reaching 250 older people with programmes for healthy and active living
- Collaborate with local authorities and businesses to involve marginalized communities in decision-making
- Advocate for the inclusion of innovative services including sanitation transport and emergency assistance in national legislation
- Mobilize resources and build awareness campaigns to support vulnerable groups, particularly in rural areas
- Train 60 long-term unemployed individuals as personal assistants for people with disabilities and 80 as caregivers
- Train 40 disseminators annually to spread knowledge of IHL

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical guidance and resources to support the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia in integrating humanitarian values of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) into its initiatives. This assistance will work to ensure these principles are embedded throughout the National Society's programmes and operations.

Through collaboration and knowledge sharing, the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia will learn from the experiences of other National Societies, promoting innovative approaches to community engagement and accountability

(CEA). This exchange of expertise strengthens the National Society's ability to make a lasting impact.

The IFRC will also provide financial and material support to enable the National Society to implement its various initiatives.

The National Society will uphold and reinforce the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Cross of Republic of North Macedonia is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2011. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Red Cross of the Republic

of North Macedonia is also 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

- Collaborate and establish long-term strategic partnerships with government institutions, civil society, international organizations and the corporate sector and agencies to address community challenges
- Mobilize resources to meet the needs of diverse population groups guided by its policy for mobilization of funds and strategic directions
- Cooperate with the corporate sector to strengthen and develop socially beneficial projects
- Promote quality services with transparent implementation of joint initiatives, especially in times of economic challenges to build trust with partners

- Establish sustainable partnerships to support its programme activities effectively

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia by offering technical expertise, guidance and resources for enhancing its strategic and operational capacities. This includes training, capacity building and the development of standardized tools and guidelines. The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia will learn from other National Societies' experiences and best practices through collaborations and improve its disaster response, humanitarian action and community-based programmes. The IFRC will also assist the National Society in resource mobilization, sustain strategic initiatives and provide mechanisms for joint planning and response coordination during emergencies.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen partnerships, enhance structural efficiency at local, central and national levels, assess and revise services for sustainability, improve organizational visibility and better address community needs through collaboration with management, volunteers, employees and partners in line with the Transformations 28. The initiative launched in 2022 is a five-year participative process (2023–2027) to operationalize the National Society's strategic commitments under Strategy 2030.
- Complete the analysis of the conducted Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) in all 32 local branches and review the results, effects, conclusions and recommendations for changes and improvements
- Motivate volunteering through development of new and more flexible approaches to create an efficient network of humanitarian workers striving for the common good in local communities
- Strengthen its approaches around volunteer management, providing a participatory work model and effective support to volunteers and acknowledging their commitment and work
- Reduce barriers to volunteering and provide engagement opportunities for the elderly, intergenerational

cooperation and inclusion of people with disabilities and other marginalized groups

- Develop tools to improve financial stability through project operations and asset mobilization and the establish an efficient, sustainable system for mobilizing funds at national and local levels
- Use the IFRC Capacity Building Funds (CBF) initiative to establish a Unified Financial System, a single organization-wide system for financial work
- Conduct training for nine additional BOCA facilitators and develop online solutions to promote and monitor the achievements of local development plans for the branches

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical expertise, guidance and resources to assist the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia in its National Society development efforts. This support will include capacity building, training programmes and knowledge sharing to strengthen the National Society's organizational capacity and effectiveness. The IFRC will also support the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia through its various funding and resource mobilization mechanisms such as the CBF.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Build strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, including governments, diplomatic missions, international organizations and civil society actors to facilitate cooperation, collaboration and joint advocacy efforts
- Advocate for the adherence to international humanitarian norms and laws, including the Geneva Conventions and other relevant treaties, to ensure the protection and assistance of affected populations during armed conflicts and other emergencies

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia in strengthening its humanitarian diplomacy efforts aligned to the IFRC [humanitarian diplomacy policy](#). The IFRC will help the National Society in effective engagement with various entities to advocate for humanitarian [fundamental principles](#) and promote the rights and well-being of vulnerable populations.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Incorporate new technologies and digital practices and use of collective knowledge to improve the well-being of people
- Build trust among people and communities, donors, partners, the public and within the Movement
- Invest in increasing transparency, in strengthening integrity and support systems, and in building an openness to listen, engage and act
- Use innovative and transformational approaches to maintain and strengthen the trust, transparency, accountability and integrity of the National Society
- Ensure safety, security and protection of volunteers, especially those working in crisis situations

