



# SLOVAKIA

## 2025-2027 IFRC network country plan



Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 10.5M**

18 February 2025

### In support of the Slovak Red Cross



**32**

National Society branches



**738**

National Society local units



**449**

National Society staff



**1,574**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



**22,000**

Ongoing emergency operations



**8,000**

Disasters and crises



**76,000**

Health and wellbeing



**4,000**

Migration and displacement



**6,000**

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
- Mental health and psychosocial support
  - Health awareness raising
- Inclusion of vulnerable groups

#### Capacity development

- Sustainable resource mobilization and fundraising
  - Partnerships
  - Financial management
  - HR development
  - Digital transformation
- Volunteering management
- CEA and PGI system development
- Integrity Line adaptation
- Policy development
- Communications
- Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

### Key country data links

**INFORM Severity rating**

**Low**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index**

**Very low**

**Human Development Index rank**

**45**

**World Bank Population figure**

**5.4M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line**

**13.7%**

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

# Funding requirements

2025

2026\*\*

2027\*\*

\*\*Projected funding requirements

**Total 4.3M CHF**

**Total 3.4M CHF**

**Total 2.8M CHF**

Through the Host National Society

Through the Host National Society

Through the Host National Society

**3.1M CHF**

**3.4M CHF**

**2.8M CHF**

Through the IFRC

**1.2M CHF**

**HNS Breakdown**

**IFRC Breakdown**

**HNS Breakdown**

**HNS Breakdown**

**Ongoing emergency operations**

**715,000 CHF**

**Longer term needs**

**Longer term needs**

**Longer term needs**

**Longer term needs**

**175,000 CHF**

Disasters & crises

**480,000 CHF**

Health & wellbeing

**340,000 CHF**

Disasters & crises

**345,000 CHF**

Disasters & crises

**1.7M CHF**

Health & wellbeing

**33,000 CHF**

Values, power & inclusion

**1.7M CHF**

Health & wellbeing

**1.1M CHF**

Health & wellbeing

**730,000 CHF**

Migration & displacement

**730,000 CHF**

Migration & displacement

**730,000 CHF**

Migration & displacement

**72,000 CHF**

Values, power & inclusion

**116,000 CHF**

Values, power & inclusion

**116,000 CHF**

Values, power & inclusion

**390,000 CHF**

Enabling local actors

**495,000 CHF**

Enabling local actors

**485,000 CHF**

Enabling local actors

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
Spanish Red Cross				●			

### Participating National Societies

Spanish Red Cross

### IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

**MGR65002** Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis

Longer-term needs:

**MAASK001**

### Hazards



Population movement



Floods



Severe Weather Conditions



Forest fires



Earthquakes



Landslides

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Slovak Red Cross** was established in May 1993, following the dissolution of Czechoslovakia, and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in October of the same year. Recognized by the Slovak government, its legal foundation governs its operations and protects the Red Cross emblem within Slovakia. Headquartered in Bratislava, the Slovak Red Cross operates nationwide through a network of 32 regional branches.

As an auxiliary to public authorities, the Slovak Red Cross operates under the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols, and international treaties. It provides humanitarian assistance in both peacetime and conflict, including civil defence tasks, medical support and tracing services.

The Slovak Red Cross' governance structure includes the assembly, the supreme board and the governing board. The assembly is the supreme governing body convening every four years to set strategic objectives. The supreme board acts as an interim decision-making body between assemblies, meeting twice annually to approve budgets and management reports. The governing board or presidium is an executive body overseeing day-to-day operations, convening quarterly.

The Slovak Red Cross delivers a broad spectrum of humanitarian services, including first aid training, blood donation promotion, healthcare initiatives, providing specialized counselling and services for vulnerable groups, enhancing disaster preparedness and delivering emergency

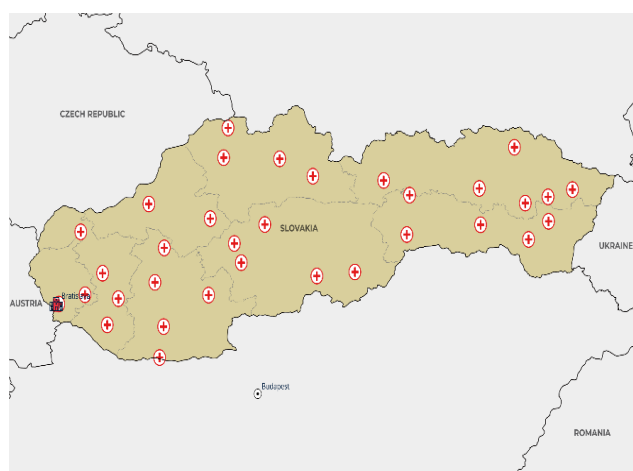
relief, public awareness campaigns on health, safety and disaster risk reduction, and mobilizing young people for community-based humanitarian activities.

The Slovak Red Cross is committed to continuous improvement and underwent the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in February 2024 and participated in the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessment workshop in June 2024. Identified challenges are being prioritized for institutional enhancement.

Adhering to the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Slovak Red Cross prioritizes disaster risk reduction and response, support for marginalized and vulnerable communities, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and community resilience through education and local initiatives.

The Slovak Red Cross collaborates with government agencies, international organizations and civil society to maximize its humanitarian impact, ensuring its activities align with national and global priorities. Through its robust network and comprehensive humanitarian programming, the Slovak Red Cross remains a key player in addressing the needs of communities across Slovakia.

In 2023, the Slovak Red Cross reached 280,000 people by its long-term services and development programmes and around 24,000 people by its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Slovak Red Cross branches

*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

Slovakia, a landlocked Central European country, is strategically situated at the crossroads of Europe, bordered by the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Ukraine and Poland. Covering an area of 49,034 km<sup>2</sup>, its diverse geography includes the Carpathian Mountains in the north, featuring the High Tatras and the fertile Danubian Lowland in the south, which supports agriculture. Rich in natural resources such as iron, copper and forests, Slovakia also benefits from rivers including the Danube for hydropower and transport. With a continental climate, it supports varied ecosystems and agricultural activities.

