



# POLAND

## 2025-2027 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 16.2M**

24 April 2025

### In support of the Polish Red Cross



**16**

National Society  
branches



**185**

National Society  
local units



**6,173**

National Society  
staff



**3,763**

National Society  
volunteers

### People to be reached



**5,000**

Climate and  
environment



**12,000**

Disasters  
and crises



**89,000**

Health and  
wellbeing



**18,000**

Migration and  
displacement



**3,000**

Values, power  
and inclusion

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Longer-term needs

- Disaster preparedness
- Climate change adaptation
- Health and wellbeing - Mental health and psychosocial services

#### Capacity development

- National Society development

### Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

**Medium**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

**Very Low**

Human Development Index rank

**36**

World Bank Population figure

**36.7M**

World Bank Population below poverty line

**11.8%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Poland, Romania, Moldova,  
Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovakia, and Czech Republic

# Funding requirements

2025

2026\*\*

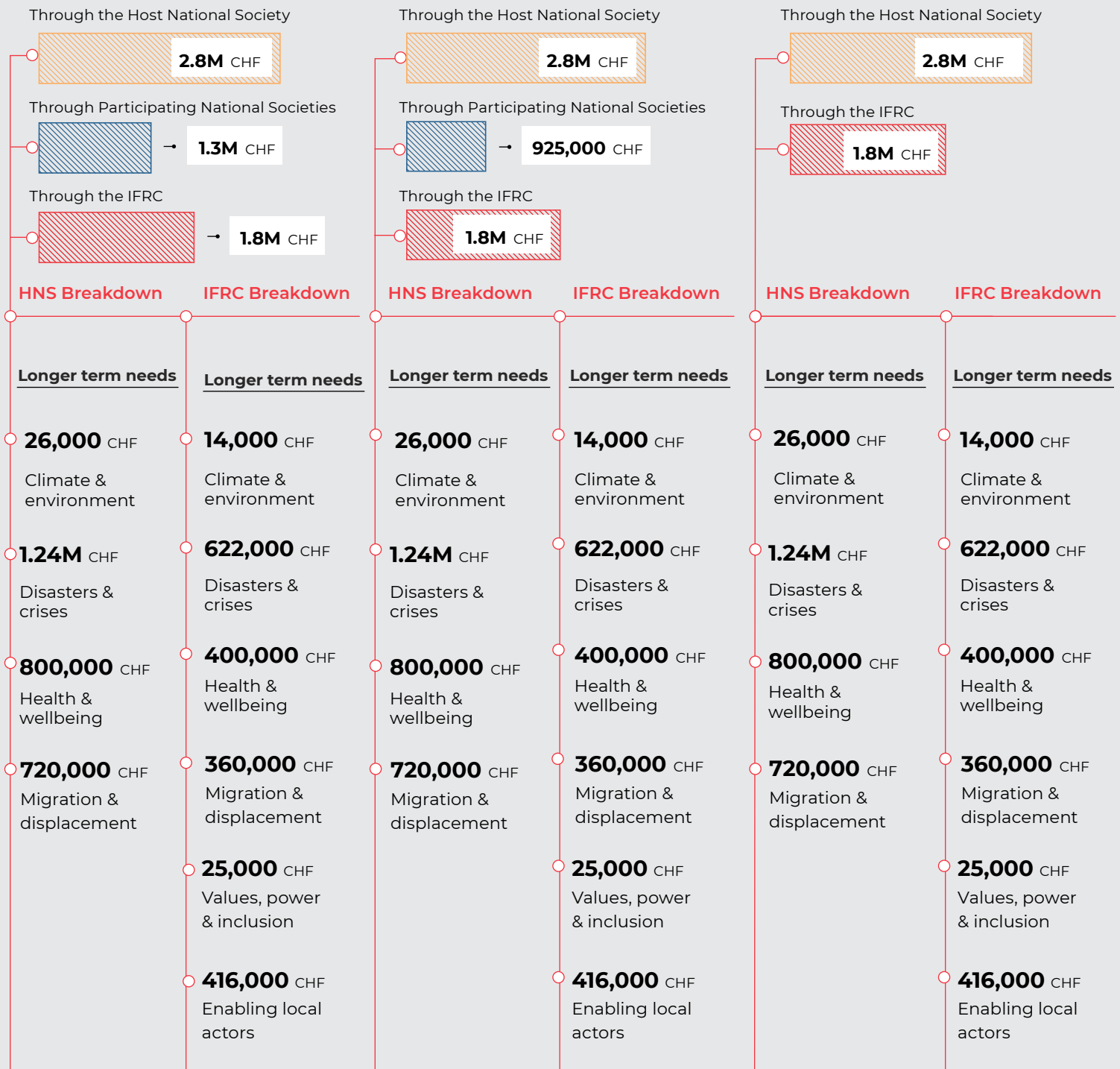
2027\*\*

\*\*Projected funding requirements

**Total 6M CHF**

**Total 5.6M CHF**

**Total 4.6M CHF**



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
German Red Cross	451,000		●	●			●
Spanish Red Cross	925,000	●	●		●		●

Total Funding requirement **CHF 1.4M**

### Participating National Societies

American Red Cross\*

British Red Cross\*

German Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross

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

### IFRC Appeal codes

Long-term needs:

**MAAPL001**

### Hazards



Population movement



Heat waves



Floods



Ukrainian members of the Polish Red Cross worked in a contact centre in Warsaw, Poland, answering calls from the Ukrainian displaced population and supporting them with needed information (Photo: Polish Red Cross)

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Polish Red Cross** was established in 1919 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the same year. It 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 been running various programmes, including blood donors' clubs, sisters' clubs, rescue teams and youth clubs, for which it has become well-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.

The Polish Red Cross was among the first to respond to the Central European floods, providing support to affected

residents and deploying rescue teams and humanitarian aid groups. The National Society was also included in the new Civil Protection Law assigning specific roles and responsibilities in response to emergencies.

