



MONTENEGRO



2025 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 7.5M**

20 March 2025

In support of the Red Cross of Montenegro



23

National Society branches



194

National Society staff



1,493

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



10,000

Ongoing emergency operations



9,000

Climate and environment



15,000

Disasters and crises



15,000

Health and wellbeing



4,000

Migration and displacement



13,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Population movement

Longer-term needs

- Early warning and disaster risk reduction
 - Climate change adaptation
- Health needs • Migration-related needs
 - Inclusion of vulnerable groups

Capacity development

- Sustainable resource mobilization and fundraising
 - Partnerships • Financial management • Branch development
- Communications • Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting

Key country data links

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **High**

Human Development Index rank **50**

World Bank Population figure **616,000**

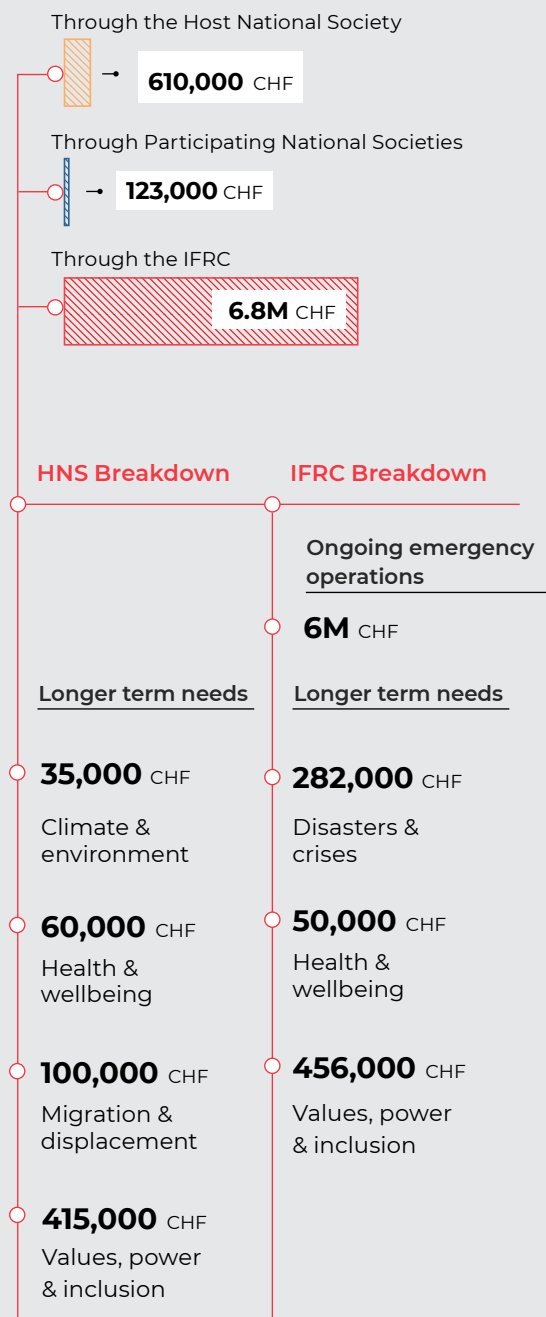
World Bank Population below poverty line **20.3%**

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

Funding requirements

2025

Total 7.5M CHF



Participating National Societies

Austrian Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

MGR65002 Ukraine and impacted countries crisis

Long-term needs:

MAAME002

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

Participating National Societies bilateral support for 2025

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Austrian Red Cross			●	●			●
Italian Red Cross	25,000					●	●
Swiss Red Cross	98,000				●		

Total Funding requirement **CHF 123,000**

Hazards



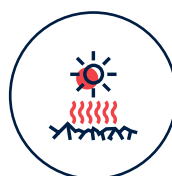
Population movement



Floods



Drought



Extreme weather conditions



Forest fires



The Red Cross of Montenegro continues supporting migrants from Ukraine with the distribution of essential household items, hygiene kits and school kits. (Photo: Red Cross of Montenegro)

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Red Cross of Montenegro** was founded in 1875 in Cetinje as the first National Society in the Balkans. It was internationally recognized in November of the same year. After the restoration of the sovereignty of the state of Montenegro in 2006, the Red Cross of Montenegro renewed the status of an independent National Society in 2006. It was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2007. The Red Cross of Montenegro assists the state in implementing national strategies, including those for humanitarian response, social inclusion, disaster risk reduction, disability integration, elderly care, child protection, and others. The National Society's position, authority, and obligations are regulated by the Law on the Red Cross of Montenegro and were proclaimed by the Parliament of Montenegro on April 18, 2006.

