



SERBIA

2024 IFRC network mid-year report, January – June

21 April 2025

IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS OF SERBIA




186
National Society
branches


26,803
National Society
volunteers


1,090
National Society
staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Disasters
and crises



20,813

Migration and
displacement



5,068







Values, power
and inclusion



19,408

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement		1M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term	Funding Requirement	 460,000
		Funding	Not reported
		Expenditure	Not reported
Participating National Societies		Funding Requirement	 262,000
		Funding	 71,000
		Expenditure	 71,000
HNS other funding sources		Funding Requirement	 310,000
		Funding	Not reported

The Red Cross of Serbia

Overview

Funding	Not reported
Expenditure	Not reported

Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat	 195,000
Participating National Societies	 77,000
HNS other funding sources	Not reported

Appeal number **MAARS002**

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

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Disasters and crises	Number of people reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery.	1,000
	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction.	21,000
	Number of people reached with livelihoods support	1,000
	Number of people reached with shelter support.	1,000
Health and wellbeing	Number of people trained by National Societies in first aid.	20,000
Migration and displacement	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.	Yes
	National Society has undertaken any data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move.	0
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes.	3
	Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection.	5,000
Values, power and inclusion	Number of people reached by RCRC educational programmes.	19,000

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

National Society development	National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies.	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society is participating in IFRC-led campaigns.	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society has a functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions.	Yes
	National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors.	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative).	Yes
	National Society has implemented a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy.	0
	National Society has strengthened their integrity risk mechanisms.	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Bilateral Support					
		Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Austrian Red Cross	71,000						
Swiss Red Cross					<div></div>		

Total Funding Reported CHF 71,000

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Serbia is a landlocked country in Southeastern and Central Europe, strategically positioned at the crossroads of the Pannonian Basin and the Balkans. The country spans 88,499 square kilometres and is characterized by diverse geography, including the fertile plains in the north, river valleys in the central regions and mountainous terrain in the south. Natural hazards such as floods and earthquakes pose significant risks.

Serbia's population has been in decline due to low birth rates and emigration, with a growing aging population. The country's median age has been rising, and projections indicate that by 2040, nearly a quarter of the population will be over 65. Migration trends show that educated individuals continue to leave, impacting the workforce and economic development.

Politically, Serbia is a parliamentary democracy with a unicameral legislature. While maintaining strong diplomatic ties with both Western and Eastern partners, its primary strategic goal remains full EU membership. Regionally, Serbia is engaged in the Open Balkans initiative to enhance economic cooperation with neighbouring Albania and North Macedonia.

Serbia experienced strong economic recovery post-pandemic, but inflation and the broader economic effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict have slowed growth. Rising prices have negatively impacted vulnerable populations, increasing poverty risks. Children and marginalized ethnic groups (such as the Roma community), refugees, internally displaced persons and people with disabilities face significant social and economic challenges. UNICEF estimates that 28,000 children fell below the absolute poverty line in 2022.

Social inequalities, unemployment and limited access to healthcare persist, particularly for low-income families and rural communities. The aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified social exclusion, heightened psychosocial stress and worsened humanitarian needs, particularly among vulnerable groups.

Serbia operates under a technical mandate until May 2024, following the December 2023 elections. Macroeconomic conditions remain stable, with inflation at 2.3 per cent and unemployment around 10 per cent. No significant disasters or emergency interventions were recorded. Migration trends show 8,830 new arrivals in government centres, with 1,168 migrants registered by June 2024, including 48 unaccompanied minors. Additionally, 95 cases of human trafficking were reported, with 37 victims identified, marking an increasing trend, particularly among minors.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In the first half of 2024, the Red Cross of Serbia strengthened disaster preparedness, climate resilience and emergency response. It launched the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) project with IrishAid support, conducted a Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) self-assessment and finalized an action plan. Work began on a new disaster management policy and needs assessment tools were revised. To engage youth in climate action, the Y-Adapt programme was translated and adapted for Serbia's education system.

Disasters and crises

By mid-2024, the Red Cross of Serbia enhanced disaster preparedness, response and risk reduction efforts. It supported individuals affected by disasters and reached thousands of people through preparedness activities, including school evacuations, awareness campaigns and volunteer training. A cash and voucher assistance (CVA) capacity assessment was conducted, resulting in a four-year action plan. The Red Cross of Serbia also strengthened water and mountain rescue services, training lifeguards, providing safety support at events and conducting public awareness sessions on emergency preparedness.

