

2025

REGULAR RESOURCES



© **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Geneva, 2026**

Any part of this publication may be cited, copied, translated into other languages or adapted to meet local needs without prior permission from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, provided that the source is clearly stated.

Cover Photos: from top clockwise: Mir Abdullah Rasikh / IFRC; Damien Naylor / IFRC; Illia Smyk / Swedish Red Cross; Mahmoud Omar / Sudanese Red Crescent

Interior photos: pg. 4: Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC); pg. 11: Mir Abdullah Rasikh / IFRC; pg. 19: Rumbidzai Nenzou / IFRC; pg. 21: Yemen Red Crescent; pg. 23: Colombian Red Cross; p. 25: Susana Arroyo Barrantes / IFRC. Some of these photos have been resized for better quality.

Contact us:

Requests for commercial reproduction should be directed to the IFRC Secretariat:

Address: Chemin des Crêts 17, Petit-Saconnex, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland

T +41 (0)22 730 42 22 | **E** secretariat@ifrc.org | **W** [ifrc.org](https://www.ifrc.org)

REGULAR RESOURCES **2025**

The full IFRC annual report can be found here: [Annual Report](#)



Regular Resources: how the IFRC secretariat empowers humanitarian action that is Local, Everywhere



Overview

For the IFRC secretariat, international resources are catalysts. Alongside domestic mobilization – matched and exceeded by the value of volunteer hours – every investment in our IFRC network is multiplied many times over, making every resource go further for communities at risk around the world.

Most of the resource mobilization carried out by the IFRC secretariat is for, and on behalf of, our 191 member National Societies.

Teams across the global IFRC work together to identify and build partnerships that boost the funds available for community-based anticipatory action, disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and resilience-building work in communities large and small across the world.

To achieve this, the IFRC secretariat relies on predictable and unearmarked funding, which we call **Regular Resources**.

In 2025, the IFRC used 103.7 million Swiss francs of Regular Resources to mobilize 756 million Swiss francs of life-saving and life-changing funding for National Societies around the world.

The secretariat achieves this with a very lean structure, with pivotal functions placed as close to the country level – and National Societies – as possible.

In 2025, as part of the Renewal process, the IFRC secretariat also committed to channelling **at least 75% of internationally mobilized resources directly to the country level**, building on the organization's long-standing practice of **localization in action** and not only in principle.

Regular Resources are the fuel that keeps the engine running. They allow the IFRC secretariat to provide a wide range of constitutionally mandated services to all 191 member National Societies, enhancing and empowering their locally led action in response to disasters and crises.

They are also a fund multiplier, as they allow the IFRC secretariat to work on accessing new sources of financing for National Societies including developing innovative financing mechanisms, accessing specialized development funds through completion of specific accreditation and developing blended financing partnerships by bringing different types of partnerships across the network.

The IFRC secretariat works to achieve outcomes that no National Society could do alone: coordinating global crises, mobilizing resources at scale, bringing the collective knowledge into learning, setting

policies and standards, protecting our collective integrity as the IFRC network, influencing global decisions, and strengthening National Society capacities so that international support can be translated into **life-saving, locally led action wherever it is needed most**.

This transforms a network of local actors into **a coherent, well-resourced, accountable and influential global humanitarian system** that can act at scale before, during and after crises.

The value of these services is captured in Strategy 2030 and the IFRC Plan and Budget as the **four Enabling Functions**:

-
1. Strategic and operational coordination
 2. National Society development
 3. Humanitarian diplomacy
 4. Accountability and agility
-

Strategic and operational coordination includes membership coordination, Movement coordination, coordination with external partners and resource mobilization, including coordination with participating National Societies. The IFRC secretariat works with partners to ensure that individual and collective plans are fully aligned with the priorities and needs of an individual National Society receiving international support in their country. Our work in coordination also enables member National Societies to connect with and learn from one another, capitalizing on existing capacities and making the IFRC network stronger. When crises surpass the capacity of the affected country's National Society to respond, the IFRC coordinates the network's response when international assistance is sought, increasing effectiveness and efficiency. The IFRC secretariat also leverages its international organization status to facilitate access to resources that National Societies would not normally have access to. The IFRC channels those funds directly to its National Societies, supporting localization and increasing value for money.

National Society development is a crucial function provided by the IFRC secretariat to the membership. It supports National Societies in adjusting to the challenges of each context, whether in conditions of fragility, protracted crises, peace or in development. It enhances National Societies' own work to become strong, credible, effective and relevant local organizations that are

trusted, accountable, efficient, sustainable and able to carry out programmes for at-risk communities at scale. National Society development is a crucial part of the Regular Resources budget. It transforms the IFRC secretariat's long-standing commitment to localization into high-impact humanitarian action at the community level and ensures that National Societies remain at the centre of their own development path.

Humanitarian diplomacy is how the IFRC secretariat represents the network to influence global discussions and decisions in the interests of at-risk communities. The IFRC also engages in advocacy to advance priorities for people in vulnerable settings, promote humanitarian principles and values, and support National Societies in their domestic advocacy efforts. Humanitarian diplomacy is about amplifying the voice of our membership. The IFRC's status as an international organization means that we can facilitate access for National Societies to global discussions and networks.

Accountability and agility are cross-cutting priorities that are embedded in all aspects of IFRC secretariat work. We are accountable to member National Societies and the communities we work collectively to support, to our donors and supporters, and to our IFRC network staff and volunteers. The IFRC must ensure accountability – operating always with integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and in line with the applicable statutory texts, rules, policies and procedures. The IFRC's accountability work includes areas such as risk management, digital transformation, audit and investigations, safeguarding, prevention of fraud and corruption, integrity strengthening and results-based management. We have a critical role in supporting National Societies to be more accountable.

These are the Enabling Functions that are made possible by Regular Resources.

All other resource mobilization carried out by the IFRC secretariat is done for, and on behalf of, our member National Societies.

Whether resources are mobilized through Emergency Appeals, humanitarian pooled funds, or thematic platforms, the IFRC secretariat ensures that National Societies' **different needs** are met through **different channels** to achieve **maximum impact** at the community level, with close coordination to avoid duplication or fragmentation of funding or effort.

Above all, this large-scale programming and resource mobilization is designed to build meaningful and sustainable **community resilience**.

National Societies and their IFRC will always be there to respond to disasters and crises, wherever they happen, but **resilience cannot be built through disaster and crisis response alone**. Resilience has to be strengthened today if lives are to be saved tomorrow.