The population of Slovakia is approximately 5.5 million, with a gradual ageing trend and a fertility rate of 1.6 children per woman. Life expectancy is 77 years for men and 83 years for women, and 54 per cent of the population resides in urban areas, with Bratislava and Košice as major cities. The population includes Slovaks (80 per cent), Hungarians (8.5 per cent), Roma (two per cent) and smaller minorities such as Ukrainians and Czechs. While historically a country of emigration, recent geopolitical events, particularly the Ukraine conflict, have increased immigration. Slovakia faces challenges such as ageing demographics, regional economic disparities and the social integration of minorities, particularly the Roma community, which experiences high levels of poverty and unemployment.

Politically, Slovakia is a parliamentary democracy with a president as head of state and a prime minister as head of government. The unicameral National Council has significant legislative powers. Recent elections in 2023 saw the SMER-SD party form a coalition government amid concerns over its rhetoric and shrinking space for NGOs. Slovakia remains a committed European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member, balancing pro-European policies with periodic political challenges to EU norms.

Slovakia boasts a mixed economy, heavily reliant on the automotive and electronics sectors. It has benefited from foreign direct investment, particularly from EU countries such as Germany and Austria, with over 80 per cent of exports destined for the EU. However, economic disparities are stark, with western regions including Bratislava thriving while eastern regions lag. In 2023, the GDP was approximately EUR 117 billion, with a growth rate of 1.6 per cent and an inflation rate of 10.5 per cent, affecting energy and food prices. Wage growth has been notable, but unemployment remains regionally uneven, with higher rates in less developed areas. The energy crisis and dependence on Russian gas exacerbate economic vulnerabilities.

Gender disparities persist in Slovakia, with challenges such as domestic violence and workplace harassment requiring more attention. The healthcare system, already strained by the COVID-19 pandemic, struggles with a shortage of general practitioners and specialists, particularly in mental health. The ageing population further pressures the social welfare system, while income inequality disproportionately affects single mothers, older people and individuals with disabilities. Slovakia also ranks low in food security among EU nations.

Since 2022, Slovakia has been significantly impacted by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, hosting a large influx of displaced persons. The most vulnerable groups include older people, single women with children, unaccompanied minors and individuals with disabilities. Challenges include providing housing, healthcare and education while addressing legislative barriers that hinder the recognition of professional qualifications for displaced persons. Humanitarian aid has declined, complicating integration efforts and exacerbating the difficulties faced by vulnerable groups.

Despite these challenges, Slovakia's strategic location, EU membership and rich resources position it as a vital player in Central Europe.

# ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

<b>Emergency Operation</b>	Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis
<b>Appeal No</b>	<a href="#">MGR65002</a>
<b>Duration</b>	March 2022 – December 2025
<b>People to be reached</b>	445,000 people (total) 22,000 people (in 2025)
<b>Funding requirement</b>	For the total duration of response: CHF 33,372,385 (Federation-wide) CHF 30,272,385 (IFRC Secretariat) For 2025: CHF 714,706 (IFRC)
<b>Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Revised Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Operational strategy</b>	<a href="#">Revised Operational Strategy</a> <a href="#">Slovakia Response Plan</a>
<b>Last Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">Operation Update No. 11</a>

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 Slovak Red Cross, 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

Since the launch of the [IFRC Ukraine and impacted countries Emergency Appeal](#) in 2022, the Slovak Red Cross has provided life-saving support to displaced individuals from Ukraine. The Slovak Red Cross' [National Society Response Plan](#) under the Emergency Appeal focuses on facilitating the integration of displaced individuals in Slovakia while fostering social cohesion. Key areas of activity targeting to reach approximately 22,000 people in 2025 include:

### Cash and voucher assistance (CVA):

Includes conditional and unconditional cash programs like vouchers for shelter, education, health and multipurpose cash support.

### Relief Distribution

Distribution of essential household items alongside capacity-building in logistics and procurement.

### Humanitarian service points (HSPs)

Safe spaces providing essential information, registration for support programs, referrals to services, and long-term integration activities.

### Shelter programme

Support for rental accommodations, financial aid for host families and sustainable housing solutions.

### Livelihoods activities

Counselling on the Slovak labour market, Slovak language classes and support for vocational training and document translation.

### Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

Community centres offering psychological first aid (PFA), training for staff and volunteers and health awareness activities.

### Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

A helpline offering guidance and feedback mechanisms for Slovak Red Cross services.

## Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)

Mainstreaming PGI principles, updating policies, advocacy against gender-based violence, and creating Child-Friendly Spaces.

## Restoring family links (RFL)

Family tracing and reunification services to prevent family separation.

Under the [Emergency Appeal](#), the Slovak Red Cross has strengthened its digital transformation, enhancing data management, community feedback systems, and overall service delivery. With the **Spanish Red Cross** support, it has

implemented a livelihood support methodology for displaced and vulnerable groups.

The Emergency Appeal is scheduled to close on 31 December 2025, with preparations underway for transitioning to long-term programming. As the Ukraine conflict continues to create profound humanitarian needs, the Red Cross network remains committed to supporting displaced communities and addressing ongoing challenges.

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The ICRC supports the Slovak Red Cross in offering tracing services in cooperation with ICRC's Central Tracing Agency Bureau as well as family reunification in cooperation with other respective National Societies.



