



# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

## 2025 IFRC network country plan



Funding Requirement **CHF 1.04M**

17 February 2025

### In support of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina



**21**

National Society branches



**165**

National Society local units



**341**

National Society staff



**9,749**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



**40,000**

Climate and environment



**45,000**

Disasters and crises



**70,000**

Health and wellbeing



**30,000**

Migration and displacement



**10,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### Longer-term needs

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

#### Capacity development

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

### Key country data links

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **Low**

**Human Development Index rank** **80**

**World Bank Population figure** **3.2M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **16.9%**

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

## Hazards



Earthquakes



Extreme heat and cold



Floods



Drought



Forest fires

## Funding requirements

2025

**Total 1.04M CHF**

Through Participating National Societies

**844,000 CHF**

Through the IFRC

**200,000 CHF**

### IFRC Breakdown

#### Longer term needs

**150,000 CHF**

Disasters & crises

**50,000 CHF**

Migration & displacement

## Participating National Societies

Austrian Red Cross

Canadian Red Cross Society

Danish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Swiss Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent

Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates

## IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAABA003**

*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	25,000		●				
Canadian Red Cross Society	80,000	●		●			
Danish Red Cross		●		●			
Emirates Red Crescent		●					
German Red Cross		●		●			
Italian Red Cross	219,000	●	●	●	●		
Qatar Red Crescent Society				●			
Swiss Red Cross	500,000	●	●	●	●	●	
Turkish Red Crescent Society	20,000			●			

Total Funding requirement **CHF 844,000**



Volunteers assist flood-affected individuals, including those with specific vulnerabilities, by addressing their basic needs. The impacted region, which is a central location for migration response, is home to some of the country's poorest communities. (Photo: Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina)

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The beginnings of the **Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina** date back to 1912. The organization that formed in that period was called “The Bosnia and Herzegovina Society for Assistance and Voluntary Medical Assistance During the War and in Cases of Large-Scale Disasters in the Peacetime”. Its goals were identical to those of the Red Cross. Respecting the historical identity and continuity of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Red Cross, the State has recognized the organization’s long history of operations by passing a law on the use and protection of the emblem and the name of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The National Society was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2001.

The law and its statutes delineate the National Society as a humanitarian organization comprising Bosnian citizens, duly recognized, and empowered to pursue humanitarian objectives, tasks, and public mandates. These responsibilities encompass various activities such as health education, social protection, tracing services and other programmes in times of peace, as well as during natural disasters and emergencies.

Such endeavors adhere strictly to the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

The National Society is the only Red Cross organization which is operational throughout the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is composed of the Red Cross of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Red Cross of Republika Srpska and Red Cross of Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The National Society has modern, widely recognized and accepted programmes. With its single network of Red Cross organizations and volunteers (which represent the foundation of the organization), the National Society, independently or in partnership with governmental institutions or other non-governmental humanitarian organizations, has initiated and conducted a series of activities in response to the needs of the most vulnerable people in the country. In 2022, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina reached about 58,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes and almost 7,000 people by disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of the branches of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina

*The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities*



# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a small country in Southeast Europe, situated in the Balkan Peninsula.

Due to vulnerabilities such as lack of education, less economic opportunities and recovery after the Balkan war, nearly one-fifth of the population lives in absolute poverty. There is a further discrepancy between poverty rates in [rural and urban areas](#). In rural areas, 19 per cent of citizens live in poverty, compared with nine per cent in urban areas. Despite higher poverty rates and lower wages, [60 per cent](#) of people continue to live in rural areas. This is largely due to the agricultural safety net of higher social protection payments, a healthier environment and more overall job security than in cities. The country has experienced a population decline, exacerbated by emigration and a negative natural increase.