The IFRC supports National Societies in delivering the ground-level activities that will lower the humanitarian needs of the future, building safer and stronger communities, and reducing the high donor expenditure associated with disaster and crisis response. This is achievable, but it needs **consistent multi-year funding**.

Supply chain transformation

In 2025, the IFRC secretariat transformed its Supply Chain Management function from a primarily reactive logistics service to a strategic, preparedness-driven enabler of humanitarian impact.

The unique value of the IFRC secretariat lies in its ability to connect global reach with local presence – mobilizing international expertise, supplier networks and logistics capacity to support the most local actors.

When National Societies face stretched systems or major crises, their IFRC steps in to strengthen their delivery capacity, enabling faster, more reliable assistance to communities.

In 2025 the IFRC secretariat supply chain system supported more than **125 emergency operations**, deploying stock every **72 hours** to ensure that National Societies could meet the needs of communities affected by disasters and crises.



RURIK MARSDEN

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, HUMANITARIAN
POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS DEPARTMENT,
UK FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

“The UK values IFRC’s **unique and precious role: a global secretariat connecting, supporting and helping to unleash the energy and impact of 191 National Societies and 18 million volunteers around the world.** We value our close and collaborative partnership with IFRC. We recognize IFRC’s efforts to drive innovation, making responses more focused, faster and more effective, and in doing so providing better support to the most vulnerable communities.

National Society volunteers are often amongst the first on the ground when disaster hits and the last to leave. As the humanitarian ecosystem comes under greater pressure it is essential that IFRC uses the precious donor resources entrusted to it where they are needed most: building the capacity of the National Societies in the most fragile contexts and helping to address the most severe needs. The UK strongly supports the National Society Investment Framework (NSIF), the robust data-based tool developed by the IFRC to drive its internal prioritization processes. We are committed to working with IFRC to support greater prioritization of IFRC-DREF funding to maximize IFRC-DREF’s additionality and impact. We value the leadership that IFRC is providing on anticipatory action through the IFRC-DREF and through its partnerships with National Societies. Tools like IFRC’s Network Databank share access to the data it uses for wider benefit. We are excited to see how IFRC will use its Renewal process to become even more fit for purpose to face current and future challenges.

Unearmarked contributions provide predictable and flexible funding, which helps IFRC to drive reforms and to prioritize those in greatest need. The UK’s unearmarked core funding to IFRC reflects our confidence in IFRC’s commitment to reform and its ability to make rapid, needs-based decisions on how and where to use funding wisely. We know that preparedness is key to anticipate and respond when crises occur, and here capacity development of National Societies is critical. However, a message we often hear from National Societies is that such capacity cannot be turned on and off. Predictable funding enables them to plan and build, thereby building resilience in the communities they serve. Core funding reflects our shared values and our shared commitment to a system that is as local as possible and as international as necessary.

The foundation for IFRC’s impact is the work of brave National Society staff and volunteers. In 2025, 27 Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers lost their lives in the line of duty worldwide. We express our deepest condolences to their families. This loss of life is both tragic and unacceptable. Aid workers should not have to risk their lives to help those in need. The UK is committed to continue to work with others, using our diplomatic channels to press parties to conflict for humanitarian access and the protection of aid workers.”

TOP ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2025, the IFRC's strategic investment of Regular Resources at country, regional and global levels made the following contributions to the humanitarian impact of National Societies in communities large and small around the world:

- With 103.7 million Swiss francs in Regular Resources, the IFRC was able to raise and manage 756 million Swiss francs in Other Resources funding, which was channelled to our member National Societies. Regular Resources were 12% of the total, and only 0.3% of the whole IFRC network's estimated total income of 35.5 billion Swiss francs.
- Globally, with the support of IFRC delegations, National Societies reached hundreds of millions of people including **85.6 million people in health and wellbeing programmes, 36 million people in disasters and crises programmes, 18.7 million people in climate and environment programmes, 14.2 million people in programmes related to values, power and inclusion, and 5.2 million people in migration and displacement programmes.**
- Sustainable IFRC country, regional and global presence was ensured, enabling us to deliver on our core mandate of strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, humanitarian diplomacy, and accountability and agility.
- Regular Resources funded or contributed funding positions in 48 delegations around the world, enabling the IFRC to maintain permanent predictable, long-term presence at country level to support our member National Societies in emergency response and long-term humanitarian work, supporting their development as strong local actors.
- The IFRC's delegations and Regional Offices supported 135 National Societies requiring international assistance in their unified planning and reporting, ensuring better coordinated support from the IFRC network for their priorities, as well as transparency and accountability on results achieved.
- The IFRC launched and managed 16 Emergency Appeals with a total funding requirement of 272.7 million Swiss francs in 2025, making a total of 59 active Emergency Appeals this year. Emergency Appeals secure international support when needed in response to disasters and crises, so that National Societies can deliver life-saving services and further strengthen their organizational capacities.
- The IFRC-DREF allocated **77.4 million Swiss francs across 170 operations supporting 83 National Societies in reaching and supporting 14.5 million people.**
- The IFRC secretariat's supply chain management system dispatched shipments every 72 hours on average. IFRC warehouses around the world dispatched 114 emergency shipments, representing more than 5 million Swiss francs in relief items, often within hours of a crisis.
- During 2025, the IFRC secretariat was engaged in around 30 contexts where the fundamental principles were being challenged, and where the IFRC played an important role in guiding National Societies to mitigate their risks and reinforce the value of our Fundamental Principles in Action.
- Significant progress was achieved on the Enterprise Resource Planning system, improving efficiency, accountability and agility across the global IFRC. This included completing 70% of project-accounting functionality and cost efficiencies through licence optimization. An AI assistant was introduced to enhance access to training materials, and 45 priority change requests were delivered. Reporting capabilities advanced with 20 of 25 critical reports in user acceptance testing.
- Regular Resources enabled the continued management of the IFRC's three pooled funding mechanisms: the Capacity Building Fund, the National Society Investment Alliance and Empress Shōken Fund (the latter two jointly managed with ICRC), leading to the allocation of **6.1 million Swiss francs through 64 grants to 62 National Societies. More than 90%** of these resources reach the local level directly.
- The IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Platform was able to mobilize nearly 500 million Swiss francs, of which around 61% of reported funding is mobilized through bilateral National Society-led partnerships.