Health and wellbeing

In the first half of 2024, the Red Cross of Serbia strengthened its health and well-being initiatives, reaching thousands of people through health prevention sessions and workshops across branches. Awareness-raising events were held for international disease prevention days, and a central event was organized for World Health Day. Individuals received first aid training, while educational materials for schoolteachers were developed for the national e-learning platform. The Home Care Programme supported older persons, with services including mental health and psychosocial support.

(MHPSS), hygiene assistance and legal aid. Additionally, blood drives were conducted across branches, collecting 65 per cent of national blood donations. The Red Cross of Serbia also trained volunteers in blood donation awareness and engaged children in the "Blood Means Life" artistic competition to promote voluntary blood donation.

Migration and displacement

During the reporting period, the Red Cross of Serbia prioritized migration and displacement, aligning its efforts with the national strategy and action plan. Restoring Family Links (RFL) teams conducted visits to migrant and asylum centres, reaching individuals with informational materials and prevention sessions. The National Society processed 102 new tracing requests and displayed Trace the Face (TTF) posters to support family reunification. Through the [Global Route-Based Migration Programme](#), the Red Cross of Serbia provided RFL services, human trafficking prevention and first aid support. The National Society also launched an online platform for migrants and engaged students and young professionals in training on migration protection and human trafficking prevention.

Values, power and inclusion

By mid-2024, the Red Cross of Serbia strengthened its efforts in human trafficking prevention and awareness, training educators and volunteers across municipalities. Sensitivity training was provided to Red Cross staff members to improve identification and response to trafficking cases. A network of peer educators conducted workshops with a focus on children and marginalized groups. In collaboration with the Faculty of Law at the University of Belgrade, the Red Cross of Serbia launched a Legal Clinic to train students in migration and trafficking-related legal fields. Additionally, the National Society contributed to the drafting of the Law on Human Trafficking and Standard Operating Procedures for Treating Trafficking Victims, led by the Ministry of Interior.

Enabling local actors

By mid-2024, the Red Cross of Serbia advanced its capacity building and governance efforts through the IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF), launching the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) process and certifying BOCA facilitators. Three pilot self-assessments were conducted in local branches, with additional assessments planned. To enhance [humanitarian diplomacy](#), the National Society held raining sessions for staff and governing members and volunteers, alongside seminars on [integrity](#), Movement policies and procedures. Engagement with universities and higher education institutions continued, highlighted by an International Humanitarian Law (IHL) seminar for students from various faculties. The Red Cross of Serbia also strengthened accountability and protection measures, organizing three regional meetings for branch secretaries to review key policies, including [PSEA](#), child protection and anti-corruption frameworks. Further [digital transformation](#) efforts included the development of a unified volunteer database and the introduction of Microsoft 365 e-office functions, while a revised internal reporting and monitoring system is set for rollout in 2025.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In the first half of 2024, the Red Cross of Serbia began implementing the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) project as an implementing partner, with support from IrishAid. This project aligns with the National Society's multi-year strategic objective under the Climate Action Journey, which focuses on strengthening response capacities to humanitarian needs and supporting communities in adapting to climate and environmental crises.

The EWEA project aims to establish key foundational activities that expand people-centred early warning and early action for weather- and climate-related hazards. It contributes to strengthening national and local disaster

risk management systems by improving disaster risk knowledge, hazard dissemination, communication and preparedness to respond effectively to warnings.

During the reporting period, the Red Cross of Serbia implemented three key activities while laying the groundwork for further project initiatives. In April 2024, a Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) self-assessment workshop was conducted, followed by the finalization of an action plan. In late May, the project officially commenced with a kick-off meeting and an EWEA conference.

In line with the commitments outlined in the PER action plan, the Red Cross of Serbia initiated the development of its disaster management policy, which is expected to be adopted by the Governing Board in September 2024. Additionally, the revision of needs assessment tools was completed. To engage young people in climate awareness and strengthen community preparedness, the Red Cross of Serbia also began translating the Y-Adapt programme. This adaptation will ensure the programme aligns with Serbia's education system, making it an effective tool for youth engagement in climate action.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross of Serbia in its climate change and environmental action efforts, as well as the Climate Journey through the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. The National Society actively participates in regional initiatives, with a representative in the Europe Region's Climate and Environment Community of Practice and membership in the Europe Technical Reference Group for Climate and Environment.