In September 2022, the National Convention of the Polish Red Cross adopted the National Society's Strategic 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 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, the elderly, and other vulnerable and marginalized groups

In 2023, the Polish Red Cross reached 84,000 people through long term services and development programmes and 122 through disaster response and early recovery programmes.



*Branches of the Polish Red Cross*

*The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities*



# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Poland, the largest economy in Central Europe, has demonstrated resilience within the European Union (EU) since joining in 2004. In 2024, the Polish economy was expected to grow by 3.0 per cent, driven primarily by a strong rebound in private consumption, supported by high wage growth and positive consumer sentiment. However, inflation remains a concern. Although inflation decreased early in the year, it is expected to rise again due to the reintroduction of the standard VAT rate on food and increases in energy prices, with projections of it reaching around 4.0-4.5 per cent by the end of 2024. Despite these inflationary pressures, Poland's unemployment rate remains one of the lowest in the European Union, around 5.3 per cent, indicating a robust labour market with challenges related to potential labour shortages.

The political landscape in Poland saw a significant shift following the 2023 parliamentary elections, where the opposition coalition gained the majority. This change has improved relations with the European Union, leading to the

release of previously frozen EU funds, essential for Poland's economic and social development plans. The new government is implementing reforms to strengthen the rule of law and improve Poland's standing within the EU, which is expected to continue fostering economic stability and growth.

The international armed conflict in Ukraine is still very active and its direction remains unpredictable for the period of 2024-2025. The conflict will continue to have profound humanitarian consequences in Ukraine and beyond, including exacerbating the ability of individuals and communities to cope with the compound effects of displacement, trauma, and economic pressures.

Poland remains a key host country for Ukrainian refugees, with approximately 1 million displaced individuals seeking temporary protection as of 2024. This situation has created a complex social and economic environment marked by varying degrees of integration and humanitarian needs. While initial support for refugees was strong, public solidarity has declined. The government and numerous Polish organizations remain crucial in addressing these needs, although the refugee influx's long-term social and economic impacts are still unfolding.

