



BULGARIA

2025 IFRC network mid-year report, January – June



23 October 2025

IN SUPPORT OF THE BULGARIAN RED CROSS

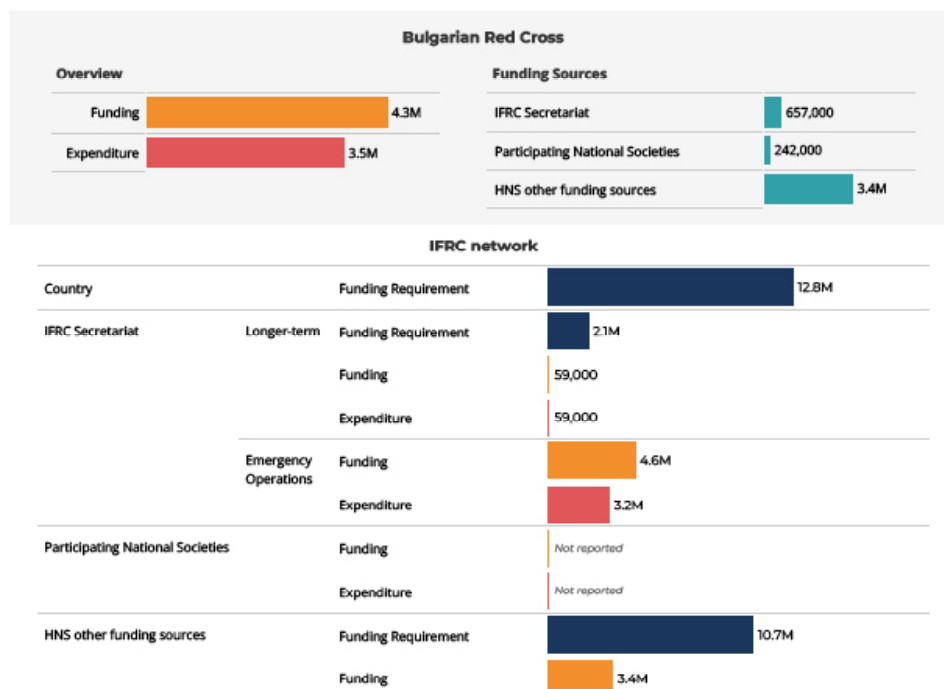


PEOPLE REACHED



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)



Appeal number **MAABG001**

*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Number of people reached with activities addressing

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

- has received IFRC Network's support to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change



Disasters and crises

Number of people reached with

 Disaster risk reduction	→ 48,000
 Emergency response and early recovery programmes	+ 2,000



Health and wellbeing

Number of people reached by the National Society with

 Contextually appropriate health services	■ 15,000
 Training in first aid	■ 756
 Psychosocial and mental health services	■ 14,000
 Contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	■ 1,000



Migration and displacement



Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection

→ 22,000



Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing assistance and/or protection to people on the move along migration routes

→ 4

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

- has undertaken any advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move

- has undertaken any data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move



Values, power and inclusion

Number of people



Reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming

→ 4,000

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

- has a Community Engagement and Accountability policy, strategy or plan

ENABLING FUNCTIONS



National Society development

- ✓ National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role
- ✓ There is a National Society Development plan in place



Humanitarian diplomacy

- ✓ National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies
- ✓ National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns



Accountability and agility

- ✓ National Society has a functioning data management system that informs decision making and supports monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of its actions
- ✓ National Society has strengthened its integrity and reputational risk mechanism

IFRC NETWORK BILATERAL-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Requests	Climate and environment	Disasters and others	Health and well-being	Humanitarian dialogue context	Values, power and inclusion	Branding Fundraising
Canadian Red Cross Society			●	●			●
Hong Kong Red Cross - branch of Red Cro.					●		
Republic of Korea National Red Cross					●		
Swiss Red Cross					●	●	
Turkish Red Crescent Society							●

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

In 2025, the political landscape in Bulgaria was marked by a fragile coalition government led by the Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria, with support from the Bulgarian Socialist Party, the populist There Is Such a People and the Turkish minority party, the Movement for Rights and Freedoms. The coalition faced ongoing political instability and a growing lack of public trust. Concerns about judicial independence also intensified, with politically charged arrests triggering protests and raising questions about the overall state of democratic governance and accountability.