LUCÍA PRIETO RÍOS

HUMANITARIAN DIRECTOR

SPANISH AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

“We donors today operate in an increasingly constrained environment, where every allocation carries heightened expectations for efficiency, accountability and lasting impact. In this context, the case for flexible, predictable funding is not about volume, but about what it enables across the humanitarian sector. Core contributions to the IFRC secretariat unlock significant additional value for us, as each euro invested enables the IFRC to mobilize and coordinate a significant volume, close to 1 billion Swiss francs annually, across its global network.

The backbone of a global humanitarian system: The IFRC provides essential functions that no single National Society could realistically deliver alone. These include surge capacity, logistics, financial stewardship, accountability frameworks, digital platforms and operational standards, applied coherently across different National Societies and contexts. It is the platform the system relies on, quietly, consistently and at scale.

A permanent, locally rooted safety net: As parts of the international humanitarian system recalibrate and, in some contexts, scale down their physical presence, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies remain. They are present before crises, during emergencies and long after international actors depart. Supporting IFRC core capacity strengthens this insurance function, ensuring that when others leave, a capable and principled responder is always there.

Localization delivered at scale: The ambition to localize aid is now widely shared; delivering it effectively remains the challenge. IFRC’s model channels resources directly to national and local actors at scale. More than 75% of mobilized funding reaches country-level implementation, and in 2024, 82% of IFRC-DREF pooled emergency funding was allocated directly to National Societies for front-line response. Core funding makes this possible by maintaining the systems that enable rapid, accountable and locally led action.

Financing models fit for the future: Looking beyond one-off grants, IFRC is actively building more resilient and diversified financing approaches. From forecast-based financing and insurance mechanisms within the IFRC-DREF, to pooled funds for climate resilience, emerging carbon finance, and blended-finance instruments, the IFRC is developing models that stretch scarce resources further and reduce long-term dependency. Flexible funding provides the space to test, adapt and responsibly scale these innovations.

Taken together, these elements reflect a simple proposition: supporting the IFRC’s core capacity is not an abstract contribution to overheads, but a strategic investment in a proven, global and locally rooted system. One that multiplies donor impact, safeguards humanitarian space and delivers principled assistance at scale, today and for the long term.”

Regular Resources: Funding multiplier

The IFRC secretariat worked this year to maximize the amount of humanitarian funding available to our member National Societies. The support provided is designed to act as a multiplier that channels international resources to the country level. In this way, National Societies and the IFRC can ensure that the most pressing local needs can be met through locally led anticipation, preparedness, response and resilience-building work on the ground.

The teams successfully fundraised a total of **29.4 million Swiss francs** in voluntary contributions from partners to its Regular Resources budget (including in-kind support) while navigating reduced overall funding and mounting humanitarian needs. This exceeded the IFRC's 2025 budget target by 200,000 Swiss francs and represents 16.6% growth compared with 2024.

At the same time, several major donor governments have redirected public expenditure toward defence and security spending, reducing the overall volume and predictability of funding available for humanitarian and development action. This shift marks a departure from the funding environment that prevailed during much of the past decade.

These changes took place against a backdrop of growing humanitarian needs, which were driven by many factors including protracted conflicts, climate-related disasters, economic shocks and displacement. As a result, humanitarian actors are facing a widening gap between needs and available resources, with heightened competition for shrinking public funding envelopes.

Donor response data indicates that there has been a 36.5% drop in funding across the humanitarian sector as a whole during the year, with the IFRC secretariat experiencing a drop of -29% for 2025.

The IFRC secretariat has moved swiftly to adjust to this new reality by implementing the *Renewal* strategy, which is designed to increase competitiveness alongside greater effectiveness, agility and efficiency.

How Regular Resources are allocated

The process of allocating Regular Resources is based on the IFRC's Plan and Budget, IFRC network country plans, regional and headquarters annual plans, and

ongoing Emergency Appeals, and begins with an analysis of planned and anticipated thematic and emergency work.

The annual planning process is carried out at country, regional and global levels, following the IFRC's results-based management approach, including the compilation of resource needs as part of building IFRC's *Global Plan*, review by the Plan and Budget Steering Committee (composed of IFRC senior management), and taking projected income into account.

The IFRC's Secretary General holds the decision-making authority in the allocation of Regular Resources, with input from the IFRC's Senior Leadership Team.

Priority is given to the following:

- strengthening the IFRC secretariat's presence at country level – particularly delegations – to best support National Societies and ensure that investments reach the people who need them the most
- supporting National Society development by investing in the capacity development of National Societies, localization, and work in contexts of fragility, protracted crises and settings at high risk of disasters and crises
- ensuring global capacity to deliver on the IFRC's core mandate, enabling implementation of the IFRC's *Strategy 2030* by National Societies
- ensuring increased transparency and accountability throughout the IFRC network
- providing seed funding to support innovation.

After initial allocations are made at the start of the year, there is a regular quarterly review process. Each quarter, the IFRC Plan and Budget Steering Committee reviews the income assumptions and spending against the identified priorities, identifies cost savings and other funding received, and makes decisions on allocation of those resources to the changing needs throughout the year.

Having the flexibility to allocate these funds is why Regular Resources are so important. The stated process makes sure that these resources are always used where they are needed most.

A woman wearing a grey hijab, a black face mask, and a red vest over a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark skirt is holding a young child. The child is wearing a patterned shirt and sandals. They are standing in a rocky, hilly landscape with green vegetation in the background. A large red speech bubble is overlaid on the left side of the image.

“The work of Sharifa, a respected community-based health and first aid volunteer with the Afghan Red Crescent Society, made a big impact in the Chawki district in 2025. “When I entered the homes, the women did not see me as a stranger; they saw me as one of their own,” she said.

In 2025, the total Regular Resources funding was 103.7 million Swiss francs:

▼ Regular Resources funding in 2025 (CHF millions)	
Statutory contributions (membership fees from National Societies)	33.6
Cost recoveries (includes indirect cost recoveries, donor-specific recoveries, logistics cost recoveries, fleet cost recoveries and other cost recoveries)	36.6
Unrestricted donations (mostly from state partners/donors)	29.4
Other income	4.0
TOTAL	103.7

▼ Regular resources unrestricted donations (CHF millions)	
British Government	9.7
Swedish Government	4.0
Swiss Government	3.0
Fondation des Immeubles pour les Organizations Internationals (FIPOI)	2.0
Irish Government	1.9
Hungarian Government	1.6
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government)	1.5
The United Arab Emirates	1.1
French Government	1.1
Spanish Government	0.9
Italian Government	0.8
Panama Government	0.6
New Zealand Government	0.2
Luxembourg Government	0.2
Kuwait Government	0.2
Other - Corporation	0.2
Individuals	0.1
Nestle	0.1
Other - Government	0.1
Other - Foundation	0.0
Others	0.0
Total	29.4

Expenditure

In 2025, the IFRC reported a total expenditure of 128.3 million Swiss francs of Regular Resources.