The country is prone to natural hazards including floods, landslides and extreme weather conditions that have a critical impact on the country's economy and [population](#). According

to the [Recovery Needs Assessment](#) conducted after the May 2014 floods, 81 local government areas were affected, and 75 per cent of the damages and losses were borne directly by families, businesses and agricultural producers – including several vulnerable population groups. Subsequently, one of the underlying recommendations of the assessment was to strengthen resilience at the local level through disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. Out of 145 local government areas in the country, 91 are considered at very significant risk from floods and landslides and 27 are at high risk. Over the last 12 years, there have been six years of very dry to extremely dry weather.

Bosnia and Herzegovina faces environmental issues, including inadequate wastewater recycling and air pollution, while 91 municipalities are at significant risk from floods and landslides. The country's response to disasters emphasizes resilience-building at the local level. In April 2023, National Societies from the Central and South-Eastern Europe (CSEE) cluster, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, convened to develop a [joint action plan](#) focusing on sustainable development. They emphasized the role of technology in disaster response and identified challenges like aging populations and migration.



Red Cross volunteers distribute humanitarian aid to flood affected populations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Photo: The Red Crescent Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina)

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

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

Bosnia and Herzegovina faces a growing threat from frequent floods, landslides and wildfires. These events disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, particularly the elderly and chronically ill. The country grapples with various environmental challenges, from biodiversity loss to air and water pollution, compounded by climate change. Yet, there are opportunities for sustainable development, such as renewable energy and better forest management.

According to the [Global Forest Watch](#), 45 per cent of Bosnia and Herzegovina land cover had less than 30 per cent tree cover in 2000. The country's peak fire season typically begins in early January and lasts around six weeks. However, the country is beginning to experience unusually high Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) fire alerts compared to previous years going back to 2012. Between 2001 to 2023, Bosnia and Herzegovina lost 7.08 kha of tree cover from fires and 31.9 kha from all other drivers of loss.

[Air pollution](#), notably in urban centers such as Sarajevo, remains a significant concern, often driven by industrial emissions and transportation. Water resources are abundant but threatened by pollution from industry and inadequate wastewater treatment. Climate change further exacerbates existing challenges, impacting agriculture, water resources and infrastructure.

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

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is part of the IFRC's [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which

aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action, and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Society aims to proactively prepare for extreme weather events such as heatwaves and cold waves. Additionally, it will focus on educating young volunteers and promoting peer-to-peer sharing of information on [nature-based solutions](#).

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Conduct community-based awareness raising campaigns and planting activities
- Develop educational materials to raise awareness about climate change and its impacts on health and property, including strategies to mitigate the effects of severe weather events
- Integrate climate change adaptation into [disaster risk reduction](#)
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices to contribute to climate change mitigation
- Implement environmentally sustainable solutions within National Society offices to lower its carbon footprint
- Train and educate volunteers and staff on [green response](#)

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society with funding for training and education of volunteers and staff, community-based activities and the production of educational materials on climate awareness.



## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

The [Risk INFORM Index](#) of Bosnia and Herzegovina shows that the country is threatened by infectious diseases of animals, plant health and the pollution of agricultural land. The assessment further highlights that the country is at a higher cumulative risk of hazards than neighbouring countries. In the last 20 years, the country has been affected by numerous localized but devastating natural hazards – mainly floods, droughts and earthquakes – which cause an average annual economic loss of an estimated one per cent of GDP.

About 2,500 km<sup>2</sup> of the country is subject to a high risk of flooding, especially from the [Sava River](#), a transnational river with a basin of 97,713 km. In May 2014, the country was hit with the [heaviest rainfall](#) in 120 years, triggering the sudden overflow of several rivers and numerous landslides. The total economic impact was estimated at more 15 per cent of the country's total GDP in 2014.

An analysis shows that [little progress has been made](#) since the floods of 2014. The protection and rescue system cannot adequately respond to needs in the event of natural hazards and other disasters, it does not provide security for the lives of the population, or their property. In addition to the necessary capacity building, it should be emphasized that there is a significant lack of interdepartmental, regional and inter-entity coordination and cooperation of all protection and rescue actors.