*Slovak Red Cross teams in Dunajska Streda are collecting, sorting and delivering basic aid items to people from Ukraine in need. (Photo: Slovak Red Cross)*



## Climate and environment

Climate change has emerged as a pressing concern for Slovakia, with profound implications for its ecosystems, economy and population. Traditionally characterized by a continental climate with four distinct seasons, Slovakia is witnessing a gradual shift to a pattern resembling two dominant seasons. This change, attributed to global warming, has led to a rise in annual mean temperatures, declining snow cover, and altered precipitation patterns. Between 1881 and 2016, Slovakia's average annual temperature increased by nearly two degrees Celsius, a trend expected to continue, with projections indicating a rise of 2.81–3.68°C by the end of the century. The consequences include reduced frost days, warmer winters, and significant changes in energy demand for heating and cooling.

Precipitation patterns in Slovakia have become increasingly variable, with marked seasonal and regional disparities. Projections suggest an up to 30 per cent increase in annual precipitation by 2075 compared to historical levels, particularly during the winter months. However, summer precipitation remains comparatively low, heightening the risk of seasonal droughts. These shifts exacerbate water management challenges, particularly for agriculture and urban planning. While heavy precipitation events increase the risk of localized flooding, prolonged dry spells during the summer strain water resources and agricultural productivity.

The frequency and severity of natural hazards in Slovakia have intensified due to climate change. Flooding has shifted from large regional events to more localized flash floods, driven by extreme precipitation. Additionally, prolonged summer heatwaves have become more common, straining energy infrastructure and posing health risks. Wildfires are another growing concern, with Slovakia losing approximately 1.74 kha of tree cover to fires between 2001 and 2023. These events are compounded by rapid deforestation, which has reduced the country's forest cover by 10 per cent since 2000. The loss of forested areas not only diminishes biodiversity but also increases vulnerability to landslides and soil erosion.

Deforestation and biodiversity loss are critical environmental challenges for Slovakia. Logging and wildfires have been the dominant drivers of tree cover loss, with deforestation contributing to soil instability and reduced carbon sequestration. Forests play a crucial role in Slovakia's ecosystem, and their depletion has far-reaching implications for environmental sustainability and climate resilience. Efforts to curb deforestation and promote reforestation are essential to mitigating these impacts.

Agriculture is among the sectors most affected by climate change in Slovakia. Earlier spring and summer seasons disrupt traditional growing cycles, reducing the viability of seasonal crops. Increased precipitation during certain times of the year results in flooding, which damages farmland and affects rural livelihoods. This disruption underscores the need for climate-resilient agricultural practices and better water management strategies to ensure food security and economic stability in rural areas.

The socioeconomic implications of climate change in Slovakia extend beyond environmental impacts. Rising temperatures are expected to increase energy demand for cooling, necessitating investments in adaptive energy infrastructure. Climate-induced natural hazards and environmental degradation also threaten livelihoods, particularly in rural communities reliant on agriculture and forestry. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach, integrating climate adaptation into economic planning, energy policy and community development.

In conclusion, Slovakia's climate and environment are undergoing significant changes, with increasing temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and intensifying natural hazards. These challenges demand immediate attention to mitigate risks, enhance resilience, and adapt to a changing climate. Prioritizing reforestation, sustainable water management, and climate-resilient agricultural practices is essential for safeguarding Slovakia's ecosystems and communities. With coordinated action and international support, Slovakia can navigate the impacts of climate change and ensure a sustainable future.

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

The Slovak Red Cross aims to build climate resilience, reduce its environmental footprint and promote sustainable practices across its operations and within communities. To achieve this, the National Society aims to:

- Invest in climate change adaptation, disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction
- Strengthen the resilience of communities, staff and volunteers to adapt to and respond to climate change and climate-driven natural hazards
- Develop, adopt and implement environmentally sustainable practices across programmes and operations to minimize environmental impact aligned with global and IFRC standards



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## Planned activities in 2025

- Implement public awareness campaigns on climate change adaptation and extreme weather events
- Collaborate with local organizations and governments to promote sustainable practices and advocate for stronger climate policies
- Provide resources and guidance to communities to adopt green practices and reduce their environmental impact
- Launch a dedicated project to educate children on disaster preparedness, incorporating climate change topics
- Transition from paper-based to electronic systems to enhance monitoring, data accuracy and reduce resource use
- Prioritize local procurement over international sourcing to lower the carbon footprint of operations
- Develop climate change strategies, policies and procedures to institutionalize [sustainability](#) in operations
- Host public workshops on preparing for extreme weather events and roll out educational initiatives targeting children and communities on [climate preparedness](#) and resilience
- Use multimedia campaigns to highlight the impacts of climate change and the importance of environmental stewardship
- Implement a comprehensive electronic case management system to streamline data collection and reduce paper usage

- Organize training sessions for staff, volunteers and communities on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience

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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support to the Slovak Red Cross with the implementation of actions under the [Regional Climate Action Roadmap 2025](#). The Climate Action Roadmap is a key tool to frame and guide how the IFRC in Europe aims to collectively scale-up climate action by 2025 and beyond. Jointly created by building on National Societies' experiences, knowledge and initiatives, the Roadmap aligns with the IFRC's global and regional climate as well as environmental commitments including the [Strategy 2030](#), [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#), Tbilisi Commitments (Regional Conference 2022), [Global Climate Resilience Platform and Programme](#) and contributes towards the [Paris Agreement](#), the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) and [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Providing a space for mutual, peer-to-peer learning, collaboration, the Regional Climate Action Roadmap Community of Practice enables the National Societies in Europe and Central Asia to share best practices and jointly tackle climate change-driven natural hazards. Besides ensuring regional coordination, the key focus of the roadmap is to secure funding opportunities through multi-country climate resilience project proposals.

The IFRC will also support the National Society through the [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](#) as well as collaborations with other organizations and academic institutions specializing in climate change and environment.



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## Disasters and crises

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

Slovakia's risk of humanitarian crises and disasters is classified as "very low" by the [INFORM Country Risk Profile](#), ranking 159th out of 191 countries. This designation reflects a stable risk environment; however, an analysis of Slovakia's risk profile reveals critical areas requiring attention to strengthen resilience and preparedness against potential future crises. While the country enjoys relative stability, emerging climate-related challenges and socio-economic vulnerabilities necessitate proactive measures.