Volunteers take part in the first aid national competition in Belgrade, Serbia. (Photo: Red Cross of Serbia)



Disasters and crises

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

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Red Cross of Serbia provided disaster response support to 1,068 individuals and reached 20,813 people through disaster preparedness initiatives. These activities included lectures in primary schools, school evacuation exercises, disaster risk reduction competitions, community awareness campaigns, and local training for teachers and volunteers. The Red Cross of Serbia also began implementing the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) project as an implementing partner of the IFRC in the Irish Aid-supported initiative. Additionally, the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) self-assessment workshop was conducted, with an action plan finalized,

and preparations for the adoption of the Red Cross of Serbia [Disaster Management Policy](#) by the Governing Board are underway. The translation and adaptation of the [Y-Adapt programme](#) are in progress to engage youth in climate change awareness and community preparedness.

As part of its disaster risk reduction efforts, the Red Cross of Serbia developed standardized training modules that were implemented in 32 events across the country. These initiatives engaged thousands of community members, enhancing their knowledge and preparedness for disasters. Plenary sessions in primary schools reached 1,952 students, workshops with students in primary schools reached 547 children, local competition on disaster risk reduction reached 64 people, school evacuation exercises reached 8,577 individuals, local events/awareness raising campaigns reached 9,573 people and local training of volunteers and teachers reached 88 people.

In March 2024, the Red Cross of Serbia conducted a capacity assessment workshop focused on the implementation and institutionalization of cash and voucher assistance (CVA). This workshop assessed the National Society's capacities across various areas, including programmatic activities, organizational development, communications, IT, logistics and public procurement. The outcome was an action plan designed to scale up CVA efforts over the next four years, ensuring more effective humanitarian response mechanisms.

The Red Cross of Serbia provided critical assistance to 1,068 people affected by various disasters, including floods, flash floods, household fires and heatwaves. Red Cross branches conducted needs assessments and distributed humanitarian aid, such as food and hygiene parcels, household cleaning kits and dehumidifiers, to the most vulnerable families.

The Red Cross of Serbia, through its Centres for Professional Training for Water Rescue, organized seven training sessions for new and renewing lifeguards. A total of 21 candidates successfully obtained their water rescue certification, while 24 lifeguards renewed their licenses. Additionally, the Red Cross of Serbia provided water rescue services for five rowing competitions involving more than 1,000 competitors. Preventive and educational activities on water safety, carried out by 16 Red Cross branches, reached 1,913 individuals.

The Red Cross of Serbia provided mountain rescue services at ski resorts and other mountain events, supporting more than 1,200 mountaineers. Additionally, preventive and educational mountain rescue activities reached 950 people, raising awareness about mountain safety and emergency response.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC and the **Austrian Red Cross** provided support to the Red Cross of Serbia in the implementation and expansion of CVA programmes.

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. On 31 January 2024, the IFRC supported [DREF operation for Serbia Floods 2023](#) was successfully completed helping 8,333 people.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, health prevention sessions and workshops were conducted in 128 branches, reaching over 30,000 people. Awareness-raising events dedicated to international disease prevention days were marked across all branches through street events and roundtables, with expert consultation and additional communication materials provided by the Red Cross of Serbia. A central awareness event was also organized to commemorate World Health Day.

A total of 20,124 individuals received [first aid](#) training, including schoolchildren, youth, driver candidates, employees, local community members, first aid trainers and Red Cross volunteers. Efforts are underway to develop an advanced first aid training curriculum for event first aid services, alongside preparations for the Red Cross of Serbia regulations concerning public event first aid. Additionally, educational materials for schoolteachers' first aid training have been created and will be incorporated into the Ministry of Education's e-learning platform for the 2024/2025 academic year.