Bulgaria's planned adoption of the euro in January 2026 remained a topic of active public and political debate. Although economic growth was projected at 2.6–2.9 per cent for 2025, inflation remained high and macroeconomic risks such as slow growth and low investment persisted.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

During the first half of 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross initiated two projects to reduce operational costs and its carbon footprint at the National Training Centre in Lozen. These include the installation of a 115 kWh solar panel system and a 200 kW battery. The contractor has been selected through a completed tender process and final approvals from government authorities are currently underway.

Disasters and crises

During the first half of 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross provided humanitarian assistance to people affected by a nightclub fire in Kočani, North Macedonia, with support from an IFRC-DREF allocation. Over a four-month period, the National Society delivered mental health and psychosocial support to victims and their families, along with medical aid and capacity-building for staff and volunteers. Concurrently, it advanced the refurbishment of its Emergency Operations Centre in Sofia, completed AccessRC training in four branches under a Japan-funded programme, and conducted disaster preparedness training for staff and volunteers. The Bulgarian Red Cross maintained emergency bedding supplies, established a Cash Working Group to strengthen cash-based interventions and progressed contractual arrangements with MoneyGram. In mountain rescue, it assisted skiers and conducted numerous operations and trainings, while its water safety programmes reached tens of thousands through education, certification, and flood preparedness activities.

Health and wellbeing

During the first half of 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross responded to the nightclub fire in Kočani, North Macedonia, by organizing a national blood donation campaign and providing mental health and psychosocial support to those injured and evacuated to Bulgarian hospitals. It also delivered training to the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia and deployed a team to assist on the ground. As part of a two-year programme to strengthen Health in Emergencies, the Bulgarian Red Cross conducted training-of-trainers and instructor courses on Basic Life Support, involving staff, volunteers and displaced individuals, with all participant data integrated into the European Resuscitation Council's system.

Migration and displacement

During the first half of 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross continued its extensive support for refugees and migrants through its Restoring Family Links and Migration Services, operating community centres in partnership with UNHCR and managing [Humanitarian Service Points](#) in key locations. These centres provided integrated services including legal aid, social support, non-food and food distributions, and access to language and psychosocial support. Despite funding cuts, particularly from the U.S. government, the Bulgarian Red Cross maintained its assistance with support from various partners. It also launched a project targeting non-Ukrainian migrants, offering educational and

recreational activities, food vouchers, hygiene kits and first aid supplies, alongside awareness sessions to strengthen service delivery.

Values, power and inclusion

During the first half of 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross advanced its protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) efforts by revising its Child Protection Policy, developing new guidelines on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and launching an adapted PGI training course. It also implemented the second phase of the SuRFL project, focusing on expanding communication and protection services, supporting affected individuals with medication and psychosocial care, and integrating these services into ongoing activities. The Restoring Family Links service continued to assist with tracing cases, unidentified bodies and migrant rescues, while also conducting detention centre visits. Additionally, tens of thousands of vulnerable individuals received food and social support through national campaigns and public canteens provided free meals to children and older people across the country.

Enabling local actors

The Bulgarian Red Cross strengthened its collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent, extending a regional cooperation agreement and exploring joint stock prepositioning for disaster response. It participated in regional risk management workshops and ran a national campaign training young children in first aid. The National Society also hosted interns who supported digitalization and international cooperation efforts. Progress continued on the IFRC status agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while upgrades to the national radio network and digital connectivity across key facilities were also underway..

Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

In this reporting period, no changes or amendments were made by the National Society



The Bulgarian Red Cross' EU4Health project provided art therapy, child-friendly spaces and support groups to help adults and children displaced from Ukraine. (Photo: Bulgarian Red Cross)

Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

NAME	Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis
IFRC APPEAL NUMBER	MGR65002
DURATION	28 February 2022 to 31 December 2025
PEOPLE TO BE ASSISTED	22.7 M (total); 180,000 (in Bulgaria)
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	Total: CHF 800 M (IFRC); CHF 2.7 billion (Federation-wide) Bulgaria: CHF 25.1M (IFRC); CHF 30.3 M (Federation-wide)
EMERGENCY APPEAL	Revised Emergency Appeal
LINK TO OPERATIONAL STRATEGY	Revised Operational Strategy , Bulgaria Response Plan
LAST OPERATION UPDATE	Operation Update No.12

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

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

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Bulgarian Red Cross has been actively involved in the IFRC Ukraine and affected countries response, raising nearly CHF 3 million from the public, with expenditures totalling CHF 2.08M.

The National Society's interventions under this emergency appeal will consist of:

Health and care: Provide health information and referrals through a hotline based in Sofia. Support payment of health insurance for displaced women from Ukraine and displaced men older than 65. Provide financial reimbursement using cash or voucher modality. Provide [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MHPSS) at local branch level. Provide face-to-face professional consultations to displaced people. Provide access to [first aid](#). Procure and distribute hygiene kits and baby kits.

Shelter, housing and settlements: Replenishment of sleeping kits. Pilot shelter, settlements, and host family assistance programs. Provide temporary collective shelters.

Cash and voucher assistance (CVA): Provide cash grants to displaced people and winterization grants. Provide multi-purpose cash support to displaced people based on selection criteria.

Livelihoods: Purchase large parcels of emergency food assistance to support households. Purchase migrant food kits and set up soup kitchens for daily food supply at larger branches.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI): Manage and create child friendly spaces in all humanitarian service points. Provide art therapy classes in selected location. Develop Bulgarian Red Cross specific minimum standards for child friendly spaces. Provide prevention and protection of sexual exploitation and abuse and child safeguarding training for staff and volunteers.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): Manage effective feedback mechanisms for the Ukraine response, including a helpline with Ukrainian-speaking operators, social media, and face-to-face channels. Train staff and volunteers on CEA fundamentals, including responding to feedback. Institutionalize CEA approaches in all long-term programmes and operations.

Migration and displacement: Establish humanitarian service points (HSPs) across Bulgaria run by different regional branches. Ensure all HSPs have a minimum understanding on protection, including restoring family links (RFL) tools and how to use them.

In September 2022, the Bulgarian Red Cross joined the IFRC Emergency Appeal for Ukraine and Impacted Countries Crisis and will continue to assist displaced people from Ukraine to Bulgaria until the end of 2025. Through its activities, the National Society will continue to provide essential humanitarian aid, particularly in the sectors of basic needs, seasonal assistance for winters, health and care, MHPSS and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI).

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In order to reduce the input and operational costs for the Bulgarian Red Cross' National Training Centre in Lozen, as well as allowing it to reduce its carbon footprint, two projects were designed for implementation through to the end of 2025. This included the installation of a 115kWh solar panel and 200kW battery system. The Bulgarian Red Cross has completed the tender process and selected a contractor for the project. At present, approvals from government authorities are being finalised.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC continued to support the National Society with the procurement and contracting for the installation of the aforementioned project.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit the IFRC GO page: [Bulgaria](#)

During the first half of 2025, IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) was utilized for a fire related emergency

NAME OF THE OPERATION	North Macedonia Fire
MDR-CODE	MDRMK010
DURATION	4 months (29 March 2025 to 31 July 2025)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 155,795
PEOPLE TARGETED	1,600 people
LATEST OPERATION UPDATE	DREF Final Report

The [IFRC-DREF](#) allocation of CHF 155,795 in March 2025 supported the Bulgarian Red Cross in assisting 1,600 people affected by a fire breakout during a nightclub concert in Kočani. The incident resulted in 155 people being injured and hospitalized in Skopje, Kočani, and Štip, with 59 fatalities. The National Society supported the targeted people over a four-month period with assistance such as providing mental health and psychosocial support to the victims and their families. Other support included capacity building for staff and volunteers and medical support.