Slovakia's exposure to natural hazards, particularly those exacerbated by climate change, is a growing concern. Increasingly

frequent extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, storms and heavy precipitation, have led to recurrent flooding, impacting infrastructure and agricultural livelihoods. Rapid deforestation and soil erosion have heightened the risks of landslides and wildfires. Vulnerable populations, particularly the elderly, face significant health risks from heatwaves. Additionally, storms and floods disrupt daily life, damage infrastructure and isolate remote communities. While the country is not traditionally associated with high seismic activity, earthquakes are identified as the most significant natural threat, followed by epidemics and droughts.

Slovakia's vulnerability to disasters is more socio-economic than environmental. Challenges such as income inequality, regional disparities and the integration of displaced populations

contribute to heightened vulnerability. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has indirectly affected Slovakia, with over [125,000 displaced individuals](#) seeking refuge in the country as of August 2024. This influx has placed additional strain on Slovakia's healthcare system, particularly in rural areas, which are already underserved. Addressing these socio-economic vulnerabilities requires targeted policies and investments in social services to reduce inequalities and provide support to uprooted populations.

Slovakia ranks 15th in coping capacity on the INFORM Risk Index, indicating gaps in institutional response mechanisms and infrastructure. While governance structures are stable, there is a need for enhanced disaster risk reduction policies and strategies. Weak infrastructure, particularly in healthcare, communication systems and physical structures, undermines the country's ability to respond effectively to disasters.

Slovakia's legal framework for crisis management is robust, with [Act No. 387](#) and [Act No. 42](#) providing clear guidelines for managing civil protection and state responses in crises. These acts define key terms, outline roles and responsibilities and establish measures for mitigating and responding to emergencies.

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

The Slovak Red Cross plays a vital role in disaster response as part of the [National Crisis Management Body](#) and Integrated Rescue System. However, the capacities of regional branches vary widely in terms of resources, technical equipment and trained staff, highlighting the need for equitable investment in regional preparedness. To achieve this, the National Society aims to:

- Strengthen readiness, disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction to empower communities and the National Society to respond effectively to crises
- Establish specific disaster preparedness and emergency response strategies, policies and procedures
- Strengthen its capacity to influence national disaster preparedness, response policies and [disaster law](#)

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Enhance [early warning and early action](#) mechanisms, data collection and information management
- Strengthen emergency preparedness by developing a contingency plan and business continuity plan to ensure operational effectiveness during crises
- Improve response capacity for floods through early warning protocols and enhanced services (evacuation support, food and non-food distribution)

- Implement a disaster preparedness educational project for children, inspired by Public Awareness and Public Education for Disaster Risk Reduction ([PAPE](#))
- Develop a registration platform for cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)) programmes with feedback mechanisms and ensure the availability of resources for implementation
- Maintain capacities gained under the Safe Homes Programme to address [shelter](#) needs during crises, including migration and displacement scenarios
- Provide "information as aid," labour market counselling and cash assistance for translation services and vocational courses
- Develop a Disaster Response Management policy to define methodologies, procedures and standard response services
- Establish guidelines for creating Emergency Operation Centres to coordinate response operations and provide strategic support during emergencies
- Advocate for the alignment of national legislation with international standards, including International Disaster Response Law ([IDRL](#))
- Promote the National Society's [auxiliary role](#) in disaster preparedness and response through engagement with national and local authorities
- Conduct awareness campaigns, training and drills for staff, volunteers and communities

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will provide technical support to the Slovak Red Cross in preparedness activities, including anticipatory action and early warning early action systems. Further support will be provided in raising awareness of the available IFRC tools and funding mechanisms supporting National Societies at times of disaster and crises. Such tools include the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** supports the Slovak Red Cross under the Ukraine crisis Emergency Appeal through the 510 Team by providing information management support for Slovak Red Cross' community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) and CVA mechanisms, focusing on community feedback data analysis and CVA case management.

The Slovak Red Cross is collaborating with the 510 Team to develop a work plan for a comprehensive [digital transformation](#) process. This plan includes establishing a centralized data system integrating planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), CEA and CVA modules via EspoCRM and 121 platforms. The goal is to improve data management, analysis, evidence-based decision-making and accountability. The finalized work plan will outline technical and funding needs to implement the system and strengthen the National Society's emergency response readiness.



Slovakia operates a [compulsory social health insurance \(SHI\) system](#), providing near-universal coverage for residents, with the state covering premiums for economically inactive individuals. The system comprises one public and two private insurance companies, which negotiate service contracts with healthcare providers. However, healthcare spending in Slovakia remains one of the lowest in the EU, at EUR 1,743 per capita in 2021—less than half the EU average of EUR 4,029. Public funds account for 80 per cent of health expenditure, yet systemic underinvestment has hindered the effectiveness of public health policies, prevention efforts and overall health system performance. Despite universal coverage, disparities in access to care persist, particularly among low-income groups, due to long waiting times and [limited healthcare capacity](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in Slovakia's healthcare system, overwhelming healthcare workers and disrupting routine medical care. Excess mortality rates surged during the pandemic, peaking in 2021 at nearly 20 per cent above pre-pandemic levels. COVID-19 accounted for over 60 per cent of excess deaths during this period, though inconsistencies in reporting suggest additional unaccounted causes. Life expectancy, which had been improving, declined sharply between 2019 and 2021 to 77.2 years in 2022, well below the EU average of 80.7 years. This drop reflects the pandemic's toll and the persistent burden of non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease and cancer, which remain the [leading causes of death](#).