The Red Cross of Montenegro has special obligations in disseminating International Humanitarian Law, providing health services, and responding to mass disasters. The National Society also focuses on global humanitarian problems, such as climate change and violence prevention. The Emblem of the Red Cross of Montenegro is protected by law.

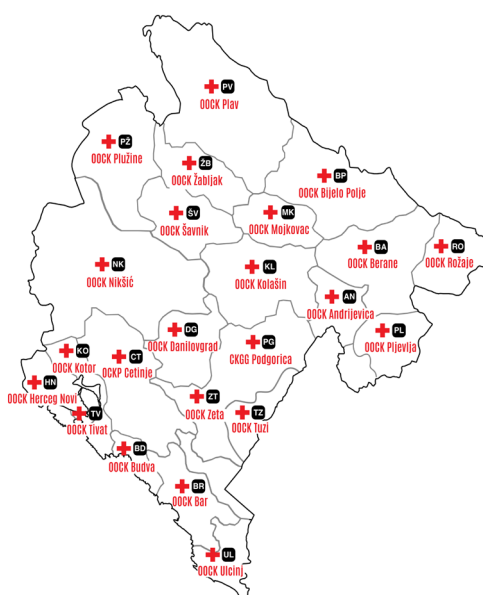
The Red Cross of Montenegro operates through 23 organizational units, including local branches and city organizations. These units, as legal entities, work together to

provide unique services across Montenegro. Members and volunteers, mostly young people, play a significant role in humanitarian activities.

The National Society's Development Strategy 2023–2026 identifies five objectives:

- Strengthen the National Society at all levels for the implementation of legally defined tasks and other programme and activities within the mandate of the organization
- Develop sustainable financing system in the Red Cross of Montenegro
- Improve capacities for rescue and protection of lives and livelihoods in disasters and crises
- Improve service in preventive and health protection in Montenegro
- Improve social service by supporting vulnerable groups and contributing to their inclusion

In 2023, the Red Cross of Montenegro reached more than 23,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of Red Cross of Montenegro branches and sub-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

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Montenegro is a part of Southeast Europe with an exit to the Adriatic Sea. It borders with Albania, Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and covers an area of 13,812 square kilometers.

A meeting point of different cultural and religious influences, Montenegro has 72 per cent Orthodox Christians, 3.43 per cent Muslims, and 15.97 per cent Catholic. The current [population of Montenegro is 616,000](#) based on projections of the latest United Nations data. The country's population has barely changed since the late 1980's. Population decline and ageing is negatively affecting the economic growth in Montenegro, as well as in other western Balkan countries.

Montenegro faces a range of environmental challenges which include deforestation, air and water pollution, inadequate waste management, climate changes vulnerability, and coastal and marine degradation. Unsustainable logging, urbanization, and industrial activities contribute to deforestation, habitat loss, and air and water pollution, while inadequate waste management exacerbates these issues. Additionally, Montenegro's vulnerability to climate change impacts such as rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and changes

in precipitation patterns poses risks to agriculture, water resources, and coastal ecosystems. Coastal erosion, habitat degradation, and marine pollution further threaten the country's Adriatic coast, impacting biodiversity and the tourism industry.

Montenegro is an upper-middle-income economy. The Montenegrin economy is still recovering from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused the economy to shrink by more than 15 per cent in 2020, reflecting the [economy's dependence on tourism](#). To increase the living standards and purchasing power in the country, the minimum wage has been raised and measures have been taken to eliminate "undocumented" work and reduce the number of unemployed.

The recent political crisis in Montenegro has intensified societal divisions, especially along religious and ethnic lines, posing challenges to economic reforms and anti-corruption efforts. Montenegro, aspiring to join the EU by 2025, faces economic vulnerability due to heavy dependence on external investments and tourism. This reliance, combined with extensive infrastructure investments and costly social programmes, strains fiscal sustainability.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Name	Ukraine and impacted countries crisis
Appeal number	MGR65002
People to be assisted	28 February 2022 – 31 December 2025
Duration	22.7 M (total); 10,000 (in Montenegro)
Funding requirements	Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 2.7 billion IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 800M Federation-wide funding requirement (Montenegro): CHF 6M IFRC Secretariat funding requirement (Montenegro): CHF 6M
Link to Revised Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal
Link to Latest Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Link to Country Response Plan	Montenegro Response Plan

Since the armed conflict in Ukraine began and escalated over time, the conflict has grown in complexity, producing multi-faceted and wide-reaching impacts. Humanitarian needs are particularly severe among those who remain at home in conflict prevalent areas and with internally displaced persons (IDPs). At the start of 2023, the number of IDPs within Ukraine was estimated at 5.4 million. The spread of hostilities in Ukraine has resulted in over 20.4 million movements out of Ukraine since the escalation of the armed conflict. Most of the displaced people from Ukraine have entered the immediate neighbouring countries, primarily Poland, Russia, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Moldova. Following the action of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) by the European Union (EU), 5 million displaced people from Ukraine have registered for temporary protection in EU countries.