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross continued the refurbishment of its existing Emergency Operations Centre located at the national headquarters in Sofia. Progress included the development of detailed architectural designs to modernize the facility, the completion of a technical review of IT equipment and software by a Canadian Red Cross expert, and the official launch of the tender procedure for the renovation works.

The Bulgarian Red Cross also conducted AccessRC training for staff and volunteers across four branches. This training was part of a broader initiative to test the AccessRC application as a tool for beneficiary registration and [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) under a programme funded by the Government of Japan. The programme is exploring the use of AccessRC for non-cash interventions, including the distribution of food parcels and hygiene kits, as well as facilitating access to Bulgarian language classes, translation services and psychosocial support.

In terms of disaster preparedness, the Bulgarian Red Cross organized 49 training sessions for permanent staff at regional and capital levels, and 60 sessions for volunteers. A total of 577 volunteers were trained, including 34 newly recruited members of voluntary teams designated for response during disasters, accidents and emergencies.

The Bulgarian Red Cross currently maintains the capacity to support 11,444 people with bedding supplies in the event of an emergency. This aligns with its agreement with the Government of Bulgaria to ensure readiness to assist a minimum of 10,000 individuals at any given time.

The Bulgarian Red Cross [Cash and Voucher Assistance \(CVA\)](#) focal point established a Cash Working Group in January 2025 which played a key role in identifying potential financial service providers within Bulgaria and in reviewing and updating standard operating procedures for cash-based interventions. Additionally, the group approved a non-disclosure agreement between the IFRC and the Bulgarian Red Cross, enabling the IFRC to share commercial pricing information related to MoneyGram. This step will allow the Bulgarian Red Cross to sign an amendment to the existing IFRC–MoneyGram contract before September 2025.

In the area of mountain rescue, the Bulgarian Red Cross Mountain Rescue team assisted 2,695 skiers and snowboarders and conducted 96 rescue operations, aiding a total of 112 individuals. During the reporting period, 56 training courses were held, covering various rescue techniques and topics.

Regarding water life-saving activities, the Bulgarian Red Cross developed and implemented educational programmes on water safety, including training and certification courses for teaching professionals. A new teaching aid focused on

water accident prevention was also published. In total, 43,566 children, youth, and adults received training on water safety rules. Furthermore, 624 personnel were qualified to provide rescue and first aid during accidents at sea and in swimming pools. In support of flood response preparedness, 70 volunteers received specialized training.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** supported the Bulgarian Red Cross through IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and the IFRC Emergency Appeal, which were utilized by the National Society in times of disasters and crises to effectively support those who face immediate needs during times of emergency.

The **Canadian Red Cross Society** supported the National Society for the refurbishment of its existing Emergency Operations Centre located at the national headquarters in Sofia. It also supported the Cash and Voucher Assistance activities of the Bulgarian Red Cross.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross responded swiftly and compassionately to the incident in Kočani, North Macedonia, which occurred in March. Several injured individuals were admitted to emergency hospitals in Bulgaria, prompting the Bulgarian Red Cross to organize a week-long blood donation campaign. This led to the successful collection of 1,200 blood donations by the National Centre for Transfusion, amounting to a total of 540 litres of blood.

In addition to this vital support, the Bulgarian Red Cross provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to those affected and evacuated to Bulgarian hospitals. The Bulgarian Red Cross delivered MHPSS training to the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia and deployed a team to assist on the ground.

The Bulgarian Red Cross is implementing a two-year programme aimed at strengthening its capacity in Health in Emergencies. As part of this initiative, several key activities were completed during the reporting period including organizing a Training-of-Trainers (ToT) on Basic Life Support for 14 participants from the Bulgarian Red Cross and two from the Ukrainian Red Cross. This training is part of a broader effort to establish 10 Mobile Health Units and to provide Basic Life Support training to staff and volunteers across the country.