Behavioural risk factors significantly contribute to Slovakia's health challenges. [Nearly half of deaths](#) in 2019 were linked to poor dietary habits, tobacco use, alcohol consumption and physical inactivity. Dietary risks alone accounted for 26 per cent of deaths, surpassing the EU average, while tobacco and alcohol-related mortality were on par with EU figures. Environmental factors, particularly [air pollution](#), further exacerbate respiratory and circulatory diseases, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations. These risks are often concentrated among those with lower incomes and educational attainment, reflecting socio-economic disparities in health outcomes.

[Mental health disorders](#) are a growing concern in Slovakia, affecting approximately one in seven people. Anxiety, depression and substance-use disorders are the most prevalent. The pandemic and the Ukraine conflict have intensified mental health needs, particularly among displaced populations. Addressing these challenges requires investments in mental health infrastructure, community-based services and workforce development. However, Slovakia faces a shortage of specialized mental health professionals, which hampers efforts to meet rising demands for care.

The impacts of climate change present additional challenges to health and well-being in Slovakia. Rising temperatures

and longer, hotter summers increase the risk of heat-related illnesses, particularly for older adults, pregnant women and children. Climate-related changes also heighten risks of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, as well as mental health conditions such as eco-anxiety and solastalgia.

Workforce shortages, especially among nurses, pose a significant barrier to healthcare access and quality in Slovakia. Declining numbers of nursing graduates, coupled with low professional recognition and unattractive working conditions, have strained the system. These challenges were further highlighted during the pandemic, which underscored the need for better workforce retention and development strategies. In 2022, approximately three per cent of Slovaks reported unmet medical care needs, with the lowest-income groups disproportionately affected.

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

To promote and contribute to the health and well-being, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) of the Slovak population and displaced people, the Slovak Red Cross prioritizes the following high-level objectives:

- Promote the importance of [first aid](#) through health education targeting the Slovak population
- Institutionalize MHPSS in Slovakia
- Expand social services activities targeting the most vulnerable social groups
- Promote blood donation to attract and retain donors

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Strengthen capacity to provide transportation, home-based care, hot meal delivery and other social services for vulnerable populations (older adults, disabled individuals and homeless people)
- Maintain and expand psychological first aid (PFA) provision to displaced people and the Slovak population, focusing on vulnerable groups such as children, youth and the elderly
- Enhance the quality of first aid education and standardize approaches across branches
- Establish a community of certified first aid instructors by engaging 20,000 people annually
- Build youth capacity in first aid through initiatives such as the Youth First Aid Project 3P (Projekt Prvej Pomoci – First Aid Project) targeting 25 people with more than 400 workshops per year

- Expand the “Dorotka and Her Friends” project which engages young volunteers aged 15 to 30 with children in kindergartens to train youth volunteers in providing first aid and humanitarian education to reach approximately 1,200 preschoolers in 30 kindergartens every school year
- Address stigmatization related to mental health through awareness campaigns and dialogue with government stakeholders
- Establish MHPSS units for deployment across Slovakia and promote community-peer support networks
- Organize awareness-raising campaigns and mobile blood drive events in collaboration with the National Transfusion Service and recognize and reward regular blood donors
- Explore partnerships with corporations to establish new blood donation centres
- Train staff and volunteers in MHPSS and ensure sustainable service delivery

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides technical expertise, funding and capacity-building support to help the Slovak Red Cross achieve its objectives by implementing and scaling its initiatives effectively. The IFRC assists the National Society in maintaining its accreditation as a provider of basic and advanced training through the [IFRC Global First Aid Centre](#). This includes developing standardized training materials and enhancing online learning opportunities to reach a broader audience. Similarly, the IFRC aids in creating sustainable revenue streams through first aid education to ensure long-term service viability.

The IFRC also offers guidance on integrating MHPSS into national emergency response frameworks and building community-driven support networks. The IFRC provides strategic guidance on organizing campaigns and establishing partnerships with corporate entities. By sharing best practices and technical expertise, the IFRC supports Slovak Red Cross' efforts to attract and retain donors, as well as explore opportunities for setting up new blood donation centres.



## Migration and displacement

Slovakia, traditionally a culturally homogeneous country, has not been a primary destination for migrants. Historically, it has been a country of origin, with many Slovak citizens emigrating for economic, social or political reasons. Female emigration has consistently outpaced male emigration, with key destination countries including the Czech Republic, Germany, the United Kingdom, Austria and Switzerland. Migrants from Slovakia are predominantly young, educated individuals working in sectors such as construction, healthcare and industry.

Slovakia's accession to the EU and the Schengen Area marked a shift in its migration patterns. [Regular migration](#) increased significantly, though the representation of foreign nationals remains low at 5.13 per cent of the population as of 2024. However, the influx of displaced people, particularly from Ukraine due to the ongoing conflict, has led to a notable increase in foreign populations. By December 2022, Slovakia recorded a 66.3 per cent rise in foreign residents compared to 2021, with Ukrainians comprising a significant proportion of asylum applications and [granted protection](#).

The asylum process in Slovakia has historically been limited, with only 926 individuals granted asylum since 1993. Applications remain stable, with most asylum seekers [originating from Ukraine](#), Türkiye, Morocco, Bangladesh and Russia. Besides Ukrainians, refugees also include individuals from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Temporary Protection

Status, activated in response to the Ukraine crisis, has provided displaced people access to healthcare, employment and social services.

The conflict in Ukraine has transformed Slovakia into a country of transition and reception. Over 2.2 million border crossings from Ukraine were recorded as of April 2024, with women and children comprising 83 per cent of this population. Many of these displaced individuals moved to major cities, such as Bratislava and Košice. Slovakia's rapid activation of Temporary Protection Status granted displaced individuals access to the labour market and basic services, significantly shaping its migration response.

The needs of displaced people from Ukraine have shifted from immediate relief (food, accommodation) in 2022 to longer-term integration support in 2023. Current priorities include healthcare, employment, and language courses, with gender-specific differences in needs. This evolution highlights the importance of adapting migration policies and services to address both short- and long-term challenges.

Migration in Slovakia is governed by several legislative instruments, including the [residence of foreigners](#), [employment services](#) and [asylum](#).