According to official data from the Ministry of Interior, from the period of 24th February 2022 until 23rd January 2023, 91,547 displaced people from Ukraine entered Montenegro. Currently, there are 6,962 people from Ukraine in the country, which represents 1.12 per cent of the total population of Montenegro comprising 619,211 people. Since the beginning of the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, 7,861 people have applied for temporary protection in Montenegro.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

A regional operational strategy and a revised emergency appeal were developed with the support of a harmonized revision of the 17 National Society Response Plans and the Ukrainian Red Cross Society [One Plan for 2023 – 2025](#).

Through this revised emergency appeal, the Red Cross of Montenegro is providing targeted assistance to about 10,000 people. The interventions consist of:

Health and care including water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH): Providing [community-based health services](#) to displaced people from Ukraine. Disseminating information accessing the public health system in Montenegro through [humanitarian service points \(HSPs\)](#) to displaced people.

Providing [psychological first aid](#) through the helpline as well as through individual sessions to people who have been identified as the most marginalized and need more specialized support and through group sessions in collective [shelters](#). Delivering [first aid](#) training to volunteers and new staff as part of their onboarding.

Shelter, housing, and settlements: Providing winter assistance for clothing and footwear through [cash and voucher assistance \(CVA\)](#) once a year. Supporting the most marginalized people through unconditional CVA to cover their basic needs on monthly basis for a period of 18 months. Providing one-off multipurpose cash assistance to displaced people from Ukraine in case of further escalation or increases in arrivals.

Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI): Establishing new child friendly spaces to support children in line with Movement standards. Facilitating integration of children within local communities by organizing after school activities. Mapping services and disseminating information about referral pathways. Supporting integration and inclusion of displaced people from Ukraine through field trips and summer camps. Appointing a focal point for PGI within the National Society.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA): Managing effective feedback mechanisms for the Ukraine response, including a helpline with Ukrainian-speaking operators, social media, and face-to-face channels. Setting up one central case management system for categorizing and tracking community feedback collected through different feedback mechanisms. Strengthening electronic needs assessment, registration and feedback system using Kobo toolbox through different links and QR codes.

Migration and displacement: Ensuring provision of humanitarian services through already established HSPs in local National Society branches. Establishing new or mobile HSPs at key border crossings in case of increase in new arrivals. Providing information to asylum seekers, people applying for refugee status or seeking temporary protection on procedures, steps, rights through different channels. Supporting with documentation and counselling, and translation if needed.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Climate change leaves enormous humanitarian consequences, emphasizing existing risks and creating new risks for natural and human systems. As always, these risks are not evenly distributed as they tend to be more pronounced for people living in less developed areas.

The results from the climate projections show an increase in the annual temperature of 1.5°C to 2°C by 2040 throughout the country. The increase in the temperature during the winter months of December–February is expected to be between 2°C and 2.5°C, and in the summer months of June–August an estimated average of 2° C.

Montenegro has a score of 2.2 on the [INFORM Climate Change Risk Index for 2022](#), indicating low level of vulnerability to

climate change. While relatively less vulnerable than other areas, it is important to prioritize climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies to safeguard against potential future risks. This underscores the importance of continued monitoring, preparedness, and proactive measures to address climate-related threats and ensure the long-term resilience of Montenegro's communities and ecosystems.

Climate change presents a unique dual threat to vulnerable communities: it leads to more frequent, intense, and unpredictable extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and extreme heat while the macroeconomic impacts of climate change impact income and resilience among the poorest, reducing the ability of low-income communities to cope with shocks or crisis situations, exacerbating dependence on international aid.

According to the data from the prevention web, in the last 13 years, on average, nine disaster events occur each year, damaging or destroying an average of 800 houses. This indicates that local communities are unfamiliar with the ways to prepare, respond, and mitigate climate-change driven natural hazards.

In response to the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change, Montenegro has embarked on a strategic initiative titled "Enhancing Montenegro's Capacity to Integrate Climate Change Risks into Planning" (National Adaptation Plan Project).