These funds were used to achieve impact in ensuring sustainable IFRC country, regional and global presence, and supporting National Societies through the core functions of the IFRC.

The allocation of Regular Resources funding for IFRC delegations is essential to ensure a permanent, predictable and long-term presence to support National Societies. It enables the IFRC network's planning to be centred on National Societies' priorities, facilitates fast scale-up when a disaster occurs and powers the IFRC's support of localization. It ensures that the IFRC's offices remain operational regardless of fluctuations in project funding.

In 2025, 14.5 million Swiss francs of Regular Resources was dedicated to the management of the

IFRC's delegations, ensuring a strong local presence in support of National Societies.

More than 89.3 million Swiss francs of Regular Resources was dedicated to supporting management, accountability and integrity across the network.

The IFRC's commitment to the digital transformation of its network was supported by 11.7 million Swiss francs of Regular Resources.

More than 8.5 million Swiss francs was invested in supply chain management, to ensure that National Societies have the tools and materials they need to deliver services quickly and effectively.

More than 3.3 million Swiss francs ensured the IFRC's ability to support National Societies' capacity development.

▼ **Regular Resources expenditure in 2025 by the IFRC's results-based matrix**
(CHF millions)

Strategic priorities		
Climate and environment	Climate change adaptation	0.7
	Climate change mitigation	0.5
Disasters and crises	Community risk reduction	0.4
	Disaster and crises response	2.3
	Disaster Law	0.2
	National Society disaster management capacity	2.4
Health and wellbeing	Health services	2.1
	Health services in emergencies	0.8
	Health strategy, policy and advocacy	0.3
	WASH	0.1
	WASH in emergencies	0.5
Migration and displacement	Assistance and protection to migrants and displaced people	0.5
	National Society migration capacity	0.5
Values, power and inclusion	Community engagement and accountability	0.2
	Humanitarian values and principles	0.4
	National Society protection, gender and inclusion capacity	0.1
	Protection, gender and inclusion services	0.9
Sub-total Strategic Priorities		12.9
Enabling Functions		
Strategic and operational coordination	External coordination	2.8
	Membership coordination	4.3
	Movement cooperation	1.0
	Shelter cluster coordination	0.1
	Financing the future	4.7
National Society development	National Society development	4.8
	Volunteering and youth	0.6
	Leadership development	0.6
Humanitarian diplomacy	Influencing and humanitarian diplomacy	5.0
Accountability and agility	Management, integrity and accountability	89.3
	Digital transformation	1.4
	Innovation	0.8
Sub-total Enabling Functions		115.4
Grand total		128.3



CARL HARTZELL

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND HEAD OF DEPARTMENT FOR
MULTILATERAL GOVERNANCE AND HUMANITARIAN POLICY, SWEDISH
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

“Sweden supports both the IFRC and IFRC-DREF with regular, unearmarked funding as **it is one of the most effective ways to support local humanitarian action and at the same time build the long-term capacity of National Societies to respond to crises**. Regular, unearmarked funding is crucial to allow the IFRC to be prepared properly to respond to a crisis. It enables the IFRC to be the backbone of the world's largest humanitarian network – ready to support locally, when and as needed.

As co-chair of the Donor Advisory Group, in 2025. Sweden had the privilege to work very closely with many parts of the IFRC secretariat, the Swedish Red Cross and other National Societies, reinforcing our belief that the humanitarian network that the IFRC serves is efficient, innovative and highly localized. Moreover, it is an organization that is highly capable of adjusting to new requirements and to seize new possibilities. For example, our initiative on innovative financing resulted in a process to set up a potential Resilience Capital Facility together with the IFRC and six other donors of the DAG. Furthermore, together with the Stockholm Environment Institute, we helped identify new ways to strengthen further the IFRC's work on anticipatory action. The DAG field trip to Indonesia allowed us to gather some best practices for this work in one of the world's most disaster-prone areas – in the so called “ring of fire”.

The National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provide the humanitarian system with 18 million volunteers, which is a fantastic resource! These volunteers, and national staff, need our support to unleash their full potential. This in turn requires an IFRC that is strong, able to help them develop their capacities, lend rapid financial support in times of crisis, represent them internationally and, when needed, coordinate efforts on a global scale. There is no better way of achieving this than by providing Regular Resources”.



NATHALIE OLIJSLAGER-JAARSMA

DIRECTOR STABILIZATION AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
NETHERLANDS MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

“We choose to provide core funding to the IFRC because, in a volatile and highly unpredictable world, flexibility is what saves lives. **It enables rapid, context-driven responses and strengthens National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, turning localization into practice by supporting those closest to affected communities.** Mechanisms like the IFRC-DREF show the value of this flexibility, consistently reaching the most-in-need populations quickly and effectively. We encourage others to continue investments in flexible funding to ensure humanitarian action can adapt and deliver where it matters most.”

NICOLE MCHUGH

HUMANITARIAN DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF IRELAND

“Ireland remains committed to supporting the critical work of the IFRC. Its vast network of 191 National Societies and 18 million volunteers are at the heart of the response wherever disasters and crises occur. **At a time when the sector faces profound change, the IFRC is helping to build a more inclusive, locally grounded humanitarian system, supporting communities to build resilience to a changing climate, to more intense disasters and to a much less stable world.** Ireland provides predictable and flexible resources to support this valuable work enabling a response that is rapid and truly locally led, allowing National Societies to receive support aligned with their own priorities and needs. In 2025 Ireland provided 11.4 million euro in core and country-specific funding.”

EXAMPLES OF IMPACT OF REGULAR RESOURCES



Powering local action: three years of real impact with DG ECHO

In 2025, the IFRC successfully completed its three-year Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) with the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). The partnership provided **205 million euro** to the IFRC for the years 2022–2025, and brought together 12 EU National Societies and the IFRC to support 25 National Societies around the world.

The PPP represented an ambitious effort to transform how the IFRC network delivers humanitarian assistance across contexts marked by climate emergencies, protracted displacement, recurring epidemics and fragile institutional capacity. It addressed a fundamental challenge facing the humanitarian system: how to meet the growing needs of populations affected by intersecting, recurring and protracted crises within an overstretched humanitarian system.