Following the ToT, a Basic Instructor Course was conducted from 16 to 20 June 2025. During this course, 118 basic life support providers were trained by candidate instructors, including two displaced individuals from Ukraine. These providers were nominated by the Bulgarian Red Cross's district branches, MHUs, national headquarters and volunteer teams. All data related to the candidate trainers and basic life support providers were translated into English and uploaded into the European Resuscitation Council's CoSy system, where individual accounts were created for each trainee.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** supported the Bulgarian Red Cross in strengthening its health-related interventions.

The **Canadian Red Cross Society** provided assistance to the National Society through a two-year programme aimed at strengthening the National Society's capacity in Health in Emergencies.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Bulgarian Red Cross has played a significant role in supporting refugees through its extensive work under the Restoring Family Links (RFL) programmes. During the first half of 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross Restoring Family Links and Migration Services operated four community centres in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). These centres are located in Sofia, Burgas, Dobrich, and Harmanli, the latter becoming operational in June 2025. The centres in Burgas and Dobrich also house Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs), which

are managed by the Bulgarian Red Cross and co-located with the community centres. These facilities provide a one-stop-shop model for refugee support services, offering consultations and facilitating access to governmental social support, legal assistance and programmes such as Cash for Protection and Cash for Health. They also support the distribution of non-food items (NFIs) and food parcels.

The Bulgarian Red Cross continues to support migrants and refugees with funding from multiple agencies and organizations. However, this programming has been significantly impacted by budget cuts resulting from reduced funding from the Government of the United States of America.

The Bulgarian Red Cross has provided consultations, referrals and health and social support to 16,384 migrants. In addition, 22,568 migrants have received humanitarian assistance, including food, blankets, clothing and hygiene kits.

During the first six months of 2025, a total of 5,377 refugee and migrant children were supported through various programmes and projects implemented by RMS teams. This assistance included both direct humanitarian aid and participation in educational and integration activities.

The Bulgarian Red Cross is implementing a project focused on assisting migrants who are not from Ukraine. The project includes a range of activities such as educational and recreational programmes, distribution of food vouchers for a three-month period, provision of 1,250 hygiene kits, and the purchase of first aid kits for reception centres. These efforts are complemented by awareness sessions to enhance the effectiveness of the support provided.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** provided technical and financial assistance to the National Society. Through the [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), the IFRC supported the Bulgarian Red Cross in assisting refugees.

The **Republic of Korea National Red Cross** supported the National Society in implementing a project focused on assisting migrants who are not from Ukraine.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supported the Bulgarian Red Cross with its activities under the Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme.

The **ICRC** supported the National Society with its [Restoring Family Links \(RFL\)](#) programme.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross made significant progress in strengthening its [protection, gender, and inclusion](#) (PGI) efforts. Following a PGI self-assessment conducted in late 2024, a comprehensive plan of action was developed to address the identified gaps. In line with this plan, the Bulgarian Red Cross revised its Child Protection Policy (CPP), which was subsequently submitted and validated by the National Youth Council. The policy is scheduled to be presented for adoption at the upcoming meeting of the newly convened National Board in September 2025.

The plan also identified the need to develop guidelines on PGI and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Work on these guidelines is currently underway. In support of capacity building, the Bulgarian Red Cross translated and adapted the IFRC PGI training course. This course is now available on the Bulgarian Red Cross e-learning platform, and 160 individuals successfully completed it during the reporting period.

The second phase of the project 'Scaling up Restoring Family Links (RFL) and Protection Response Mechanisms for Greater Impact (SuRFL)' is being implemented for the 2025–2026 period, with a dedicated budget of CHF 30,000. As the first phase concluded, activities focused on enhancing communication and visibility of [RFL](#) and protection services across the country. Between January and March 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross developed targeted social media content, promoted services nationwide through social workers, and conducted training sessions for psychologists to deepen their understanding of RFL and protection-related support. Concurrently, the National Society continued providing medication support and RFL services in centres and regions with migrant populations. March also saw a

notable increase in distress signal cases. The project concluded with the successful integration of most developed services into ongoing activities, which continue to be implemented.