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Montenegro's key objective under climate and environment is to ensure that the resilience of communities across the country is progressively and sustainably reinforced by embedding the National Society in national and regional networks. More specifically, the National Society strives to improve the level of knowledge and skills of the public regarding climate risks, prevention, and preparedness for disasters



Disasters and crises

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

In Montenegro, over the last 13 years, nine disaster events have happened every year, damaging or destroying approximately 800 houses on average per year. The country has faced recurring floods in the past, most recently in September 2012 when heavy rains and storms affected the refugee camp Konik I in Montenegro, near the city of Podgorica. The floods damaged shelter facilities and personal belongings, worsening the condition of people residing in the refugee camps. In that same year, Montenegro faced extreme winter conditions, with heavy snowfall and freezing temperatures recorded in the central and northern part of the country. 1,500 families living in the

with the aim of increasing community resilience. The National Society's activities under this thematic area are designed to raise awareness among citizens about environmental protection and strategies to mitigate the risks and adverse impacts of climate change.

Planned activities in 2025

- Enhancing disaster risk reduction efforts through training for staff and volunteers with a focus on equipping 20 individuals
- Conduct school-based disaster risk reduction education, providing teachers and students with sessions on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- Conduct five campaigns focused on environmental and climate issues as well as activities aimed at behaviour change
- Conduct awareness raising and dissemination activities including translation, printing and distribution of public awareness and public education (PAPE) key messages
- Install/introduce disaster risk information boards and other communication materials in targeted schools

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC assists the Red Cross of Montenegro through ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing, in developing strategies and implementing programmes that address climate change and environmental challenges.

The **Austrian Red Cross** supports the Red Cross of Montenegro in disaster preparedness and response, home care and resource mobilization.

villages surrounding those municipalities were completely cut off from the towns and the rest of the country.

In 2021, a national disaster risk assessment (NDRA) was created in accordance with EU risk assessment and mapping guidelines for disaster management. The NDRA assesses key risks that could have significant human, economic, environmental, and political/social impacts as well as cross-border impacts. It includes scenarios for nine risks (including forest fires, climate change -weather phenomena, earthquake, floods, etc.) and eight multi-hazards. 94 experts from different institutions and organizations (ministries, governmental institutions, NGOs, and universities) were involved in the creation of the NDRA. The Red Cross of Montenegro participated in the working group in charge for assessing the climate change risk.

The risk assessment categorizes various scenarios into different levels of risk to which the individuals in Montenegro are exposed to. This helps decision-makers and stakeholders in prioritizing preparedness, response, and mitigation efforts based on the assessed levels of risk for each scenario. The categories are:

- **Very high:** epidemics, nuclear incidents, maritime traffic incidents
- **High:** earthquakes, droughts, cold waves, fires, radiation accidents, air traffic incidents, sea traffic incidents
- **Moderate:** earthquakes, landslides, storms, severe weather events, droughts, cold waves, floods, fires, plant diseases, animal diseases, interruption in electricity supply, air, and rail traffic incidents
- **Low:** landslides, animal diseases, technical and technological incidents (such as Brezovik, HA Piva or TA Pljevlja incident), radiation incidents, interruption in electricity supply, railway and road traffic incidents, electronic communication network incidents

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Montenegro's high level objectives under disasters and crises consist of increasing human resources in disaster preparedness and response at national and local levels, improving the position of the National Society at the national and international levels in rescue on organized ski slopes, approving membership in the international commission for alpine rescue (ICAR), strengthening the National Society's human and material capacities, and strengthening the capacities of the local communities who are most affected. The National Society will also work with school children who are both vulnerable to disaster risks and capable of becoming agents of change by bringing knowledge and skills to their communities.

Planned activities in 2025

- Enhance human resources in disaster preparedness and response programme



Health and wellbeing

Montenegro faces health challenges from communicable and non-communicable diseases, including mental health issues. Limited healthcare access in remote areas and discrepancies in services contribute to health disparities, accentuated among marginalized groups. Substance abuse adds to health concerns, requiring preventative measures. Non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and respiratory diseases are leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Montenegro. According to the World Health

- Conduct training and education for response teams in local communities
- Conduct four sessions of refresher training and exercises/drills on local and national to train 25 people for response teams
- Procure and provide equipment (personal, protective, IT) necessary for the disaster response teams
- Meet with relevant institutions and stakeholders to improve enforcement of protection and rescue law
- Enhance the position of the National Society at the national and international level in rescue on organized ski slopes
- Conduct two training programmes to improve water rescue capacities

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** provides technical support to Red Cross of Montenegro in mainstreaming and integrating mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in disaster management trainings and interventions, including caring for staff and volunteers. IFRC Reference Centres and IFRC Hubs and Labs foster long-term support through collaboration and innovation. These platforms facilitate the exchange of ideas, experimentation with new technologies, and the development of innovative approaches to address evolving challenges in disaster management.