The Home Care Programme for older persons continued across all Red Cross branches, providing home assistance through trained volunteers and professional associates. Services included health-preventive activities, mental health

and psychosocial support (MHPSS), home maintenance assistance, personal and household hygiene support, legal aid, self-help education, transportation, and community engagement opportunities. A total of 9,417 older persons benefited from this programme. Additionally, four local branches—Red Cross Kragujevac, Red Cross Pirot, Red Cross Indija and Red Cross Sombor—operated daycare centres for older persons, while 26 branches-maintained clubs supporting 1,072 older individuals.

In the first half of 2024, 1,846 blood drives were organized in 176 Red Cross branches, with 2,946 Red Cross volunteers contributing to the planning and implementation. A total of 72,638 blood units were collected, reflecting an increase of 3,782 units compared to the same period in the previous year, accounting for 65 per cent of all blood donations in Serbia.

The Red Cross of Serbia organized 141 voluntary non-remunerated blood donation training sessions for 1,175 volunteers, while the Red Cross of Serbia headquarters conducted six additional training sessions for 226 participants, including 70 youth volunteers. The Red Cross of Vojvodina also facilitated one training session for 21 voluntary blood donation organizers. An informative workshop on voluntary non-remunerated blood donation was held for staff of 47 Red Cross branches in a face-to-face format, with an additional 74 branches participating online.

To better understand donor engagement, the Red Cross of Serbia conducted a survey of nearly 1,300 blood donors during the 2023/2024 winter period, assessing their interest in health-related information. Results showed that 42 per cent of donors expressed a desire to receive additional health information between blood donation drives.

As part of youth engagement and education, 38,572 children from 133 municipalities participated in the "Blood Means Life" artistic competition. The event included students from 113 preschool institutions, 668 primary schools and 149 secondary schools, aiming to promote voluntary blood donation and raise awareness among young people.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross of Serbia to carry out its health and wellbeing activities primarily through its resource mobilization efforts. Additionally, the Red Cross of Serbia representatives actively participated in relevant networks focused on health and wellbeing, benefiting from knowledge exchange and collaboration with other partners within the IFRC network.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In the first half of 2024, Serbia strengthened its cooperation with the European Union (EU) on migration and border management to address irregular migration, smuggling, human trafficking and organized crime. Migration and displacement remain key priorities for the Red Cross of Serbia, as outlined in its National Strategy and 2024 Action Plan, though a standalone strategy on migration has yet to be developed.

The Red Cross of Serbia Restoring Family Links (RFL) focal points from local branches conducted 52 visits to refugee, migrant and asylum seeker accommodation centres. These visits included distributing informational materials such as RFL leaflets, safety tip posters and information cards, reaching nearly 5,000 individuals. The Red Cross of Serbia also organized information sessions in key municipalities, including Tutin, Vranje, Obrenovac, Palilula and Šid, to enhance awareness of RFL services and prevent family separations. Additionally, Trace the Face (TTF) posters were displayed in reception centres to assist migrants in locating missing family members. The Red Cross of Serbia headquarters received and initiated 102 new tracing requests, covering more than 200 individuals.

The Global Route-Based Migration Programme continued its efforts to protect migrants and refugees from risks along migration routes. The project includes RFL services, human trafficking prevention and first aid activities. The Red Cross of Serbia maintained a strong presence in migration centres through Prevention, Empowerment, Protection (PEP) Points, with a regular presence in Obrenovac and Palilula and monthly visits to other transit and asylum centres. 10 Red Cross of Serbia branches along migration routes actively engaged in human trafficking prevention, focusing on both migrants and the local population. Additionally, the Red Cross of Palilula established a dedicated PEP Point in central Belgrade.

Through PEP Points, the Red Cross of Serbia reached over 5,000 migrants and refugees with workshops, information sessions and interactive activities promoting safe behaviour. The National Society also advanced the development of an online platform tailored for migrants traveling through Serbia, offering essential information and guidance.

To encourage empathy and understanding within the domestic population, the Red Cross of Serbia conducted awareness-raising initiatives targeting students and young professionals. By June 2024, two specialized training sessions were held for more than 40 students from faculties such as Political Sciences, Social Welfare, the Police Academy and Law, preparing them to engage in migrant protection and human trafficking prevention. Additionally, the Red Cross of Serbia collaborated with Wikimedia Serbia on a project where students authored Wikipedia articles on human trafficking and migrant protection following Red Cross-led educational sessions.