The [Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic](#) (2021-2025) represents a strategic shift, focusing on migrant integration

and labour migration management to support economic growth while addressing social and security concerns.

Although Slovakia is a signatory to the [United Nations Conventions on Statelessness](#), its procedures for determining and addressing statelessness are underdeveloped. Statelessness is often treated within broader asylum or residence applications, placing the burden of proof on applicants. This lack of a dedicated determination process highlights a gap in Slovakia's migration system.

February 2022 marked a pivotal moment for migration in Slovakia, with an influx of displaced people from Ukraine and migrants from the Middle East transiting through the Balkan route. As migration patterns continue to evolve, Slovakia faces the dual challenge of addressing immediate humanitarian needs while fostering long-term integration.

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

The Slovak Red Cross is part of the IFRC's three-year [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#). It aims to improve the safety and dignity of people along dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Annually, the programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and in host communities 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 National Society also participated in initiatives such as the IFRC Ukraine Emergency Appeal which has strengthened the Slovak Red Cross' preparedness through financial support, capacity building and prepositioning of non-food items. To ensure that people on the move are provided with necessary humanitarian aid, the Slovak Red Cross is aims to:

- Provide humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move by maintaining and scaling up humanitarian service points ([HSPs](#)) and enhancing restoring family links ([RFL](#)) capacities
- Promote social inclusion and integration for people on the move
- Strengthen its role of in migration policy advocacy by leveraging its [auxiliary role](#) to influence migration policies

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Ensure access to safe and accessible spaces for people on the move
- Provide essential services such as counselling, [MHPSS](#), medical referrals, legal advice, [CVA](#) and transportation for vulnerable individuals
- Raise public awareness about RFL services through social media campaigns and promotional materials
- Conduct awareness-raising activities to “change the hearts and minds” of host communities
- Engage with stakeholders, including authorities and private organizations, to ensure health, education and labour market participation for migrants
- Help with employment, housing, education and access to language learning
- Educate communities to support the integration of migrants and refugees and facilitate social connections focusing on health and well-being of migrants
- Engage in advocacy and campaigns with national authorities and international stakeholders to promote meaningful participation of migrants
- Train staff and volunteers on [PGI](#) and [CEA](#) approaches
- Develop training materials for staff and volunteers to establish HSPs quickly in future crises
- Train staff and volunteers and equip them with technical tools (phones, SIM cards, mobile Wi-Fi, laptops)

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides a wide range of technical support in the development and design of training materials, guidance on the establishment of HSPs as well as sharing best practices ensuring the integration of cross-cutting components, such as CEA, PGI and safeguarding in migration activities.

The [IFRC integration framework](#) provides a comprehensive guidance for National Societies in Europe, offering a common approach and language for staff and volunteers engaged in integration and inclusion activities. In addition, it provides a practical tool to support the development, implementation and monitoring of initiatives aimed at supporting migrants in vulnerable situations. To empower the Slovak Red Cross to expand its activities on the social integration and inclusion of people on the move, the IFRC will provide regional training with the integration of sensitization sessions. The IFRC will also facilitate knowledge sharing among National Societies, enhancing the Slovak Red Cross' ability to manage migration-related crises.



## Values, power and inclusion

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI), Slovakia's human development is very high, with an increasing trend between 1990 – 2022. Slovakia's policies and societal frameworks reflect a strong commitment to the principles of equality, dignity, and human rights. Rooted in international treaties and national laws, the country emphasizes access, participation, and safety, showcasing its dedication to inclusive development. The adoption of the Antidiscrimination Act and its wide-ranging prohibitions against discrimination signal the prioritization of universal human rights. Additionally, Slovakia's efforts in advancing gender equality, as seen through improvements in women's representation and labour rights, demonstrate a progressive outlook on equity. The integration of vulnerable groups, such as children and individuals with disabilities, into education and public services further emphasizes the importance placed on collective welfare and inclusivity.

Power dynamics in Slovakia are influenced by both historical and structural factors. Decentralized governance empowers municipalities to involve citizens in decision-making processes, enabling grassroots influence on local matters. Participatory initiatives such as municipal budgeting provide a tangible method for residents to exercise control over resource allocation, fostering transparency and accountability. However, challenges persist due to regional disparities in trust and engagement, rooted in Slovakia's post-communist legacy. Similarly, systemic inequities in employment and pay between genders reveal underlying power imbalances that remain unresolved. While legislative and institutional measures offer a framework for justice, gaps in their enforcement highlight the need for sustained advocacy and systemic reform.

Slovakia demonstrates ongoing efforts to enhance inclusion across various domains, addressing systemic inequalities that affect marginalized populations. Legal frameworks and national strategies aim to support groups such as the Roma community, displaced persons, and LGBTQI+ individuals. Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain, particularly in combating entrenched discrimination and social exclusion. Roma individuals often face barriers to education and housing, while LGBTQI+ individuals experience hate crimes and societal prejudice. In education, increased access to infrastructure for students with disabilities and rising participation rates in pre-primary education signify progress. Yet, disparities in STEM participation and gender representation in specific fields highlight areas for improvement. Additionally, community engagement projects, particularly environmental and youth-driven initiatives, reflect a growing emphasis on collective action and societal integration.

Slovakia embodies a multifaceted approach to values, power and inclusion, balancing progress with persistent challenges. The nation's legal and social frameworks create opportunities

for equitable development, yet deeper cultural and structural changes are necessary to fully realize its inclusive potential.