Despite efforts to reduce damage and invest in protection and rescue, the country lacks functional and efficient disaster management systems. Interdepartmental and regional coordination among protection and rescue actors remains inadequate. The damage from flooding and other disasters can be reduced through functional and efficient preparation. Despite international and state efforts to reduce damage and investments in the field of protection and rescue, the issue remains under-emphasized at the local level.

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

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Ministry of Security with the aim of rapid joint action in prevention and preparation during emergency situations. In accordance with its operating principles, the National Society aims to help vulnerable people in preparation and response to natural and other disasters as one of its primary activities. To achieve this, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina plans to:

- Establish [disaster response units](#) in its branches where such units do not exist
- Coordinate and share information with Movement partners during emergencies to formalize and strengthen support
- Strengthen Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platforms to manage donor relationships (with emphasis on cross cutting issues)
- Effectively coordinate cross border cooperation, engagement and joint proposal development by conducting cluster-based training

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Increase the use of online platforms for disaster preparedness including tabletop exercises (TTXs) and train volunteers, especially the youth, to take on important roles in disaster management
- Scale up use of online platforms such as the X-STOCK platform through the countries in CSEE and [Neighbors Help First network](#) for disaster preparedness
- [Effectively respond](#) and adapt to evolving climate and environmental crises and disasters
- Raise awareness and resilience of communities to disasters and climate change
- Ensure the prevention and alleviation of the impacts of incidents across all operational tiers, aiming to deliver timely and sufficient protection to vulnerable communities

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society with funding to train and equip disaster response teams, as well as for establishing disaster response units in local communities that are particularly vulnerable to frequent disasters. The IFRC will collaborate closely with the National Society to enhance its disaster response infrastructure, training programmes and coordination mechanisms, ensuring a more effective and efficient response to emergencies.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals will continue to be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Society with a [DREF on floods](#) in 2023. A [DREF appeal](#) was launched in early 2024 for measles outbreak and another [DREF for flash floods](#) late in the year.





Bosnia and Herzegovina spends 9.56 per cent of its total national gross domestic product on healthcare expenditure as of 2021. Despite nearly a tenth of the GDP spent on healthcare, the country faces challenges of inadequate infrastructure, fragmented healthcare provision and a shortage of medical professionals. These issues result in unequal access to healthcare services. The sum of public and private annual health expenditure per person in the country was 1,517 dollars in 2020.

Health and well-being trends in the Central and Eastern Europe are predominantly tied to the demographics of an ageing population. Projections predict that in 2050, the proportion of older people in Bosnia and Herzegovina will reach 33.6 per cent, with the number of older people nearly doubling in comparison to the 1991 census.

Ageing population statistics in Bosnia and Herzegovina highlight concerns about quality of life, healthcare access, and suitable nutrition. Compared with the countries in the region, the indicators of the quality of life of older people in Bosnia and Herzegovina are unfavorable, which can be seen as the consequence of the poor socio-economic situation in the country, a high level of poverty, as well as of the insufficient coverage of health insurance and quality of health services, inadequate housing conditions and factors related to living environment of older people in general.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's decentralized governance structure, including in healthcare, resulted in varying COVID-19 measures across regions. Despite existing pandemic response plans, many were not implemented, leading to ad hoc decisions. Following a period of low cases over the summer, a new wave of infections emerged in September 2023, straining the healthcare system, and posing long-term health challenges, including mental health concerns. Vaccination rates in Bosnia and Herzegovina remain significantly below the global average, with only 17 per cent of the population vaccinated as of December 2023 with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

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

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina aims as its high-level objectives to:

- Generate income through services such as first aid training or training of caregivers and ensure sustainable services

- Standardize training with its better positioning with authorities as a leader in first aid
- Provide sustainable home-based care services for disabled and older people
- Have a strengthened and sustainable mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services and improved capacity within emergency health, especially regarding climate change related activities