The three-year programme sought to empower local actors and communities to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from humanitarian and health crises. Building on existing capacities and institutional foundations, the partnership demonstrated that sustained, flexible and integrated investment in National Societies strengthens the humanitarian response system from local to global levels, enabling more efficient response that is adapted to local contexts and meets the needs of vulnerable populations affected by multiple crises. Beyond the 17 million people reached through direct programming, the partnership generated transformative gains for National Societies, volunteers and the communities they serve.

The document *Pilot Programmatic Partnership: Three years of achievements* captures how sustained investment strengthened National Society capacities, enhanced coordination mechanisms, and positioned the IFRC network as a more cohesive and reliable partner in crisis response and preparedness.

The PPP focused on building preparedness at local level across multiple geographies and integrating thematic areas of main concern for both the IFRC and DG ECHO: disaster risk management/disaster preparedness, epidemic and pandemic preparedness/response, people on the move. This work was supported by modalities of work such as cash and voucher assistance, and strengthening community engagement and accountability. Preparedness was addressed across multiple dimensions – for communities, for local actors such as National Societies and for systems.

More than 17 million people were reached under this single programme, ensuring flexible, predictable funding for communities and National Societies:

- **9.5 million people** were reached through epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response activities
- **7.8 million people** were covered by disaster preparedness and anticipatory action plans
- **1.5 million people** on the move were provided with humanitarian assistance and protection
- **940,000 people** were reached through cash and voucher assistance.

The 24 National Societies that were supported are: Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society, Burkinabe Red Cross Society, Cameroon Red Cross Society, Red Cross of Chad, Congolese Red Cross, Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuadorian Red Cross, Guatemalan Red Cross, Honduran Red Cross, Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan, Lebanese Red Cross, Malagasy Red Cross, Mali Red Cross, Red Cross Society of Niger, Palestine Red Crescent Society, Red Cross Society of Panama, Salvadorean Red Cross, Somali Red Crescent Society, South Sudan Red Cross, Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, Uganda Red Cross Society, Yemen Red Crescent Society and Zambian Red Cross Society.

The Norwegian Red Cross and 11 National Societies from the European Union were key to the partnership: [Austrian Red Cross](#), [Belgian Red Cross](#), [Danish Red Cross](#), [Finnish Red Cross](#), [French Red Cross](#), [German Red Cross](#), [Italian Red Cross](#), [Luxembourg Red Cross](#), [the Netherlands Red Cross](#), [Spanish Red Cross](#) and [Swedish Red Cross](#).

This was the largest programmatic partnership that DG ECHO had established with one single organization. The IFRC network worked in a “Team Europe” approach with the EU National Societies and had a localization ambition, with targets such as the operating National Societies managing 70% of the funding. The programme was particularly appreciated by National Societies for its broad thematic scope.

Following the successful completion of the PPP, a new programme has started, with a grant of 15 million euro, to support 15 National Societies to strengthen their capacities in epidemic/pandemic preparedness and response, disaster risk management, and to strengthen the core institutional capacities of National Societies in areas such as financial management, risk management, volunteer management and leadership development. This new grant will continue to advance localization, strengthening local actors – our National Societies – and preparing them for more effective and efficient response.

For more detailed information on achievements:

- [Epidemic preparedness and response success stories from the Programmatic Partnership](#)
- [Working climate-smart: protecting livelihoods against future climate risks](#)
- [Stronger Faster Safer – Humanitarian Assistance and Protection for People on the Move](#)
- [Programmatic Partnership in the Americas: Case studies](#)

Why were Regular Resources important for the implementation of this strategic partnership?

The IFRC's investment of Regular Resources in its core structures at country, regional and global levels has been crucial in ensuring the successful implementation of the Programmatic Partnership.

Regular Resources provided the essential leadership positions, ensuring strong strategic and operational coordination of such a partnership, at all levels. Their contribution allowed regular strategic dialogue with National Societies' leadership and facilitated changes in traditional operational models resulting in more successful models of partnership. At the global level, key members of the IFRC leadership were involved in the discussions with DG ECHO about the establishment of this flagship partnership.

The Regional Offices had very important roles in overseeing and supporting the implementation of the programme by National Societies in their respective regions, providing coordination and technical support in the programmatic areas to all the National Societies. The country and country cluster delegations provided strategic direction in ensuring the programme matched the priorities and competencies of the National Societies, that it was planned and implemented in an integrated manner, and that the achievements were also reaching the public authorities and producing lasting systemic changes that go beyond community-based support.

IFRC's continued investment of Regular Resources at country, regional and global levels, ensuring permanent long-term predictable presence at all levels, will be critical in securing similar partnerships in the future, ensuring successful implementation, and increasing efficiencies and accountability. Regular Resources are crucial in powering IFRC's support of localization, supporting National Societies to scale up their humanitarian work and achieve greater humanitarian impact.

Africa: Saving Lives and Livelihoods Programme



Children watch as Mr. Mudavanhu administers vaccines. Thanks to the Saving Lives and Livelihoods project, healthcare is now more accessible to many people in Gokwe North, Zimbabwe

In 2025, the Africa region's Saving Lives and Livelihoods programme remained the largest IFRC-supported public health programme, in terms of geographical reach, scale and institutional engagement.

The Mastercard Foundation and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) had launched Phase 1 of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Programme in June 2021, to protect millions of lives and accelerate Africa's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The second phase of the programme, under Pillar 3, led by the IFRC, focused on epidemic and pandemic preparedness, within the framework of the IFRC's Health Security Agenda.

Why were Regular Resources important for implementation of this strategic partnership?

IFRC's investment of Regular Resources in key leadership positions at regional and country levels has been essential in ensuring the strategic and operational coordination and technical support for the establishment and successful implementation of the partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, Africa CDC and ministries of health.

At the IFRC's Regional Office for Africa in Nairobi, key leadership positions funded by Regular Resources all contributed to the establishment of the partnership and the development, successful implementation and oversight of the programme, as well as providing technical support: the Regional Director, Deputy Regional Director, Head of Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, Head of Health, Disasters, Crises and Climate, Head of Planning Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting and Quality Assurance, Head of Corporate Services, and Head of Humanitarian Diplomacy and Communications. The Head of the IFRC's African Union Representation office in Addis Ababa (funded by Regular Resources) was responsible for engagement with the African Union including Africa CDC.

At country level, the IFRC's heads of country and country cluster delegations (all funded by Regular Resources) have played a key role in supporting the leadership of National Societies in ongoing engagement with their respective ministries of health, advocating for the vital role National Societies in public health. In addition, important technical support was provided by the country and country cluster delegations, including in finance, and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (largely covered by Regular Resources).