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

The Slovak Red Cross aims to:

- Promote principles of PGI and CEA across Slovak communities
- Ensure community involvement in programmatic and operational decision-making
- Support access to education and foster social cohesion among diverse groups

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Organize awareness campaigns and community activities to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, bullying, discrimination and human trafficking
  - Leverage international events and initiatives (International Women's Day, "16 Days of Action Against SGBV") to raise awareness on PGI principles
  - Continue HIV/AIDS awareness efforts and intergenerational programmes, encouraging empathy and combating isolation
  - Develop and distribute an estimated 300 copies of promotional materials highlighting PGI and CEA principles
  - Design and implement SOPs, strategies and resources to mainstream PGI, safeguarding and CEA principles in all programmes and operations
  - Establish a comprehensive feedback mechanism integrated with safe referral pathways and the Slovak Red Cross Helpline
  - Create a specialized team and focal points to facilitate PGI and CEA integration across regions
  - Develop and maintain tools for effective data collection and analysis, ensuring meaningful community participation and evidence-based advocacy
  - Expand Restoring Family Links (RFL) services, integrating PGI policy and CEA principles into staff training and community support efforts
  - Train at least 15 new coordinators annually to lead intergenerational activities and provide guides for effective implementation
  - Train all staff and volunteers on safeguarding, child protection and PGI minimum standards in emergencies
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide technical support to the Slovak Red Cross to help achieve its programmatic and operational goals. Further mapping of funding opportunities will be undertaken, including the [CERV DAPHNE proposal](#) already submitted to the EU for initiatives to prevent and combat gender-based violence and violence against children, in which the Slovak Red Cross is involved.

The **British Red Cross** and the **Swedish Red Cross** also support the CEA Ambassador Programme financially to help the Slovak Red Cross work towards institutionalisation of CEA to advance broader engagement and integration of CEA principles in its operations.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** finances the Digital Engagement Hub Project to enhance feedback analysis, evidence-based programming and accountability to communities.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Slovak 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 2024. 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

Slovak Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the work plan phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



### Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Engage with public authorities to strengthen its [auxiliary role](#) and positioning in policy and law-making different thematic areas, including disaster preparedness and response, anticipatory action and climate change and migration policies
- Strengthen strategic partnerships with national, regional global stakeholders
- Conduct online campaigns and share newsletters via mailing lists to strengthen its visibility to attract partners to support programmes and operations

- Strengthen resource mobilization through increasing capacity for domestic fundraising and strengthened digital tools

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

The IFRC will support the Slovak Red Cross in mapping out and engaging in dialogue with potential national and international partners. The IFRC will also monitor calls for proposals for funding opportunities, for instance, by participating National Societies, EU, USAID, governments, private institutions and the academia. Further technical support will be provided in developing a standardised resource mobilization, fundraising strategy and proposal writing.



## National Society development

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

- Continue the transformation of the Slovak Red Cross into a modern, resilient organization capable of effectively addressing humanitarian challenges
- Remain a trusted and visible leader in the humanitarian sector, known for alleviating the suffering of vulnerable individuals
- Adopt the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment ([BOCA](#)) tool for strengthening its local branches
- Renovate the Mlynceky Centre into a multi-purpose facility to implement income generating activities, as well as support training and internal strategic initiatives
- Revise its [statutes](#) and after approval draft a policy and procedures guiding its implementation within the National Society at all levels
- Strengthen volunteer engagement and institutional capacity to ensure the National Society's ability to fulfil its mission and sustain its impact
- [Include youth](#) in project development, implementations well as evaluation to ensure its effectivity and foster accountability

- Invest in youth programmes and youth engagement strategy to ensure a resilient and proactive network of volunteers who are well-equipped to respond to current and future challenges, fostering a culture of preparedness and compassion across Slovakia

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support to the Slovak Red Cross over the next three years (2025 – 2027) to achieve its high-level objectives under National Society development, which will be in line with the one National Society development plan of the National Society, which is guided by the [NSD Compact](#). The IFRC will also assist the Slovak Red Cross in achieving its financial sustainability goal through various [funding mechanisms](#), including the [Capacity Building Fund](#) and the IFRC-ICRC joint [National Society Investment Alliance \(NSIA\)](#).

By ensuring consistency and coherence, the IFRC will help the National Society to share lessons learned, peer to peer support, avoid duplication and continuously improve by refining systems and processes.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Advocate for revisions in national legal frameworks and policies to ensure that these are aligned with international standards, evolving trends and challenges in the humanitarian ecosystem, and realities on the ground
- Enhance internal and external communication systems to improve dialogue between headquarters, branches, government entities and other stakeholders
- Upgrade social media presence and website to reinforce the Slovak Red Cross' national identity
- Develop communication strategies to address emergency situations, focusing on physical and mental health, and to improve stakeholder relationships
- Launch comprehensive awareness-raising campaigns and educational initiatives to promote the [Fundamental](#)

[Principles](#) of the Red Cross, [disaster law](#) and [humanitarian law](#) among communities and staff

- Conduct social media campaigns and commemorate [World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day](#) nationwide
- Organize education sessions for children and youth in schools, focusing on disaster law and international humanitarian law ([IHL](#)) through interactive activities
- Encourage youth to lead the "Hour about the Red Cross" (Hodina o Červenom kríži) campaign, aiming to reach around 1,000 students annually with workshops delivered by trained volunteers in primary, secondary and high schools
- Design and distribute a range of informational materials, including leaflets, brochures and promotional gadgets, such as pens, notepads and keychains
- Provide comprehensive communication training to staff and volunteers to ensure effective messaging across



critical areas including humanitarian diplomacy and emblem protection

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical support to strengthen the Slovak Red Cross's positioning and visibility. This support will include aligning the National Society's efforts with the [IFRC Humanitarian Diplomacy](#) policy including enhancing

the National Society's capacities of data-driven and evidence-based influencing to inform both programmatic and political preparedness. Further support will be provided by the IFRC to connect the Slovak Red Cross with peers and partners, as well as the ICRC to contribute to the development of learning materials on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as well as the IHL.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan and standardized policies to align strategic, programmatic and operational directions across all of its branches
- Enhance HR capacity by focusing on the recruitment, development and retention of staff, volunteers and youth
- Invest in robust and modernized IT infrastructure, including state-of-the-art hardware and software systems, standardized cybersecurity measures and data protection compliance
- Standardize logistics and procurement processing line with IFRC standards to improve storage and prepositioning of supplies and strengthen security management systems
- Adopt [integrity frameworks](#) and reinforce planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) practices to ensure transparency and effectiveness of operations
- Establish and regularly update an institutional risk register to identify and mitigate potential risks
- Implement and reinforce clear, accessible and confidential safeguarding protocols across its headquarters and branches to ensure that staff and volunteers are fully equipped to recognize and respond to protection concerns, including gender-based violence, child protection and human trafficking
- Lead a comprehensive [digital transformation](#) to enhance operational efficiency, data collection and data management and service delivery
- Upgrade digital systems, introduce intuitive data platforms and provide accessible online training for staff and volunteers