The **Australian Red Cross** supports the National Society in the Amazon Disaster Relief Hub pilot programme. A collaborative effort which aims to enhance the provision of essential relief items and logistical support across south-eastern Europe, including Montenegro. By leveraging Amazon's extensive logistics network and the Red Cross's humanitarian expertise, the programme seeks to improve response efficiency and effectiveness in times of crisis.

Organization (WHO), NCDs account for approximately 91 per cent of all deaths in Montenegro in 2018. Lifestyle factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and alcohol consumption contribute to the prevalence of NCDs.

Montenegro has made progress in improving general health outcomes. According to the World Bank, life expectancy at birth in Montenegro was around 74 years in 2021, indicating improvements in overall health and wellbeing. Additionally,

infant mortality rates and maternal mortality rates have declined in recent years, reflecting improvements in healthcare access and quality.

Montenegro's healthcare system faces challenges related to infrastructure, workforce capacity, and access to healthcare services, particularly in rural and remote areas. There are existing disparities in healthcare access and quality between urban and rural populations, affecting health outcomes and healthcare utilization rates.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Montenegro aims to address health challenges by promoting health, prevention, and equitable healthcare access, impacting around 9,000 citizens yearly through [first aid](#) activities. The National Society plans to mitigate risks of epidemics and raise awareness about preventive measures by leveraging a programmatic connection between medical institutions and refugees living with HIV/AIDS by organizing information sessions, holding focus group discussions and campaigns for refugees living with HIV/AIDS, as well as the domestic population, and organizing regular meetings at the local, state, and international levels and cooperate actively with all relevant institutions.

Planned activities in 2025

- Train 15 motivators to engage volunteer donors and conduct educational lectures for youth, business and community members
- Engage 50 companies in blood donation action and at least 1,000 citizens
- Utilize media and social networks and broadcast promotional videos on volunteer blood donation activities

- Increase awareness of [first aid](#) through training sessions organized in kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools, universities and work places
- Organize six lectures and demonstrative exercises highlighting the significance of first aid
- Organize local first competitions at both local and national level
- Train 50 volunteers in providing medical assistance
- Conduct 50 basic first aid training sessions for 2,000 employees of various organizations
- Conduct three national-level training for volunteers, train 90 volunteers as educators and develop education materials and procure condoms
- Cooperative relevant institutions involved in HIV activities and conduct national-level meetings

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Cross of Montenegro's efforts in scaling up its mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) services and increasing ability to respond to emerging needs. This is achieved through provision of basic psychosocial support and by mainstreaming MHPSS in the key humanitarian activities while protecting and promoting the mental health and psychosocial well-being of staff and volunteers. Participating National Societies, [reference centers](#) and IFRC's specialized hubs and labs share best practices and provide mentorship, contributing to the organization's long-term health programmes.

The Red Cross of Montenegro also cooperates with relevant institutions including Institute for Public Health, Ministry of Health and NGOs involved in HIV activities. The National Society organizes meetings with relevant institutions at the national level and participates in regional and other gatherings.



Red Cross of Montenegro volunteers conducting first aid workshop for children from Ukraine. (Photo: Red Cross of Montenegro)



Migration and displacement

Since its [independence in 2006](#), Montenegro has seen a rise in asylum seekers, with accommodation for 104 beds in the Spuz Asylum Centre and 60 beds in the Bozaj Center near the Albanian border, managed by the [Ministry of Interior](#). The [Law on International and Subsidiary Protection](#), effective since January 2018, introduced new terms for asylum seekers and refugees, causing challenges in healthcare access due to mismatches with health insurance laws. The right to work granted to asylum seekers after nine months faces practical hurdles between the Ministry of Interior and the Employment Agency. Efforts for local integration of those granted international protection need strengthening.

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine in 2022 led to an influx of refugees in Montenegro, requiring immediate humanitarian aid. For those who remain at home in conflict prevalent areas, situation remains particularly severe. In 2023, the number of internally displaced people was estimated to be more than five million people, with many seeking entries into neighbouring countries such as Poland, Russia, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Moldova.