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Standardize advanced first aid training, educational materials and first aid instruction approaches
- Strengthen volunteer recruitment (recruit older people as volunteers and/or reach youth through innovative activities, including digital venues)
- Ensure sustainable delivery of home-based care services through its branches to older and chronically ill people and people with disabilities
- Develop a programme to provide psychotherapy sessions using therapy dogs, with the support and engagement of an MHPSS officer as focal point at the headquarters
- Focus on strengthening its capacity to provide health in emergencies, focusing on the effects of climate change and the many related health risks, including by establishing Health in Emergency rapid response units

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide vital long-term support to the National Society by strengthening its capacity and resource allocation. This assistance includes training programmes and knowledge transfer to improve healthcare and disaster response capabilities, with a focus on addressing health-related crises. Specifically, the IFRC will offer technical guidance to integrate MHPSS into the National Society programmes. Overall, IFRC's support will encompass capacity-building, resource provision and international cooperation, all aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure and response capacity in Bosnia and Herzegovina.





The Western Balkan Route remains a key migratory pathway into Europe. Since 2018, transit corridors through Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina have been heavily traveled. In January-February 2024, [Frontex reported](#) 3,050 irregular border crossings on this route, a 65 per cent decrease from 2023. Most migrants are from Syria, Afghanistan and Türkiye. EU border crossings totaled 31,200 in the same period, similar to 2023. Despite the decline in numbers along the route, humanitarian workers report more attempts to cross the Drina River between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As of 2022, there were 19,466 refugees, 1,500 asylum-seekers and 96,305 internally displaced persons under [UNHCR's mandate](#) in the country. Migrants primarily see Bosnia and Herzegovina as a transit country enroute to Western Europe, leading to fluctuating arrival patterns. As a perceived gateway to Europe, central and eastern Europe experience high volumes of migration and displaced persons. The region is also affected by mixed population flows, caused not only by socio-economic conditions but additionally the effects of various conflicts taking place globally.

The number of irregular migrants entering through the region is increasing every year. These migration flows have been further affected by the Ukraine and Afghanistan crises, increasing overall volumes of migration and complexity of the policies related to migrant streams. Strict border controls between Croatia and neighbouring countries further worsened conditions of migrants during winter periods.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's migration situation is complex, influenced by reduced donor support, ongoing reliance on international aid, increasing demands from local communities and migrants and regional instabilities. The country faces challenges in managing [migration flows](#) and providing essential services due to limited institutional capacity. Despite steady [migrant arrivals](#) since 2018, there has been a decrease in numbers in recent years. Temporary Reception Centers were established to accommodate migrants, but many still reside outside formal facilities, posing challenges in tracking and providing services to them. During their journey, people on the move are at continued risk of human rights violation, violence, stigma, xenophobia and marginalization.

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

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina has played a major role in responding to migration challenges since 2018, working closely with partners and donors. Its migration response efforts are supported through two key avenues: the dedication of volunteer capacities and financial resources obtained via project activities. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina's role in migration is guided by its "Declaration," which outlines its commitment and offers its capacities to all stakeholders in this field. The National Society has established strong partnerships with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as other institutions, positioning itself as a key actor in migration and disaster response in the country.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts will prioritize enhancing its role and mandate in migration and displacement by transitioning from a project-based to a programme-based approach within its framework.

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Aid migrants in transit via humanitarian service points ([HSPs](#))/mobile teams
  - Disseminate educational and informational materials on community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) and protection, gender, and inclusion ([PGI](#)) and integrate approaches into its operations to ensure a cohesive strategy in addressing the underlying causes, risks and consequences of violence, discrimination and exclusion
  - Provide humanitarian assistance and protection to migrants on the move and host communities at key locations along migratory routes
  - Strengthen its resource mobilization and fundraising capabilities to secure more adaptable funding for long-term migration initiatives
  - Enhance programmatic capabilities by offering practical technical guidance and foster learning and knowledge management to improve services and programmes
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## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the operation of mobile teams within the country, which deliver essential humanitarian services to migrants and refugees, including medical aid and MHPSS.

The IFRC, the **Swiss Red Cross**, the **Italian Red Cross** via the 'Balkan Route: Accoglienza in Transito' (BRAT) project funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS); the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and other partners supported

the National Society to strengthen its role in migration management.