## 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.

Poland's climate adaptation efforts are guided by several strategic frameworks, including the 2030 National Environmental Policy and the Polish Strategic Adaptation Plan for the Sectors Receptive to Climate Change until 2020, with a perspective extending to 2030. These policies outline concrete actions to enhance climate resilience, particularly in

the energy sector. Despite this, the primary focus of Poland's energy policies, such as the Energy Policy of Poland until 2040 (EPP2040), remains on energy security and the diversification of the energy mix rather than directly prioritizing climate resilience.

As envisioned in the EPP2040, Poland's energy transition aims to reduce the country's reliance on coal and expand renewable energy sources. By 2040, zero-emission sources are expected to account for half of the installed capacity, with significant offshore wind and nuclear energy investments. However, the pace of this transition is cautious, reflecting the country's heavy reliance on coal and the economic challenges associated with a rapid shift to greener energy sources. While Poland has made progress in updating its energy and climate strategies, it remains the only EU member state yet to commit to climate neutrality by 2050 fully.

## 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

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### Planned activities in 2025

- 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 emissions
  - 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
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## Disasters and crises

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

Poland faces potential threats from natural disasters, such as extreme weather events, social, and geopolitical tensions. The country is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, with an increasing frequency of heatwaves, droughts, water shortages, and floods. Droughts, once a rare occurrence in Poland, have become annual since 2013, putting additional stress on water resources and agriculture.

From 2008 to 2019, natural disasters were the primary drivers of European displacement. Poland, with relatively high living standards and lower immediate risk from some extreme weather events, has increasingly become a destination for migrants. However, the shifting disaster risk profiles across Europe demand that Poland prepare more effectively for emerging threats, including those exacerbated by climate change.

Despite the rising frequency and severity of natural and man-made disasters, public readiness in Poland remains concerningly low. A recent survey indicated that nearly two-thirds of Poles do not know what to do in the event of an armed conflict, and almost 50 per cent are unsure how to respond to natural

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Polish Red Cross in enhancing green initiatives and carbon tracking efforts, positioning the broader Federation as an eco-conscious entity, and 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-led solutions and incorporating community input into programme decisions and adaptations guided by community participation, perceptions, and feedback.

Additionally, the IFRC will assist 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. It will also support the Polish Red Cross in utilizing climate assessment outcomes to assess opportunities for expansion and future funding.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will support the National Society in carbon footprint benchmarking and the setting up of monitoring tools provided by Applus+ Certification services.

disasters like flooding. This lack of preparedness highlights the need for enhanced public education and awareness initiatives.

Poland's crisis management system, which is already under significant stress from past disasters such as the heavy floods of 1997, 2001, and 2010, requires strengthening to cope with future challenges.

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

- Increase the preparedness and readiness of all branches across the country
- Strengthens disaster preparedness response in multipurpose Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) and supply chain, warehousing, and logistics
- Increase the prevention and preparedness of communities nationwide, designing localized tools and methodologies
- Contribute to improved environmental management and climate change mitigation by integrating climate change elements in disaster risk management and response based on assessments

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## Planned activities in 2025

- Operationalize and actively implement activities through Humanitarian Aid Groups
  - Tailor temporary/durable shelter solutions for medium-to-long-term accommodation needs.
  - 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 neighbouring countries
  - Strengthen its auxiliary role in civil protection mechanisms and integration with rescue services
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Polish Red Cross in enhancing 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). It will also aid the National Society in improving official/legal recognition of their auxiliary role in disaster risk management and advocating for effective and protective disaster-related laws, policies, and regulations.

The **German Red Cross** will assist the National Society with 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.



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## 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.

Health spending in Poland is among the lowest in Europe, both in per capita terms and as a share of GDP. In 2023, public spending accounted for only 7.1 per cent of GDP, compared to the EU average of 10.9 per cent. Despite efforts to increase funding, out-of-pocket (OOP) spending remains high, particularly for outpatient medicines, which are the primary driver of health expenditures in many Polish households. In 2021, 9.4 per cent of households experienced catastrophic health spending; of these, 25 per cent were at risk of impoverishment, and 35 per cent were impoverished. Out-of-pocket spending on outpatient medicines remains elevated despite the introduction of exemption mechanisms

for outpatient prescriptions, including for older people (2016), pregnant women (2020), and children up to the age of 18 (2023). It is exceptionally high among pensioners, people with disabilities and households in rural areas.