In the broader Central and South-Eastern Europe (CSEE) cluster, humanitarian assistance for migrants is encountering politicization, affecting funding. Additionally, increased migration to northern and western Europe from CSEE countries and restrictions on migration flow to Europe present ongoing challenges.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Montenegro is part of the IFRC three-year [Global Route Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The National Society aims to respond effectively to a diverse range of evolving crises through (including first aid and MHPSS to support migrants and people fleeing Ukraine) interventions such as opening humanitarian service points ([HSPs](#)) and equipping them with pre-positioned stocks and staff, capacity building of staff and volunteers in community-based health and first aid ([CBHFA](#)), community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)), [MHPSS](#), and cultural mediation.

Planned activities in 2025

- Access to the asylum system and health services for people in Montenegro and psychosocial support services to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees
- Provision of access to employment, education, and inclusion in host communities for 2,000 people, and strengthening the resilience of 2,000 people with health promotion
- Opening three new humanitarian service points, procuring 5,000 parcels of livelihoods items as emergency stock
- Hiring 40 professional staff for provision of services to target groups (medical doctors, psychologists, social workers, teachers of Montenegrin language, coordinators)
- Exchange of lessons learned with other National Societies, as well as four coordination meetings with other stakeholders
- Support the social inclusion of 2,000 migrants and displaced persons in 10 local branches
- Prepare four evidence-based advocacy reports for stakeholders on reception, access to services and social inclusion of migrants and displaced persons
- Provide MHPSS and other high-quality health and care services to 650 people
- Provide [shelter and settlement](#) solutions to people affected by crisis, providing cash assistance for most marginalized people fleeing Ukraine
- Ensure the safety and well-being of individuals affected by, displaced, or fleeing the crisis in Ukraine by ensuring basic needs and safety, preventing violence, abuse, exploitation, discrimination, and exclusion

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** provides guidance, technical expertise, and resources to assist the Red Cross of Montenegro in managing migration-related challenges effectively. It offers training programmes, shares best practices, and facilitates knowledge exchange to enhance the organization's capacity in responding to the needs of migrants and refugees. It facilitates coordination and collaboration among National Societies involved in migration activities and provides a platform for sharing information, resources, and best practices across borders.

The **Italian Red Cross** collaborates with the Red Cross of Montenegro to aid migrants, refugees, and repatriated Montenegrin citizens along the Balkan Route. This support includes language lessons, goods distribution, vocational training, and social inclusion activities.

The **Swiss Red Cross** is supporting the Red Cross of Montenegro in the work with migrants and asylum seekers in Podgorica and Pljevlja through mobile teams since 2020.



Values, power and inclusion

Within Montenegro's population, an estimated 11 per cent (68,064) face obstacles in their daily activities due to long-term illness, disability, or old age, as per the [2011 Census](#). The country is also experiencing rapid aging, with [projections indicating](#) that by 2050, one in four residents will be over 65 years old. Older people, especially those in isolated rural areas, face vulnerabilities as younger generations seek opportunities in larger cities or abroad, leaving them with limited access to medical services due to the distance to health centres and poor village infrastructure.

Statistical data indicates that in Europe, approximately [10-12 million](#) people of Roma and Egyptian origin, constitute the [most vulnerable minority](#). Factors like economic struggles, limited education, unemployment, substandard housing, social exclusion, ethnic stereotypes, and specific lifestyles contribute to their heightened susceptibility to poverty and economic instability. Disparities in health, education, and development indicators are considerable between Roma children and their peers in the general population.

Legal [frameworks](#) provide protection for Roma and Egyptians, persons living with disabilities, people with chronic illnesses, and the elderly in Montenegro. While there are challenges in the implementation of inclusion efforts, there has been considerable progress in this field in the country. Addressing negative stereotypes and historic marginalization are among the major challenges.

Compared to EU-27, Montenegro recorded a lower Gender Equality index value by [12.4 index points](#). The UNDP (2021) estimated that 33 per cent of women in Montenegro have experienced sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) within their lifetime, and many survivors do not report SGBV as they do not have trust in institutions.

In Montenegro, despite existing legal frameworks, SGBV remains prevalent. The country signed the [Council of Europe Convention](#) on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) in 2011. However, SGBV is perceived as inadequately addressed by two-thirds of Montenegrins. Other protection concerns, including trafficking in persons, child protection, and safeguarding, are also prominent issues.