Between 2023 and 2024, the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina provided essential humanitarian and health responses to mixed migration and displaced Ukrainians in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees advocated for the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with efforts intensifying in early 2024.

The Italian Red Cross and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation provide funding support to the National Society for the Global Route-Based Migration Programme.



## Values, power and inclusion

The Roma and Egyptian populations remain a targeted marginalized group throughout the region. Between 25,000 and 50,000 Roma people reside in Bosnia and Herzegovina, facing significant challenges as the largest and most marginalized minority. Their living conditions are marked by chronic, multidimensional poverty, highlighting a stark disparity with the majority population in terms of housing, employment, education, and healthcare. Roma women face heightened difficulties.

Roma children face disproportionate hardships, being three times more likely to experience poverty, five times more likely to suffer from malnutrition, and twice as likely to experience stunted growth compared to their non-Roma peers. Moreover, their enrollment rates in primary school are significantly lower, and their immunization rates are alarmingly low at only four percent, compared to 68 percent among the general population.

In 2020, Bosnia and Herzegovina commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement, marking the end of the devastating 1992-1995 conflict that claimed over 100,000 lives, with tens of thousands still missing, including over 7,000 whose whereabouts remain unknown.

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

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina aims to raise awareness and knowledge of specific target groups such as volunteers, especially the youth, as well as the public about humanitarian challenges and strengthen their sense of humanitarian values and interpersonal skills through educational and community dialogue programmes.

### Planned activities in 2025

- Promote humanitarian values through protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) workshops and disseminate information to volunteers and the general population
- Improve access to opportunities and rights of marginalized or excluded people, including cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for the Roma population, MHPSS for the families of missing persons and the operation of restoring family links (RFL) mobile teams that will provide continuous support to migrants

## Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC, in collaboration with participating National Societies, will support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in conducting a range of educational initiatives, training sessions and workshops aimed at promoting PGI principles and disseminating humanitarian values among both its volunteer base and the broader population. Additionally, with support from the participating National Societies and in partnership with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, the National Society undertakes diverse projects and initiatives to advance humanitarian values and foster the inclusion of marginalized groups, including the Roma community.

The tracing service of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina plays a vital role in the international network for RFL services. Collaborating with the International Committee of the Red Cross (**ICRC**), the National Society supports families of missing persons throughout the year. The tracing service is also instrumental in assisting authorities in responding to the migration situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mobile teams for RFL have been established in several regions, including Una-Sana Canton, Sarajevo Canton and Tuzla Canton, while dedicated facilities in camps such as Lipa and Blažuj facilitate the reconnecting families.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies

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



### Strategic and operational coordination

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

- Ensure representation in different Movement forums and maintain Movement coordination mechanisms at the country level
- Maintain structures that build on past achievements for future progress and ensure that the National Society is empowered to reach its humanitarian goals
- Establish and maintain effective cooperation and coordination mechanisms with Movement partners present in the country and/or other partners supporting the National Society

- Extend its network and collaborate with participating National Societies who are not present in country

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

The IFRC will support the National Society in formulating strategic plans and enhancing programme management. The IFRC also facilitates partnerships between the National Society and external entities, strengthening coordination mechanisms and processes.



Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina volunteers distributed essential supplies in response to the widespread flooding and landslides caused by heavy rainfall in May 2023. (Photo: The Red Crescent Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina)



## National Society development

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

- Strengthen capacities of the headquarters through employment of staff, including communications and organizational development coordinators, associate for social affairs and MHPSS officer
- Establish a working group for strengthened HR policies and national-level code of conduct, updated National Society [statutes](#), training, coaching and mentoring
- Finalize the project proposal and budget with architects and relevant experts for the remaining phase of the headquarters building refurbishment
- Identify peer-to-peer support partners in the areas of HR, IT, finance, administration, as well as volunteer management and logistics