The Programme Development Group and Editorial Team within the Red Cross of Serbia worked on new approaches to engaging both migrants and local youth in schools near reception centres. Volunteers exchanged best practices, while the Red Cross of Serbia representatives actively participated in cross-border and international migration-related meetings, further strengthening the quality of the Red Cross of Serbia activities.

As an active member of the Working Group on Mixed Migration Management, chaired by the Ministry of Interior, the Red Cross of Serbia contributed to ongoing discussions on migrant protection. This forum also includes the Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, the Serbian Army and the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration.

At the local level, the Red Cross of Serbia branches worked closely with stakeholders, organizing two roundtables in Vranje and Obrenovac to discuss migration-related challenges and solutions. Furthermore, through the Promotion of Human Values (PHV) programme, the Red Cross of Serbia implemented workshops in 83 primary schools attended by migrant children. A total of 62 local branches facilitated 800 workshops, reaching 4,024 students, promoting intercultural awareness, respect for diversity, and social inclusion.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC offers strategic coordination, policy development, and technical assistance to the Red Cross of Serbia. The Red Cross of Serbia 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 of Serbia continued its efforts to protect migrants and refugees from risks along migration routes under this programme. With support from the **Swiss Red Cross**, 10 Red Cross of Serbia branches along migration routes actively engaged in human trafficking prevention, focusing on both migrants and the local population.

The Swiss Red Cross also supported the Red Cross of Serbia in RFL services through focal points from local branches. The Red Cross of Serbia headquarters also received and initiated new tracing requests from National Societies in Western and Central Europe, including the **Belgian Red Cross** and the **French Red Cross**.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supported the Red Cross of Serbia by providing Trace the Face (TTF) posters to display in reception centres to assist migrants in locating missing family members. The ICRC provides ongoing support in addressing RFL needs of migrants, the [Safer Access framework](#), International Humanitarian Law (IHL) promotion and implementation and [MHPSS](#) project.



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

By the end of June 2024, the Red Cross of Serbia local branches conducted four educator training sessions across different municipalities in Serbia. These sessions strengthened the educator network and equipped volunteers with the skills to effectively engage diverse target groups using the peer education method.

Additionally, the Red Cross of Serbia organized a sensitivity training for 20 Red Cross staff members who may encounter potential victims of human trafficking in their work. The training aimed to enhance participants' knowledge in identifying trafficking indicators and promote timely and appropriate responses to reduce trafficking risks.

During the reporting period, a network of peer educators and trainers delivered 834 informational workshops in cities and municipalities. These sessions, focused on human trafficking prevention and protection measures, reached 19,408 participants, with a particular emphasis on children and young people from socially vulnerable and marginalized groups.

In collaboration with the Faculty of Law at the University of Belgrade the Red Cross of Serbia facilitated the first session of the Faculty's Legal Clinic. This specialized programme provided students with professional development opportunities in migration and trafficking-related legal fields while also sensitizing them to the needs of trafficking victims.

Furthermore, during the reporting period, the Red Cross of Serbia actively contributed to the drafting of the Law on Human Trafficking and the Standard Operating Procedures for Treating Trafficking Victims. Coordinated by the Ministry of Interior, this legislative process benefited from the Red Cross of Serbia's extensive experience in assisting trafficking victims.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC, through the Global Route-Based Migration Programme supported the National Society's collaboration with the Faculty of Law at the University of Belgrade.

The **Swiss Red Cross** supported the Red Cross of Serbia to implement key training programmes to build the capacity of its staff and volunteers.

Both the IFRC and the Swiss Red Cross contributed to the National Society's advocacy and policy efforts, enabling the Red Cross of Serbia to participate in the drafting of the Law on Human Trafficking and the Standard Operating Procedures for Treating Trafficking Victims, a process led by the Ministry of Interior.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

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.

The IFRC supports the National Society through its Central and South-Eastern Europe Country Cluster Delegation located in Sarajevo and its regional office for Europe based in Budapest in the implementation of its migration-related

projects. The IFRC is a key supporter in both financial and technical aspects in the event of crises and disasters affecting Serbia.