High inequality exacerbates poverty in Montenegro. For instance, the average income of the wealthiest one-fifth of Montenegrins is 7.4 times higher than that of the poorest one-fifth, surpassing the EU average. In 2020, the [at-risk-of-poverty rate](#) was 22.6 per cent, representing individuals whose disposable income falls below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold. Those under 18 years old were most vulnerable (32.6 per cent), followed by individuals aged 18 to 24 (25.2 per cent). Conversely, individuals aged 65 and over had the lowest at-risk-of-poverty rate at 15.5 per cent.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Red Cross of Montenegro promotes humanitarian values as part of its education outreach. The National Society aims to work towards improving the position and inclusion of the population of Roma and Egyptians, people living with disabilities, and elderly people. This will take place in the form of training peer educators and directly working children in schools, tackling various ways of preventing different forms of violence, including gender-based violence, promoting tolerance and intercultural understanding through six modules, evaluating the National Society's home help services annually, based on data collected in key areas including social protection, discrimination of older people and healthy aging, and expanding its work on dissemination of knowledge about the Red Cross and International Humanitarian Law (IHL). The National Society will also train volunteers, employees, and management bodies to foster [Fundamental Principles](#), as well as sustainability and equality in every aspect of work with a special focus on [inclusion](#), participation, and diversity.

Planned activities in 2025

- Provide humanitarian assistance to 8,000 individuals in need, offering psychosocial support and conducting health preventive workshops and health check ups for Roma and Egyptian women and girls
- Distribute school kits and hygiene items to children enrolled in town schools
- Launch three youth club activities focusing on media literacy, computer workshops, basics of foreign language and health preventive workshops
- For people living with disabilities, provide humanitarian assistance to individuals and support their families in acquiring new skills to enhance daily life and improve overall situation
- Target older population and informal caregivers through professional home help service, preventive home visits, volunteer home visits, consultations, among others
- Support older people with psychosocial support and recreational activities through fully functional clubs
- Distribute leaflets and conduct public campaign for awareness on needs of older people and informal caregivers

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides guidance, technical expertise, and resources to assist the Red Cross of Montenegro in implementing inclusive programmes that promote [PGI](#). The Red Cross of Montenegro is an active member of the [Ukraine and Impacted](#)

Countries PGI network, and many staff members participated in the PGI introductory training in Budapest in April 2023. This collaboration enables the Red Cross of Montenegro to benefit from the expertise and resources available within the network, enhancing its capacity to address the diverse needs of vulnerable populations, ensure the protection of human rights, and promote inclusivity in their programmes and services. Red Cross of Montenegro's PGI focal point works directly with the IFRC PGI team at the regional office to ensure PGI is mainstreamed throughout all programmes and approaches.

The **Italian Red Cross** focuses on promoting employment opportunities and inclusion for Roma and Egyptian

communities. They have initiated phases of the 'Roma Business Incubators' project in Konik, extending it to other municipalities. The project emphasizes small businesses, the 'business incubator' model, and strengthens youth clubs through diverse activities.

For over a decade, the Italian Red Cross has also supported the Red Cross of Montenegro in elderly care and social inclusion. From 2019 to 2022, it backed a cross-border version of the Home Care project involving the Red Cross of Montenegro and the Albanian Red Cross.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Cross of Montenegro is committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the work-plan phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process

that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Establish and maintain effective cooperation and coordination with Movement partners present in the country
- Increase engagement in government-led platforms to actively participate in achieving humanitarian and development goals
- Enhance participation in thematic regional or global events or networks

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides long-term support for strategic and operational coordination in the Red Cross of Montenegro and assists it in developing strategic plans and improving programme management. The IFRC promotes collaboration between the Red Cross of Montenegro and external partners, enhancing coordination structures and processes. It also helps with disaster preparedness, including contingency planning and early warning systems. Through the IFRC network, the Red Cross of Montenegro gains access to technical tools and resources, strengthening its effectiveness in delivering humanitarian assistance.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Ensure annual budget supports the National Society in fulfilling its mandate of providing essential services both in peacetime and during emergencies
- Initiate branch organizational capacity self-assessment (BOCA) and respond to identified gaps with annual development plans

- Facilitate access to resources through tax exemptions or specific legislation
- Access government funds allocated for non-profit organizations such as those derived from lottery proceeds
- Increase capacity in applying for funding opportunities from national and international donors

Longer term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides technical and financial support to the National Society towards its development initiatives. The IFRC support consists of helping the National Society in developing organizational development priorities, developing strong

branch network that deliver quality humanitarian services through operational excellence, and other targeted areas of assistance required for the overall development of the National Society.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Advance advocacy and communication efforts, identifying messaging multipliers – “one message-many messengers” leading towards increased profiling and positioning
- Advance humanitarian diplomacy and public-facing communications and advocacy activities
- Focus on evidence-based products/materials to inform operational and strategic priorities
- Strengthen linkages, seek alignment between local-regional-global humanitarian diplomacy and connect with National Society-hosted technical reference groups