Mental health services, although increasingly recognized as essential, remain underfunded, with limited access to care exacerbated by workforce shortages and social stigma. A new draft Mental Health Protection Programme for 2023-30 is under public consultation.

The Polish government has allowed the displaced people from Ukraine to apply for a PESEL number under the temporary protection directive, granting them access to state support, including health services, cash assistance, and registration with doctors, banks, and schools. This protection was initially set to expire in March 2024. However, under Article 11(2) of the Special-purpose Act, enacted in May 2024, the temporary protection status has been extended until September 2025. This extension ensures continued access to vital services, including healthcare and psychosocial support.

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

- Improved health and well-being of communities through increased awareness of 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
- Support health authorities by promoting basic skills in providing premedical First Aid and other essential communication conditions
- 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
- Capitalize on its auxiliary role to ensure its position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms

- Reduce the prevalence and impacts of non-communicable diseases through community-based approaches

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support 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 to the Blood Donation promotion by conducting nationwide competitions for women. It also supports the purchasing of equipment for first aid training.

The **Spanish Red Cross** supports the 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 the number and involvement of blood donors in the country between 2024 and 2025.

### Planned activities in 2025

- Develop commercial health and welfare as well as first aid models to promote financial sustainability and accelerate their ability to sustain services
- Support health authorities by promoting basic skills in providing premedical first aid
- Distribute cash for Health to support access to health services
- Meet the MHPSS needs of communities, volunteers, and staff
- Support vulnerable populations with home visits, providing essential health services
- Provide welfare services, including the distribution of food parcels monthly for vulnerable categories identified by the Polish government based on their income
- Increase the number of voluntary non-remunerated blood donations



The Polish Red Cross volunteers arrived at the Medyka border crossing to assist Ukrainian refugees with first aid activities, 13 March 2022. (Photo: The IFRC)





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 August 2024, over 6 million people are estimated to be displaced within Ukraine. The number of displaced people from Ukraine in neighbouring countries, particularly Poland, remains significant.

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 centres due to increased financial responsibilities. Despite reduced displacement, many individuals still cannot return to Ukraine, and local labour markets struggle to absorb them.

The latest Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) conducted in 2023 highlighted several critical challenges facing the people displaced from Ukraine in Poland. Despite a high level of education among the refugee population—56 per cent hold higher education degrees—over 70 per cent struggle to find work. The primary barriers include language difficulties and a mismatch between available jobs and their skills. Many refugees have found employment in sectors such as services, manufacturing, and hospitality, but these positions often do not align with their previous professional experiences in Ukraine. This mismatch has led to underemployment, which, coupled with language barriers, hampers their economic integration and stability in Poland. This financial strain is compounded by the rising cost of living, forcing many households to deplete savings, cut health expenses, or resort to degrading income sources to make ends meet.

In response to these challenges, the Polish government and humanitarian organizations have adopted a dual approach: maintaining preparedness for potential new refugee influxes while shifting towards long-term strategies to enhance the self-reliance and integration of displaced people. These strategies focus on combining socio-cultural integration with socio-economic support, which is key to meeting displaced individuals' needs and paving the way for their long-term integration into Polish society.

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

- 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, 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

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### Planned activities in 2025

- 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

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support 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. The IFRC will also work 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 **Spanish Red Cross** will support the National Society in employment activation centres in six locations. People will be assisted with 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 the Polish Red Cross with tracing services, mainly

targeting the restoring family links programme to migrants, including refugees.



## 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. According to a study commissioned by the government, 57 per cent of Poles overall and 63 per cent of Polish women have experienced some form of domestic violence in their lives. Notably, 10 per cent of men in Poland held the belief that there is no such thing as rape within marriage.