The IFRC launched a disaster response emergency fund (DREF) to respond to the floods that hit [Serbia in 2020](#), as well as for the floods for 2022 and [2023](#). The IFRC supported the national response plan for the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022. The IFRC supported the National Society in 2022 with the [capacity building fund \(CBF\)](#) for [digital transformation](#).

The cooperation with the [IFRC reference centre](#) for psychosocial support is based on sharing of knowledge and expertise. The centre provides inputs for training and other interventions by the Red Cross of Serbia in the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) area, including support for training events, while the activities of the Red Cross of Serbia in this area are fed back to the centre to serve as experience sharing and case studies.

Movement coordination

The Red Cross of Serbia 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 provides ongoing support in addressing [restoring family links \(RFL\)](#) needs of migrants, the [Safer Access framework](#), IHL promotion and implementation and MHPSS project. The ICRC and Red Cross of Serbia collaborate through SMCC mechanisms.

External coordination

The Red Cross of Serbia maintains strong cooperation and coordination with government institutions, research and academic institutions, UN agencies, the private sector and other key stakeholders at both national and international levels. These partnerships support the implementation of humanitarian activities, strengthen policy engagement and enhance resource mobilization efforts.

The Red Cross of Serbia continues close collaboration with various government ministries and agencies. The National Society successfully implemented activities outlined in the 2024 annual plan submitted to the Ministry of Health and provided mid-year reporting. Additionally, the Red Cross of Serbia submitted its annual financing plan in accordance with the Law on the Red Cross of Serbia.

Cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs remained a priority. The activities outlined in the 2023/2024 contract were successfully completed, benefiting 163,660 people through social welfare initiatives. In May, a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed for the next financing cycle, ensuring continued support for key programmes, including the Soup Kitchen programme in 77 Red Cross branches, food and hygiene parcel distributions in 125 branches, recovery for 1,000 children from vulnerable families and the distribution of welcome parcels for newborns during Red Cross Week.

The Red Cross of Serbia also maintains partnerships with other governmental institutions, including the Serbian Army, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, ensuring coordinated efforts in disaster preparedness, migration response and humanitarian assistance.

The Red Cross of Serbia strengthened collaboration with universities and research institutions to enhance knowledge exchange and professional development. It hosted practical training sessions for students from the Aviation Academy, Security Studies programmes and the Faculty of Political Science. Additionally, cooperation continued with the Faculty of Law, the Military Academy and the Police Academy, where students participated in the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) course organized by the Red Cross of Serbia.

The Red Cross of Serbia expanded its collaboration with UN agencies through key projects. With UNICEF support, it worked on increasing local disaster preparedness and response capacities. Additionally, through a partnership with UNFPA, the Red Cross of Serbia implemented the Reducing Digital Literacy Gap in Local Communities project as part of the UN PRO Local Governance for People and Nature (PRO LGPN) Programme.

The Red Cross of Serbia actively participates in international and regional networks, including the European First Aid Education European Network (FAEEN), the Global First Aid Reference Centre ([GFARC](#)) and the Global Advisory Panel on Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation (VNRBD). It is also a member of the South-Eastern Europe National

Society Network (Neighbours Help First), reinforcing regional cooperation on disaster response and humanitarian assistance.

At the international level, the Red Cross of Serbia maintains partnerships with the European Commission, UN agencies and various academic institutions. Locally, it collaborates with government institutions, NGOs, civil society and the private sector to enhance disaster preparedness, strengthen infrastructure and develop a comprehensive migration and displacement strategy.

As part of its migration response efforts, the Red Cross of Serbia plays a key role in the Government's Working Group for Solving the Problems of Mixed Migration Flows. It provides essential services, advocates for the rights of migrants and displaced persons and ensures coordinated humanitarian assistance.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Red Cross of Serbia received Utilized the IFRC Capacity Building Fund ([CBF](#)) for the initiative 'Assessment of the Impact and Relevance of the Red Cross of Serbia Programmes and Services.' As part of this initiative, the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment ([BOCA](#)) process was launched to strengthen the National Society's internal capacity. The Red Cross of Serbia organized a training for BOCA facilitators, successfully certifying 14 facilitators from the National Society's headquarters, coordinating levels and local branches.