- Upgrade systems to protect and support staff and volunteers' mental health and psychosocial wellbeing so they can respond safely and effectively

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will aid the National Society in establishing transparent financial systems, robust reporting mechanisms, and efficient procurement processes, fostering accountable resource use and donor confidence. Additionally, it supports evaluations and assessments to identify areas for improvement, enhancing programme implementation, and adaptive strategies. Through training and technical assistance, the IFRC will strengthen the National Society's capacity in project management, monitoring, evaluation, and data analysis. Moreover, it will facilitate knowledge exchange platforms for sharing experiences and best practices with other National Societies, fostering continuous improvement and innovation in humanitarian efforts.



The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia provides immediate support to response teams in case of emergencies by distributing food and drinking water to affected people. (Photo: Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia)

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia through its country cluster delegation in Sarajevo and its regional office in Budapest, focusing on supporting emergency response and disaster preparedness, including cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)) preparedness and response. The IFRC also assists the National Society in enhancing mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) capacities and coordinating humanitarian activities to ensure

effective humanitarian service delivery. Additionally, the IFRC is dedicated to supporting people on the move and displaced people, while also focusing on National Society development to strengthen local capacities and resilience. In previous years, the IFRC has supported the National Society through [DREF operations](#) on population movement, wildfires and extreme weather conditions.

IFRC membership coordination

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

The **Austrian Red Cross** provides support to the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia through bilateral and regional EU projects, focusing on capacity development, [healthy ageing](#), social services, certified caregiver training, disaster preparedness, MHPSS crisis response. Key achievements include home care services for older people, the establishment of the Regional Training Centre in Strumica, caregiver training for the unemployed and innovative services

such as the “Emergency Button” in Skopje to assist older adults and those with disabilities.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the National Society’s capacity-building initiatives, focusing on vulnerable groups, migrant assistance and volunteer training for crisis response. Promotes decentralized cooperation, including a twinning program between the Italian Red Cross Branch of Brescia and City Red Cross of Skopje, enhancing local-level volunteer engagement and branch development.

The **Swiss Red Cross** offers bilateral support to the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia for capacity building, healthy and active ageing programmes, social services and caregiver training for older adults and people with disabilities. Key initiatives include humanitarian aid and MHPSS for displaced Ukrainians, referral services, CVA, child-friendly spaces and support for the Emergency Button service and homeless assistance.

Movement coordination

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

The **ICRC** provides support in the realization of training for general as well as IHL disseminations, activities for [restoring family links](#) and workshops with media representatives. The activities are aimed at spreading the idea, vision and mission of the Red Cross Movement. The ICRC also supports the National Society with essential supplies, medical assistance, capacity building and facilitating access to medical services for affected populations.

Coordination with other actors

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia collaborates with authorities, participates in coordination mechanisms and diverse partnerships illustrate its auxiliary role in supporting disaster response, long-term initiatives and humanitarian coordination at both national and international levels.

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia actively participates in the National Emergency Management Authority, that coordinates disaster management efforts nationwide. The Ministry of Interior usually leads this mechanism. The National Society also engages with the Ministry of Health for health-related emergencies and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy for social support initiatives. The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia participates in rapid assessments to evaluate the needs of affected communities and plays a significant role in providing immediate assistance, including shelter, food and essential supplies.

The National Society engages in longer-term work through collaborations with the Ministry of Education and Science on educational initiatives, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Economy on rural development programmes and the Ministry of Social Affairs on social inclusion projects.

The Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia actively participates in inter-agency coordination mechanisms and working groups to ensure a coordinated humanitarian response. This includes collaborations with national and local actors such as UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector and academic institutions to facilitate joint initiatives, knowledge exchange and resource mobilization for community development and resilience-building efforts.



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 2025 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 Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2025 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 Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- 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 databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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