Violence against children does, however, appear to be falling in Poland. Between 2014 and 2017, while the number of police interventions for domestic violence remained relatively stable, the proportion of cases in which children were believed to be victims fell from 20 per cent to 14 per cent. The surveys indicate that the proportion of Polish adults who believe that occasionally disciplining a child through physical punishment is necessary has decreased from 78 per cent in 2008 to 61 per cent as of last year. Those who think it is unnecessary have risen from 19 per cent to 37 per cent over the same period.

The socio-economic crisis and geopolitical tensions have significantly impacted vulnerable groups in Poland, including unaccompanied children, older persons, people with severe medical conditions, persons with disabilities, third-country nationals, stateless individuals, and minority communities such as the Ukrainian, Roma, and LGBTIQ+ populations. Unaccompanied children remain at high risk of exploitation and trafficking, with limited access to education and essential services hindering their development. Older individuals without support are increasingly isolated, facing inadequate care and a heightened risk of neglect and abuse. The legal and administrative challenges faced by third-country nationals and stateless individuals continue to result in social exclusion and limited employment opportunities. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has exacerbated these issues, with a significant influx of refugees, primarily women and children, into Poland. Human trafficking risks remain high, particularly in border regions, where the lack of comprehensive data makes it challenging to assess the full extent of the problem. Women and children, who constitute most refugees, are especially vulnerable to exploitation.

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.

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

The Polish Red Cross is engaged in the new RED Education flagship initiative to make education communities and facilities safer, more inclusive and resilient. This global effort seeks by 2030 to support 40 million children and youth, 1 million teachers and education personnel, in 100,000 schools and learning spaces, across 100 countries. It focuses on a three-fold approach:

- "Education Ready" for school-based anticipatory action and preparedness interventions (e.g., cash and in-kind assistance, comprehensive risk management, teachers' training)
- "Education First" for immediate relief assistance to affected education communities (e.g., education kits' distribution, set-up and running of temporary spaces, psychosocial support)
- "Education Forward" for recovery measures and longer-term development activities (e.g., schools' reconstruction, retrofitting and greening; cash and in-kind assistance for education access and continuity; set-up and running of RED education facilities and clubs).

Additionally, multi-year objectives of the National Society include:

- 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 2025

- 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 will support the Polish Red Cross in contributing 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.

Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society in adopting a comprehensive Protection, Gender and Inclusion and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach across operations and programmes.

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 Polish Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for

Effective Response (PER) process and is in 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

- Adapt and change its priorities of work and strategy to increase its visibility and reach
- Improve relations with government authorities to play a more significant role in supporting governments and local organizations
- Work to strengthen its relationship with different counterparts and local authorities

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

The IFRC will support the National Society in strengthening partnerships with government, UN agencies, and other partners. Additionally, a resource mobilization strategy has been developed, and supported by the IFRC Poland team. To ensure complementarity, there are regular technical meetings within the Movement and coordination meetings with the Polish Red Cross, IFRC, ICRC, and participating National Societies. External coordination is fostered through participation in relevant forums and meetings while highlighting activities through social networks, media, and the Polish Red Cross and IFRC webpages.



## National Society development

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

- Establish diversified sources of income and clearly communicate the priority needs of vulnerable populations aiming to position the organization as relevant and respected
- Improve internal cohesion and communication
- Ensure that the National Society has adequate systems, procedures, and staff to achieve its objectives, assess the effectiveness of controls, review identified risks, and offer recommendations to enhance response activities
- Build branch and volunteering capacity to continue delivering relevant community-based services by mobilizing well-trained, competent, and skilled volunteers
- Update the existing legal base/statute and policies and procedures in place and ensure they are approved by the governing board

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Polish Red Cross 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 IFRC provides timely and appropriate support and advice to the National Society in developing its branches and adjusting existing volunteering management/development systems based on new programme needs.

Together with the ICRC, the IFRC provides technical support along the process of revision of the National Society statute and in developing new policies and procedures. The IFRC conducts continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure the quality of the organization's activities.