During the reporting period, the Bulgarian Red Cross's RFL service initiated nearly 100 new tracing cases, processed 30 cases involving unidentified bodies, and assisted in the rescue of 24 migrants in collaboration with governmental authorities. Additionally, the service conducted 79 visits to detention centres.

In total, 44,592 individuals from host communities identified as being in vulnerable situations received support through various national and regional campaigns during the first six months of the year. This included 2,700 individuals who received non-perishable food items through national product campaigns, while others benefited from food parcels distributed via the social welfare programme and the school lunch support initiative.

The National Society's public canteens also continued their operations, providing free meals to 1,874 children and older people across 66 canteens nationwide during the first half of 2025.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** supported the Bulgarian Red Cross in strengthening its PGI efforts.

With support from the Swiss Red Cross, the second phase of the project 'Scaling up Restoring Family Links (RFL) and Protection Response Mechanisms for Greater Impact (SuRFL)' is being implemented for the 2025–2026 period, with a dedicated budget of CHF 30,000.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supported the National Society in its response to migration and displacement issues.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

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 Bulgarian Red Cross closely partners with the IFRC, benefiting from technical support, capacity building, and resource mobilization for emergency response and community programmes. Operating within the IFRC's CSEE Regional Office, the Bulgarian Red Cross engages in knowledge exchange, collaboration, and advocacy with neighbouring National Societies.

The **Canadian Red Cross Society** supports the Bulgarian Red Cross through a two-year programme to strengthen its Health in Emergencies capacity. It also supports the National Society in its Cash and Voucher Assistance activities.

The **Republic of Korea National Red Cross** supports the National Society in assisting migrants.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supports the National Society in its response to migration and displacement issues as well as under values, power, and inclusion.

Movement coordination

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

The **ICRC** supports the Bulgarian Red Cross based on its mandate, offering technical expertise, capacity building, and advisory support. This includes assistance in disaster management, health services, civilian protection, and humanitarian law.

External coordination

The Bulgarian Red Cross collaborates with public authorities at national and sub-national levels through coordination mechanisms led by relevant ministries and agencies. It actively participates in assessments, first response activities, and registration processes during disasters, showcasing its auxiliary role. The National Society also forms partnerships with ministries and departments for longer-term work, addressing issues in the areas of health, social welfare, education, and civil protection.

The Bulgarian Red Cross, along with the IFRC and other network partners, engages in inter-agency coordination mechanisms such as the humanitarian country teams, sectoral clusters, and working groups. In cases relevant to shelter assistance, it may contribute to shelter cluster coordination.

The National Society builds partnerships with international actors like UN agencies, INGOs, and embassies, facilitating knowledge exchange and resource mobilization. It collaborates with national and local actors including the private sector, academic institutions, and NGOs, leveraging diverse expertise and resources for resilience-building and community development.

In 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross continued to strengthen its collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent, exploring a potential partnership to supply and store prepositioned stock in the National Society's main warehouse for use across the Balkan region during disasters or crises. An existing cooperation agreement between the Turkish Red Crescent and the Shumen Regional Branch of the Bulgarian Red Cross was also extended during the visit of the Turkish Red Crescent President.