- Conduct a market analysis on potential domestic resource mobilization opportunities by developing a fundraising strategy with a database of potential partners and setting up a standard operating procedure for partnership management

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will extend financial aid for the reconstruction of the National Society infrastructure. Additionally, it will support the enhancement of the National Society headquarters by facilitating the recruitment of essential and required staff. The IFRC will also assist the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina invest in National Society development through accessing dedicated [funding mechanisms](#), such as the [National Society Investment Alliance](#), jointly led by the IFRC and ICRC, the IFRC [Capacity Building Fund](#), the [Empress Shôken Fund](#) and other innovative approaches.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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

- Advocate for policy changes regarding localization through humanitarian diplomacy with national authorities, UN agencies and international organizations
- Promote cooperation with national and international stakeholders, enhance access to vulnerable populations and safeguard the well-being of humanitarian workers
- Engage in diplomatic efforts to ensure respect for humanitarian principles, access to those in need and the protection of humanitarian actors

- Conduct orientation sessions in line with the International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the IFRC [humanitarian diplomacy policy](#) and [fundamental principles](#) for authorities and armed forces

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina with capacity-building, guidance and resources to strengthen the National Society's diplomatic efforts. It will further assist in establishing partnerships with government bodies, NGOs and donors, strengthening advocacy for humanitarian principles, access to vulnerable communities and the safety of humanitarian personnel.





## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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

- Ensure the quality and effectiveness of programmes by improving financial management, reporting and control systems
- Follow harmonized planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) standards and guidelines in its work
- Standardize frameworks and guidelines on PMER across all levels of the National Society

- Train relevant staff and volunteers to strengthen PMER structures and systems within the National Society and in the broader Movement context

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will assist the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in promoting accountability at all levels of the National Society, ensuring adherence to ethical standards and enhancing financial and administrative systems. The IFRC also supports the National Society in implementing monitoring and evaluation processes to assess the impact and effectiveness of its programmes.

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## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

The IFRC provides support to the National Society through its country cluster delegation located in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as from its regional office for Europe, based in Budapest, Hungary. The IFRC's support to the National Society centres on National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including in strengthening its

auxiliary role. The IFRC primarily supports the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in response to migration and disaster response. In recent years, the IFRC supported the National Society through several Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations in relation to floods and epidemics.

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### IFRC membership coordination

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

Several sister National Societies provide long-term support to the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, remotely or with presence in-country:

The **Italian Red Cross** office is in Podgorica, Montenegro. The primary contribution of the Italian Red Cross Society is in response to migration, social and health projects, disaster response and National Society development.

The **Swiss Red Cross** office is located at the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina headquarters building in Sarajevo. It contributes in response to migration, social and health projects, disaster response and National Society development.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** office is in Sarajevo, and it contributes to social projects such as the Qurbani project, disaster response and National Society development.

The **Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates** office is in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its primary contribution is in social projects, including support to orphans and people in rural areas and infrastructural projects. Currently, the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates implements projects directly with limited and ad hoc cooperation with the National Society in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Movement partners.

Other National Societies supporting the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina are the **Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the German Red Cross** and the **Qatar Red Crescent Society**.

## Movement coordination

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina 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. A Movement Coordination Agreement was signed on 7 December 2022 between the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the ICRC and the IFRC regarding Movement activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Swiss Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross joined by signing the

declaration as participating National Societies. 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 Delegation in Sarajevo primarily supports the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in tracing services, [restoring family links](#), mine risk education, [first aid](#), [MHPSS](#), dissemination of Red Cross values and National Society development.

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## Coordination with other actors

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina plays a vital role within the country's emergency management system, fulfilling its auxiliary role to the public authorities. It has cultivated strong collaborations with national institutions such as the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and the Ministry of Security, solidifying its position as a key actor in migration and disaster response.

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina engages with various international partners, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Catholic Relief Services (CRS). It implements the 'Balkan Route: Accoglienza in Transito' (BRAT) project funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and works closely with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and other partners.



**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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