As a strategic investment, the programme has strengthened National Societies' positioning as auxiliaries to public authorities by moving them from ad-hoc implementation partners to more formally integrated actors within government-led public health systems, through structured collaboration with Africa CDC and ministries of health.

The programme has been implemented by National Societies in 28 countries: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, , Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and in Sahrawi (through the Algerian Red Crescent)

In Phase II (January-December 2025), the programme played a catalytic role in elevating adult immunization with a priority target of healthcare workers, people living with disabilities, youth, elders, and pregnant and lactating mothers, supporting a shift from predominantly child-focused immunization models towards a life-course approach, anchored in community trust, access and demand generation. This phase emphasized strengthening risk communication and community engagement to drive societal and behavioural change, ensuring widespread acceptance and uptake of health interventions, particularly among healthcare workers. By the end of Phase II, the programme had reached **more than 13.9 million people** across Africa through mass campaigns, targeted outreach and door-to-door engagement, contributing to the adult vaccination of **3.8 million** individuals, while **12,479 health workers** were trained, strengthening front-line capacity and public trust.

Beyond immediate delivery, the programme shifted how governments plan and sustain risk communication and community engagement, supporting the development of toolkits and providing standardized national guidance and communication materials to institutionalize risk communication and community engagement within public health systems. This enabled 50% of participating Member States to update or strengthen national risk communication and community engagement strategies and plans, embedding adult immunization and community engagement as core functions of public health preparedness for future epidemics and pandemics.

As the lead partner, the IFRC secretariat coordinated the programme's implementation, ensuring alignment with partners and providing technical engagement with Africa CDC. The IFRC offered backup support to implementing National Societies, developed risk management tools and frameworks, delivered technical assistance, and contributed to the design and rollout of the programme performance framework.

The secretariat's country and country cluster delegations supported National Societies in implementing country-level activities, working closely with government authorities, Africa CDC country focal points and other partners. They guided the development of country micro-plans and implementation tools to ensure effective delivery.

Regular Resources have been critical to the successful implementation of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods programme and will be essential in supporting the development and expansion of the new SECURE programme. They enable the IFRC to establish partnerships and mobilize substantial resources to support member National Societies in scaling up their humanitarian work. They ensure coordination, compliance, quality assurance and the capturing and sharing of learning to improve future programmes, and are essential for advocacy and communications.

Yemen: responding to protracted humanitarian crises



The Yemen Red Crescent supports families affected by flooding in Yemen with essential household, water, sanitation, and hygiene items. The operation, funded by IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF), has been extended to meet ongoing needs

In 2025, in one of the world's most protracted humanitarian crises, the [Yemen Red Crescent Society](#), with sustained support from the IFRC, the ICRC and participating National Societies, delivered integrated humanitarian assistance across Yemen and reached more than 3.8 million people.

More than ten years of prolonged conflict has devastated the country. According to the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, an estimated 22.3 million people in Yemen require humanitarian assistance, including 5.2 million who are internally displaced; 18.3 million people face acute food insecurity, including 2.2 million malnourished children; 19.3 million people lack adequate healthcare; and 14.4 million people require water, sanitation and hygiene support.

The Yemen Red Crescent Society is one of the few organizations with access to provide humanitarian assistance throughout the country. It has a well-recognized presence, with branches in all Yemen's 22 governorates, more than 670 staff and 7,200 active volunteers.

In countries with long-term protracted crises, such as Yemen, Regular Resources are crucial in enabling the IFRC to maintain a permanent, predictable long-term country presence, and to continue to provide essential support to the National Society, often at times when there is very limited external funding support from partners/donors and very large unmet humanitarian needs.

The IFRC has maintained a country delegation in Yemen since 2003. In 2025, Regular Resources funded two key positions: the head of delegation and the National Society development delegate, the latter being partially funded. Regular Resources ensured that support could be provided from the IFRC's MENA Regional Office in Beirut, for example, in strategic partnerships and resource mobilization, humanitarian diplomacy and technical support.

Investment of Regular Resources at global level ensures the IFRC secretariat has the long-term permanent capacity to manage the IFRC-DREF and launch Emergency Appeals. In 2025, an allocation was made from the IFRC-DREF of almost 1 million Swiss francs for the response to floods, reaching more than 56,000 people. Regular Resources enabled the IFRC secretariat, through its country delegation and Regional Office, to continue supporting principled humanitarian action, strengthening the humanitarian response of the National Society. Frequent meetings with partners including supporting National Societies present in Yemen ensured a coordinated and holistic humanitarian response. The IFRC has continued supporting the development

of the National Society, including the strengthening of its operational branches, headquarters and volunteer network.

Across all strategic pillars and priorities, the IFRC network provided technical and financial support enabling the Yemen Red Crescent Society to scale up integrated humanitarian assistance, anticipatory action, large-scale cash programming and resilience building, reinforcing the National Society as an indispensable humanitarian actor in Yemen's ongoing crisis.

In 2025, the Yemen Red Crescent Society, with support from the IFRC, ICRC and supporting National Societies provided the following:

- health services to more than **2.1 million** people through its network of primary health centres across Yemen and mobile health clinics in hard-to-reach areas
- water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance to more than **500,000 people**
- cash assistance to more than **203,000 people** across nine governorates and food parcels to more than **102,000 people**
- cash-for-work programmes reaching more than **3,200 people**, while agricultural and income-generation projects benefitting **72,700 individuals**
- training for more than **520 volunteers**, including members of Branch Disaster Response Teams and Community Disaster Response Teams, in enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments and disaster preparedness
- infrastructure improvements to keep displaced communities safer, such as flood barriers, solar-powered lighting, and rainwater drainage systems
- construction of **500** semi-permanent shelter units for internally displaced persons benefitting approximately **3,500** people, and six rain stations extending early warning coverage to **150,000** people
- anticipatory action in Abs District, Hajjah Governorate, including cleaning drainage channels, constructing flood barriers, and distributing first aid kits, shelter materials and cash assistance ahead of anticipated flooding, benefitting more than **16,000** people

In countries such as Yemen, which have immense humanitarian needs and where the funding situation is increasingly difficult, Regular Resources are needed more than ever to enable the IFRC to fulfil its core mandate and provide as much support to the National Society as possible.

For the future, the IFRC aims to be able to increase investment in Regular Resources at country level, especially in countries facing protracted crises, ensuring the IFRC's continued presence in those contexts and enabling those National Societies to have increased humanitarian impact.