In February, the Bulgarian Red Cross participated in a risk management workshop in Bosnia and Herzegovina, followed by another in Albania in June. Both workshops, organized by the IFRC with support from the Turkish Red Crescent and Luxembourg Red Cross, aimed to build the capacity of staff and volunteers from seven National Societies across the region.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross conducted a national campaign through its Helifi programme, training over 4,000 children under the age of ten in first aid and injury prevention. The Bulgarian Red Cross also welcomed ten interns between the ages of 15 and 26, with the majority coming from high schools in Sofia and the remainder from abroad. These interns contributed to various initiatives, including the digitalization of Restoring Family Links (RFL) requests, aligning the Sustainable Development Goals with the Bulgarian Red Cross's humanitarian activities and supporting the International Department by drafting reports, preparing summaries and adapting presentations for bilateral cooperation.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society with technical and financial assistance.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The request for IFRC status agreement remains with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of the Republic of Bulgaria. With the support from National Society, several meetings have been held with ministry officials to answer questions and provide clarification on how the status agreement will be a benefit to both National Society and the Government of Bulgaria in the event of any possible disaster or significant emergency response.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society with technical and financial assistance.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, the Bulgarian Red Cross began procuring and installing equipment to upgrade and digitalize its national radio network, The National Society is also progressing towards connecting all four regional warehouses and branches, the national warehouse and training centre in Lozen and the headquarters in Sofia.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society with technical and financial assistance for its digitization process.

The **Canadian Red Cross** provided financial support to the National Society in digitizing its radio network.

Q4. AFFECTED PERSONS (PEOPLE REACHED)

See cover pages

Q5. PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

See Strategic Priority on 'Values, power and inclusion' under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q6. RISK MANAGEMENT

This information is not available in Mid-Year Reports

Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

See Strategic Priorities or Enabling Local Actors, where relevant under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q8. LESSONS LEARNED

Nothing to report

ANNEX 1. IFRC APPLICATION OF THE 8+3 REPORTING TEMPLATE

The IFRC network structures its result-based management along five Strategic priorities and four Enabling functions, developed based on the IFRC network's [Strategy 2030](#):

IFRC network Strategic Priorities	IFRC network Enabling Functions
SP 1 - Climate and environment	EF 1- Strategic and operational coordination
SP 2 - Disasters and crises	EF 2 - National Society development
SP 3 - Health and wellbeing	EF 3 - Humanitarian diplomacy
SP 4 - Migration and displacement	EF 4 - Accountability and agility
SP 5 - Values, power and inclusion	

The Federation-wide results matrix provides a standard way for the IFRC network to measure its progress towards Strategy 2030 implementation and supports consistent quality of the IFRC network planning, monitoring and reporting. To further advance coherence in monitoring across the IFRC network, a [Federation-wide Indicator Bank](#) has been developed and integrated into the Federation-wide monitoring systems for emergencies and longer-term work, structured along the Federation-wide results matrix as well. Signatory of the Grand Bargain Agreement, the IFRC has committed to its monitoring and reporting standards through integration of the [8+3 reporting template](#) contents into its results-based management approach. The following mapping demonstrate the way in which this report aligns with 8+3 reporting:

8+3 template	IFRC network Mid-Year Report (with variance in structure in red)
Core Questions	
1. Overall Performance	Overall Performance
2. Changes and Amendments	Changes and amendments
3. Measuring Results	Measuring Results
4. Affected Persons	Cover pages with indicators values
5. Participation & AAP	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 5: Values, power and inclusion – Community Engagement and Accountability
6. Risk management	Risk management
7. Exit Strategy and Sustainability	Under Q3 sub-sections by Strategic Priority/Enabling Function where relevant
8. Lessons Learned	Lessons learned
Additional Questions	
1. Value for Money/ Cost Effectiveness	Not included in mid-year reports
2. Visibility	Not included in mid-year reports
3. Coordination	Under Q3 Enabling Function 1: Strategic and operational coordination
4. Implementing Partners	Cross-cutting, with a focus on support to localization through the Q3 Enabling Functions 1 to 4
5. Activities or Steps Towards implementation	Cross-cutting in Q3 Strategic Priorities and Enabling Functions
6. Environment	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 1: Climate and environment



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

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

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2025. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods and may be incomplete. 'Not reported' could sometimes mean 'not applicable'. Also note that funding requirements are already reflected in the published 2025 IFRC network country plan. The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network has sought 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
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-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

- [BG_Bulgaria MYR Financials](#)
- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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