- Establish humanitarian diplomacy and communications extended team of experts jointly working on common fundraising objectives and challenges

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in humanitarian diplomacy through technical and financial support to influence government initiatives. The National Societies in the Central and South-Eastern Europe (CSEE) cluster have identified a strong need for more advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy to influence government's funding of civil society organizations. Emphasis will be placed on enabling the National Society to highlight its impacts and increase its visibility as the primary humanitarian service provider in the country.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen financial and programme management and accountability
- Develop new tools to improve financial stability through project operations and asset mobilization
- Establish efficient and sustainable system for mobilizing funds at national and local levels to improve financial accountability
- Improve financial operations at the local level
- Conduct post-activity monitoring to improve the National Society's feedback mechanism and enhance public trust

- Increase awareness about protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and work to ensure that National Society's interventions are inclusive

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society to ensure that its work is being carried out as planned, and it also ensures adherence with the established material and financial standards of the IFRC. The established criteria of donors and supporters who provide support for their programmes are also considered throughout spending, to enable a better understanding of the work, create an openness to criticism, and instill a desire to learn from experience and adapt to changing needs.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The **IFRC** provides support to the Red Cross of Montenegro through its CSEE cluster located in Sarajevo. The IFRC support to the National Society centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy, including in strengthening its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC provides technical guidance in many sectors, for example during the COVID-19 pandemic, the influx of refugees from Ukraine, work with migrants, and capacity development on [MHPSS](#).

With the support of IFRC, the Red Cross of Montenegro has been implementing activities through projects that are focused on [route-based migration](#). The Red Cross of Montenegro has a mobile team in the transit camp in Bozaj, which provides medical services, transport, translation, and humanitarian assistance to migrants. Three [humanitarian service points](#) have been established with the support of IFRC.

IFRC membership coordination

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

The **Austrian Red Cross** supports the Red Cross of Montenegro in disaster preparedness and response, home care and resource mobilization. To strengthen the Red Cross of Montenegro in its programmes and services for older people, the Austrian Red Cross is committed to further use its domestic competencies in health and social services and to provide technical expertise within ongoing and planned joint programmes (e.g., through the ongoing projects 'Innovative Community Care Centers', and CONEX Balkan). The Austrian Red Cross will continue to support the Red Cross of Montenegro in further positioning them as a service provider and offer support through the REDpreneur programme and follow-up.

The **Italian Red Cross** established its Regional Delegation in Podgorica within the Red Cross of Montenegro headquarters in 2015 to lead humanitarian and international cooperation activities, focusing particularly on the Balkans in Europe. Its primary support to the Red Cross of Montenegro encompasses health, social, and migration sectors, along with assistance in organizational development, resource mobilization, monitoring, and coordination. Collaboratively, the Italian Red Cross and the Red Cross of Montenegro focus on promoting employment opportunities and inclusion for Roma and Egyptian communities. They have initiated phases of the 'Roma Business Incubators' project in Konik, extending it to other municipalities. The project emphasizes small businesses, the 'business incubator' model, and strengthening youth clubs through diverse activities.

The **Swiss Red Cross** is supporting the Red Cross of Montenegro in the work with migrants and asylum seekers in Podgorica and Pljevlja through mobile teams since 2020. The mobile units contribute to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants in Montenegro especially focusing on health issues and raising awareness on risks and prevention mechanisms for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), capacity building and cross border workshops.

Movement coordination

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

The Red Cross of Montenegro enjoys good cooperation with the regional delegation of the ICRC located in Belgrade, Serbia. A Partnership Framework Agreement signed with the Regional ICRC Delegation in Belgrade defines cooperation in capacity building and joint operations in Montenegro. The cooperation is related to promotion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) such as trainings of staff and volunteers, organization of round tables with relevant stakeholders, support in conducting [Safer Access Framework](#), and restoring family links (RFL) activities.

Coordination with other actors

In line with its mission, the Red Cross of Montenegro is committed to developing and expanding its cooperation with other international humanitarian organizations. The National Society of Montenegro cooperates with the diplomatic-consular sector in Montenegro, as well as with many international organizations, including the [EU delegation](#), the [UNHCR](#), [UNICEF](#), [UNDP](#), [IOM](#), [WHO](#), the [USAID](#) and a variety of international networks.

Additionally, the Red Cross of Montenegro is a member of 'Neighbours Help First' network that gathers Southeast European National Societies (SENS), IFRC and ICRC. Through this network, with National Societies sharing a common background and facing similar challenges, there has been strong regional cooperation in many areas, especially in connection with emergency response.



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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