Following the training, three pilot BOCA self-assessments were conducted in Aranđelovac, Kovin and Stari Grad branches. These assessments involved branch secretaries, staff, volunteers, members of governing bodies and key local institutional partners. By the end of the year, three additional BOCA self-assessments are planned, and the process, along with the results so far, will be presented at the national meeting of branch secretaries in September.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided key support to the Red Cross of Serbia in strengthening its institutional capacity through the CBF initiative. The IFRC supported the launch of the BOCA process, helping the National Society build internal capacity and improve operational efficiency.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

To enhance [humanitarian diplomacy](#), the Red Cross of Serbia conducted 67 training sessions for staff and governing body members, as well as 106 training sessions for volunteers. These sessions focused on the [Fundamental Principles](#) of the Movement, Movement regulations and procedures to strengthen the National Society's operational and governance capacity. Additionally, three seminars were organized for local branch secretaries, covering integrity, Movement policies and procedures, in collaboration with relevant departments from the Red Cross of Serbia headquarters.

The Red Cross of Serbia has been actively engaged in the cluster-wide humanitarian diplomacy extended network, participating in information exchanges, best practices sharing and joint advocacy efforts. The National Society remains committed to aligning its humanitarian diplomacy initiatives with IFRC's regional strategic planning and priorities to ensure a unified and effective approach.

Collaboration with universities and higher education institutions remained a key focus through regular communication, consultations and specialized training. A notable event was the International Humanitarian Law ([IHL](#)) seminar, held from 8 to 10 April 2024, aimed at raising awareness and encouraging a deeper understanding of IHL among students. The seminar engaged 31 students from various law faculties across Serbia, including the Faculty of Law in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac, Niš, the Faculty of Political Sciences, the Faculty of Security and cadets from the Military Academy.

Participants had the opportunity to learn about the work of the Red Cross of Serbia and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) while exchanging ideas with professors, legal experts and humanitarian practitioners.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Red Cross of Serbia by providing strategic guidance, advocacy tools and technical support. The National Society actively participated in IFRC's regional humanitarian diplomacy initiatives, aligning its activities with IFRC's strategic planning and priorities. The IFRC facilitated information sharing, best practice exchanges and joint advocacy efforts, helping to enhance the Red Cross of Serbia's communication and negotiation skills when engaging with national and international stakeholders.

The ICRC provided direct technical and expert support in IHL. The ICRC contributed to the Red Cross of Serbia-led IHL seminar for university students and Military Academy cadets, offering expertise on IHL principles, humanitarian protection and legal frameworks.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The National Society Secretariat organized three regional meetings for branch secretaries, bringing together 60 participants to review and discuss key policies adopted in recent years. These included the Code of Conduct, Policy on Prevention and Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Child Protection Policy, as well as rulebooks on preventing corruption and conflicts of interest, procurement procedures and internal whistle-blowing mechanisms within the Red Cross of Serbia. The discussions focused on legal and statutory obligations, the implementation process across the National Society's structure and the support provided by headquarters to ensure effective application and dissemination of these policies. These meetings marked a significant milestone in strengthening accountability and protection measures at all levels, covering the remaining branches of the National Society and finalizing this important phase of policy implementation.

Additionally, the Red Cross of Serbia is in the process of developing a unified volunteer database to enhance volunteer management, recruitment and retention, with an expected launch by the end of the year. Efforts toward digitalization of operations continue, with the introduction of advanced Microsoft 365 Office functions in the e-office portfolio to streamline processes and improve efficiency.

The National Society is also working on refining its internal reporting and monitoring system. Discussions with branch secretaries are ongoing to define key indicators and best practices for consolidating information, ensuring regular, high-quality reporting and effective monitoring. The revised reporting system is expected to be rolled out in 2025 to further enhance transparency and operational effectiveness.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical assistance and capacity-building support for improving internal reporting systems and governance structures, ensuring that the Red Cross of Serbia branches adhere to international best practices in accountability and transparency. These efforts will contribute to the implementation of a revised reporting system in 2025, allowing for better tracking of programme impact and operational progress.

Additionally, the IFRC provided technical assistance in digital transformation efforts, particularly in implementing advanced Microsoft 365 Office functions to modernize internal processes.



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 2024. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **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 light 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".
- **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) and 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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Serbia mid-year 2024 financial report](#)
- [IFRC network country plan](#)
- [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](#)
- [IFRC Evaluation and Research Databank](#)

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