Asia Pacific: IFRC–World Wildlife Fund for Nature Partnership for Humanity



The Thai Red Cross Society and IFRC are planting mangroves to help protect communities from floods, waves, and storms. This Nature Based Solution strengthens community resilience under the Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) programme

In 2025, the IFRC and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) advanced a formal partnership to address the intersection of climate risk, disasters and environmental degradation in the Asia Pacific region. The collaboration underpins the Building Climate Resilience through Nature-Based Solutions Programme, with the first agreement progressing towards approval and the start of the programme in 2026.

IFRC's investment of Regular Resources in core leadership positions at global, regional and country levels has been critical in facilitating the establishment of this important partnership. At global level, key leadership positions were involved in the high-level dialogue with WWF to initiate the partnership, including the Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Diplomacy and Digitalization, the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization and the Climate Lead (all funded by Regular Resources).

Building on the global partnership, the IFRC's Regional Office for Asia Pacific in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, has established this new partnership in the region. At the Regional Office, the Regional Director, Deputy Director, Head of Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization and the Climate Lead (all funded by Regular Resources) all had a crucial role in supporting the development of the partnership, providing strategic and operational coordination, and technical support in strengthening the capacities of National Societies in their work addressing climate change.

The leadership of IFRC's country and country cluster delegations (all funded by Regular Resources) will be key in facilitating the successful implementation and expansion of this new programme. The country and country cluster delegations provide strategic and operational coordination, as well as technical programme support, and support in finance, planning monitoring evaluation and reporting (largely funded by Regular Resources).

The partnership builds on existing IFRC–WWF collaboration in several countries, including [Kenya](#), [Mozambique](#), [Madagascar](#) and the [Philippines](#), and combines the IFRC's operational presence and community-based disaster risk management systems with the WWF's technical expertise in ecosystem conservation and restoration. The programme has been developed through a joint and consultative process, grounded in a shared vision and theory of change, and focused on integrating nature-based solutions with disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Initial in-country engagement focuses on four priority countries in the Asia Pacific region: [Fiji](#), [Indonesia](#), [the Philippines](#) and the [Solomon Islands](#), selected for their exposure to climate hazards, environmental degradation and socio-economic vulnerability. The selection also reflects alignment with national climate and development priorities and the opportunity to demonstrate integrated nature-based solutions, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation approaches at scale. WWF country offices and the National Societies are envisaged as core partners, supporting community-level action and engagement with national and local institutions.

Resource mobilization for the programme is being pursued through coordinated efforts, with anchor funding committed by the [United Arab Emirates Aid Agency](#), and additional public and private finance under development. This includes confirmed private sector funding of approximately 3.8 million euro from Adyen, a Dutch financial technology company, as well as joint applications for large-scale public climate finance.

The IFRC secretariat has played a key convening and facilitation role in establishing the partnership, aligning institutional priorities, and translating strategic intent into a programme model that is operationally feasible for National Societies. Through regional and country support, the IFRC has strengthened National Society engagement and institutional readiness, helping prepare the collaboration to progress from concept to implementation.

By formalizing collaboration between humanitarian and environmental actors, the IFRC-WWF partnership establishes an operational model for scaling up nature-based solutions in disaster-prone contexts.

For the future, continued investment of Regular Resources at global, regional and country levels will be essential in enabling the IFRC to establish new such partnerships and ensure continued successful implementation and expansion of existing partnerships, thereby increasing the humanitarian impact of the work of National Societies around the world.

Hurricane Melissa: from forecast to response in Jamaica and Cuba



Julion, a Cuban Red Cross psychologist, is running a support session in the El Aguacate community in Santiago de Cuba with children during the distribution of humanitarian aid after Hurricane Melissa

In 2025, the IFRC network demonstrated the value of investing in preparedness, anticipatory action and coordinated response following Hurricane Melissa, one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes on record.

Why were Regular Resources important for the response?

Regular Resources fund the backbone for the IFRC's presence in the [Americas](#), funding core positions and technical services – at the IFRC's Regional Office for Americas and its country and country cluster delegations – which support National Societies in their preparedness for and rapid effective humanitarian response to disasters.

In Hurricane Melissa, the IFRC's country cluster delegation for Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean in Port of Spain and its country cluster delegation for Latin Caribbean in the Dominican Republic played key roles in supporting the National Societies in their preparedness for and response to the disaster. The Heads of Delegation and operations managers in both delegations are funded by Regular Resources.

Key positions in the Regional Office for the Americas in Panama all contributed to the preparedness and response: the Regional Director, Deputy Director, Head of Disaster, Crisis and Climate, Head of Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, and Head of Communications all provided essential support and are all funded by Regular Resources. The Americas Logistics Hub in Panama also played a key role.

Regular Resources at global level ensure the coordination of IFRC-DREF and Emergency Appeals, critical in enabling the IFRC to provide rapid financial support to National Societies in preparedness for and response to disasters.

Jamaica

Months ahead of Hurricane Melissa, emergency relief supplies for 500 households had been prepositioned in the [Jamaica Red Cross](#) main warehouse through financing initially provided by the [Japanese](#) government and [USAID](#), and later replenished following Hurricane Beryl. [Jamaica Red Cross](#) staff also strengthened their readiness through two preparedness workshops: a IFRC-DREF workshop and a workshop on the development of standard operating procedures for cash and voucher assistance programmes.

Four days before landfall, acting on early forecasts, the IFRC released 80,000 Swiss francs from the IFRC-DREF to support preparedness measures. These included mobilizing relief supplies to at-risk areas, activating shelters and conducting community outreach, through more than **1,000 volunteers** across 11 branches. When the Category 5 hurricane struck Jamaica on 28 October 2025, affecting approximately 1.6 million people and damaging 146,000 buildings, including 54 health facilities, the IFRC network rapidly scaled up its response. The IFRC-DREF allocation was increased to 1 million Swiss francs, and the

Jamaica Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal was launched, seeking 19 million Swiss francs, alongside coordinated surge and ERU deployments. Cash and voucher assistance formed a key component of the response, enabling affected households to meet urgent needs with dignity while supporting local markets.

Cuba

Following its impact in Jamaica, Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Santiago de Cuba on 29 October 2025, as a Category 3 hurricane, with sustained winds of 125 mph (195 km/h) and rainfall of up to 25 inches. The storm caused catastrophic flooding, landslides and storm-surge impacts, affecting close to 2.2 million people.