The **German Red Cross** will ensure the sustainability of branch-based activities, including staffing, tools and technical support for the ERP system.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will assist in developing a volunteer management system and establishing policies and procedures in volunteer management and volunteer development.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Strengthen its role in education on humanitarian values and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) through interactive training methods, developing educational materials, and providing teacher expertise
- Promote the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and foster a spirit of solidarity and respect
- Raise awareness in civil society about the protective role of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem, conducting public information campaigns on its significance and proper use
- Develop its organizational capabilities, enhance volunteering efforts, and implement a youth policy that promotes active participation and engagement in humanitarian values and norms

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC network will support the Polish Red Cross to further develop and localize humanitarian diplomacy and communications resources/toolkits for leadership and staff in and out of emergencies. Additionally, it will also assist with the development of a culture of forecasting and preparedness to ensure the IFRC network remains positioned as a credible first responder in humanitarian crises. The IFRC will support the humanitarian diplomacy of the National Society through its migration, operations, and PGI teams. The teams will help enhance the impact of the National Society in assisting and protecting migrants, identifying processes and forums for engaging various pillars of work, undertaking capacity strengthening, and supporting evidence-based humanitarian diplomacy.





## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Implement a comprehensive human resources policy for employees, volunteers, and beneficiaries in the next three years
- Transparent management of financial resources, audit and related systems, financial reporting, and donor's accountability
- Update the information and communications technology system between headquarters and branches to have better access to infrastructure and digital services, and train staff in handling data

- Improve data collection, quality reporting, internal communication, and flow of information, thereby allowing the leadership to make informed decisions

### Longer-term support from the IFRC Network

The **IFRC** will support the Polish Red Cross in enhancing its systems, processes, policies, and training.

The **German Red Cross** will support the Polish Red Cross in developing its website to strengthen fundraising and communications.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will support the digital transformation of the National Society to have better access to infrastructure and digital services through training its staff in data and digital systems, and training of trainers to implement digitalization in branches.

## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

The **IFRC** has been present in Poland to support the Polish Red Cross through the IFRC Cluster office since April 2022. The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation, based in Warsaw, Poland, covers six countries including Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia. The Country Cluster Delegation provides technical support directly to the Poland country office in relevant services such as programming, CEA, PGI, PMER, IM, HR, and other support services functions.

Its main objectives adapted to the context are to: (1) optimize the IFRC 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, which implies an increase in capacity and sustainability of National Societies.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Polish Red Cross through numerous Emergency Appeals and the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) in relation to floods and population movement.



The Polish Red Cross set up Humanitarian Service Point at Michalowo, near the border with Belarus, where migrants and NGOs taking care of them can stock up on relief items, 9 November 2021. (Photo: Polish Red Cross)

## 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 contributing to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The IFRC has been supporting the Polish Red Cross with cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)), [shelter](#), mental health and

psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)), integrated approach, and National Society development.

Since February 2022 several Movement partners have been coordinating with the Polish Red Cross to support the National Society in several areas:

The **German Red Cross** will assist the National Society with developing its cash and voucher assistance (CVA), humanitarian aid groups, blood donors, first aid, livelihood projects, and National Society development.

The **Spanish Red Cross** will support the National Society with emergency preparedness, livelihood projects, volunteers management, and National Society development.

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## Movement coordination

The Polish Red Cross 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](#).

In March 2022, the ICRC stepped up its activities in Poland and established an office to help respond to the humanitarian and protection needs triggered by the international armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The ICRC's support to the Polish Red Cross focuses on [restoring family links](#) and National Society development by integrating the [Safer Access Framework](#) into existing structures and ongoing activities.

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## Coordination with other actors

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

At the heart of civil protection mechanisms, the Polish Red Cross seeks to deepen the relationship with the Fire Service Department and relevant ministries to enhance coordination and response to events which affect the country.

The Polish Red Cross will maintain a high level of coordination with UN agencies and NGOs involved in the country for the specific purpose of responding to the refugee crisis. The National Society is committed to actively participating in sectorial 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 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 Global Plan and IFRC network country plan](#) • [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](#)
- [IFRC Evaluation and Research Databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

## Contact information

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