- Provide comprehensive ICT training to staff and volunteers, empowering them with the skills needed to leverage digital tools efficiently

### Longer-term support from the IFRC Network

The IFRC will support the Slovak Red Cross in fostering strategic thinking and strategic planning. This includes facilitating planning sessions and lessons-learned workshops, enhancing capacities in monitoring and reporting and promoting a culture of learning to adjust plans, projects, programmes and operations based on lessons learned, challenges and best practices.

The IFRC will support the development of a PMER system aimed at enhancing the capacity for strategic PMER. Special attention will be given to defining indicators and developing methodologies for data collection. The PMER system will also integrate PGI considerations and CEA minimum actions to ensure that activities carried out across the National Society's branches are inclusive, participatory and accountable.

The **British Red Cross** and the **Swedish Red Cross**, through the CEA Ambassador Programme, will support the strengthening of CEA capacities and work on implementing the Impact-Trust Index research to define the baseline for community trust and perceptions of the Slovak Red Cross in society. Simultaneously, the IFRC will support the adaptation of the integrity line to ensure that mechanisms for addressing safeguarding and integrity issues are in place and enhance the National Society's accountability.

The IFRC and the 510 team from the **Netherlands Red Cross** will support the National Society to undergo a comprehensive digital transformation.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC, through its operational office located in Bratislava, Slovakia and its Regional Office for Europe based in Budapest, Hungary, provides support to the Slovak Red Cross in both financial and technical aspects, as well as resources for disaster response, health initiatives and National Society development. The IFRC also supports the National Society in implementing the Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency Appeal since March 2022, with more than 50 surge delegates deployed to support the emergency response. Five long-term IFRC

positions have been recruited to support the Slovak Red Cross in implementing the response beyond the emergency phase.

Before the conflict, there was no IFRC presence in Slovakia. Since 2022, the IFRC has been mobilizing technical support and funding resources to enable the Slovak Red Cross to address the challenges due to the conflict. From 2022 onwards, the transition towards a longer-term development approach in Slovakia was initiated, mobilizing staff to secure support beyond the immediate response to the needs of displaced people from Ukraine and host communities.

## 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.

Until the Ukraine conflict, the Slovak Red Cross had limited exposure to IFRC membership collaboration. Since 2022, it has scaled up operations and broadened expertise, aiming to sustain its progress after the Emergency Appeal concludes in December 2025.

Other key partnerships and support from sister National Societies include:

The **American Red Cross** provided regional CVA expertise, financial aid, prepositioned essential household items and capacity-building in fundraising and communications.

The **British Red Cross**, the **Swedish Red Cross** and the **Netherlands Red Cross** collaborated on CEA and digital transformation, including the CEA Ambassador Programme and centralized data management systems.

The **Spanish Red Cross** initiated a bilateral livelihoods project in 2024 and exploring further collaboration.



On top of shelter and cash support, the 15 Humanitarian Service Points across Slovakia also provide information, psychological first aid, referrals to other local institutions, in-kind goods and other services to displaced people from Ukraine. (Photo: Slovak Red Cross)

## Movement coordination

The Slovak 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. During 2022 and early 2023, the Slovak Red Cross and the IFRC met weekly to share their plans for the week ahead and resolve any issues that may have been raised during the meeting. From 2024 onwards, these meetings are carried out bi-weekly, focusing on unblocking different bottlenecks in programming and planning future interventions. The Slovak Red Cross is also a member of the Red Cross EU Office, which supports the Slovak Red Cross by coordinating with EU stakeholders, providing technical

assistance and mobilizing EU resources. 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 regularly conducted field visits in Slovakia until the end of 2023 focusing on protection issues. The Slovak Red Cross was provided with dedicated support for restoring family links ([RFL](#)), with one confirmed Slovak Red Cross staff position. A protection of family links (PFL) delegate was based in the Slovak Red Cross headquarters to provide technical support. From 2024, the ICRC has been supporting the Slovak Red Cross remotely.

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## Coordination with other actors

The Slovak Red Cross is a member of the National Steering Committee, chaired by the Ministry of Interior (migration office). The committee used to meet bi-weekly to discuss issues pertinent to displaced people from Ukraine until the end of 2023. Other members are UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and WHO.

The Slovak Red Cross is also a member of the Slovakia Cash Working Group, which includes the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF. Meetings are regularly held to coordinate cash-based response efforts among these agencies.

The Slovak Red Cross is part of the Inclusion Working Group, which focuses on different topics, such as housing, health and education, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. In

bi-weekly meetings, information is shared among the agencies and participating organizations, and future interventions are planned. A considerable focus is dedicated to humanitarian diplomacy on behalf of vulnerable displaced populations.

The Slovak Red Cross also participates in all other Inter-Agency coordination mechanisms in response to the ongoing international armed conflict in Ukraine, including the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF), organized monthly by the UNHCR in person and online, which is a useful forum to get general updates on the situation and the response. The Slovak Red Cross also attends other sub-working groups based on technical focus including a Health Working Group, a Protection Working Group and an Information Management Working Group.



## 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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