Ahead of landfall, the Cuban Red Cross mobilized staff and volunteers 72 hours in advance, initiating evacuations on 26 October. A total of **4,436 volunteers** were deployed to support rescue operations, conduct damage assessments and provide psychosocial support across 35 evacuation centres. In coordination with the national authorities, approximately 735,000 people were evacuated, while critical assets were safeguarded and shelters activated.

The IFRC, on behalf of the Cuban Red Cross, launched the Cuba Hurricane Melissa Emergency Appeal, seeking 15 million Swiss francs to support 100,000 people, including an IFRC-DREF allocation of 997,991 Swiss francs. The appeal was later increased to 18 million Swiss francs.

Operational support included the delivery of 20 tonnes of humanitarian aid, including kitchen sets, hygiene kits, bedding kits, mosquito nets, solar lamps, shelter kits and plastic sheeting. Two vehicles were also provided to strengthen operational capacity. In parallel, 1,000 prepositioned family relief kits were distributed, reaching 500 households across Santiago de Cuba, Granma and Holguín. Cuban Red Cross volunteers supported a wide range of activities, including psychosocial support, restoring family links, assistance in evacuation centres, distribution of emergency supplies, and the establishment of essential facilities such as a field hospital in Río Cauto and warehouses in Contramaestre.

This preparedness-to-response approach demonstrates how sustained investment in local capacity, anticipatory action and strong National Society leadership enables faster, more coordinated and more effective humanitarian action across the region. As part of the Emergency Appeal, the Cuban Red Cross will continue strengthening its preparedness and anticipatory action capacities, including training and the development of Early Action Protocols (EAPs) to ensure future responses can be implemented rapidly and in a coordinated manner.

IFRC's investment of Regular Resources – at global, regional and country levels – in maintaining sustainable preparedness and effective coordination – ensures faster, more effective humanitarian action that saves lives and reduces suffering when disasters strike.

Europe region: strengthening and institutionalizing safeguarding systems in National Societies

In 2025, significant progress was made by the IFRC Regional Office for Europe in supporting National Societies to institutionalize safeguarding.

The IFRC's long-term investment in Regular Resources at global, regional and country levels is crucial in enabling initiatives – such as capacity strengthening of National Societies in safeguarding – to take place, as part of delivery of its core mandate, in the key areas of National Society development and accountability. This initiative is the result of the combined efforts of different functions and layers of the organization, maximizing synergies and underlining the cross-cutting importance of safeguarding across the organization. At the Regional Office for Europe, the Regional Director, Deputy Director and heads of country and country cluster delegations (all funded by Regular Resources) provided the leadership to steer the process, ensuring it is an organization-wide effort involving all staff in the organization. The Head of Safeguarding at the IFRC secretariat's Headquarters in Geneva (funded by Regular Resources), the protection, gender and inclusion team in the Regional Office for Europe and country and cluster delegations provided the technical guidance and support to bring the process forward.

For the IFRC, **safeguarding** refers to a set of policies and procedures that mitigate the risk of any violence, exploitation, abuse, harassment or discrimination by Red Cross and Red Crescent personnel and volunteers towards community members or other team members. **Safeguarding** means protecting people against the misuse of power and keeping them safe from harm. In December 2024, a new [IFRC secretariat Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#) was approved.

A global pilot, Safeguarding Training of Trainers, was held in Ankara, [Türkiye](#), in February 2025, with participants from National Societies and IFRC offices.

A regional Operationalizing Safeguarding Workshop was piloted in Budapest in May 2025, bringing together 21 participants from 16 National Societies: [Austrian Red Cross](#), [British Red Cross](#), [Croatian Red Cross](#), [Estonian Red Cross](#), [Finnish Red Cross](#), [Georgian Red Cross](#), [German Red Cross](#), [Hungarian Red Cross](#), [Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent](#), [Lithuanian Red Cross](#), [Montenegro Red Cross](#), [Polish Red Cross](#), [Portuguese Red Cross](#), [Romanian Red Cross](#), [Slovak Red Cross](#) and [Ukrainian Red Cross](#).

The workshop strengthened practical understanding of safeguarding implementation and informed the allocation of targeted seed funding to six National Societies – in [Georgia](#), [Lithuania](#), [North Macedonia](#), [Poland](#), [Russia](#) and [Slovakia](#) – to advance safeguarding initiatives, including training, reporting mechanisms and policy dissemination.

At institutional level, the IFRC's Europe regional protection, gender and inclusion team supported the rollout of a Safeguarding Self-Assessment process for the IFRC Regional Office and all Europe's country and country cluster delegations. The process marked an important step towards consistent safeguarding standards across IFRC's offices in the region.

National Societies such as the [Bulgarian Red Cross](#), [Georgian Red Cross](#), [Hungarian Red Cross](#), [Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent](#), [Lithuanian Red Cross](#), [Polish Red Cross](#), [Russian Red Cross](#) and [Slovak Red Cross](#) made notable advances in 2025, including adopting or revising child safeguarding and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policies, developing reporting and referral mechanisms, and integrating safeguarding into programme delivery.

The [Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent](#), [Netherlands Red Cross](#), [North Macedonian Red Cross](#), [Tajikistan Red Crescent](#) and [Ukrainian Red Cross](#) have already conducted their self-assessments; they are ongoing at the [Hungarian Red Cross](#), [Polish Red Cross](#) and [Romanian Red Cross](#); and the [Austrian Red Cross](#) has expressed interest.

These efforts were supported through tailored technical assistance, training of trainers, peer-to-peer exchanges and policy review.

For anti-fraud and safeguarding policies, together with integrity risk management, a focus was put on capacity strengthening and targeted support.

The following is an overview of progress, as of 2025 (and covering the past three years) among National Societies in the region, regarding adopting prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and safeguarding policies, establishing safeguarding reporting mechanisms, and completing protection, gender and inclusion self-assessments:

18 National Societies have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policies in place: Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Türkiye and the UK.

18 National Societies have child safeguarding policies in place: Armenia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, Spain, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Ukraine and the UK.

Eight National Societies have a safeguarding reporting mechanism in place (Integrity Line or their own reporting mechanism): Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine.

Four National Societies have completed protection, gender and inclusion self-assessments: Bulgaria, Iceland, Lithuania and, ongoing, in Hungary.

In the future, long-term predictable investment of Regular Resources – in the IFRC's Regional Offices and country and country cluster delegations, as well as in key policy areas such as protection and safeguarding across the secretariat – is of paramount importance in ensuring the IFRC and National Societies are consistently equipped to protect people from harm and to respond effectively to safeguarding risks in the communities they serve.

THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

Voluntary service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.



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 18 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.